Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed wins Nobel Peace Prize

The Nobel Peace Prize was on Friday, 11 October, awarded to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, one of Africa's youngest leaders, for his efforts in human rights reforms in the country, and for signing a peace deal with Eritrea following protracted hostility between the east African nations. The award will be bestowed in December this year.

Prime Mnister Abiy Ahmed by Aron Simeneh - Flickr, CC0, Wikimedia Commons

Responding to the announcement, Amnesty International's secretary-general Kumi Naidoo said: "This award recognises the critical work Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government has done to initiate human rights reforms in Ethiopia after decades of widespread repression.

"Since assuming office in April 2018, it has reformed the security forces, replaced the severely restricting charities and society law, and agreed a peace deal with neighbouring Eritrea to end two decades of hostile relations. He also helped

broker an agreement between Sudan's military leaders and the civilian opposition, bringing an end to months of protests.

"However, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's work is far from done. This award should push and motivate him to tackle the outstanding human rights challenges that threaten to reverse the gains made so far. He must urgently ensure that his government addresses the ongoing ethnic tensions that threaten instability and further human rights abuses. He should also ensure that his government revises the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation which continues to be used as a tool of repression, and holds suspected perpetrators of past human rights violations to account.

"Now more than ever Prime Minister Abiy must fully espouse the principles and values of the Nobel Peace Prize to leave a lasting human rights legacy for his country, the wider region, and the world."