

Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

No. 345- 05 January, 2023

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 Eritrea (per 05 January)

- Eritrean Human Trafficker Kidane Zekarias Habtemariam has been arrested in Sudan and brought to the UAE. He had a warrant on his head. The Netherlands will seek his extradition.

Peace negotiations (per 05 January)

- Tigray government Advisor Getachew Reda and General Tsadkan Leaders are expected to arrive in Addis Ababa on Orthodox X-mas (7 January) and meet PM Abiy Ahmed at the national palace.
- French Foreign Minister, Catherine Colonna, has announced she will travel to Ethiopia "to consolidate peace" on January 12 and 13 with her German Foreign Minister, Annalena Baerbock.
- According to Amhara media outlet *Mereja.com*, there is a "high" probability that Tigray regional President, Debretsion, will be appointed as Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia after a surprise cabinet reshuffle, but sources linked to the Tigray government deny such conversations are taking place.
- *Mereja.com* says Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen and Director General of Ethiopia's National Intelligence and Security Service Temesgen Tiruneh will step down.
- Demeke is reported by sources to be appointed as Ethiopia ambassador to the UN in New York.
- Dr Tedros Adhanom, DG of the WHO, commends the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement regarding the resumption of food and medicine deliveries and telecom services.
- Tedros stated that the Eritrean forces continue killing civilians; and they must withdraw from Tigray.
- Rahel Bafel head of the Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council and VP of the Ethiopian Social Democratic Party (ESDP), said there is a lack of transparency of the CoH Agreement, reports *Borkena*.
- The Global Society of Tigrayan Scholars (GSTS) calls for the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of Eritrean and Amhara forces from Tigray to the pre-Nov 03 2020 positions.
- GSTS called for unfettered access for the Human Rights investigation Commission of Experts to Tigray.

Situation in Tigray (per 05 January)

- Tigrayan refugees in East Sudan, from the Wolkait district (west Tigray), and from Kemant, Kunama and Irob, express fear to return home, due to occupation by armed forces from Amhara militia and Eritrea.
- According to *Tghat*, Eritrean and Amhara forces in Shire are kidnapping people who come back from banks and loot their money.
- Reports that Eritrean soldiers are severely plundering from Tigray occupied areas including taking looted goods away with camels and trucks.
- Eritrean and Amhara forces are also accused of kidnapping people arriving by plane, says *Tghat*.
- Ethiopian State Minister of Health, Ayele Teshome, said that 8 hospitals and 26 health stations have resumed basic services in Tigray, reports *Ethiopian Herald*.

- A dollar is being sold for 150 Birr in the illegal market while it is less than 54 Birr in banks. The Ethiopian government wants remittances sent to the banks that have been reopened in Tigray, where a percentage of the rate is used for transfer costs, according to *Ethiopia Broadcasting Corporation*.
- UN OCHA says removal of obstacles to provide access for humanitarian aid is a key priority for recovery in Tigray. it said 368.000 people in Tigray received food assistance during the end of December.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 05 January)

- *Mereja.com* says that former regional President of Oromia State and former chair of Oromo PP, Dr. Lemma Megerssa, is accused by PM Abiy of leading OLF Shane.
- Lemma was appointed by the World Food Programme in Rome, on the recommendation of Abiy.
- Ethiopia has its worst drought in 40 years. This is affecting communities in the southern regions.
- The Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) has announced a military operation against the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) in southern Oromia, says *All Africa*.
- The aim of the operation is "to destroy the rebel group operating in the area and stabilise the region".
- The ENDF stated that it controls villages in southern Oromia, which it has 'liberated'.

Regional Situation (per 05 January)

- Al Shabaab killed 35 including 8 family members and wounded 40 in Central Somalia by car bombs.
- Al Shabab's media office issued a statement saying that it took responsibility and that it had targeted "apostate militias and soldiers" and put the number of dead at 87.
- The Sudanese government and former rebel groups agreed to establish a 12.000 force to protect civilians in Darfur after the withdrawal of UNAMID, according to *Sudan Tribune*.
- *Business Insider Africa* says Sudan announced record-breaking gold production of over 18 tons in 2022, the highest in the country's mineral sector history. 50%-80% of the country's gold is smuggled out of Sudan and used to finance internal conflicts.
- Russia has been smuggling gold out of Sudan to finance the war against Ukraine.

Links of interest

- <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/uae-sudan-arrest-world-most-wanted-human-trafficker>
- <https://mereja.com/index/427077>
- <https://www.africanews.com/2023/01/05/french-and-german-diplomatic-chiefs-to-visit-ethiopia-next-week/>
- [WHO Chief Tedros praises progress in Ethiopia's Tigray region but warns eritrean forces continue to massacre civilians and-must withdraw](#)
- [A statement from the Global Society of Tigrayan Scholars](#)
- [135 ሺህ 487 ማትሪክ ቶን ምግብና ምግብ ነክ ያልሆነ ለርዳታ ለኃይማኖት 879 ሺህ 980 ለትርጉም ወደ ትግራይ ተልካል](#)
- <https://youtu.be/eD83OTD83M?t=44>
- [Eritrean and Amhara forces kidnapping people, looting their money in Shire](#)
- [Hospitals, health stations resume basic service in Tigray](#)
- [Ethiopia - Situation Report. 5 Jan 2023](#)
- <https://twitter.com/Haphtom/status/1610960525634174977?t=BKAyQBl68fiMtYBYNyV6QQ&s=19>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/jan/05/im-scared-to-think-what-ethiopia-will-become-tigray-war-refugees-fear-return>
- <https://allafrica.com/stories/202301040273.html>
- <https://borkena.com/2023/01/03/ethiopian-opposition-implementation-of-the-agreement-lacks-transparency-top-political-figure/>
- <https://mereja.com/index/426795>
- [Car bombs kill 35, burn houses in central Somalia - police](#)
- [Sudan equips civilian protection force in Darfur](#)
- [Sudan breaks gold production record in 2022](#)

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