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For Africans in U.S., war between Ethiopia and Eritrea is spilling on to American soil.(Knight Ridder Newspapers)

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OAKLAND, Calif. _ For the past two weeks, the small, close-knit Eritrean and Ethiopian communities in the Bay Area _ especially Oakland _ have been galvanized by the war between their home countries.

Local Eritreans have raised more than \$600,000 in support of victims, according to Berhane Alazar, the Honorary Eritrean Consul in Oakland. And the money for victims of the war was apparently raised with little effort.

"Wherever we are, it doesn't matter, we're ready to die for the land and the people," said Hiwot Nemnarlam, general secretary of the Eritrean Cultural Association in North Oakland.

Exiles from the two countries also are gathering at cafes and meeting places around Oakland's Telegraph Avenue to sort out the news. Both Ethiopians and Eritreans said they were friendly in the past but are now avoiding each other.

Danny, an Ethiopian deejay, said he is pained by the secession of Eritrea, which became independent in 1993....