

Europe External Programme with Africa

# SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

## No. 401- 30 March, 2023

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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.

### Situation in Tigray (per 30 March)

- The Ethiopian federal government has agreed to transfer the budget to the interim administration in Tigray, says Getachew Reda, President of the Interim Administration of the Region (IRA).
- According to Getachew Reda, the amount of budget to be transferred is still being discussed.
- The Ethiopian federal government stopped sending the budget to Tigray following the decision of the federation council to block the budget to the region after the latter conducted its own elections without the involvement of the national elections board in 2020.
- During the war in Tigray, caregivers and service provision were adversely affected, according to a study report from HAQI Foundation, composed of a group of concerned individuals from Tigray. They suffer from a high prevalence of mental health conditions.
- The report stated that none of the caregivers received their salaries during the war in the region and that 70% of health workers and education workers were displaced from their residences due to the war.
- The report notes that nearly one-third of study participants said their own houses were partly or fully destroyed.
- Almost 13% of healthcare workers and 9% of education workers sustained physical injuries due to the war.
- Of all participants in the study, 16% were reportedly kidnapped and/ or imprisoned during the war and about 88% of healthcare workers witnessed sexual abuse, while 33% treated one or more victims of sexual abuse.

### Situation in Ethiopia (per 30 March)

- Ethiopian authorities released more than 190 ethnic Tigrayan members of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) on 28 March. They had been detained for over two years after the eruption of conflict in the country's Tigray region, says the *East African Daily*.
  - The Tigrayan ENDF members were held in the Garbasa military camp located in the country's Somali region.
  - The 190 released prisoners make up only almost 10% of the total Tigrayan members of ENDF under detention, according to the *East African*, citing unnamed sources.
  - The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) denounces restrictions on and harassment of political opposition parties in Ethiopia by the government and other bodies.
  - EHRC states that the obstructions limit the parties' freedom of assembly.
  - Sources state that heavy fighting is ongoing between Afar and Somali region forces on three fronts. Afar politicians state that they fight over regions which they claim were illegally given to Somali regional states.
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- The Ministry of Water and Energy in Ethiopia published the 1st edition of the Bulletin on "Water, Hydro-Diplomacy and Communications Forum". It contains contributions by authors in relation to water diplomacy.
- Authors accuse Egyptian media of "communicating fake stories of the Nile hydropolitics" in the context of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

### Regional Situation (per 30 March)

- South Sudanese President Salva Kiir has appointed a defence minister from his own party, according to South Sudanese state media.
- This breaches the peace deal which stipulates the position must be filled by the party of the First Vice President and opposition leader Riek Machar.
- The new minister is Chol Thon Balok, former governor of the Upper Nile State.
- A report by the Humanitarian Affairs Committee for Las'Anod-Sool states that fighting has resumed around Laascaanood after three weeks of relative calm. The report states that "mosques, hospitals, restaurants and hotels" are being shelled.
- 500.000 people are affected by violence around Laascaanood, of which 233.000 are displaced, 290 killed and 1337 injured.
- US ambassador to Sudan John Godfrey was reportedly taken to hospital after a traffic incident on Wednesday, the US embassy in Khartoum said in a tweet message.
- Two other embassy employees were also involved in the accident and were taken to hospital.

### International Situation (per 30 March)

- Two shipments of radio equipment produced by the North Korean corporation Glocom were delivered to the Ethiopian military last year, according to a forthcoming report from a UN Panel of Experts seen by *NK News*.
- A UN member state is said to have reported to the Panel of Experts that the two shipments of Glocom radio equipment were dispatched to the Ethiopian Ministry of National Defence Directorate in June 2022 for use by the country's defence forces.
- The Glocom firm is under EU sanctions.
- Former UN expert Katsu Furukawa told *NK News* that both Ethiopia and Eritrea have been in partnerships with Glocom and North Korea in general.
- Furukawa stated Eritrea and Ethiopia "deliberately overlooked the sanction violations, and their negligence has made an essential contribution to the survival of the networks of these sanctions violators and evaders."

### Links of interest

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[The state of caregivers and service provision during the war in Tigray: Educators and healthcare professionals in focus](#)

[Ethiopia Gov't Releases 190 Tigrayan Federal Forces](#)

[News: Ethiopian Rights Commission denounces gov't restrictions, harassment on opposition political parties](#)

[Twitter: Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

[S Sudan president appoints defence minister, breaching peace deal](#)

[US Ambassador in Sudan injured in a crash](#)

[North Korean radio equipment shipped to Ethiopian military last year: UN report](#)

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