

Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

No. 233 - 4 July 2022

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International Situation (per 4 July)

- A hearing on Religious persecution in Eritrea is taking place in the British House of Lords today (Monday 4 July) from 18:00-20:00. It will discuss " 'what next' for accountability for violations that have been deemed crimes against humanity, as well as how such atrocities can be prevented in future." Send an email [here to sign up](#).
- Kaari Betty Murungi, the Chairperson of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia, speaking at the Human Rights Council in Geneva, stated that the Commission has received reports and opened an investigation into an alleged massacre of at least 200 persons in West Oromia.
- The Ethiopian Prime minister's press secretary Billene Seyoum said on 30 June that the UN investigators have arrived.
- The press secretary added that the number of people killed in the Tole Kebele, West Welega Zone, on 18 June, 2022 is 338.
- Ms Murungi said that the world must not "look away from the situation in Ethiopia", adding that "Any spread of violence against civilians, fuelled by hate speech and incitement to ethnic-based and gender-based violence, are early warning indicators and a precursor for further atrocity crimes."

Situation in Ethiopia (per 4 July)

- Human Rights Watch (HRW) says that the conflict in Tigray is "overshadowing" violence taking place in Oromia, where violence is on the rise. Many videos and pictures of atrocities taking place in Oromia have been appearing on social media platforms.
- Despite hundreds of people being killed, HRW accuses the Ethiopian government of inaction and impunity. Both regional and government security forces have let major human rights violations go unpunished, arbitrarily detaining people without due process, and summarily executing people. HRW says that "A culture of impunity for security abuses has only emboldened unaccountable security forces and done nothing to prevent further harm."
- HRW is calling for an independent investigation and says that the violence should no longer be ignored, and that deep structural reform is needed.
- The mayor of Addis Ababa announced that "members of the terrorist group from Tigray Special Forces have been arrested." Those detained are Zemen G/Egzabher (former security service member), and G/kidan G/Tsadik, a special force member. An investigation has been initiated by the federal police, the result will be reported.

- Government armed forces opened fire on youth, who went out to raise their voices against the killing of Amhara, in the Western Wollega in ShewaRobit on 1 July. Seven people were killed. Amhara media and telegram channels shared documents from health facilities claiming that the death rate could reach 12. More than 20 were wounded and are receiving treatment.
- Student protests at Bahirdar University continue and the civilian casualties have continued to rise.
- The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) has condemned the decision made by the presidents of the Amhara and Oromia states to "destroy" the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA). In a statement, the OLF called for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.
- In the statement, the OLF warned that it did not believe the crisis would be resolved by force, adding that "The responsibility for the further bloodshed will fall on the shoulders of the leaders ". The OLF urges other regions not to intervene.

Situation in Tigray (per 4 July)

- The Tigray Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development states that it has not been able to provide fertilisers, improved seeds and other chemicals to war-torn farmers due to restrictions in Tigray.
- The Office's Director of Crop Development, Solomon Gebre Selassie, told Deutsche Welle that the region had not received the required 700,000 quintals of fertiliser and 64,000 quintals of improved seed and expressed concern that production in the area could be reduced by 60-70% as a result.
- Getachew Reda, spokesperson for the TPLF, told the regional media: "We must take concrete measures to put an end to the war waged against Tigray through dialogue. [translated from Tigrinya]" He added that Amhara and Eritrean invading must leave Tigray and that this is non negotiable.
- Reda said basic services must be returned to the region and Ethiopia must take strong action, as Amhara forces and the Eritrean government are the main obstacles to the peace process.
- Getachew Reda also added that the accusation that TPLF supported the Sudanese in the recent border conflict has no basis. He stated that the Ethiopian government has a 'knee-jerk reaction' to blame the Tigray government for all the problems.

Regional Situation (per 4 July)

- Sudanese authorities are shutting down Internet access across the country in an effort to disrupt anti-government protests by preventing activists and protestors organising on social media platforms. The Internet watchdog Net Blocks confirmed that a series of blackouts across the country began on Thursday, June 30 at 8:00 a.m. local time (6:00 a.m. GMT).

Links of interest

- [Ethiopia's Other Conflict](#)
- [Tigray's agricultural production could be reduced by 60 to 70 percent due to lack of fertilizers and improved seeds](#)
- [Tigray Central Command member Getachew Reda's Press Briefing on Tigray Television on current Mayor Office of Addis Ababa Statement](#)
- [June 30, 2022 PMO Press Briefing](#)
- [Oromo Liberation Front \(OLF\) Statement](#)
- [Internet disrupted in Sudan amid protests against military junta](#)
- [Oral Update of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia to the UN](#)
- [Facebook: Amhara Media Balderas: Killings in ShewaRobit](#)

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