

Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

No. 349- 12 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.

Peace negotiations (per 12 January)

- Amhara forces are mobilising their forces close to the positions of TDF in the southern zone of Tigray.
- Internal sources indicated that ENDF is trying to disengage the Amhara troops from frontlines in Southern Tigray. The Amhara regional troops are expected to withdraw under the implementation of the CoH Agreement.
- German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock and her French counterpart Catherine Colona are in Addis Ababa today (12 January) for a two-day visit, to support the positive peace efforts in Ethiopia, says the German Foreign Ministry. The Ministers visited a World Food Programme distribution centre.
- Addis Standard said their visit aims to explore ways in which France, Germany and the EU can support Ethiopia in order to ensure a lasting peace.
- The EU will reportedly consider supporting humanitarian operations and disaster pre-warning measures in Ethiopia.
- Shideraw Teklemariam, Ethiopian disaster management commissioner, and EU humanitarian affairs Deputy Director General, Michael Cohler, met in Addis Ababa today. They discussed the status of humanitarian supply to war-affected areas in Ethiopia.
- Laetita Bader, Horn of Africa director at Human Rights Watch, called on the French and German Foreign Ministers visiting Addis Ababa to press for full restoration of services, robust monitoring of the implementation of Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement and credible independent investigation.
- She warned that a lack of credible investigation worsens atrocities and fosters impunity.

Situation in Tigray (per 12 January)

- The Ethiopian Ministry of Health states that efforts are underway to rehabilitate health service facilities in conflict-affected areas in Tigray. The government says it has distributed over 12 million Birr to facilitate all activities.
- Health Minister Lia Tadesse says 95% of workers have returned to their duty in 12 hospitals and 28 health stations in Alamata (Southern Tigray) and Shire (North Western Tigray).

Situation in Ethiopia (per 12 January)

- In Lalo Qile district of Kellem Wollega zone, in Western Oromia, police detained more than 20 teachers.
 - The teachers raised questions over a government scheme that deducts some amount of money from their salaries.
 - Due to the internet blackout in Tigray, Ethiopian businesses have lost \$145.8 million in the last year, says *Top10VPN*, a London-based VPN review firm that assesses internet privacy, security, and freedom.
 - According to the assessment, the country lost \$100 million to internet outage in 2020 and \$164.5 million in 2021, affecting 21.3 million users.
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- The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders condemned the arrest and continued detention of four members of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO).
- According to a new study, China is now the largest source of imports for Ethiopia. The study finds that this situation has adversely affected gender balance in employment; in labour-intensive jobs “there has been preference for men because of their physical strength” and female labour is cut down.
- The study finds that wages of men have decreased particularly in firms facing greater import competition from China.

Situation in Eritrea (per 12 January)

- A German Federal Administrative Court ruling of 11 October 2022 is published in full. The ruling states that Eritreans can not be forced to go to Eritrean embassies to get documents such as passports.
- The court ruled that the “regret forms” that Eritreans have to sign to obtain documents, amounted to being forced to admit a criminal offence. It ruled that it is not reasonable to subject a person in need of protection to make a statement that threatens them in the future, or their relatives still in Eritrea.
- The Court also rejects the obligation for the Eritrean refugees of the payment of the “reconstruction diaspora tax” of 2% equivalent to 2% of a person’s income.
- Human Rights Watch’s world report 2023 states that severe human rights abuses in Eritrea have continued in 2022.
- Forced conscription increased in 2022. Eritrean forces continued to commit atrocities in Tigray.
- HRW notes that re-election of Eritrea to the UN Human Rights Council in 2021 did not result in any positive reforms in Eritrea. Eritrea refuses to cooperate with key international human rights mechanisms.

Regional Situation (per 12 January)

- The US government donated 9 million USD to Somalia’s national army in order to strengthen the fight against al-Shabaab.
- During the ceremony of the donation, Somali Minister of Defense Abdulkadir Mohammed Nur Jama said that the support will boost their capability to combat the militant group.

Links of interest

[Der Waffenstillstand in Äthiopien hält: Außenministerin Annalena Baerbock und ihre französische Kollegin Catherine Colonna reisen gemeinsam nach Addis Abeba](#)

[Twitter: Laetitia Bader](#)

[Gov't streamlines efforts to revamp war-ravaged health facilities](#)

[News: German, France Foreign Ministers in Ethiopia; peace agreement, human rights among topics for high level meetings](#)

[European ministers in Ethiopia hail peace progress](#)

[FBC on Facebook](#)

[News: Police in Kelleme Wollega Zone, Oromia detain more than 20 teachers for refusing mandatory salary cut, local authorities deny](#)

[Internet shutdowns cost Ethiopia \\$146 million in 2022](#)

[Ethiopia: Chinese Imports Could Undermine Ethiopian Manufacturing - Leaving Women Workers Worst Off](#)

[Ethiopia: Arbitrary arrest and detention of 4 EHRCO members](#)

[Unzumutbarkeit der Passbeschaffung bei Erfordernis einer "Reueerklärung"](#)

[World Report 2023: Eritrea](#)

[US military donates weapons, and military equipment to Somalia](#)

[Eritrean Troops under pressure to withdraw from Ethiopia's Tigray region](#)

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