

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 6 July)

- Tghat published the testimony of a university professor that was in Aksum at the time of the massacre. He said that Eritrean and Ethiopian forces indiscriminately shelled the city before moving in on 19 November 2020. According to the testimony, the shelling killed several people, including a mother and two children.
- He reported that during the massacre by Eritrean soldiers starting on 28 November 2020 “young people were rounded up from their homes or any other place, made to take off their shoes and belts and taken to public squares, and gunned down.” In some cases they were forced to dig their graves beforehand. He added that soldiers stopped people from touching the bodies, and that vultures, crows and hyenas were eating bodies for an entire day and night.
- The witness estimates that around 1100 people were killed in the massacre, without counting farmers and others killed in nearby villages.
- He added that in the following days the killings continued, and that Ethiopian soldiers also killed people after the Eritrean soldiers left several weeks later.
- According to the witness, several massacres by Eritrean soldiers took place in villages in the neighbourhood of Aksum. The testimony says that over 200 were killed in May Atsmi, 100 in Saglamen, 50 in Mahbere-Dego, and 19 in Adet.
- Witnesses told Tigray TV, a station affiliated to the TPLF, that Tigrayans continue to be arrested, beaten, and deported from Western Tigray.

Regional Situation (per 6 July)

- Several organisations, including UN OCHA and USAID, have again raised the alarm that the Horn of Africa region is facing the worst drought in four decades. OCHA says the region is left “facing the most prolonged drought in recent history.” At least 19.4 million people have been affected since the drought began in October 2020.
- Humanitarian Information Unit says that more than 7 million children under five in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are experiencing acute malnutrition. 2.1 million are severely acutely malnourished.
- OCHA reports food prices are spiking as a result of below average crop yields and high prices on imported food due to the war in Ukraine. It adds that seven million livestock died due to drought.
- Sudanese opposition groups have welcomed the speech by General al-Burhan on Tuesday in which he stated that the military would leave the negotiations to facilitate the formation of a civilian government. Opposition groups also noted that it was ambiguous and needed clarification. There were concerns regarding the “higher military council” al-Burhan wants to establish.
- The US state department spokesperson said that it was too early to comment on the speech.

- IGAD's 39th Extraordinary Summit took place on 5 July in Nairobi, Kenya. Key issues of discussion were peace, security, drought, and natural disasters in IGAD countries. The presidents of Uganda, Somalia and South Sudan did not attend.
- Following the meeting, Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed and Sudan's leader al-Burhan agreed to hold peace talks regarding their border dispute. No details were given on when talks would take place.

International Situation (per 6 July)

- An EU internal document seen by Devex specifies that of the EUR 81 million announced by EU President Charles Michel for "basic needs of vulnerable people" in Ethiopia on 4 July, €39.5 million is for healthcare and infrastructure and €39.5 million for education and psychological aid. 2.5 million has also been set aside for a study on "better design and implement future EU development cooperation".
- The money is understood to come from the budget set aside for Ethiopia for the 2021-2027 budgetary period. This aid has largely been stopped. Another document seen by Devex states that for cooperation to resume, "further and sustained progress on the 'key asks' is expected." The money will go to other beneficiaries instead of the government.
- Lord David Alton said in the UK House of Lords that hunger is being used as a weapon of war against six million people in Tigray. He mentioned the French ARTE documentary "Tigray the Land of Hunger", which documents the famine, and lack of basic necessities in Tigray.
- The documentary says the government is purposely holding back necessities and services as a weapon of war, and that the famine caused by the lack of basic amenities is leading to many deaths and mass displacement.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 6 July)

- The OLA denied charges by the government that they were responsible for the massacre in Oromia. They indicated that "they were not in Kellem Zone" and recalled that an Ethiopian minister said three days before the massacre that the area had been recaptured by Ethiopian forces.
- The OLA instead accused government militias of carrying out the massacre, and demanded an independent investigation.
- The Ethiopian Human Rights Council confirmed a massacre took place in Hawa Gelan Woreda on 4 July. They said that "Sources indicate that the perpetrators are members of the Oromo Liberation Army".

Links of interest

[TGHAT: My Eyewitness Account of the Massacre of Aksum and Its Vicinity](#)

[EU readies fresh money for Ethiopia, but not yet its government](#)

[Twitter: Lord David Alton at UK House of Lords](#)

[ARTE Reportage: Ethiopie : Tigré, au pays de la faim](#)

[Tigray TV: Beaten, Arrested and Dumped on the Banks](#)

[Kellem Wollega Zone- Oromia Region: EHRC Calls for an Urgent Reinforcement of Government Security](#)

[Horn of Africa: Persistent Drought Increasing Food Insecurity, Millions Face Threat of Famine](#)

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[Burhan's speech on Sudanese army's future role requires clarifications : say pro-coup groups](#)

[Horn of Africa Drought: Regional Humanitarian Overview & Call To Action | Published 4 July 2022](#)

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