

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.

Situation in Sudan (per 10 May)

- Social media platforms such as WhatsApp are being utilised by Sudanese doctors and medical personnel to reach patients as the majority of health facilities in conflict areas are fully or partially difunctional.
- 24-hour helplines set up by volunteers are offering consultations to patients.
- A lot of people are experiencing early signs of trauma, according to Sudanese doctors.
- Official records of deaths rose to 604, while about 5100 people were injured, says WHO. The real numbers are expected to be much higher.
- Propaganda wars on social media are aiming to polarise Sudanese citizens. Supporters of warring parties as well as supporters of former president Omar Al Bashir are reported to use coordinated messaging to spread hate speech and cause division.
- Heavy air raids were reported in the centre of Khartoum and around the presidential palace on 9 May, together with an increase in looting in the city.
- The Bank Union of Sudan condemned the looting of their branches, stating it aims to restore services.
- The president of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said in a call with al-Burhan that he is prepared to host mediation talks for Sudan.
- A proposal by UN aid chief, Martin Griffiths, on guaranteeing safe passage of aid supplies is being discussed in Jeddah.
- Many zoo animals, including many that are rare to find in Sudan's natural habitat, have likely died due to lack of food and care.

Situation of Refugees (per 10 May)

- Eritrean and other refugees were sent by South Sudanese Immigration authorities from Juba to Paloch (South Sudan) by plane due to lack of documentation. Paloch is an airstrip built by an oil company.
- Eritreans and Ethiopians are being charged a lot of money to be moved by cargo plane.
- Experts say that some Eritreans and Sudanese may be profiting from this situation.
- The Eritrean ambassador to Sudan is reported to have a black-list of people he is looking for. Eritreans in Juba have warned about the activities of the Eritrean embassy in Juba.
- Prof. Alex de Waal warns that the fighting in Sudan is a "chance for Eritrean security agents to roam freely, rounding up dissidents who will disappear into that country's gulag and press-ganging refugees to replenish the depleted ranks of its army."
- More than 730,000 people have been internally displaced in Sudan and more than 177,000 refugees escaped to the neighbouring countries, reports the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).
- 21% of recorded arrivals from Sudan to Ethiopia are minors, reports IOM.
- Over 16,600 people are estimated to have arrived in Metema since 21 April, mostly Ethiopian returnees.
- Essential supplies for refugees in border towns such as Metema, Ethiopia, are very limited.
- An Ethiopian returnee told AFP that during the bus trip from Khartoum, "At each checkpoint, (armed men) searched us... and took whatever they found, including our money and any belongings we had."

- In the past 7 days, the Ethiopia Federal Police have been reportedly arresting the Eritrean refugees in many places within Addis Ababa, namely Bole Arabsa, Gofa, Goro, Haya Wilet, and Goomoo Condominiums. The reasons for arrests are not known.
- The Ethiopia Federal Police is extorting Eritrean refugees for money upon their arrest.
- Eritrean refugees are paying as much as 5000 Birr and more for their release in Ethiopia. Those who do not have money are kept in detention without access to the justice system and without any court ruling.
- Reports confirm that Eritrean refugees are being kidnapped from Shegarab refugee camp in Sudan and transported against their will to Eritrea. The abductions are accompanied by extortion for money.
- Ethiopia authorities on the border with Sudan are reportedly refusing Eritrean refugees who are fleeing Sudan to enter Ethiopia. They are stuck in the border region between Sudan and Ethiopia.
- Ethiopian security forces are taking money from the Eritrean refugees at the Ethiopia-Sudan border, who try to reach Gondar. Those who want to continue from Gondar to Addis Ababa have to pay more. There are estimates of at least 20,000 Eritreans escaping from Sudan to Ethiopia so far.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 10 May)

- Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mekelle report dire conditions and lack of support. Many of them are not able to return to their homes as Eritrean forces still occupy the areas.

International Situation (per 10 May)

- The European Parliament Plenary discussed the situation in Sudan. Several Members of the Parliament (MEPs) called for cessation of hostilities and urged for peaceful resolution.
- Preventive dialogue should become an intrinsic part of existing development projects of the EU that are being implemented in the Horn of Africa region, urged some MEPs.
- The UN warned about the impact of the fighting in Sudan on bilateral relations with South Sudan, in particular over resource-rich areas such as Abyei, during a UN Security Council briefing on Abyei.
- The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), tasked with peacekeeping in the Abyei region, has already evacuated some of its Sudan-based personnel from Khartoum and Kadugli.
- The EU organised a Humanitarian Air Bridge transporting immediate humanitarian aid to Port Sudan.
- A report by Proba on direct or indirect repression of diaspora groups in Norway by foreign powers states that Norway lacks political leadership.
- The report warns of the paradox of “providing support to diasporas is to promote democratic participation, while on the other hand, diaspora organisations can be targeted and exploited by anti-democratic forces originating from authoritarian regime.”
- The report warns that the Eritrean diaspora in Norway is particularly vulnerable to infiltration (including of interpretation services, (death) threats (including of families), harassment, restriction of consular services and exclusion. Ethiopians in Norway have also experienced surveillance and threats.

Links of interest

[Sudan's doctors turn to social media as health infrastructure crumbles](#)

[Sudan death toll climbs, with 700,000 internally displaced](#)

[Analyst: two out of three scenarios lead to prolonged civil war in Sudan](#)

[Sudan fighting in its 26th day: A list of key events](#)

[Fears over scores of zoo animals caught in Sudan crossfire](#)

[Sudan Conflict Monitor, Issue #2](#)

[Sudan: Escalating Conflict Situation Update 9 May 2023](#)

[The conflict in Sudan threatens to devolve into a regional maelstrom](#)

[Flash Update #4: The Impact of the Situation in Sudan on Ethiopia \(As of 9 May 2023\)](#)

[Sudan refugees fear uncertain future in Ethiopia](#)

[Tigray Television](#)

[European Parliament: Plenary debate on Sudan](#)

[Outbreak of Violence in Sudan Impeding Political Progress on Abyei, Border Issues, Assistant Secretary-General Tells Security Council](#)

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