

Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

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Europe External Programme with Africa is a Belgium-based Centre of Expertise with in-depth knowledge, publications, and networks, specialised in issues of peacebuilding, refugee protection, and resilience in the Horn of Africa. EEPA has published extensively on issues related to the movement and/or human trafficking of refugees in the Horn of Africa and on the Central Mediterranean Route. It cooperates with a wide network of universities, research organisations, civil society, and experts from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and across Africa. The Situation Reports can be found [here](#). To receive the situation report in your e-mail, [click here](#). You can unsubscribe at any moment through the link at the bottom of each e-mail.

Summer break: *Dear readers, the EEPA team informs you that this is the last Situation Report before the August break. The Situation Reports on the Horn of Africa will be back in September.*

Situation in Ethiopia (per 29 July)

- A senior US diplomat for African Affairs, Molly Phee, told AFP that Kenya's presidential election might delay the negotiation between the federal government and Tigray leaders. She estimates the negotiation may begin after August.
- She added that the US special envoy to the region, Mike Hammer, will meet with both sides to discuss how the US can help the two countries progress in the negotiations.
- Human rights activists call on the UNHRC to extend the deadline for submitting information on the conflict in Tigray. To recall, the UN Commission of Experts on Ethiopia called on people and organisations to provide information regarding alleged human rights violations committed since November 2020 in Tigray. The deadline to submit information is Sunday 31 July 2022, which many feel is too short.
- Garowe Online says that Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed was admitted to hospital for chronic back pain. There has been no official statement on this, although Garowe says it was informed by multiple sources. Abiy has been absent from the public eye, leading to speculation about his whereabouts.
- The Ethiopian federal government "is ready to talk anytime, anywhere" about the peace talks with the TPLF, said the National Security Advisor to the PM. He made the statement during a briefing with UN envoys and foreign ambassadors.
- He stressed that the talks "should begin without preconditions," and the peace process should be under the guidance of the AU.
- Debretsion Gebremichael, TPLF chairman, previously announced to Tigray TV that it had given the Ethiopian government a deadline to meet the conditions, which include withdrawal of invading troops, access for aid and accountability for crimes, or the TPLF will resort to other means.
- Debretsion also said on Tuesday that "if the federal government was really ready to make peace, it would have resumed basic public services in the [Tigray] region." Services, including banking, electricity and connectivity, remain blocked.
- People displaced by the conflict in Tigray are struggling to receive humanitarian aid. Some families living along the humanitarian truck routes between Djibouti and Tigray are not receiving any assistance and children are starving, says VOA.
- The Federal Government Communications Service claimed victory over Al-Shabab militants. In a statement they describe battles in the Afdheer and Ferfer areas of Somali Region.

- The statement mentions 209 deaths among Al-Shabab forces, but does not reveal the number of victims on the Ethiopian side. Al-Shabab claims they killed 103 soldiers and took some prisoners.
- The US says that Al-Shabab's incursion into Ethiopia has been "largely contained", but is warning that the terrorist organisation has been emboldened. The US commander in Africa says that indications are that Al-Shabab moved 150 km into Ethiopia before they were contained.

Regional Situation (per 29 July)

- An activist for the Shabelle River initiative says that satellite remote sensing imagery shows that Ethiopia is diverting large networks of irrigation canals feeding into the Shabelle River.
- The Shabelle river is currently very dry, threatening food insecurity in the Horn of Africa region. The entire Horn region is struggling with a serious drought, with Eastern Ethiopia and Somalia among the most affected.
- Besides causing food insecurity, the drought in Somalia is causing an estimated 3 million children to drop out of school.
- The NGO Trócaire says the problem is twofold: children are dropping out of school to work and help their families, while teachers drop out because the schooling rate is falling.
- Authorities in Sudan issued a warrant to arrest the former head of intelligence Salah Abdallah Mohamed Saleh Gosh for alleged corruption during the time he was in charge.

International Situation (per 29 July)

- Moscow's recent steps in Africa, particularly in Ethiopia, causes some European officials to question the EU's caution in re-engaging with Ethiopia, despite alleged human rights violations.
- "There are fears Russia might take advantage of deteriorating ties with Addis and its Western partners," says a senior Ethiopia analyst at the International Crisis Group.
- The 5 Eritrean athletes missing in Oregon, USA, have been found four days after they were reported missing, the Eritrean National Athletics Federation announced. It said they immediately resumed their activities with the team, without giving details of why they went missing.

Links of interest

- [Peace talk between Tigray and Ethiopian government could resume after the Kenyan elections](#)
- [US hopes for progress on Ethiopia peace talks after Kenya election](#)
- [Ethiopia says military action against Al-Shabaab continued "accompanied by victory", hundreds killed](#)
- [Twitter: Al-Shabab claims to have killed 103 Ethiopia's special forces](#)
- [Ethiopia is ready for unconditional talks with TPLF anytime, anywhere: official](#)
- [Twitter: Elsa Chyrum](#)
- [Russia's Africa moves force Europe rethink on Ethiopia](#)
- [Children Dying in Ethiopia's Afar Region Amid Drought, Conflict, Residents Say](#)
- [Oregon22 Eritrean athletes found after reported missing 4 days ago](#)
- [Sudan issues arrest warrant for former Sudanese intelligence chief](#)
- [Severe drought in Somalia having a catastrophic effect on children's education](#)
- [PM Abiy Ahmed in hospital as Al-Shabaab storms Ethiopia - sources](#)
- [The Agew people starving, never visited by aid organizations](#)

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