

The

Volume V | Issue IV | July-August 2022

HORN

Bulletin

Self-Determination and Conflict of Norms in the Ethiopia Civil War

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The HORN Bulletin is a bi-monthly publication by the HORN Institute. It contains thematic articles mainly on issues affecting the Horn of Africa region.

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Abstract

This article inspects the problems and consequences of the conflict of norms currently informing the Ethiopia current civil war. It argues that at the heart of the issues raised by the civil war are emerging interpretations of the norm of self-determination and its relationship with its sharp end of secession. It analyses the emerging perceptions of self-determination and secession in international law, part of a long diplomatic and legal game that began soon after the United Nations Resolution on Granting Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (1960), activated legally in some International Criminal Court (ICC) decisions, and actualized in the post-Cold War creation of new (ethnic) states in Europe. The article concludes that the civil war must