

Report 10 - Eritrea and its involvement in the war in Tigray

EEPA Webinar

Voices of Tigray – Involvement of Eritrea in the War

- 29 June 2021

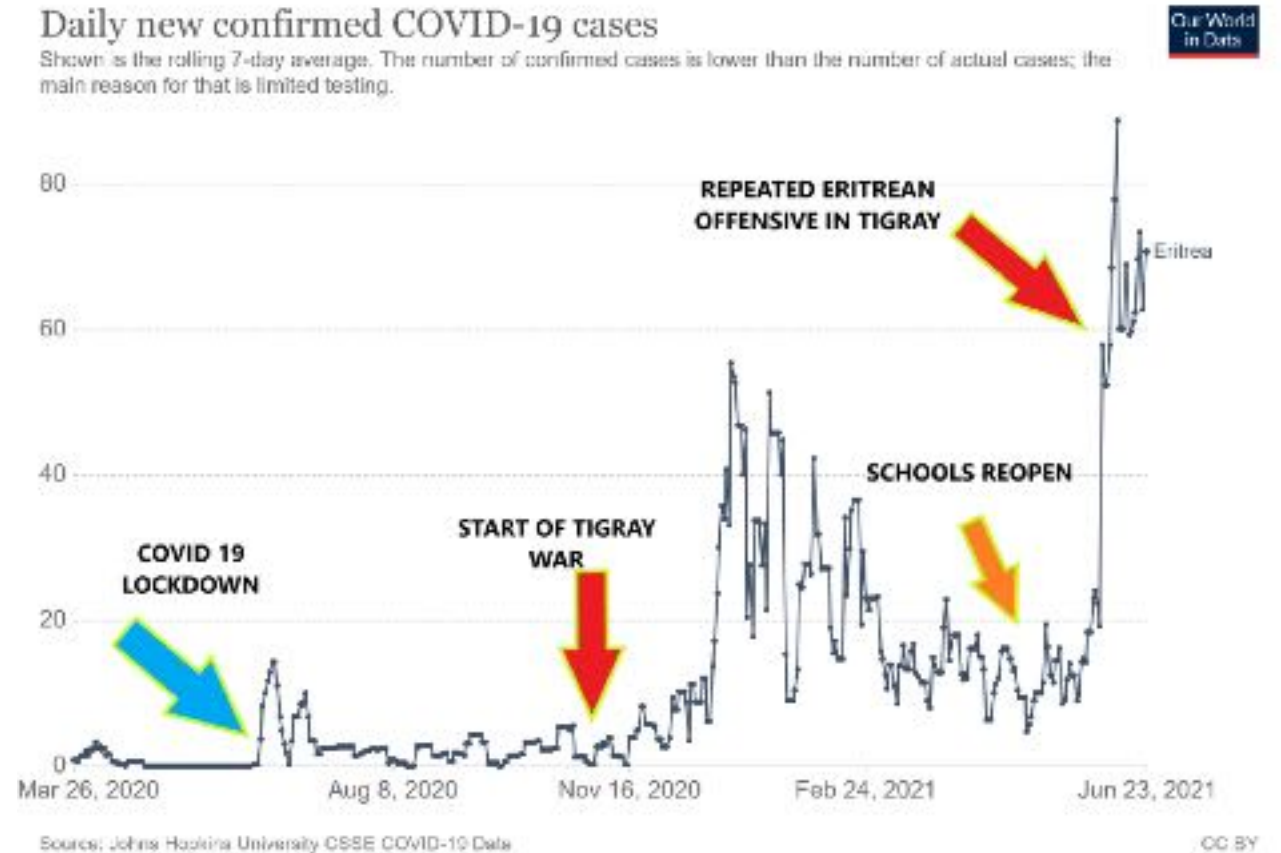
Military preparations from March – July 2020

- March 2020 to July 2020, the Eritrean leadership travelled to Ethiopia to visit key military installations
- During the same period the Eritrean Government received delegations from Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia
- **July 2020 – SAWA**
 - PM Abiyi and President Isaias with their families visit Sawa Military Training School.
 - PM Abiy is the only head of state to visit Sawa, the training camp for National Service, characterised as a Crime against Humanity by the UN Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea
 - PM Abiy reviewed the preparations for the graduation of the 33rd round of Sawa
 - The 33rd round of Sawa is now deployed in Tigray, and was notably deployed in the Eritrean refugee camp Shemelba from where refugees were abducted to Eritrea and forcibly deployed in the Eritrean Defense Forces to fight against Tigray.

- Covid restrictions in Eritrea used to restrict all civil movement except for military movements:
 - Suspension of all commercial flights to and from Eritrea
 - Closure of all institutions of learning (except the Sawa military training camp)
 - Banning the circulation of public and private transport
 - Severe restriction of civil movement between towns and cities
 - Only mobility allowed is military
 - *The picture depicts the departure of new conscripts from Asmara to Sawa in September 2020 (34th round), during which no social distancing is observed.*

ERITREA DAILY NEW CONFIRMED COVID – 19 CASES 26 MARCH 2020 – 23 JUNE 2021

- There is a total lock-down by the Eritrean Government on all civil movements during this entire period – with the exception of the military operations.
- The military operations coincide with a large increase in number of covid infections in Eritrea.



The War on 'Misinformation'

- An article investigating “disinformation” (June 23, 2021) is published by the Atlantic Council, the spin doctors of the Eritrean regime
- The Atlantic Council is an outlet that Eritrea has used for many years to spread misinformation on the situation in Eritrea and which is linked to interests of the Mining Industry – such as Nevsum

DFRLab

@AtlanticCouncil's Digital
Forensic Research Lab.

Eritrean report uses fact-checking
tropes to dismiss evidence as
“disinformation”

Eritrean officials promoted a report undermining evidence of violence in Tigray, claiming an international disinfo campaign

