

Europe External Programme with Africa

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Situation in Tigray (per 22 June)

- The EU calls on the Ethiopian government to reconnect the Tigray region and restore essential services. During his visit to the capital of the Tigray region, Mekelle, EU commissioner for crisis management, Janez Lenarčič, said despite the recent increase in the movement of aid convoys into Tigray, more needs to be done.
- "I don't see the rationale for keeping the blockade of banking services, electricity and telecommunications in place," said Lenarčič, adding the federal government should lift restrictions on fuel and cash entering Tigray.
- Dr Amanuel Haile, Chief Executive Director of Ayder Hospital in Tigray, spoke via video at the European Development Days on 22 June.
- Dr Amanuel informed audiences that Ayder hospital and other Tigray healthcare facilities continue to face severe healthcare challenges amidst the blockade of internet and healthcare supplies.
- Lack of fuel, medicines and supplies have made the situation unworkable for the hospital. Dr Amanuel asks the international community to step in to ensure healthcare in Tigray can be rebuilt.
- A report by The Guardian has accused Tigrayan authorities of allegedly mishandling aid, forced military recruitment and of forcing people to make cash and in-kind contributions to Tigrayan forces.
- In a response, the Government of Tigray said: "These allegations are baseless and they do real damage to the people of Tigray by distracting their attention from their suffering and campaign to hold their tormentors accountable."
- A Reuters report says thousands of ethnic Tigrayans have been held without trial in makeshift prisons found in different parts of the country. At least 17 people have died and around 9,000 remain in detention. Many Tigrayans say they were held by police after speaking Tigrigna or showing an ID with a Tigrayan name.
- Describing the prison in Mizan Teferi, a Tigrayan public employee said: "It was very crowded; we could not sleep on our backs. We slept head to toe like sardines. We had no mattress, no blanket."
- The special report said 18 cells in Mizan Teferi, each about 5 metres by 6 metres, were packed with prisoners.
- UN OCHA says food security and malnutrition rates in the Tigray region continues to be extremely concerning and extreme food insecurity is leading some internally displaced people (IDPs) to resort to eating wild plants to survive.
- OCHA said inadequate supplies of fuel and cash to Tigray is limiting access to people in hard to reach areas. At least over 334,000 litres of fuel are needed to distribute more than 42,000 MT of relief supplies within the region.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 22 June)

- Associated Press (AP) says over 200 people, mostly from the Amhara community, were killed in an attack in western Oromia and witnesses blamed the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) for the attack.
- One resident of Gimbi town counted 230 bodies, adding that the victims were being buried in mass graves. He also said that the Federal army has arrived, but they continue to fear a new attack.
- Another witness told AP that the people are now desperately seeking to be relocated “before another round of mass killings happen.”
- OLA spokesperson, Odaa Tarbii, denied the allegations and accused retreating Ethiopian government troops of committing the massacre.
- The spokesperson said that: “They escaped to an area called Tole, where they attacked the local population and destroyed their property as retaliation for their perceived support for the OLA. Our fighters had not even reached that area when the attacks took place.”
- The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) says a video shared on social media shows Ethiopian security forces executing at least 30 people in December 2021. Security forces were seen forcing men off trucks and shooting them at spot.
- The EHRC said: “Government security forces shot and killed at least 30 people saying they were members of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) Shene group.” The EHRC added it has geolocated the execution place to a part of Amhara region named Dewa Chafa district and has called for a full investigation and that killers should be held responsible.

International Situation (per 22 June)

- Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the EU should press Ethiopia for tangible rights progress such as ensuring unhindered humanitarian access and ending arbitrary detentions as Ethiopia will be high on the agenda of the EU foreign ministers gathering in Brussels.
- The HRW said that there has been no meaningful accountability for war crimes and other serious abuses committed in Amhara, Tigray, and Afar regions.
- HRW noted that for EU pressure to carry weight, the focus needs to be on ending harm to civilians.
- The EU has decided not to fully normalise its relationship with Ethiopia. EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, said the EU “should be cautious and any move should be conditional and transactional, depending on improvement of humanitarian access.”
- A statement by the US State Department says the reported killings of civilians in the Amhara community of the Oromia Region of Ethiopia is concerning and calls for dialogue.
- Former UN ‘relief chief’ Mark Lowcock, said diplomatic engagements by Russia and China have helped Ethiopia to “delay” UNSC meetings to discuss declaration of famine in the Tigray region.

Links of interest

- [EU Calls on Ethiopia to Reconnect Tigray Region to the World](#)
- [‘It’s death either way’: desperate Tigrayans flee starvation and forced conscription: The Guardian](#)
- [Response to The Guardian's Report: Statement by the Government of Tigray](#)
- [In Ethiopia's civil war, thousands of jailed Tigrayans endured squalor and disease: A Reuters Special Report](#)
- [Witnesses say more than 200 killed in Ethiopia ethnic attack: AP](#)
- [አሰሪዎች ከዚህ ቀደም በቀረበው ምክር ሃሳብ መሰረት የተሟላ የውንጀል ምርመራ ተደርጎ ተጠያቂነት እንዲረጋገጥ በደንገ፣ ይህንን ደብዳቤ](#)
- [Ethiopia rights body says video shows extrajudicial killings: Reuters](#)
- [EU Should Press Ethiopia for Tangible Rights Progress: HRW](#)
- [Foreign Affairs Council: Remarks by High Representative Josep Borrell at the press conference](#)
- [Civilians killed in Ethiopia: U.S Department of State](#)
- [Russia, China foiled UN meetings on Tigray famine, says Lowcock](#)

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