

Europe External Programme with Africa

# SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

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## Regional Situation (per 29 June)

- Sudan Tribune says that the Sudanese army launched a large-scale attack on the Ethiopian troops stationed inside the border area of Al Fashaga on Tuesday. The attack took place after 7 Sudanese soldiers were executed by Ethiopian forces on 22 June.
- Sudan Tribune added that the Sudanese army retook Kala-Leban and Barkhat settlements and Tesfai Adawi Hills in the Fashaga area.
- Reuters also said that Sudan's armed forces fired heavy artillery during clashes in a disputed eastern region bordering Ethiopia.
- Sudanese government sources told Reuters that Sudan had already filed a formal complaint with the United Nations Security Council over the execution of its soldiers.
- A security official from the Amhara region, Assefa Ashege, told Reuters that Sudan's army fired long-distance artillery from Monday morning until Tuesday afternoon, but nobody was injured.
- According to local residents the Sudanese army had gained control of Jabal Kala al-Laban. A military base was destroyed. It was unclear if it belonged to the Ethiopian army or local militia.

## Situation in Ethiopia (per 29 June)

- Addis Standard reports that the Ethiopian Defense Minister has dismissed the accusations by Sudan that its army executed captured Sudanese soldiers and a civilian as "baseless."
- Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) Public Relations Director, Colonel Getenet Adane, said that members of the Ethiopian army were not present at the area and Sudanese army clashed with local militias after entering Ethiopian territory.
- Colonel Getenet blamed Sudan for invading Ethiopia during the onset of the war in Tigray and stated it had jeopardised the historical relationship between the countries.
- He also accused the Sudanese forces of recently infiltrating Ethiopian territory and attacking Ethiopian militias, claiming this resulting in injuries on both sides.
- "The army operates within a strict chain of command and will not engage in banditry even if there is no military chain of command from the government," he added.
- On Monday, Ethiopia's Foreign Affairs Minister said the incident took place within the Ethiopian territory after incursions by a Sudanese regular army unit supported by elements of the terrorist Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).
- In response, the Government of Tigray said that the latest allegations that Tigray forces supported the Sudanese army in their incursion into Ethiopian territory is an extension of the regime's "hallucinatory tendency" to see Tigrayans in every corner, "sowing conflict and discord".

- Yayesew Shimeles, former host of YouTube channel 'Ethio-Forum', was rearrested yesterday. His lawyer told Addis Standard that: " I don't know where they took him. I'm still looking for him."
- Yayesew was arrested on 26 May by the Addis Ababa Police Commission and was accused of "inciting violence". He was later released on bail of 10,000 birr on June 20.
- The Federal First Instant court has ruled journalist Bekalu Alamrew be released on bail of 10,000 birr. He is the owner and editor of Alpha Media Network and was jailed for more than a month on suspicion of "inciting violence".

### **Situation in Tigray (per 29 June)**

- A call to action article published in the European Heart Journal on the impact of the Tigray siege on cardiology services in Mekelle University Hospital says that as the result of the de-facto siege on Tigray, the number of cardiac patients that are being treated has dramatically decreased by over 50%, leading to the untimely loss of lives with many preventable home deaths.
- The study said that patients who were receiving basic heart failure drugs at the hospital are now being sent home by physicians due to the lack of critical cardioactive drugs and diagnostic tests.
- Since July 2021, drug alternatives to treat patients progressively decreased, forcing patients to use expired drugs and now Tigray has run out of all drugs, costing the lives of many.
- The lack of drugs and treatments are having severe psychological impacts as well, on both patients and practitioners, according to the authors.
- The study also stated that of 200 patients in and around Mekelle with mechanical heart valves who were being closely monitored, two have died in the last 10 months due to lack of follow-up checks.
- The authors of the study have requested national and international cardiology communities to provide urgent assistance to restore healthcare and save further loss of lives.
- "We urge and call upon all professionals and organizations to be the advocates of our patients and bring support to the patients in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia," stated the authors.

### **International Situation (per 29 June)**

- The President of the UN Human Rights Council, Ambassador Federico Villegas, has appointed Radhika Coomaraswamy of Sri Lanka to serve as a member of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia.
- Ms. Coomaraswamy will join Kaari Betty Murungi of Kenya (chair) and Steven Ratner of the United States of America to serve on the human rights investigative body.
- The Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia is expected to deliver its first oral presentation to the Council on 30 June.

### **Links of interest**

- [Tigray Siege and its impact on cardiology services in Mekelle University Hospital: A call to action](#)
- [Defense Ministry denies Sudanese accusation of soldiers' execution by its members: Addis Standard](#)
- [Twitter: Statement by the Government of Tigray](#)
- [Journalist Yayesew Shimeles has been rearrested: Addis Standard](#)
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- [Sudanese forces attack Ethiopian troops in Al-Fashaga area: Sudan Tribune](#)
- [Sudan army shells disputed border with Ethiopia: Reuters](#)
- [Human rights council president appoints Radhika Coomaraswamy to serve on Ethiopia rights body](#)

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