

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.

Peace negotiations (per 09 March)

- At the 52nd UN Human Rights Council session, Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, called for the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement to be fully effected, including transitional justice.
- He expressed concern over the continued presence in Tigray of Amhara Regional Forces and Fano militia, as well as Eritrean forces, who have “reportedly perpetrated very serious violations.”
- He calls for “tangible progress on accountability regarding conflict-related violations and abuses [...]”.

Situation in Tigray (per 09 March)

- DW interviewed a witness whose husband, a priest, and son were killed by Eritrean troops just before the CoH Agreement was signed. She was denied burial in the Church graveyard by Eritrean soldiers.
- A social worker told DW that the victims of the massacre committed by Eritrean soldiers ranged from 2 to 92 years old. They were reportedly massacred and mutilated as revenge for an Eritrean loss on the battlefield.
- Eritrean soldiers massacred at least 300 recorded civilians over the course of one week in various villages just before the CoH Agreement, according to the Adwa administration.
- Reports show lack of cash in the Tigray region. 5 billion birr which was sent by the National Bank of Ethiopia was withdrawn and fully depleted after one week.
- Aksum University published a bank account number to which the financial help of the national and international community is invited to contribute to institutional rehabilitation.
- Children in Tigray face extensive war trauma and should receive treatment for this, states VoA. Children continue to face issues such as fear of planes, due to airstrikes and drone attacks.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 09 March)

- An International Monetary Fund loan for Ethiopia to relieve the country's debt is being reconsidered after delays caused by the war.
- Ethiopia has blocked selected social media for over a month, warns Amnesty International. The blockade was imposed following tensions in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, but have not been lifted.
- Protests continue in Southern Oromia, where protesters oppose the decision of the regional government to merge Negelle town and three other districts into one zone.
- Community leaders from concerned districts travelled to Addis Ababa to discuss this issue with federal government representatives.

Regional Situation (per 09 March)

- The UN Security Council extended sanctions on Sudan - an arms embargo and targeted sanctions in relation to Darfur - for another year. China and Russia abstained from voting.

- Negotiations over the draft resolution were heated, and some text was dropped from the initial version, notes the *Security Council Report*; this includes language of concern over aggressive recruiting campaigns of Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Darfurian armed movements.
- Somalia's parliament passed a new anti-terrorism law which aims to eradicate terrorism and terrorist groups in the country.
- Critics of the new law are worried that a broad definition of a 'terrorist' can lead to a misuse of power by the security agencies.
- Ethiopia sent additional troops to Somalia to aid the fight against al-Shabaab. As per earlier agreements, Ethiopia is to send 1,000 extra forces to join 4,500 Ethiopian soldiers currently stationed in Somalia.
- 700 new recruits of the RSF have been transferred from Darfur to Khartoum for training, reported a senior RSF officer to the *Sudan Tribune*.
- The RSF officer denied allegations that it was done in reaction to the escalating relationship between the RSF commander Mohamed Dagalo 'Hemedti' and Chief of the National Army, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

International Situation (per 09 March)

- At the 52nd UN Human Rights Council session, Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, expressed concern over the situation in, among others, Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia.
- On Eritrea, Türk expressed concern over the increased "use of forced and prolonged conscription, a practice that is akin to enslavement and the main driver of refugee outflows."
- On Somalia, Türk warned that 8.3 million people across Somalia will be in acute need of food aid between April and June this year, as historic drought is exacerbated by ongoing violence.
- US Congressman Brad Sherman expressed concerns that the US aid for Ethiopia might not reach people in need in the Tigray region. He called on authorities to make sure that the proportionate part of the US aid is appropriately distributed in Tigray.
- Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry called on Arab nations to urge Ethiopia to abide by the legally binding deal on management of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.
- HRW urges the EU to consider a benchmarked approach in its rapprochement with Ethiopia with "specific, measurable, and ambitious recommendations and indicators".

Links of interest

[Survivor recounts Tigray civilian massacres](#)

[Children in Ethiopia's Tigray Return to School but Face Extended Trauma](#)

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[Twitter: Aksum University](#)

[S&P Global Sees Ethiopia IMF Deal Within Reach, Paving Way for Debt Relief](#)

[Ethiopia: One month on, authorities must immediately lift blockade on selected social media access in the country](#)

[Stalemate in Guji zone, Southern Oromia as protests over government's decision to incorporate Negelle town into East Borana zone continue](#)

[Somalia's Lower House Passes Historic Anti-Terrorism Law](#)

[Ethiopia sends non-ATMIS troops to Somalia in fight against al-Shabaab](#)

[Sudan Sanctions: Vote on Draft Resolution*](#)

[RSF confirms arrival of troops in Khartoum for training](#)

[Global update: High Commissioner outlines concerns in over 40 countries](#)

[Congressman Brad Sherman](#)

[Egypt appeals to Arab nations for help in Nile dam dispute with Ethiopia](#)

[Benchmarked Approach on Human Rights and Accountability for the EU's Reengagement in Ethiopia](#)

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