

Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

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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](#).

Resumption of the Situation Reports

- The Situation Report is resuming publication in the coming months, due to increasing famine, drought and tensions with a shut down of the internet in certain places. The Situation Report aims to draw attention to information on the situation on the ground, drawing from sources on the ground. Information may need further verification (see disclaimer).
- The Situation Report will be published every weekday around 5:30PM CEST.
- [Click here to register for the mailing list.](#)

Situation in Tigray (per 16 May)

- Sources indicate that Eritrean troops are withdrawing from areas in Western Tigray and relocating to the Badme front.
- The *Tigray Education Bureau* released a “damage report” on the education sector, which identifies 88.27% of the classrooms as being damaged.
- A collective of Tigrayan academic institutions sent a letter to Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch asking them to modify their report on ethnic cleansing in Western Tigray. Notably, the collective asked that the report not state that Tigrayans initiated the Mai Kadra massacre, as this was not the case, they say.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 16 May)

- Eritrean refugees in the Alemwach camp in the Amhara region say they were attacked between 19:00 and 20:30 during evening prayers. The report could not be independently verified.
 - According to the report such attacks are taking place two or three times a week and the Eritrean refugees have asked authorities to provide security but to no avail so far.
 - It is further reported that “maffias” are “waiting for the Eritrean refugees who come from Adi Harish and May Ayni camps” (in the Tigray region). Refugees identified as such are abducted.
 - The refugees are taken to unknown places. The refugees have to pay to be released and returned to the new Dabatt (Dabarikh) and Alemwach camps in Amhara region. The report is not verified.
 - It is reported that the groups that attack the refugees are from the FANO group, an Amharic armed militia, which has its own arms and reportedly is trained by Eritrean authorities in Ali Gidir. The report is not verified.
 - According to the report, Eritrean authorities use FANO to “take anyone of the Eritrean refugees at any time they want” and forcefully return them to Eritrea.
 - The report states that “a lot of” Eritrean refugees were involuntarily returned to Eritrea from the camps in Amhara, and that the federal government or local police does not protect them. The report is not verified.
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- Reported that an Ethiopian court finds singer-songwriter Tarekegn Mulu “guilty of attempting to bribe prosecution witnesses into recanting their testimony against Kidane Zekarias, head of a brutal human trafficking ring. Tarekegn was sentenced to face 21 months behind bars.”
- Eritrean Human Trafficker, Kidane Zekarias Habtemariam, was arrested in February 2020 in Ethiopia, but escaped. He is wanted by international investigators for human trafficking in Libya.
- Reporter for *The Economist* Tom Gardner has seen his media accreditation cancelled by *The Ethiopian Media Authority* (EMA) for he has allegedly failed the “standards of conduct for journalists”.
- The Oromo Federalist Congress (OFC) said in a statement that Ethiopia is haunted by the vicious circle of “political failure, civil war and economic crisis” and has called for a cessation of hostilities and a genuine national dialogue.
- According to the Addis Standard (AS), around half a million people have been internally displaced in Western Oromia regional state.
- “Inter-communal violence and intensified hostilities has caused the looting and destruction of 426 health facilities in western Oromia,” AS reported.
- Further, 328 schools in the East and West Wollega parts of Oromia remain closed and over 151,000 students are out of school.
- Refugees fleeing Ethiopia due to conflict face drought and starvation in Somaliland, says *The Guardian*.
- Safaricom seeks USD 2 billion from local banks and development financial institutions for a 5 year term agreement to fund its Ethiopian operations expected to start within the next seven months.
- WFP food convoys driving to Tigray and Afar regions plan to help 36,000 people in the coming days.

Regional Situation (per 16 May)

- In Somalia Hassan S Mohammad has been re-elected as President. He previously served as President of Somalia from September 2012 to February 2017.
- Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, calls for urgent action following a two-day visit to Kenya where he witnessed the impact of the fourth consecutive failed rain season in the Horn of Africa.

International Situation (per 16 May)

- The *Oromo Liberation Front* (OLF)/OLA sent a letter to Kenyatta, President of Kenya, urging the Kenyan government to maintain its neutrality and refrain from actions against OLF in Ethiopia.

Links of interest

- [OFC says political failure, civil war and economic crisis vicious circle haunting Ethiopia](#)
- [Twitter - Ruling on Tarekegn Mulu](#)
- [Human trafficker's escape leaves survivors disillusioned and fearful](#)
- [Violence in western Oromia displaces half a million, school and health facilities unfunctional](#)
- [Safaricom seeks \\$2b to bankroll Ethiopia operations](#)
- [Former Somali president returns to power, vows to return Somalia to stability](#)
- [Horn of Africa: UN humanitarian chief calls for urgent action to save lives](#)
- [‘People are dying’: Ethiopians escape war only to face hunger in Somaliland](#)
- [Twitter - ‘Damage report’ of the Tigray Education Bureau](#)

Disclaimer: All information in this situation report is presented as a fluid update report, based on 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 its 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. It 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@eeepa.be any additional information and corrections.