

Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

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Situation in Tigray (per 7 June)

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Ethiopia says it has been supporting medical facilities in the Tigray region, including Ayder Referral Hospital, through delivery of essential drugs and medicines through airlift and convoys with the support of the Ethiopian Ministry of Health.
- The medical director of Ayder Hospital, Dr Kibrom Gebreselassie explained: "We are grateful to the ICRC for the much-needed medical supplies. However, it is unfortunate that some services can no longer be provided due to lack of fuel, oxygen and anaesthesia drugs."
- The UN reports that a convoy of 27 trucks carrying desperately needed aid of nearly 1,000 metric tons of food and other essential items has been delivered to Mekelle, Tigray's capital, this past week.
- UN Spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric, said food and other aid has been dispatched from the regional capital to priority areas across Tigray for onward distribution.
- Dujarric expressed concern with "the rate at which aid is arriving into Tigray", which "remains a small fraction of what is needed. Essential services such as electricity, communications networks and banking services, remain largely cut off," he said.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 7 June)

- PM Abiy Ahmed has appointed Amb. Redwan Hussien as National Security Advisor with the rank of Minister replacing Gedu Andergachaw, former president of Amhara State. Redwan Hussien has been State Minister of Foreign Affairs since 27 December 2019. He was previously appointed Ambassador to Eritrea but he did not receive accreditation.
- WFP Ethiopia says around 1.2 million people are estimated to be facing hunger in the Afar regional state and that it recently delivered critical food baskets to 630,000 people in the region.
- Addis Standard reported that the Federal first instance court in Addis Ababa has ruled that journalist Solomon Shumye, founder and host at the "Gebeyanu" media as well as journalist Meaza Mohammed, founder and host at the "Roha Media" and journalist Temesgen Desalegn, founder and managing editor of the Amharic weekly "Fitih" Magazine be released on 10,000 Birr bail each.
- AFP says the federal government of Ethiopia has vowed to conduct strict controls on aid convoys to the Tigray region accusing humanitarian agencies of delivering banned equipment that could be used by Tigray forces and more fuel than is currently allowed.
- During his visit to the Afar region, the Ethiopian deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Demeke Mekonnen said that: "Special attention should be given to prevent equipment from being transferred to the TPLF and I have noticed that there are efforts to transport more fuel than allowed and some banned equipment that can be used to carry out the terror group's aims."

- He said "efforts by the customs commission and other entities to ensure controls and surveillance of banned equipment should be boosted."
- In its latest update, UNOCHA said while fuel for humanitarian operations have been allowed to go to Tigray in the past two months, the volume was insufficient and reserves were at low levels.
- "Nutrition partners, for instance, need about 24,000 litres of fuel to dispatch available nutrition supplies, including lifesaving therapeutic milk and ready to use therapeutic and supplementary foods, to about 240 health facilities across Tigray," said OCHA in its latest update.
- The Reporter Ethiopia says that the latest clashes and fighting between Eritrean troops and the Tigray defence forces is the outcome of "the unhealthy relationship between the leaders of Ethiopia and Eritrea."
- The Reporter comments on the relationship between Addis Ababa and Asmara which is not as strong as it was after Abiy began to exert efforts to end the conflict through negotiations. "Abiy wants the war to end, while his Eritrean counterparts want to fight until the TPLF is destroyed," said an official working at the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The Reporter Ethiopia explains why the details of the agreement made between the two leaders was kept secret as it is believed that destroying the TPLF was the only joint objective.
- Zenur Abdulwahab, senior official of Freedom and Equality Party said that: "We don't know the deals happened behind closed doors, making it difficult to comprehend where the relationship between the two countries is heading."
- Deputy chairperson of Arena Tigray, an opposition party, Goitom Tsegaye states that he fears that war is inevitable. "It is a friendship built on personal relations between Abiy and Issays. If things go wrong between the two, war is inevitable," said Goitom.
- A geopolitical analyst, Fithawek Yewondwesen states: "It seems Eritrea does not like the negotiations efforts made by the Ethiopian government, while Ethiopian officials are caught in a difficult situation whereby they need Eritrea to make peace with Sudan, while they also want to normalise relations with the West, including the US."
- A meeting of 10 political parties formed the Opposition Party Caucus (COP), to present alternatives for the Ethiopian national dialogue project.

Situation in Eritrea (per 7 June)

- An Eritrean Afar National Congress statement says 500 Eritreans - made up of troops from the Eritrea Afar region, have defected from the army and surrendered to Ethiopia's Afar regional state.

Links of interest

[Ethio-Eritrea relations in a spotlight amid fresh conflicts: The Reporter](#)

[Essential aid reaches Tigray region, but more still needed: UN](#)

[Twitter: ICRC has supported medical facilities including Ayder in Tigray](#)

[Ethiopia accuses aid agencies of delivering banned equipment to Tigray](#)

[Northern Ethiopia - Humanitarian update: OCHA](#)

[Twitter: Around 1.2 million people are estimated to be facing hunger in Afar - WFP](#)

[Newly formed caucus sets conditions for planned national dialogue - Addis Standard](#)

[Twitter: press briefing for foreign media at the PMO](#)

[Afar defecting troops kidnapped by Eritrean government](#)

[UK accused of attempting to deport children to Rwanda](#)

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