

Europe External Programme with Africa

# SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

## No. 231 - 30 June 2022

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### Situation in Ethiopia (per 30 June)

- According to unconfirmed reports from sources in Tigray and Addis Ababa, in this week's meetings of the ruling Prosperity Party Central and Executive Committee, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy is said to have insisted that Western Tigray has to be returned to Tigray.
- He is said to have pointed out that unless this is clear, the Government of Tigray will not negotiate.
- He also emphasised that the Economy of Ethiopia is close to collapse and donors insist that negotiations should start before any financial assistance will be considered.
- It is further understood (unconfirmed) that the Prosperity Party also set out three criteria for the negotiations: 1) respect for the constitutional order, 2) protection of national interests, 3) leading role of the African Union.
- PM Abiy had previously instructed a committee chaired by Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen to study the prospects of negotiation with the Tigray government. The committee presented its report to Abiy last week.
- The list of negotiators for the federal government of Ethiopia is understood to be the following members: Demeke Mekonnen (Chair), Dr. Gedion Timotios, Temesgen Tiruneh, Ambassador Redwan Husien, L/General Birhanu Bekele, Dr. Getachew Jember, Ambassador Hassen Abdelkadir.
- Observers state that the majority of the proposed negotiation team are of Amharan background.
- The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) urges for the immediate release of all Tigrayans detained in Semera town of the Afar regional state.
- The Commission says that it has been monitoring more than 9,000 Tigrayans held "illegally and unconstitutionally" in Semera and Agatina camps of the Afar region for the last 5 months.
- EHRC said the prisoners were taken from three districts of the Afar region bordering the Tigray region, namely, Abala, Koneba and Berhale, in connection to the war in Tigray.
- Victims told the EHRC that they had been evicted from their homes and were being held in the detention camps without their consent.
- The Commission stated that several Tigrayans have died inside the detention camps due to a lack of medical treatment and adequate facilities.
- The EHRC said that: "The extremely limited availability of humanitarian aid and medical services caused epidemic-like diseases in the camps, including loss of lives."
- The EHRC added that detainees are not allowed to receive any medical treatment outside the camps except women who give birth.
- The Commissioner of EHRC, Dr. Daniel Bekele, said that "the detainees in Semera and Agatina camps in Semera town, Afar region, should be released immediately as they are detained illegally and arbitrarily based on ethnic identity."

- Daniel added that staying in the camps should be voluntary and without any restrictions, and those who wish to voluntarily return to their place of residence or remain in their current location should also be given the necessary support and assistance.
- “[...] current treatment is unconstitutional and is exposing the people inside the camp to multiple human rights violations. It must end immediately and unconditionally,” said Daniel Bekele.

### Regional Situation (per 30 June)

- Large-scale demonstrations are taking place in Sudan today on the 3rd anniversary of demonstrations that toppled al-Bashir’s regime. Internet and phone lines have been disrupted.
- Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, says that the escalating military tension between Ethiopia and Sudan is concerning and he regrets the loss of life.
- The Chairperson has called on both sides to refrain from military action and to solve the dispute through dialogue.
- The Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, said that the two sisterly countries should exercise utmost restraint, avoid tensions and seek diplomatic solutions on the matter.
- Tensions escalated between the two countries, after the Sudanese army accused the Ethiopian military forces of executing seven troops and a civilian and displaying the bodies to the public.

### International Situation (per 30 June)

- The UN Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia presented today at the UN Human Rights Council, stating they were "extremely alarmed" by ongoing atrocities in Ethiopia.
- "Any spread of violence against civilians is an early warning indicator and a precursor for further atrocity crimes," chair of the commission Betty Murungi said.
- According to the Ethiopian News Agency, the Prosperity Party (PP) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) have agreed to bolster a strategic partnership.
- A webinar discussion was held between the Vice-President of PP, Adem Farah, and CCP China Central Committee International Relations Minister, Liu Jianchao. Liu was briefed on the current situations in Ethiopia, including the ongoing green initiative.
- Adem said strengthening unity and cooperation between the parties is very important and reaffirmed PP’s commitment to work with the CCP to strengthen the multilateral cooperation framework in the international arena.
- Liu also said China believes Ethiopia is a key pillar of peace and security in East Africa and PP is CCP’s partner in regional strategic issues.

### Links of interest

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[The Chairperson of AU calls for restraint, calm and dialogue over Ethiopia and Sudan border dispute](#)

[IGAD Executive Secretary Calls for Calm on the Ethiopia-Sudan Border Tension](#)

[Prosperity Party and Chinese Communist Party agrees to boost strategic partnership: ENA](#)

[US, EU call to not use violence against Sudanese protesters as Congressmen call for sanctions](#)

[Twitter: UN Human Rights Council](#)

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