

Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

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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 5 July)

- The Crisis Group says that both the Tigray and the Ethiopian leadership have decided that “at least for now” peace negotiation is the more desirable option. It, however, does not rule out a resumption of hostilities if negotiations fail, although it sees it as unlikely.
- The Crisis Group says both sides are now debating who should mediate the talks. Tigrayan leadership wants them to take place in Kenya, while the Ethiopian government has a preference for African Union mediation. Obasanjo, the AU president seen by Tigray as too close to Ethiopia, prefers holding negotiations in Tanzania.
- Main obstacles to peace with Tigray are the fate of Western Tigray, right for an independence referendum in Tigray as a condition set by Tigray leadership, and the Ethiopian federal government’s concern about the size of Tigrayan forces.
- A statement was issued by the Tigray government regarding the continued detention of Tigrayans in Ethiopia.
- The Tigray government accuses the Ethiopian government of forced repatriation of Tigrayan migrants and refugees from the Middle East, stating this breaches international law by breaking the principles of non-refoulement.
- The statement calls on the international community to “press the Abiy regime to comply with its domestic and international legal obligations by releasing the tens of thousands of Tigrayans...”
- It has been widely reported that thousands of Tigrayans have been detained by the government on account of their Tigrayan identity. Many have not been able to access due process, and reportedly hundreds have died in prison.

Regional Situation (per 5 July)

- On 1 July, EU High representative Josep Borrell called on the Sudanese government to end violence against civilians. Borrell said that the “violence perpetrated yet again by the Sudanese security forces against peaceful demonstrators is totally unacceptable.” At least eight people were killed , including one child. Borrell says that Sudanese authorities are responsible for the protection of civilians.
 - He added that protestors had clearly spoken out in favour of democracy and that “[y]esterday’s events [30 June demonstration violence] demonstrate that the military authorities are not willing to create a conducive environment for dialogue”.
 - Borrell urges Sudanese military authorities to engage in a national dialogue facilitated by the UN-AU-IGAD. He adds that the EU considers this dialogue as “the only sufficiently inclusive platform to facilitate intra-Sudanese talks.”
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- Sudan Tribune reported that Sudan's military chief, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, made a surprise announcement on state television that the army would withdraw from politics and would not be involved in any dialogue about the transitional period.
- He added that "After the formation of the executive government, the Sovereignty Council will be dissolved and a higher council of armed forces, formed from the (Sudan) Armed Forces and Rapid Support (Forces), will take over the high command of the regular forces," stated Sudan Tribune.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 5 July)

- Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has accused the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) of carrying out a new massacre of civilians in the Western Oromia region. According to the Prime Minister, the massacre was carried out by retreating OLA fighters.
- The BBC reported that the OLA has not responded to the accusations. According to the BBC, the attack started Monday morning, and continued for three hours. People were killed indiscriminately as houses were set on fire.
- While casualty figures were not provided by the Ethiopian government, the Amhara Association of America told AP that between 150 and 160 people might have been killed. According to the association, ethnic Amhara were targeted during the attack.

International Situation (per 5 July)

- The private newspaper The Ethiopian Reporter reports that United Nations investigators have received a positive response from the Ethiopian government to investigate the atrocities committed in the north of the country.
- The EU Council announced that President Charles Michel spoke to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on the phone on 4 July. The EU president noted the improvements in humanitarian access in Tigray, but also highlighted that "that fuel and fertilisers are urgently needed to fight food insecurity". He further recalled an EU pledge of EUR 633 million to fight food insecurity in the Horn region.
- President Michel further encouraged Prime Minister Abiy to immediately engage in negotiations, both regarding peace in the conflict with Tigray, and regarding the GERD dam dispute with Egypt and Sudan. The EU expects positive outcomes to be beneficial to stability in the entire region.
- President Michel said in a tweet that the EU is finalising "Measures worth €81.5 million to support the basic needs of the vulnerable population of Ethiopia [...]."

Links of interest

[At Long Last, Ethiopia Prepares for Peace Talks](#)

[Sudan: Statement by the High Representative Josep Borrell on the latest developments](#)

[Statement by the Government of Tigray on the continued mass detention of Tigrayans in Ethiopia.](#)

[Twitter: Abiy Ahmed massacre in Oromia](#)

[BBC: Abiy accuses rebels of new 'massacre' in Oromia](#)

[AP: Ethiopia leader reports new massacre in Oromia region](#)

[Sudan's military would abandon power to civilians: al-Burhan](#)

[The Reporter: UN claims access granted to investigate atrocities in Ethiopia](#)

[European Council Press Release: President Charles Michel and Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed](#)

[Twitter: Charles Michel Measures worth €81.5 million to support the basic needs of vulnerable population](#)

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