

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.

Situation in Sudan (per 1 May)

- The newest ceasefire between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which was extended for another 72 hours, is not holding.
- Streets across Sudan are reportedly full of unburied dead bodies, and many people are missing.
- A hospital treating patients with mental health issues was closed and patients were asked to leave. Some are now reported missing.
- Sexual violence and rape in the context of the military fighting is on the rise.
- There is widespread looting. Civilians are stuck without food, water and electricity.
- Civilians in neighbourhood committees are fulfilling a key role of organising solidarity in the communities. This is often dangerous and demands a lot of courage.
- A number of ceasefires at a local level involving elders from the community as negotiators of the situation have been reported as successful.
- Port Sudan is turning into a temporary administrative capital of the country.
- Banks were due to open today in Port Sudan so money can begin to circulate. The national bank has a branch in Kassala. The Khartoum branch of the Bank of Sudan has been burnt due to intense fighting.
- Sources state that Badr and Tarco flights to Jeddah, Cairo and Dubai from Port Sudan might resume.
- Egypt is accepting some Sudanese refugees, but refusing many others, who are stranded at the border; the reasons for who is accepted and who is not is not very clear.
- Connectivity remains very difficult in Sudan; citizens report long periods of no connectivity at all.
- United Kingdom citizens in Sudan had until the middle of Saturday to fly out, although the UK will maintain a presence in Sudan, especially at exit points.
- Trucks carrying fuel from a refinery near the Libyan oasis town of al-Jawf and ammunition, weapons and medicine are transported regularly to the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) from Khalifa Haftar, a warlord who controls much of eastern Libya.
- Other supplies, which belonged to the Libyan government military equipment 10 years ago, have been transported by air to the RSF. This includes potent Kornet anti-tank missiles.
- The military equipment is exchanged for gold, and associated with the criminal organisation of human trafficking across the Horn region and Libya.
- Observers point to the fact that there seems to have been one point of common interest between Al-Burhan and Hemedti in encouraging the members of the international community to leave Sudan, in order to reduce observers.
- The Wagner group, Russia's mercenary group, is present in Sudan; they have been seen in Port Sudan and are also operating in the heavy fighting near Khartoum. It has already been widely reported that the Wagner group has been supporting the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the provision of weapons.
- The presence of the Wagner group in Sudan is likely in order to protect the export of gold out of the country and import of grain into the country.
- Sources state that Burhan offered Hemedti that they both would resign, but Hemedti refused.

Situation in South Sudan (per 1 May)

- The situation in South Sudan is tense.
- UNHCR estimates that up to 180,000 South Sudanese and 45,000 Sudanese citizens will cross into South Sudan in the coming three months.
- South Sudan's national petroleum company expressed concern about the conflict as it has led to panic in the oil fields.

Situation of refugees (per 1 May)

- Refugee routes with large numbers of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and refugees being uprooted are developing towards Chad, where there is some assistance, as well as to South Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt. In South Sudan the situation is extremely difficult for IDPs and refugees.
- Refugees who previously fled from South Sudan to Sudan are crossing back into Sudan, but there are no means to support them. There is no security or other support, nor preparations for support from international organisations.
- Eritrean refugees and undocumented Eritreans in Sudan are moving on to new locations, such as Chad and South Sudan. There is little if any support in these locations.
- Refugees on their way to Chad reported that they were intercepted by a group of RSF with four-wheel-drive cars and motorcycles and were searched. Everything, including in some cases phones, was taken away. RSF on motorcycles were reportedly patrolling everywhere.
- A number of settlements for IDPs in Sudan have been destroyed.
- Eritrean refugees in the recently established camp in Amhara ask to be relocated from the Amhara region, as a new influx of Eritrean refugees from Sudan is entering and tension is rising in Amhara.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 1 May)

- The House of People's Representatives of Ethiopia allocated 12 billion Birr to Tigray as part of the federal government's budget decisions of last year.
- It is unclear how the funding will be transferred, as the federal government bypassed the regional government of Tigray in 2019 and allocated the funding directly to institutions, in violation of the Ethiopian constitution.
- Bishop Aba Ti'um, Eparch of the Adigrat Catholic Eparchy in Tigray, accused the Ethiopian regional authorities visiting Tigray of lacking the courage to speak about the Eritrean forces and their brutality.
- He stated that the war in Tigray cost lives, heritage, damaged the social structure and undermined the ability of elders to play their role in communities, which cannot be recovered by restoring infrastructure.

Regional Situation (per 1 May)

- The conflict in Sudan is affecting the Central African Republic (CAR), as many towns especially in the North rely heavily on supplies from Sudan during the rainy season, says UN OCHA.

International Situation (per 1 May)

- The Sudanese diaspora is organising protests to raise awareness of the situation.
- UN Humanitarian Affairs chief Martin Griffiths is travelling to the Horn region as the humanitarian situation in Sudan "is reaching breaking point."
- German Chancellor Scholz will travel to Ethiopia on 4 May to discuss the peace progress in Tigray.

Links of interest

[Sudan rivals trade blame as fighting continues despite ceasefire extension](#)
[Sudan: Influx of people into South Sudan raises fears of further destabilization](#)
[A war for our age: how the battle for Sudan is being fuelled by forces far beyond its borders](#)
[People fleeing Sudan recount stories of fear and violence on the road](#)
[Russia's Wagner group fighting in Sudan and patrolling evacuation port as UK citizens flee](#)
[Twitter: Speech of Bishop Aba Ti'um](#)
[Twitter: Missing Migrants Project](#)
[Sudan: UN 'relief chief' heads to the region as humanitarian crisis nears 'breaking point'](#)
[Bundeskanzler Scholz reist nach Äthiopien und Kenia](#)

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