

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 email, [click here](#). You can unsubscribe at any moment through the link at the bottom of each email.

### Situation in Tigray (per 20 September)

- The International Commission of Human Right Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) released its first detailed preliminary report on 19 September.
- The ICHREE report says there are "reasonable grounds to believe that the Federal Government and allied regional State governments have committed and continue to commit the crimes against humanity of persecution on ethnic grounds and other inhumane acts."
- The detailed ICHREE document has an in-depth account of the involvement of Eritrea in the war in Tigray that started on 4 November 2020, such as for instance in the Axum massacre.
- ICHREE states that denial of the dire humanitarian situation in Tigray as well as the obstruction of aid "intentionally caus[ed] great suffering or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health."
- ICHREE highlights that the renewed fighting increases the risk of "further atrocity crimes." The committee says it has reasonable grounds to believe starvation in Tigray was used by the Federal Government as a weapon of warfare.
- Tigray spokesperson Getachew Reda says Eritrean forces have launched a full scale offensive on all fronts along the border - all the way from Tekeze through to Irob.
- He said heavy fighting is going on in May Kuhli, Zban Gedena, Adi Awala, Rama, Tserona and Zalambessa fronts.
- He added that ENDF's eastern command, members of the Northwestern command and 3 commando divisions have also been deployed along with the Eritrean forces.
- He said Eritrea is deploying its entire army as well as reservists.
- Getachew has been accusing the Ethiopian government of sending more troops to Eritrea.
- A humanitarian worker told a reporter from the Associated Press that areas surrounding the town of Adigrat were being shelled by the Eritrean forces.
- Reuters reports that local health officials in Tigray warn of the rise of deadly diseases such as measles, tetanus and whooping cough, as vaccination levels have fallen from over 90% before the war to under 10% now.
- According to a surgeon at Ayder hospital, "Vaccines are given for free across Ethiopia but they are not coming to Tigrayan children."

### Situation in Ethiopia (per 20 September)

- Addis Standard reports that the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) urged for an immediate response to the dire human rights situation of thousands of displaced civilians from Tigray and bordering Amhara regional states.
- The EHRC says the displaced were recently transferred from Jarre camp in the South Wollo zone in the Amhara region to the Awash Seven federal police training centre.

- The EHRC said the number of displaced people is around 2,800 and they were mostly natives of Tigray and displaced from cities such as Mekelle, Adigrat, Axum, Shire and the surrounding areas.
- The EHRC stated that the IDPs were sheltered in Jarre camp for the past several months, where they faced severe human rights violations. Their right to move was denied and they were not provided with enough humanitarian support.
- The EHRC also said they were kept in an extremely difficult situation, similar to imprisonment, without adequate aid support, without investigation, and without contact with their families.
- "The Federal Disaster Risk Management Commission have been forced to stop their work of providing food and non-food support to the displaced due to the influence of local security forces and militants," said EHRC.
- The Commission further said its effort to visit the evacuees and monitor their current situation after they were transferred to the Federal Police Training Institute in Awash Seven were refused by security forces.

### **Regional situation (per 20 September)**

- The Eritrean Bishops have called for a period of intense prayers leading up to the 27 September the feast of Meskel.
- TesfaNews, the outlet of the Eritrean government, states that "the end justifies all means 100%", in response to the TDF spokesperson, undermining trust in the possibilities of peace negotiations.

### **International Situation (per 20 September)**

- The US state department released a press statement detailing the work that the US special envoy to the Horn, Mike Hammer, has done during his visit to the region. He met with Ethiopian authorities, African Union representatives, and international partners, including EU envoy Annette Weber.
- The US state department has added that it "welcomed" the 11 September Tigrayan statement accepting the AU-led peace process, but "seeks tangible follow through from all parties".
- On 17 September, fighting broke out in Sweden between two groups of Eritreans. Eritrean regime supporters organising a party clashed with a group of Eritreans protesting against the regime.
- As the conflict escalated, police took 105 people into custody, arresting 5 of them.

### **Links of interest**

[International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia](#)

[UN experts warn of potential for further atrocities amid resumption of conflict in Ethiopia](#)

[UN Human Rights Council warns of more 'atrocious crimes' in Ethiopia](#)

[Tigrayan forces in Ethiopia say Eritrea launches 'full-scale offensive'](#)

[Eritrea accused of starting offensive on Ethiopia's Tigray](#)

[Twitter: Getachew Reda, Member of Tigray Government Central Command](#)

[Getachew Reda says Eritrea launched full scale offensive](#)

[Deadly childhood diseases rise in Ethiopia's Tigray as war hampers vaccinations](#)

[EHRC calls for immediate response to dire state of Tigrayans detained in Jarre camp: Addis Standard](#)

[U.S. Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa Hammer's Work in Ethiopia](#)

[Mass fighting between Eritrean groups in Sweden](#)

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