

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 March)

- Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed does not want Debretsion Gebremichael to stay on as the regional President of Tigray and blames him for starting the war, states *The Washington Post (WP)*.
- Other names are being floated for the position of regional President of the interim government of Tigray. Names include General Tsadkan and Getachew Reda, the spokesperson for the regional government.
- A majority of people on the streets of Mekelle expressed support for Debretsion, according to *WP*.
- Differences on the composition of the Tigray interim government is delaying the next step of the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) agreement.
- The Tigray Inter-religious Council Office called on the institutions and individuals involved in mediation and implementation of the CoH agreement to ensure that it is "timely and correctly" implemented.
- The Council's statement also called on the federal government to release the budget and enable pensioners and civil servants to get their salaries.
- Residents in Mekelle have trouble buying goods due to the cash shortages, and traders are reluctant to accept transfers through banks as payment.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 14 March)

- 11 million people are currently estimated to be food insecure due to the drought in Ethiopia, showed a new report by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- 12 leaders and officials of the Gurage Unity and Justice Party, a newly established opposition party, have been reportedly detained by the security forces out of which 10 were released and 2 remain in detention, reports *Addis Standard*.
- The party representative claims that the Ethiopian government has been pressuring against the establishment and members of the party, who have been intimidated and harassed by the security forces over the past period.

Situation in Tigray (per 14 March)

- A bank manager in Mekelle stated that traders and rich persons withdrew all their money in cash in the two weeks after 5 billion birr was sent to the banks in Tigray, depleting the funds.
- Limitations on withdrawals were circumvented through methods such as transferring smaller amounts to the accounts of family and friends.

Regional Situation (per 14 March)

- A suicide bombing killed 5 people and wounded 11, including a governor, in southwestern Somalia. Al-Shabaab terrorist group is suspected to be behind the attack.

- Hussein Adan, a police commander in the city of Bardera in the Gedo region of Somalia, said "A suicide bomber drove an explosives-laden vehicle into a guesthouse in Bardera where government officials were staying".
- Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud agreed on the "imperative of seeking enduring solutions to Somalia's problems by Somalis themselves [sic] without extraneous meddling", states Eritrean Minister of Information Yemane G. Meskel.
- The leaders also discussed "regional issues of mutual importance," states Yemane.
- The Ethiopian State Minister of Foreign Affairs stated Ethiopia will support the peace process in South Sudan. This followed the visit of an Ethiopian delegation, including PM Abiy, to South Sudan yesterday.
- The Sudanese Ambassador to Russia, Hassan Mohammed, said that his country will cooperate with Russia to use satellite data to fight against terrorism and defend its borders, says *Africa News*.
- Local Sudanese tribal leaders express opposition to plans of Russia and Sudan to build a Russian navy base in Port Sudan once civilian rule is established.

International Situation (per 14 March)

- On the occasion of France's 125 years of friendship with Ethiopia, French Ambassador to Ethiopia Rémi Maréchaux said his country will expand its ties with Ethiopia with a focus on peacebuilding, according to the *Ethiopian Herald*.
- The ambassador said "Our first priority is to support the implementation of the peace agreement. I had a meeting with the rehabilitation commission; I also attended the meeting on transitional justice. So, that's two key elements of the agreement, which we are ready to support."
- Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia, Ito Takako, stated that her country will support efforts for holding a national dialogue in Ethiopia, reports *Ethiopian Press Agency*.
- She said "there are many challenges that we would like to make our best efforts to support and to bring peace and stability for this country and for the people to have a better life."
- She also added: "We have been providing emergency humanitarian assistance to the northern part of Ethiopia; recently, we've announced an additional food and security assistance worth 3.5 million USD for the people affected by the conflict and drought through WFP."
- The World Health Organisation has narrowed down 6 African countries including Ethiopia and Kenya to set up vaccine manufacturing factories.

Links of interest

[Blinken to visit Ethiopia as progress under Tigray peace deal slows](#)

[News: Rampant cash hoarding regress improved banking services in Tigray. cash shortage persists after central bank dispensed 5 billion birr](#)

[Statement of The Tigray Inter-religious Council Office](#)

[Ethiopia: Drought Situation Update #1 - As of 10 March 2023](#)

[Newly established Gurage opposition party complains detention of its leaders. undue pressure from gov't](#)
[Somalia suicide bombing kills 5, injures 11, including governor](#)

[Twitter: Yemane G. Meskel](#)

[Ethiopia's Abiy Ahmed urges peace in visit to South Sudan](#)

[Sudan to Collaborate with Russia to Leverage Satellite Solutions to Combat Terrorism](#)

[Russia Could Face Local Resistance Against Promised Naval Base in Sudan](#)

[Japan keen to support national dialogue process: Ambassador](#)

[France to expand long-standing friendship, ties with Ethiopia](#)

[Ethiopia Among African Countries To Set Up Vaccine Factories](#)

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