

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 email, [click here](#). You can unsubscribe at any moment through the link at the bottom of each email.

Situation in Tigray (per 28 September)

- Sources on the ground say Eritrean forces shelled the town of Adigrat and its surroundings 12 times with heavy artillery on 27 September. Civilians were reportedly injured and properties damaged.
- Sources report that a drone strike was carried out in Mekelle on 27 September in addition to aerial strikes in the towns of Shire and Adi Daero.
- Maxar, a space technology and intelligence provider, said it has captured satellite images of Eritrean troop involvement in the fighting in Tigray, especially around Shiraro.
- Maxar said that 19 September images show the deployment of heavy weapons in the Eritrean border town of Serha, neighbouring Tigray. Mobilisation of military forces, artillery and vehicles can be seen in 26 September images.
- Visual investigator Christiaan Triebert adds that the Maxar images show artillery in firing position nearby Shiraro, and troops in formation at Mai Aini hospital near Shiraro.
- Getachew Reda, spokesperson for the government of Tigray, said on Twitter that five divisions of Eritrean Defense Forces (EDF) attacked Tigray positions from the Berhale front of the Afar region.
- He said the EDF divisions involved (naming them as divisions 22, 30, 38, 61 and 67) have been defeated with many senior commanders killed and/or captured. This has not been independently confirmed.
- Executive Director of Ayder Hospital in Mekelle, Dr. Kibrom Gebreselassie, says 437 rabies cases were reported between January 2021 and September 2022 in Tigray including 49 deaths.
- Ayder Hospital said on Twitter that women in Tigray are unable to access medication for safe delivery and abortion, resulting in 840 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 28 September)

- On 26 September, the Ethiopian government called on aid organisations to refrain from working in areas of conflict following the damage incurred to World Food Program personnel and material in an airstrike in Tigray.
- They reiterated their belief that the TPLF has been using trucks linked with aid groups to move its personnel and that the responsibility to prevent this and to ensure that the provided aid only reaches civilians lies with the aid groups themselves.

Situation in Eritrea (per 28 September)

- UNDP representative in Eritrea, James Wakiaga, is quoted by the Eritrean Ministry of Information as saying that Eritrea has seen “a good progress in terms of Human Development Index”. UNDP’s global Human Development report lists Eritrea 176 out of 191 in its development index.

Regional Situation (per 28 September)

- Addis Standard reports that the President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, has arrived in Addis Ababa today (28 September) for an official working visit.
- The President was welcomed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Minister of Finance, Ahmed Shide, among others upon his arrival at Bole International Airport.
- Sudan Tribune says the Sudanese government expressed its readiness, as Chairman of IGAD and as neighbouring country, to contribute to the ongoing peace efforts to end the conflict in Tigray.
- Lt Gen Shams al-Din Kabbashi, member of Sudan's Sovereignty Council, and EU's Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Annette Weber, met on Tuesday (27 September) to discuss the situation in Sudan and ways to end the conflict in Tigray.
- During the meeting, General Kabbashi told the EU envoy that Sudan urged the warring parties to negotiate and reach a political solution for the conflict.
- Al-Jazeera says Mohamad Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti), leader of the Rapid Support Forces and supporter of military coup, attempts to align himself with pro-democracy movements in Sudan - a move that critics say is an attempt to sanitise his image.
- Sudanese medical authorities push for mass burial of 1500 unidentified bodies accumulating since May which could become a source of diseases; opposition calls for independent autopsies amid fear that the authorities would use this to conceal killings during pro-democracy protests.

International Situation (per 28 September)

- In a 27 September article in *Responsible Statecraft*, Alex de Waal calls "the current trajectory" of "decision by force of arms" in Tigray a "dismal failure of U.S and multilateral diplomacy".
- Horn of Africa director at Human Rights Watch, Laetitia Bader, calls for renewal of Independent Commission of Experts on Ethiopia's mandate by UNHRC as violence against civilians continues in northern Ethiopia
- US warns Sudan not to host a Russian military base as agreed per a 2017 accord signed by former president Omar Al-Bashir, allowing the establishment of a base along the Red Sea.

Links of interest

[Satellite images show military build-ups in Ethiopia, Eritrea - Maxar](#)

[Twitter: Christiaan Triebert Sept. 20, troops from Eritrea started an offensive with Ethiopian forces](#)

[Twitter: Getachew Reda, Spokesperson for Tigray government](#)

[Twitter: Dr. Kibrom Gebreselassie, Chief Executive Director of Ayder Specialized Hospital](#)

[Twitter: Ayder Comprehensive Specialized Hospital](#)

[The President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud is visiting Ethiopia: Addis Standard](#)

[Sudan offers to mediate in Tigray conflict: Sudan Tribune](#)

[US diplomacy failing at critical moment in Ethiopia war](#)

[Twitter: Tim Vanden Bempt, aid organisations](#)

[Twitter: Laetitia Bader, Independent Commission of Experts on Ethiopia.](#)

[Eritrea: 'Eritrea Has Made a Good Progress in Terms of Human Development Index'](#)

[US warns Sudan of consequences if it hosts Russian military base](#)

[Sudan officials warn of disease from unidentified bodies](#)

[Sudan coup leader bids to co-opt pro-democracy movement](#)

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