

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 24 March)

- Ethiopia dropped its draft motion to end the mandate of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) in the UN Human Rights Council's 52nd session with the understanding that Western countries will not seek to renew the mandate after it expires, two sources told *Reuters*.
- ICHREE's mandate is set to expire in half a year. If submitted, Ethiopia's motion would have called to end the mandate six months early.
- ICHREE has already found reasonable grounds for war crimes committed in Tigray.
- ICHREE is still investigating and is currently the only independent probe into crimes committed in Tigray. It is also investigating serious violations committed after the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement.
- Getachew Reda, President of the Interim Administration of Tigray, gave his first televised address to the people of the region.
- He said "the sacrifices paid by the people for their survival have enabled us to reach where we are".
- He stated that one of the core missions of the interim administration is ensuring peace and security for the people of Tigray and for the restoration of the "constitutional sovereign territories of Tigray".
- He promised that his government will give special attention to solving the problems of families of martyrs and disabled fighters.
- He also stated that the interim government will work to repatriate internally displaced people to their home bases.
- He said "the crimes against the people of Tigray are continuing" and he called for the federal government and international community to address it with due attention.
- He also called on the Amhara forces to refrain from activities that oppose the CoH Agreement and he also called on the troops of Eritrea to withdraw from Tigray.

## Situation in Tigray (per 24 March)

- There is a locust invasion in districts in northwestern Tigray, more specifically in Seyemti Adyabo, Tahtay Adyabo, and Gemehalo, according to the bureau of agriculture of Tigray.
- The bureau said that the locust swarms in the districts are threatening the livelihood of the farmers who are already affected by the war in the region.

## Situation in Ethiopia (per 24 March)

- Two Ethiopian opposition parties, Ethiopian Citizens for Social Justice (also known as EzEMA) and National Movement of Amhara (NaMA) reportedly agreed to take joint positions and meetings on national issues, says *Addis Standard* citing their separate statements.

- The parties denounced the removal of the TPLF from the list of terrorist organisations. EzEMA said this was “not timely and will not bring lasting peace and acceptance of TPLF to the entire Ethiopian people.”
- NaMA said the decision will lead to “another round of conflict and war in the foreseeable future.”
- The Federal government of Ethiopia and the Netherlands launched a water management initiative to improve water management for over 10 million people in the area of Addis Ababa.
- The initiative aims to decrease water loss, increase water quality, and improve access to water by using digital technology.

### Regional Situation (per 24 March)

- About 6.5 million people are facing food insecurity in Somalia. At least 300,000 people fall under “catastrophe levels”, the most severe levels defined by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, and 2.2 million people are estimated to be at emergency levels, reports the World Health Organization.
- Between July 2022 and June 2023, an estimated 1.8 million children under the age of 5 are expected to experience wasting (weight too low for their height), of which 513,000 are likely to be severely wasted.
- Of the children in Somalia, 54.5% are reportedly facing a state of acute malnutrition.
- 90% of Somalia is experiencing severe to extreme drought conditions.
- An operation by Somali regional forces in Jubaland led to the death of 5 al-Shabaab militants and left several injured.
- Sudan has become one of the largest hosts of refugees in Africa receiving migrants from countries including Eritrea, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, and Chad, as well as Syria and Yemen, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- While some of the refugees live in the total of 24 refugee camps, most of them stay outside camps, in host communities, and urban areas.
- South Sudan makes up over 76% of the origins of the refugees (802,748) followed by Eritrea at 8.2% (93,477) and Ethiopia at 6.3%, (71,658).
- In a statement, Khalid Omer Youssif, the spokesman for the political process in Sudan, said that the joint committee drafting the final agreement on a transitional Sudanese government conducted a first meeting on 23 March at the republican Palace in Khartoum.
- The drafting committee is composed of 11 members, of which nine are drawn from the civilian forces that signed the framework agreement, and one representative each from the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces.

### Links of interest

[Ethiopia scraps bid to end UN-ordered Tigray abuses probe early - sources](#)

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[Restoring constitutional territory as key objective of Tigray Interim Administration](#)

[Locust swarms in three districts of Northwestern Tigray threaten farmers reeling from war impacts](#)

[News: Ethiopia, Netherlands agree to launch water management initiative benefiting over 10 million people  
EzEMA, NaMA hold a first consultative meeting, agree to take a common position on national issues of concern](#)

[Somalia: Health Cluster Bulletin, February 2023](#)

[Somalia: AlShabab suffers massive losses in Jubaland](#)

[Sudan: Population Dashboard - Overview of Refugees and Asylum-seekers in Sudan \(as of 28 February 2023\)](#)

[Sudan's signatories launch final political agreement drafting](#)

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