

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.

Situation in Tigray (per 20 May)

- Draft report of the UN Secretary-General on Protection of civilians in armed conflict (10 May 2022) sent to the members of the Security Council. Issued as UNSC S/2022/381.
- The report says: "In the Tigray Region, millions lacked reliable electricity, telecommunications networks and banking services, while commercial supply chains were severely disrupted."
- It reports that "MSF suspended operations in the central Tigray region of Ethiopia after three medical aid workers were killed."
- The report states: "The movement of essential medicines and medical supplies into the Tigray region of Ethiopia faced heavy restrictions, leading to significant shortages throughout the region. Doctors identified multiple deaths and complications linked to a lack of medicine and supplies, including for the treatment of kidney disease, cancer and other chronic conditions."
- It finds that "By November 2021, more than 9 million people in northern Ethiopia needed urgent food assistance, and from July some 400,000 people within Tigray region were estimated to face famine-like conditions."
- The report reads that "In northern Ethiopia, healthcare facilities, equipment and transports were attacked and looted, and hospitals used for military purposes. Hundreds of health facilities in Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions of Ethiopia were damaged, and many rendered non-functional."
- The UNSC report finds that "In parts of Tigray region of Ethiopia, people were reportedly prevented from farming. Access constraints to the region – including for commercial commodities - severely limited the availability of seeds and other agricultural inputs, as well as stocks of food assistance and fuel." and: "In Tigray region of Ethiopia, infrastructure in 85 out of 200 markets was non-functional or destroyed."
- It concludes: "allegations of international crimes outpace their investigation and prosecution."
- The government of Tigray said on 19 May that it is giving amnesty to more than 4,000 Ethiopian Prisoners of War (PoWs), including 401 women. The first group of the over 4000 PoW would be released today according to a FB post. Tigray had also released 1000 PoWs in July 2021.
- According to online posts Eritrean troops have left most of Western Tigray, and this supposedly partly because Eritrean President Isayas Afwerki has not received the payments due for his Eritrean troops, as well as concerns about Tigray Defence Forces troops on the border with Eritrea.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 20 May)

- Currently the Ethiopian government is conducting a military operation in the Oromia region against the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) which may worsen the humanitarian crisis. According to sources, the OLA is very slowly advancing on Addis Ababa.

- The Ethiopian parliament approved USD 6.3 million military aid from Turkey on 17 May.
- The military cooperation agreement between the two countries commits the Ethiopian government to buying Turkish-made military equipment from Turkish companies within 5 years.
- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Demeke Mekonnen, says land that Sudan invaded along the border with Ethiopia will be retrieved by Ethiopia using any measure necessary.
- “Although public relations with the Sudanese people are largely economically intertwined, there is a long way to go in resolving the long-standing border dispute between the two countries,” he said.
- Demeke added that the Sudanese are not only occupying the area but are also building various infrastructures to change the demographics of the area.
- He also accused Sudan of supporting and providing training facilities to Tigrayan forces. “We told the Sudanese government to stop supporting the group as it is an attack on Ethiopia,” he added.
- A report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) says over 5 million people were internally displaced in Ethiopia in 2021, the highest number ever recorded in a single country.

Situation in Eritrea (per 20 May)

- Global Yiaki Movement ('Enough') has sent a letter of congratulations to Mr. Hassan Sheikh Mahamud for being elected as the 10th president of the Federal Republic of Somalia.
- The Yiaki Movement has a strong following among youth on social media and has reported on the experiences of youth in forced national conscription, and dehumanising training of youth in Eritrea.
- ይአክል or Ye'akil “Enough!” was started around five-four years ago by Eritrean youth activists, supported by Eritrean opposition and “also Eritrean people and even some of the high officials inside Eritrea”, according to a commentator, who was involved in setting it up.
- According to sources the “No More” Campaign was subsequently set up as a propaganda response. The campaign pushes for non-intervention of the international community in Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Regional Situation (per 20 May)

- Sixteen African Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) wrote to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to put Ethiopia on its agenda: “We are concerned that the situation is repeating itself in Ethiopia today. We call on you to learn the lessons from Rwanda and act now,” the letter stated.

International Situation (per 20 May)

- US based YouTube Network Military and Foreign Affairs Network issues an episode: “Eritrean Defense Forces Topple Eritrean Regime”, stating that Afwerki fears a TDF invasion to end his by now “fragile” rule.

Links of interest

[UNSC: Protection of civilians in armed conflict](#)

[Report of Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre \(IDMC\)-2021](#)

[Ethiopia has world's biggest displaced population - report](#)

[መንግስቱ ትግራይ ኣብ ቅሌዕ ወራር ኩናት ትግራይ ካብ ዝተሳተፉ ምርኻት ሰፊዖት ፋሽነት ኣብይ ለቕመድ ንልዕሊ 4ሽቅ ዝኾኑ በምሕረት ክናትቡ ወሲኑ](#)

[ኩናት ኣትዮጵያ፡ መሬት ትግራይ ልዕሊ 4 ሽቅ ምፍቓት ወተሃደራት ክፈትቡ ምጻናም ኣናሊዎም](#)

[ፓርላማው ከቱርክ መንግስት የተገኘ 6.3 ሚሊዮን ዶላር ወታደራዊ ድጋፍ እዕደቱ](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VxZXUwKRnc>

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[16 African CSOs petition UN to halt protracted war in Ethiopia](#)

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