

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](#). 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 19 May)

- The United Nations (UN) said that a total 1.39 million children in the Tigray region are currently missing out on education. The region is under a blockade and teachers have not received salaries.
- Voice of America reports that the war has left deep psychological scars on Tigrayan students.
- ICRC has sent more than 55 cargo flights and four humanitarian aid convoys to Tigray. The medical supplies transported will be used to treat around 65,000 patients for the next three months.
- Agenzia Fides states "In addition to the economic crisis, there are also clashes with Eritrea in the conflict region of Tigray. The situation is still very tense."

Situation in Ethiopia (per 19 May)

- The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) said Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) members who were arrested illegally should be immediately released and other pre-trial detainees should also be released unless a credible charge is filed.
- Two days after he went missing in Addis Ababa, the wife of Gen. Mamo Tefera told BBC that she had received a message from him and he is safe in Bahir Dar, capital of the Amhara region.
- His wife, Menen Haile, confirmed to BBC that Gen. Tefera is in the 9th police station in Bahir Dar.
- Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen met with EU Special Representative for Human Rights Eamon Gilmore.
- Gilmore states that he and Demeke discussed "Accountability for #HumanRights and #IHL violations, as well as humanitarian access, ceasefire and national dialogue."
- The International Press Association of East Africa (IPEA) condemns the withdrawal of the press licence of The Economist Ethiopia correspondent Tom Gardner.
- IPEA states that it is the "latest step in the swift deterioration of press freedom in Ethiopia within the context of the ongoing civil war."
- Agenzia Fides quotes an anonymous source in the Catholic Church, stating that rising prices are affecting the poor and middle class heavily in Ethiopia. "Unfortunately, the funds for the missions are also running out and in this situation it is becoming increasingly difficult to help the poor."

Regional Situation (per 19 May)

- Oxfam International and Save the Children published a new report warning that one person was "likely dying of hunger every 48 seconds in drought-ravaged Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia" and deploring the International Community's lack of attention.
 - Bloomberg states that the Horn of Africa faces the worst drought conditions in four decades.
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- The World Meteorological Organization's regional office for Africa warns that the prospects are poor. The particularly strong oscillation in sea-surface temperatures means that the Horn of Africa might face drought until the end of the year.
- UN OCHA warns that in Sudan, "a continued deterioration of the economy, and conflict and displacement, especially in the Darfur and Kordofan states" has taken place.
- UN OCHA warns that "In addition, the spread of dry spells and crop failure in 115 localities in 14 states across the country have affected 5.6 million people, while high prices of agricultural inputs have affected the harvest, which is down by around 35 per cent compared to 2021."
- *EnergyCapital & Power* reports that South Sudan and Ethiopia have struck an electricity deal for the purchase of 100 MW of electricity by South Sudan from Ethiopia over the next three years, with the intention to increase imports to 400 MW eventually. The first step in the deal is a feasibility study by both countries, following the construction of transmission lines.

International Situation (per 19 May)

- US President Joe Biden has reversed a decision by former US President Donald Trump to withdraw 750 special operations troops from Somalia.
- The plan now approved by Biden would see the US drawing on forces stationed in neighbouring countries in order to reinforce anti-terrorism activities in Somalia.
- The mission is not considered a combat mission. Army Lt. Col. Patrick Husted, a spokesman for U.S. Africa Command stated that the approximately 500 troops would constitute "a repositioning of forces that are already in the area to continue an advise and assist and training mission, with the purpose of enabling a more effective fight against Al-Shabaab."
- The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies will hold an online event on 1 June 2022 titled "Under siege and out of sight: atrocities in Tigray."
- The announcement of the event states: "from extrajudicial executions, mass arrests and acts of sexual violence to widespread pillage and looting, Tigrayans are being targeted in a campaign of ethnic cleansing. The war in Ukraine will further exacerbate the humanitarian crisis as food insecurity worsen in the Horn of Africa."

Links of interest

- [Tigray War Costing 1 Million Children a Third Year of School, UN Says](#)
- [Twitter post Eamon Gilmore, EU Special Representative for Human Rights](#)
- [ብርጋዴር ጅኔራል ተፈራ. ማሞ ባሕር ዳር እንደሚገኙ እንደተነገራቸው ባለቤታቸው ገለጹ](#)
- [One person likely dying from hunger every 48 seconds in drought-ravaged East Africa as world again fails to heed warnings](#)
- [ICRC Transports over 55 Cargo Flights, 4 Convoys of Humanitarian Aid to Tigray](#)
- [Driest Conditions in 40 Years Seen Continuing in Horn of Africa](#)
- [Sudan: Food Security & Livelihoods Response](#)
- [South Sudan, Ethiopia Sign 100 MW Electricity Trade Agreement](#)
- [ኦሮሚያ፡ ከሕግ አግባብ ውጪ በእስር ላይ የሚገኙ የኦሮሞ ነጻነት ግንባር \(እነግ\) አባላት በአፋጣኝ ከእስር ሊለቀቁ ይገባል፤ ሌሎች የቅድመ-ክስ ታባሪዎችም ተግማኒ ክስ ካልቀረበባቸው በአፋጣኝ ከእስር ሊለቀቁ ይገባል](#)
- [AFRICA/ETHIOPIA - Dramatic situation: suffering continues among the poorest, not even the middle class](#)
- [Biden Orders US Troops Back to Somalia](#)
- [US troops are going back to Somalia, but not for 'combat'](#)
- [Under siege and out of sight: atrocities in Tigray](#)

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