

Europe External Programme with Africa

# SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

## No. 221 - 14 June 2022

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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 14 June)

- An open letter from Tigray President Debrestion Gebremichael to Ambassador Federico Villegas, President of the United Nations Human Rights Council, says: "The people of Tigray face an existential threat due to the ongoing genocidal war being waged against them. The invading forces of Ethiopia and Eritrea along with Amhara expansionist forces, determined to carry out their project of national extermination, have imposed a complete blockade on Tigray, precipitating a colossal humanitarian catastrophe."
- It also stated that the international community is not doing enough to prevent obstruction of humanitarian operations in Tigray.
- The Government of Tigray has issued a statement on the status of Western Tigray disputing a Le Monde article which suggested that the Tigray government may have loosened its position on the status of Western Tigray in the interest of peace talks.
- The statement said that: "This outrageous claim, apparently based on unnamed diplomatic sources in Addis, could not be farther from the truth. The Government of Tigray has always made it clear that any lasting resolution of the current crisis must be predicated on the reestablishment of the pre-war status quo ante."
- In conclusion, the statement said that Western Tigray is non-negotiable.
- International Committee for Red Cross (ICRC) Ethiopia said a convoy of medical supplies and household items arrived in Mekelle on 11 June, the sixth convoy after the truce was declared.
- World Food Programme (WFP) Ethiopia says the largest humanitarian convoy to date of 308 trucks have arrived in Tigray this week carrying food adequate to meet the needs of 800,000 people.

### Situation in Ethiopia (per 14 June)

- According to Reuters, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said the federal government has formed a committee to negotiate with Tigray state.
- "Regarding the peace, a committee has been established. Negotiation needs a lot of work. A committee has been established and it will study how we will conduct the talks," Abiy told the Ethiopian parliament.
- Government forces have engaged in heavy gunfire exchange with Oromo armed groups in the city of Gambella, capital of Gambella regional state, Addis Standard reported.
- A resident of the capital told Addis Standard that the city has been taken over by armed forces, Gambella Liberation Front, and Oromo Liberation Army.
- The spokesperson of Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), Odaa Tarbii, said in his twitter that OLA-OLF forces are currently engaging the Ethiopian military forces in Dembi-dollo and Gimbi towns of

western and south-western Oromia state and political prisoners that were being held in Dembi-dollo town have been freed.

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) says it is witnessing alarming indications of a deadly nutritional crisis in the Afar regional state, requiring an urgent scale-up of humanitarian response.
- MSF reports that hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing the violence and hunger in Afar. There is no access to food, healthcare, or clean water.
- "What scares us most at this point is that we are only beginning to see the very tip of the iceberg, and already it is overwhelming," said Raphael Veicht, MSF Emergency Coordinator in Addis Ababa.
- UNHCR Ethiopia said that in collaboration with other partners, they distributed food assistance to Eritrean refugees at the Serdo site in Afar region. Refugees also received cash support.
- According to Addis Standard Ethiopia has reiterated its commitment to diplomatic and peaceful resolution of the border conflict with Sudan.
- Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) spokesperson, Ambassador Dina Mufti, said: "Sudan has illegally encroached Ethiopia's territory yet Ethiopia sticks to diplomatic efforts."

### Situation in Eritrea (per 14 June)

- The Special Rapporteur on Eritrea presented his update in the UN Human Rights Council on 13 June. "Since I started my mandate in November 2020, I have not received any evidence of progress in the human rights situation in Eritrea. In fact, I have observed a deterioration," he noted.

### International Situation (per 14 June)

- Global Witness, in a joint investigation with Foxglove, stated that Facebook remains inadequate at preventing the promotion of ethnic violence in Ethiopia.
- Dagim A Mekonnen, an Ethiopian communications and technology specialist, says: "...since about two years ago, Facebook played a pernicious role in that people are killed, properties are damaged and age-old social fabrics are torn apart."
- The New York Times: "The worst drought in four decades and a sharp rise in food prices caused by the war in Ukraine have left almost half of Somalia's people facing acute food shortages."
- Experts predict that the next rainy season from October through December will most likely fail, extending the period of drought into 2023. The predictions are worrisome for analysts, who claim that the deteriorating conditions and the delay in funding may reflect the severe 2011 drought that killed about 260,000 Somalis.

### Links of interest

[Twitter: Statement by the Government of Tigray on the status of Western Tigray](#)

[Twitter: Open letter from President Debrestion to Ambassador Federico Villegas, President of UNHRC](#)

[PM Abiy says body formed to negotiate with Tigray forces](#)

[Heavy gunfire exchange ongoing between government and rebel forces: Addis Standard](#)

[Twitter: OLA-OLF forces fighting against Ethiopian military forces in Western Oromia](#)

[Ethiopia reiterates commitment to peaceful border resolution with Sudan](#)

[A/HRC/50/20: Situation of human rights in Eritrea - Report of the Special Rapporteur on situation human rights in Eritrea](#)

[MSF raises alert over alarming indications of large scale nutritional crisis in Ethiopia's Afar region](#)

[Twitter: Life-saving food assistance distributed to Eritrean refugees at Serdo, Afar](#)

[Twitter: Our six convoy since truce arrived in Mekelle: ICRC Ethiopia](#)

['Now is the time to kill': Facebook continues to approve hate speech inciting violence and genocide](#)

['We Buried Him and Kept Walking': Children Die as Somalis Flee Hunger](#)

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