Re: Tigray

gchojkier@usaid.gov Gabi Chojkier Monday, June 7, 2021 at 10:29:10 AM Eastern Daylight Time
To: [redacted]@fb.com Farai Morobane
Cc: cthomasjensen@usaid.gov Colin Thomas-Jensen, [redacted]@fb.com Diaspora, [redacted]@fb.com Mercy Ndegwa, [redacted]@fb.com Kojo Boakye, [redacted]@fb.com Sherry Dzinoreva, [redacted]@fb.com Christopher Randle, [redacted]@fb.com Nadia Diab-Caceres

Hi Farai and team
We are currently assessing with the Weeknd if and how a conversation might take place. Perhaps I can circle back when we know more, hopefully later today?

Regardless, we very much look forward to working with you on this and other pressing issues. If you have ideas on how to best leverage the Administrator, please let us know.

Thanks!
Gabi

On Jun 7, 2021, at 7:23 AM, Farai Morobane <[redacted]@fb.com> wrote:

-Taking Semhar to bcc. Adding Nadia, Instagram Policy Manager

Hi Colin and Gabi,

I trust that this email finds you both well. My name is Farai Morobane, I am the Policy Manager for Human Rights in SSA. I wanted to reach out to get some more information on the kind of support that would be most useful to you and get some details regarding the event (date, format etc.)

We'd be happy to organise a quick call if necessary depending on the dates of the event.

Looking forward to hearing from you.



Farai Morobane

Pronouns: She/Her

Public Policy Manager | Human Rights | Sub-Saharan Africa

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: Semhar Araia <[redacted]@fb.com>
Date: Sunday 6 June 2021 at 01:57

To: Colin Thomas-Jensen <cthomasjensen@usaid.gov>
Cc: Gabi Chojkier <gchojkier@usaid.gov>, Diaspora <[redacted]@fb.com>, Mercy Ndegwa <[redacted]@fb.com>, Kojo Boakye <[redacted]@fb.com>, Farai Morobane <[redacted]@fb.com>, Sherry Dzinoreva <[redacted]@fb.com>, Christopher Randle <[redacted]@fb.com>
Subject: Re: Tigray

Hi Colin and Gabi,

Thank you so much for your message and for reaching out.

Although I am currently on maternity leave, I've copied my colleagues from our Africa Policy team and our US Policy team, who can assist you with your upcoming IG Live event between Ambassador Power and Ethiopian-Canadian musician, The Weeknd.

As far as the situation in Ethiopia, we are also closely monitoring the situation on the ground and in the diaspora, and thank you for sharing your assessment with us.

Someone from our teams will revert back to you as quickly as possible. Thank you again, and we'll speak soon.

Sincerely,

Semhar

Semhar Araia
Head, Diaspora Public Policy
Facebook, Africa, Middle East and Turkey Public Policy
E-mail: [redacted]@fb.com | [redacted]

From: Colin Thomas-Jensen <cthomasjensen@usaid.gov>
Sent: Saturday, June 5, 2021, 6:38 PM
To: Semhar Araia; Diaspora
Cc: Gabi Chojkier
Subject: Tigray

Hi Semhar-- Further to our conversation this morning I am following up with you to see about connecting with the right people at Instagram to discuss how we could use a potential engagement this coming week with Ambassador Power and The Weeknd to raise the alarm on the famine and possible genocide unfolding in Tigray, Ethiopia. Right now we believe

353,000 people are starving to death, and that the ethnically targeted use of famine as a weapon of war is very much in play. We at USAID are pulling out all the stops not just to respond to overwhelming humanitarian need, but also galvanise an international response to stop ongoing atrocities and prevent the complete destruction of Tigray.

We look forward to working with you and your team, and copied on this email is Gabi Chojkier, who is spearheading our discussions with The Weeknd's team about engaging him in this effort.

regards

Colin

--

Colin Thomas-Jensen (he/him)

National Security Director

Office of the USAID Administrator

[redacted]