

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.

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## Regional Situation (per 08 February)

- Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki together with his Foreign Minister Osman Saleh and his advisor Yemane Gebreab arrived in Nairobi today (08 February) for a two-day official visit, reports the *East African*.
- The *East African* quoted Eritrean Foreign Minister Osman Saleh as saying that their visit was “on the invitation of President William Ruto” and aims to discuss bilateral issues.
- The last official visit of Eritrean President Isayas Afeworki to Kenya was on 15 December 2018 though he reportedly makes private visits to the country frequently, adds *East African*.
- Heavy fighting over the disputed Las Anod town in eastern Somaliland is reported between Somaliland forces and Dhulbahante clan militias.
- Various sources report on different numbers of casualties and injured civilians, going as high as 38 civilian deaths and 130 wounded in the report by VOA.
- The fighting caused the displacement of about 80.000 civilians, estimated Adam Abdelmoula, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia.
- Severe drought, hunger combined with disease and violence may deteriorate the humanitarian situation in Somalia, states the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- OCHA estimated that 8.25 million people require humanitarian assistance.

## Situation in Tigray (per 08 February)

- The Axum branch of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) reported that it has restarted services to its clients, reports *Tigray Television*.
- CBE branch manager Mr Firtsum Measho confirmed that clients can now withdraw up to 50.000 birr per day or up to 300.000 per week.
- He added that “[t]he limit can be transferred, and any customer of the bank can avail the full service by presenting a notebook with an account opened in any part of the country”. If the notebooks are not available customers can request the service to be provided by showing their ID cards.
- Sources note there are long queues for withdrawals.
- Consultations have started to reopen and restart work in the universities of Mekelle, Axum, Adigrat and Raya, according to the Ethiopian Ministry of Education.
- It noted that a team of experts visited the universities to assess the damage done to the universities.
- Tigray is starting restoration of its natural resources, reports *Dimtsi Woyane*.

- Pictures circulating across social media show people in the Enderta woreda undertaking soil and water conservation activities in what appears to be a new development after the two years of war.

### Situation in Ethiopia (per 08 February)

- Oromia Media Network (OMN) said rallies are planned to take place in Oromia region and other parts of Ethiopia support of the new breakaway synod on 12 February.
- Priest Samuel Gemechu, coordinator of foreign committee of the new synod, told OMN that they are organising online meetings with the Ethiopian diaspora to mobilise support for them.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says it will continue supporting agricultural development in Ethiopia, says *Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC)*.
- Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture, Dr Girma Amente, and FAO representative in Ethiopia, Farayi Zimudzi, met in Addis Ababa and agreed to develop the sector.
- The referendum in Southern Ethiopia on the creation of a new regional state was carried out in a peaceful manner, confirmed Security Bureau chief Alemayehu Bawdi in a press briefing.
- The results are planned to be announced by mid-February by the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia.

### International Situation (per 08 February)

- President of Ethiopia Sahle-Work Zewde, together with Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen, met with the UNHCR commissioner Filippo Grandi in Addis Ababa today, report sources.
- They reportedly agreed to work together on durable solutions for migrants and internally displaced persons in Ethiopia.
- Grandi also visited displaced persons and refugees, including Eritrean refugees in the Alemwach camp in the Amhara region. 22.000 Eritrean refugees currently reside in Alemwach, says UNHCR.
- Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed met with the French President, Emmanuel Macron, yesterday (07 February) in Paris, report sources.
- They discussed bilateral issues including strengthening cooperation between countries, and potential increase of investments in the private sector.
- The Office of the Prime Minister confirmed on Twitter that the PM has returned to Addis Ababa today after concluding his European visit meeting Italian, Maltese and French officials.

### Links of interest

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[ወፍራ ዳግመ ሕውየት ሃፍቲ ተፈጥሮ !!](#)

[Concerted preparations being made to restart universities in Tigray region](#)

[UN High Commissioner Visits Displaced in Ethiopia](#)

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[PM Abiy Ahmed, President Macron Discuss Strengthen Bilateral Relations](#)

[Eritrean leader Isaias Afwerki arrives in Nairobi for two-day visit](#)

[Youtube: Oromia Media Network](#)

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[Dozens Killed in Eastern Somaliland Clashes](#)

[Twitter: Adam Abdelmoula](#)

[Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 \(February 2023\)](#)

[Northern Ethiopia peace deal restores hope for displaced](#)

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