

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 2 June)

- According to the BBC, the main referral hospital in Mekelle, Tigray region, has suspended its operations due to lack of medical supplies and power outages.
- The medical director, Dr Kibrom Gebreselassie said Ayder Comprehensive Specialized Hospital had reached a stage where it could not provide services to patients, after 19 months of conflict.
- He said the lack of medical supplies and lack of fuel had prompted the suspension of its operations. "Now there is no power in Tigray and we have stopped producing oxygen," he added.
- Doctors and health professionals in the hospital had been working without pay for over a year and could not support themselves and their families.
- Medical professionals told the BBC in April that the hospital had reached a point where 4 to 6 persons were dying daily, instead of 1 or 2 every few days.
- The African Union special envoy Olusegun Obasanjo held talks with President Debretsion Gebremichael in the capital of Tigray region on Tuesday 31 May. The meeting was held amid fresh fighting between Tigray forces and Eritrean forces.
- During his interview with BBC Focus Africa, Obasanjo described the talks between Tigrayan authorities and the Ethiopian government as making progress "very slowly but steadily."
- "The situation today is better than six months ago and we are working to increase confidence building measures," he said. The envoy added that the current humanitarian ceasefire should move towards a negotiated ceasefire and then to a formal declaration of cessation of hostilities.

### Situation in Ethiopia (per 2 June)

- A source reports that the ENDF, republican guards, federal police and special riot police divisions have been removed from the respective Ethiopian ministries and have been placed under control of the Prime Minister's office.
- In addition the 5 divisions of the riot police have been increased to as much as 10 and have been fully militarised.
- The source states intense fighting is ongoing between FANO and Amhara Special Forces, and that security is collapsing to the north and west of Addis Ababa in Oromia.
- Addis Standard reported that a high level delegation led by Prime Minister Abiy and accompanied by AU's envoy, Olusegun Obasanjo, arrived in Bale Robe in the Oromia region today for a visit.
- According to CGTN, an Ethiopian official said the country is set to receive USD 200 million in financial support from the World Bank. "The funds will be used to build skilled manpower and boost the capacity of state-owned technical and vocational training institutions," said Muferia Kamil Ethiopia's Minister of Labor and Skills Development, in a Facebook post.

- The World Bank and the Ethiopian government signed a financing agreement of USD 300 million in May supporting reconstruction and rehabilitation of conflict affected regions in Ethiopia.

### Regional Situation (per 2 June)

- Ethiopia has reiterated its intention to play a leading role in the Red Sea Initiative (RSI) to combat piracy in the East African region, state media Fana Broadcasting Corporate reported.
- Demelash Gebremichael, Commissioner General of the Ethiopian Federal Police Commission attended a conference organised by INTERPOL to evaluate the implementation of the RSI and he was briefed on activities being carried out under the umbrella of the project.
- The Commissioner said Ethiopia is working hard to tackle arms and trafficking.
- He added that Ethiopia will assume the chairmanship of the East African Police Chiefs Cooperation (EAPCCO) in 2023.

### International Situation (per 2 June)

- The United States announced that Amb. Mike Hammer has been appointed as Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa succeeding the outgoing Amb. David Satterfield who was appointed in January this year. Amb. Satterfield was appointed after Jeffrey Feltman left after less than a year on the job.
- Amb. Hammer is the third US envoy to be appointed by the Biden's administration and he was most recently the US ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo, where he drew respect and sometimes ire with his outspokenness about the country's problems.
- The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, said in a statement that the appointment of Amb. Hammer "underscores abiding commitment to the diplomatic efforts in the region, most urgently in support of an inclusive political process towards peace, common security, and prosperity for all people in Ethiopia."
- He also said: "This administration remains firmly focused on cessation of hostilities, unhindered humanitarian access, transparent investigation into violations and human rights abuses by all actors, and a negotiated resolution to the conflict."
- A report by The Guardian says the first deportation flight to Rwanda carrying people who arrived in the UK without authorisation is scheduled to leave on 14 June. This was announced by Home Secretary Priti Patel and officials said a group of asylum seekers has been sent formal notices by the Home Office advising they will be relocated to the East African nation.
- In a statement Patel said: "Our world leading partnership with Rwanda is a key part of our strategy to overhaul the broken asylum system and break the evil people-smugglers' business model. [...] while we know attempts will now be made to frustrate the process and delay removals, I will not be deterred and remain fully committed to delivering what the British public expect."

### Links of interest

[BBC: Tigray largest hospital stops services amid crisis](#)

[Tigray war: 'slow but steady' progress, says Obasanjo](#)

[Ethiopia to receive \\$200 million financial assistance from World Bank: Official](#)

[A high-level delegation led by PM Abiy arrives in Bale Robe of Oromia region](#)

[Ethiopia vows to take a lead in Red Sea Initiative to combat piracy in East Africa: FBC](#)

[US taps affable veteran diplomat for Ethiopia peace bid](#)

[First Rwanda deportation flight to leave UK on 14 June: Says Priti Patel](#)

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