

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.

Peace negotiations (per 14 December)

- Prof. Mehari Taddele Maru stated that the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement should not come at the expense of justice for the victims of the war in Tigray.
- He criticises the agreement for its vague legal provision which may fail to hold Ethiopian authorities accountable.
- He states that “there have already been early signs that there is no political will to seek accountability,” referring to the impeding of Ethiopian authorities on the work of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia when investigating atrocity crimes in Tigray.

Situation in Tigray (per 14 December)

- The organisations LAW, Pan African Lawyers Union and Debevoise & Plimpton have taken allegations of widespread human rights violations by the state of Ethiopia to the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights on behalf of Tigrayan victims of the conflict.
- Fasika Amdeslasie, doctor at Ayder Comprehensive Specialized Hospital in Mekelle, stated that “HIV Drugs, HIV test kits[,] vaccines, and essential drugs have arrived in Mekele”.
- He states that the amounts are still small and the transport to other areas of Tigray is problematic.

Situation in Eritrea (per 14 December)

- *Assena TV* says that the recent secret visit of the Kenyan President, William Ruto, to Eritrea was to convey the US message to the Eritrean army to withdraw from Tigray. Sources confirm that pressure is being put on Eritrea to leave Tigray.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 14 December)

- According to the *BBC*, Meta is sued for 2 billion USD to cover damages and to change their algorithm over the killing of an Ethiopian Professor of Tigray ethnic origin on 3 November 2021 after a hate post on Facebook. Despite complaints, Facebook failed to promptly remove hateful posts about him.
 - According to *AP News*, basing themselves on witness testimony, the violence in Oromia is increasing in intensity. Civilians of both Oromo and Amhara groups have been the target of attacks, states AP.
 - Witnesses in KIRAMU state that they have seen dozens of killings, both by Oromia regional government controlled forces and Amhara Fano militia.
 - Several opposition parties have called for increased security presence in the affected areas. A senior member of the National Movement of Amhara has asked the federal government to intervene.
 - Lydia Girma, Head of the Addis Ababa City Peace and Security Administration Bureau, stated that security forces detained 72 individuals who are alleged to have instigated violence in schools around the city. Violence first started on 01 December when groups of students pro and opposing the erection of an Oromia state flag and use of the regional anthem in a school clashed, says *Addis Standard*.
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Regional Situation (per 14 December)

- Protesters again took to the streets in Sudan on 13 December against the transitional framework agreement between the military administration and the Forces of Freedom and Change, says *Euronews*.
- According to an alliance of UN agencies and aid groups, 200,000 Somalis are suffering catastrophic food shortages with that number set to rise to over 700,000 next year. The “famine” status has been temporarily delayed but the situation continues to worsen, says *Reuters*.
- Jens Laerke, spokesperson of UN OCHA, stated “people are dying from hunger, there's no doubt about it, but I cannot put a number on it”.

International Situation (per 14 December)

- US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on 13 December. They discussed the implementation of the CoH Agreement, said the US Department of State.
- Blinken “commended steps taken by the Ethiopian government to improve humanitarian access and begin restoration of essential services” in Northern Ethiopia but asked for accelerated implementation and increased access to conflict areas for humanitarian aid.
- They discussed the “urgent need for all Eritrean forces to leave Ethiopia”.
- Following his meeting with Blinken, Abiy Ahmed stated his appreciation for US efforts towards peace and their intention to continue the decades long partnership between the two countries.
- The Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that PM Abiy Ahmed met with US national security advisor Jake Sullivan to discuss among other things the implementation of the CoH Agreement and potential initiatives for economic and political reforms in Ethiopia.
- Dr. Michael Rubin, Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, warns that ethnic violence in Ethiopia continues as Eritrean forces continue killing in Tigray and violence in Oromia intensifies. “Abiy is party to genocide and belongs in an international docket, not in the White House,” he states.
- Rubin calls out USAID administrator Samantha Power, stating Power has failed to take decisive action to de-escalate violence.
- Ethiopia's government will investigate the death of 27 of its nationals found near Zambia's capital, Lusaka, says *Al Jazeera*.

Links of interest

[Justice in Ethiopia must not be killed by a peace deal](#)

[Twitter: LAW partners LawyersofAfrica Debevoise allegations of human rights violations in Tigray](#)

[Twitter: Fasika Amdeyasie HIV Drugs, HIV test kits Vaccines, and essential drugs have arrived in Mekele.](#)

[Meta sued for \\$2bn over Ethiopia violence](#)

[Unrest, violence in Addis schools](#)

[As Tigray calms, Ethiopia sees growing conflict in Oromia](#)

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[Watch: Protests continue in Sudan despite deal to end post-coup crisis](#)

[Children dying in Somalia as food catastrophe worsens](#)

[Abiy Ahmed met Jake Sullivan](#)

[Secretary Blinken's Meeting with Ethiopian Prime Minister Ahmed](#)

[Twitter: Abiy Ahmed Ali I held a candid and productive meeting with Sec Blinken.](#)

[Samantha Power's Embarrassing Silence on African Genocide](#)

[Ethiopia to investigate after 27 bodies discovered in Zambia](#)

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