

Fighting in Ethiopia's Tigray region

An escalating conflict in northern Ethiopia between federal troops and forces loyal to the Tigray regional government is raising fears of civil war in Africa's second most populous country

Tigray region: Deadly fighting forcing thousands of Ethiopians to flee across border to Sudan



■ **2018:** **Abiy Ahmed** (above), from largest Oromo ethnic group, comes to power after years of unrest forces his predecessor **Hailemariam Desalegn** to step down

KEY EVENTS LEADING TO TIGRAY CRISIS

■ **1991:** Ethiopia's Derg military regime toppled after protracted war led by **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)**

■ **1991-2018:** TPLF dominates **Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)** – ruling coalition composed of four ethnically-based regional parties

■ **1998-2000:** Tigray's powerful military also takes lead in Ethiopia's border war against neighbouring Eritrea

■ **Nov 2019:** TPLF withdraws from ruling coalition after Abiy merges EPRDF into nationwide **Prosperity Party**

■ **Sep 2020:** Tigray holds its own elections, defying Abiy's government which postponed national polls due to coronavirus pandemic

■ **Nov 4:** Abiy declares military offensive and six-month state of emergency in Tigray, accusing TPLF of attacking federal troops based in region