

Europe External Programme with Africa

# SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

No. 372- 14 February, 2023

---

**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 Tigray (per 14 February)

- Families of 10 Tigray youths abducted by Eritrean troops on 18 January still do not know their location, states *Addis Standard*.
- Family members that spoke to Addis Standard went to Shire and Shiraro where Eritrean troops had been stationed to search for the missing young men, but found that the troops had already left, together with the youths.
- The young men are reported to have been taken from the Endabagabir village in Aksum. Addis Standard reports that the women and elderly in the group were beaten.

## Situation in Ethiopia (per 14 February)

- Abune Sawiros, the head of the new breakaway group of archbishops in Ethiopia, told the press this morning (14 February) that "they will not step back", reports *Oromia Media Network*.
- Ethiopian President, Sahle-Work Zewde, released a statement in which she calls for caution not to use "race and religion for political gain".
- The statement was released yesterday (13 February), after her meeting with the representatives of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC).
- Journalist and political analyst Tewodros Asfaw has reportedly been detained by Ethiopian federal government security forces today (14 February) in Addis Ababa according to *Addis Maleda*, citing his brother Biniam Asfaw.
- Tewodros was allegedly taken from his home in the Tulu Dimtu area of Addis Ababa and taken to the Criminal Investigation Office of the Federal Police at Mexico Square.
- The World Bank delegation pledged to continue their support for development programmes in Ethiopia reports *Fana Broadcasting Corporate*. The pledge was made during their meeting with Fitsum Assefa, Minister of Planning and Development in Addis Ababa,
- More than 4.5 million livestock have died in Ethiopia since 2021 due to the severe drought, states the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in their new Ethiopia Drought Response Plan report.

## Regional Situation (per 14 February)

- Twelve al-Shabaab militants were reportedly killed in an airstrike operation carried out by the US military in support of the Somali National Army on 10 February, reports the US Africa Command.
- The Command adds that the airstrike, which took place some 45km southwest of Hobyo town in Somalia was conducted "[a]t the request of the Federal Government of Somalia" .
- The current drought in Somalia is the worst in the country's recorded history, states Adam Abdelmoula, the UN's humanitarian coordinator for Somalia.

- Three men in Sudan have been sentenced to hand amputation for stealing, which is the first time in a decade that the courts have used this punishment, amidst fears of increased state extremism.

## International Situation (per 14 February)

- The Russian mercenary group Wagner is spreading its influence in Africa, states the *Wall Street Journal*. In particular, Wagner is working with the Central African Republic government to seize mineral-rich areas. These could be exported through Sudan.
- European officials say that Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti), who was deputy-chair of the Sudan Transitional Military Council, made an informal agreement to assist in the creation of corridors for the Central African Republic's army and Wagner to transport mining machinery, gold and diamonds.
- Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov praised the conditions for Russian mining operations in Sudan during his visit to Sudan last week.
- Sudan and Russia have finalised the terms of an agreement on a logistical centre for the Russian Navy. The plans were announced in 2020, but had not yet been ratified.
- The deal needs to be approved by Sudan's parliament, which has not yet been formed.
- The new Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations, Tesfaye Yilma Sabo, presented his credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres on 13 February.
- Sabo previously served as State Minister for Foreign Affairs in Ethiopia, and Ethiopia's Permanent Representative to the African Union as well as the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa between 2018 and 2022.
- Abbas Sharaky, Professor of Geology and Water Resources at the Cairo University, has expressed concern about the safety of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) as the safety study which was proposed to be conducted by French experts has been reportedly obstructed by Ethiopia reports *Egypt Independent*.
- EOTC sent a delegation to Moscow to discuss bilateral relationship with Russian Orthodox Church, reports *Mereja.com*
- The delegation will reportedly meet Patriarch Kirill of Moscow.

## Links of interest

[News: Families of ten youngsters abducted by Eritrean forces near Axum in distraught over their whereabouts](#)

[President Sahle-Work cautions against using "race and religion" for political gain](#)

[Facebook: Addis Maleda](#)

[የኢትዮጵያ ጸርቶ ዶክተር ቤተ ክርስቲያን ልዑክ ለሁለትዮሽ ውይይት ሞስኮ መግባቱ ተገለፀ](#)

[Facebook: Mereja](#)

[World Bank Vows To Continue Support For Development Activities In Ethiopia](#)

[IOM Ethiopia Drought Response Plan 2023](#)

[Sudan court sentences three men to hand amputation for stealing](#)

[Famine could rip through Somalia as soon as April, UN warns](#)

[Somali, U.S. forces engage insurgents in support of the Federal Government of Somalia](#)

[Russia's Wagner Deepens Influence in Africa, Helping Putin Project Power](#)

[Russia and Sudan set to finalize agreement on naval basing rights](#)

[New Permanent Representative of Ethiopia Presents Credentials](#)

[Egyptian professor raises concern over GERD safety](#)

Disclaimer: All information in this Situation Report is presented as a fluid update report, as to the best knowledge and understanding of the authors at the moment of publication. EEPA does not claim that the information is correct but verifies to the best of ability within the circumstances. Publication is weighed on the basis of interest to understand potential impacts of events (or perceptions of these) on the situation. Check all information against updates and other media. EEPA does not take responsibility for the use of the information or impact thereof. All information reported originates from third parties and the content of all reported and linked information remains the sole responsibility of these third parties. Report to [info@eepea.be](mailto:info@eepea.be) any additional information and corrections.