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Dear Mekete Tigray Steering Committee,

Thank you for your email of 26 August to the Prime Minister about reports of human rights violations in Ethiopia. I have been asked to reply as the Desk Officer responsible for Ethiopia at the FCDO.

Whilst the UK has been broadly encouraged by, and supported, the efforts taken by the Ethiopian government to open the political space, we have been concerned to hear about incidences of violence across the country. We noted allegations, in reporting from Amnesty International earlier this year, of abuses by regional and state security actors, and our Ambassador to Ethiopia raised this with Ministers from the Ethiopian Government. The Ethiopian Government have now committed to an investigation of these allegations.

The Minister for Africa, James Duddridge MP, visited Ethiopia from 27 – 29 July and was able to discuss the situation in Ethiopia with the President, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and the President of Oromia Region. The Minister expressed the need for more peaceful dialogue between different groups in Ethiopia and for space to be given for political debate. I note that elections were held in the Tigray Region on 9 September and were conducted peacefully.

It our hope that the political situation will improve for the people of Ethiopia. We will continue to consider a range of approaches in tackling and addressing human rights and consider what further support we can provide.

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