

# SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

## No. 692 - 5 January 2026

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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 Sudan (per 5 January)

- Over 114 people have lost their lives in the western region of Darfur, amid the recent clashes between Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) using drone strikes and ground assaults, according to medical sources.
- Sudan's Prime Minister Kamil Idris has proposed a plan to end the ongoing conflict to the United Nations Security Council (UN SC) at the end of December, urging members to support this initiative, which includes a ceasefire supervised by international bodies and the disarmament of the RSF.
- The UN has voiced its endorsement of the peace initiative, urging an immediate halt to hostilities and the establishment of a lasting ceasefire.
- Civilians in El-Fasher are severely traumatised and facing dire conditions, lacking access to basic services, water and sanitation, confirmed the UN aid coordinator Denise Brown after few UN staff members were able to visit the city for the first time since the capture by the RSF in October.
- A drone strike by the SAF in Julud, South Kordofan, reportedly killed 12 civilians and left many others injured as the strike hit a gathering of worshippers during the Christmas celebrations on 25 December.
- The RSF launched drone attacks on key areas in El Obeid, North Kordofan, and White Nile State, including a thermal power plant, hospitals, and an airport, prompting responses from local firefighting and air defense teams over the weekend.
- While the assault caused damage and fires, the city's power supply remained unaffected due to backup systems.
- The Sudan Founding Alliance (Tasees), comprising the People's Army and the RSF, has announced its control over El Bardab near Kadugli, South Kordofan, enabling it to dominate key strategic transportation routes leading to the city.
- The Sudan Liberation Movement-Abdel Wahid (SLM-AW) has adopted its own flag and anthem in areas it controls, which concerns several areas in Central and North Darfur. The SLM-AW claims that the national symbols represent an imposed ideology and exclusionary interests.
- About 284 hospitals and health centers have resumed their operations in Khartoum State after significant damage and looting during the conflict, states the Sudanese Doctors Network. While local initiatives have facilitated the recovery of many facilities, serious challenges remain.

### Situation in South Sudan (per 5 January)

- The South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF) gained full control of the Bentiu camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) after intense fighting forced opposition forces from the Sudan People's Liberation Army in Opposition (SPLA-IO) to withdraw.
- The SPLA-IO announced that its forces defended their positions against a coordinated attack from SSPDF at Nyuelnyuel, Unity State, near the Sudanese border, forcing the government troops to retreat. Both sides control their own bases in this area.

- Edmund Yakani, Executive Director of the Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), has strongly criticized the country's political elite for prioritizing power over the lives of citizens amid rising military confrontations and deterioration of the peace agreement.

### **Situation in Ethiopia (per 5 January)**

- Over 3,800 IDP households returning from Sudan are currently residing at the Abiy Addi IDP center in Tigray without any assistance, amidst worsening conditions and significant food insecurity.
- Residents are calling for urgent aid, as many are suffering from malnutrition and lack of medical supplies, highlighting a dire situation and insufficient support from authorities.
- At least 47 people were killed in a violent attack in Ethiopia's Gambella region on 24 December with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reporting over 100 patients treated for weapon-related injuries.

### **International Situation (per 5 January)**

- Somaliland has been recognised as an independent nation by Israel, a move that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says will lead to enhanced cooperation in agriculture, health, and technology. Somaliland has been claiming independence since 1991.
- The recognition has been denounced by Somalia and several regional nations, arguing that it undermines Somalia's sovereignty and could set a troubling precedent under international law.
- The African Union condemned the recognition, cautioning over dangerous "implications for peace and stability across the continent".
- The EU also backed Somalia stating that it "reaffirms the importance of respecting the unity, the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Somalia", said Anouar El Anouni spokesman for EU foreign affairs.
- Alleged Eritrean human smuggler Kidane Zekarias Habtemariam has been extradited from the UAE to the Netherlands on 24 December to face prosecution for his alleged involvement in migrant smuggling, hostage-taking, and extortion related to the trafficking of migrants and refugees from Libya to Europe.

### **Regional Situation (per 5 January)**

- Egypt has signed agreements to enhance the ports of Assab in Eritrea and Doraleh in Djibouti, enabling military capabilities that could increase pressure on landlocked Ethiopia amidst the ongoing dispute over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and Nile water distribution.
- Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki met with Sudanese Minister of Finance, Gibril Ibrahim, and Minister of Information, Khalid Aleisir, in the Adi Halo region, Eritrea, to discuss enhancing cooperation on regional security and political coordination to promote stability in the Horn of Africa.

### **Links of interest**

[At least 114 killed in week of fighting in Sudan's Darfur](#)

[UN renews ceasefire push in Sudan](#)

[First UN visit to Sudan's El-Fasher finds traumatised civilians amid reports of mass atrocities](#)

[Christmas Celebration Bombed in Sudan's Nuba Mountains](#)

[RSF drones attack vital sites in North Kordofan and White Nile states](#)

[South Kordofan: RSF claim control of El Bardab area north of Kadugli](#)

[SLM-AW adopts own flag and anthem in controlled areas](#)

[Sudan doctors network says 284 health facilities resume operations in Khartoum](#)

[South Sudan army seizes full control of Bentiu IDP camp following heavy fighting](#)

[SPLA-IO overruns SSPDF garrison near Sudan border in Unity State](#)

[Civil society leader slams South Sudan leaders over 'war on citizens' as fighting spreads](#)

[News: "We have received nothing": More than 3,800 Sudan returnees left without aid at Abiy Addi IDP center](#)

[News: At least 47 killed in a single day, sources say: MSF treats over 100 weapon-wounded as Gambella imposes new curfew](#)

[Israel recognises Somaliland as independent state, Netanyahu says](#)

[African Union and Somalia denounce Israel's recognition of Somaliland](#)

[EU backs Somalia after Israel recognizes Somaliland](#)

[UAE extradites suspected Eritrean migrant smuggler to the Netherlands](#)

[Egypt increases pressure on Ethiopia through port deals with Eritrea and Djibouti](#)

[Isaias Afwerki discusses Red Sea stability with Sudanese ministers](#)

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