



[Webinar May 6, 2021, 1:00 pm EDT](#)

## Conflict in Ethiopia and Rising Tensions in the Horn of Africa

**Featuring:** Samuel Getachew, Worku Aberra and Ann Fitz-Gerald

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### Outline:

The conflict in Ethiopia's northern state of Tigray is being fought on two interconnected fronts. The first is physical and on the ground, while the second is a dangerous information campaign projected via social media to influence, draw in and even direct international reaction. At the same time, the geopolitical interests of various major powers, such as the US, China, the UK and France, remain largely hidden. The evolving strategic interests and decisions of these global actors, and those of regional actors such as Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia, will play a role either in reaching an equitable and sustainable solution to the violent dispute, or in escalating it.

### Bios:

**Samuel Getachew** is an Ethiopian Canadian journalist based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He has written for CNN, Quartz Africa, the Globe and Mail, the Reporter in Ethiopia, the National UAE and others.

Having studied in Canada, **Dr. Worku Aberra** credits Canada with launching his academic career. Dr. Aberra taught economics at McGill University in the late 1980s and has been professor of economics at Dawson College for more than 28 years. He is the Chair of Department of Economics at Dawson College, Quebec, Canada.

**Ann Fitz-Gerald** is the Director of the Balsillie School of International Affairs and a Professor in Wilfrid Laurier University's Political Science Department. Ann's research focuses on national security and the governance of the security sector. She has extensive experience in teaching, research and consultancy capacities in Ethiopia and the wider Horn of Africa region, where she has also supported internationally-sponsored peace talks.

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