

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.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 1 February)

- Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed addressed the conflict in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church yesterday (31 January) in a meeting with cabinet ministers. He warned the ministers not to get involved in the issue.
- Abiy also stated that the government sent a delegation to both parties.
- The government of the Ethiopian regional state of Oromia is providing "full support" to the breakaway bishops, reports *mereja.com*. The website speculates that the positive reception of the breakaway bishops is due to this support.
- 15 foreign media outlets operating in Ethiopia's Somali region have been suspended, states *Nation Media Group*.
- The regional journalists association says that the suspension is a retaliation against the media reporting on the corruption and drought in the region.
- Herds of animals are dying in Ethiopia amidst the drought which has lasted for more than two years. *AFP* reports from a village in the Somali region where two-thirds of the animals have died.
- Many herders are forced to sell what is left of their livestock. Save the Children states that 80% of the million Internally Displaced People in the Somali region are due to drought.
- Save the Children warns that the coping mechanisms have run out and aid organisations are struggling to deal with the emergency.
- A final campaign is reportedly taking place in Wolaita Sodo city in south-central Ethiopia to conduct a referendum on whether to establish a new Southern Regional State, says the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation.
- Voter cards have reportedly been distributed in the six zones that would form the new regional state.

Situation in Tigray (per 1 February)

- The aid needs across Tigray are so great that aid organisations lack the resources to respond, states an ICRC spokesperson to *Reuters*.
- Amhara forces blocked trucks carrying trade items in the Kobo area from entering Tigray, says *Dimtsi Woyane*.

Situation in Eritrea (per 1 February)

- People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) organised a meeting with Eritrean nationals living in Australia with an objective to strengthen organisational capacities.
- The virtual and in person meeting took place between 22 to 29 January with PFDJ being represented by the Head of Organizational Affairs, Yosuf Saiq, reports the Eritrean Ministry of Information.
- According to the ministry, Yosuf Saiq briefed on "covert and open hostilities that have been perpetrated against Eritrea and the strong resilience of the Eritrean people to combat and foil the hostilities."

Regional Situation (per 1 February)

- Somalia has sent 3,000 soldiers each to Eritrea and Uganda to be trained, national security advisor Hussein Sheikh-Ali told VoA. 6,000 more will be sent to Ethiopia and Egypt.
- The soldiers trained abroad are meant to take over from the African Transitional Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), which is pulling out in December 2024.
- The Somali national security advisor called the plan to send more soldiers to Eritrea “transparent.” 5,000 soldiers which were sent in secret to Eritrea in 2019 have only recently started to return, and a considerable part of the soldiers has not yet returned at all, according to reports.
- Somalia is hosting a Summit today (1 February) with leaders from Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti to discuss the fight against al-Shabaab.
- Kenyan President William Ruto, Djibouti President Ismail Omar Guelleh and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed have all arrived in Mogadishu to attend. Defence ministers of the four countries met yesterday (31 January) to prepare.
- Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed also met with Ethiopian peacekeepers in Mogadishu who are part of the AU mission in Somalia to fight against al-Shabaab, according to the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The Ethiopian peacekeepers are part of the AU mission in Somalia to fight against al-Shabaab.
- The leaders are set to discuss a coordinated military offensive against the terrorist group.

International Situation (per 1 February)

- Upon return from Somalia, US Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield warns that the current drought could kill more people than the 2011 drought.
- Thomas-Greenfield calls on the international community to contribute in order to avoid famine in the Horn of Africa.
- Research on disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) shows that the evidence for their success is thin, states Júlia Palik, Senior Researcher at Peace Research Institute Oslo. She assesses what likelihood of success the DDR process in the Tigray region has.
- “unless the disarmament process is accompanied by meaningful external security guarantees, groups that are disarming may perceive themselves to be vulnerable, and conflict may recur if they are attacked or pre-emptively attack others,” according to Palik.

Links of interest

[Red Cross: Hospitals in Ethiopia's Tigray region struggle to deliver care](#)

[Dimtsi Woyane on Facebook](#)

[PM Abiy's remark on the Orthodox church met with resistance](#)

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[Ethiopia bans 15 foreign media outlets](#)

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[Eritrea: Meeting with nationals in Australia](#)

[Exclusive: Somalia Sends Thousands of Army Recruits Abroad for Training](#)

[Somalia hosts regional summit to discuss fighting al-Shabab](#)

[FBC on Facebook](#)

[Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Facebook](#)

[Thomas-Greenfield calls on wealthy nations to avert a famine on the horn of Africa](#)

[Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration in Ethiopia: What to Expect](#)

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