

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 12 May)

- The Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan has been signed between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) after days of negotiations.
- The parties committed to securing distribution of humanitarian aid, refraining from interfering with humanitarian operations, protecting humanitarian workers and abiding by international humanitarian and human rights law.
- The agreement further includes protection of civilians, allowing safe passage to anyone fleeing the war, withdrawing from important facilities such as hospitals, and securing safe passage of medical personnel.
- The next step in the negotiations is a short-term ceasefire which should be well-monitored to avoid the continuous violations of ceasefires.
- The monitoring mechanism would report to a committee which the negotiating parties intend to establish. It would comprise delegates of SAF, RSF and the international community.
- The proposed ceasefire monitoring mechanism will include overhead imagery and social media analysis, as well as on-the-ground reporting by civil society.
- The most intense fighting currently is reported in Omdurman and Bahri where SAF is trying to retake the Shambat Bridge which is the main supply route of RSF into Bahri.
- A SAF fighter jet was shot down which crashed into a market area, several sources confirmed.
- Fighting over the Blue Nile and Kobar bridges, controlled by RSF, is ongoing since several days.
- Fighting is ongoing along the Salha - Omdurman road. RSF supply convoys are targeted by SAF.
- Communities across the frontier regions of Sudan are being drawn into the conflict, as civilian fighting in the South of Sudan has emerged, as well as in the Darfur region.
- There have been many attacks on camps for internally displaced people, most of whom do not identify themselves as Arab. There have also been many attacks destroying humanitarian infrastructure.
- In Nyala, the heavy fighting and looting means that health services are inaccessible, both because reaching them is unsafe and because most centres are not operational.
- Imams in Nyala called on RSF fighters to stop fighting, saying that fighting in Nyala and other places outside of Khartoum is pointless. They received positive responses from a number of local commanders. Similar results were achieved in North Darfur.
- In El-Geneina such a ceasefire has not been reached, and it has seen some of the most severe fighting.
- At least 18 humanitarian workers have been killed since the start of the conflict.
- Community leaders and initiatives have been taking over the work of absent humanitarian actors, hunting down looted medicine, cleaning up clinics and cooking meals for doctors.
- Local ceasefires have managed to prevent and reduce fighting in capitals of four regional states.
- Fighters loyal to Sudanese politician Minni Minnawi, a former rebel leader in Darfur in the 2000s, are reportedly moving from Khartoum back to Darfur. Civilians from Darfur are starting to arm themselves to defend their families and properties.
- In North Kordofan, the fighting has been concentrated in the city of El Obeid.

- Millions of dollars worth of food aid has been looted from the World Food Programme (WFP) in Khartoum and a factory producing food for malnourished children was burned down.
- Medical supplies from the WHO warehouses in Port Sudan are still undergoing clearances.
- Multi-purpose cash assistance is being considered by multiple organisations, though the current cash-flow problems in Sudan may hinder this.
- Lists targeting journalists for allegedly supporting sides have emerged, according to Sudan's Journalist Syndicate. It warns that this could potentially lead to assassinations of these journalists.
- A journalist of the French newspaper Le Figaro, who, in an article, called on the international community to support Hemedti rather than Burhan, is being investigated by the Société des Journalistes.

### **Situation in Tigray (per 12 May)**

- Eritrean forces reportedly prevented the AU Monitoring and Verification Mission from visiting Zalambesa and Dawhan, Tigray, Ethiopia, on 11 May. The mission was stopped at checkpoints in Sobeya and Engal.
- The Zalembsa - Dawhan area concerns the Irob area, which has been occupied by Eritrean forces since the beginning of the war in Tigray.
- Humanitarian aid transported by UN OCHA to Irob was also denied access by Eritrean forces stationed in occupied areas in Tigray.
- Many schools and health facilities remain inoperational due to the presence of Eritreans in Zalambesa and Gulomekeda, in the Irob area of Tigray.
- 552 schools in Tigray are still inaccessible due to the presence of Amhara and Eritrean forces, according to Tigray Education Bureau.
- Amhara forces are currently occupying 479 schools in Southern, Western and North Tigray, and Eritrean forces are occupying 72 schools in Central and Eastern Tigray.
- Unoccupied schools near the Amhara and Eritrean border remain closed, due to security concerns.

### **Regional Situation (per 12 May)**

- President Isaias Afwerki received Sudanese Amb. Dafallah Alhaj today, who brought a message from General Abdel-Fattah al-Burhan, commander of the SAF.
- Eritrean state media TesfaNews states thousands of Sudanese refugees are crossing into Eritrea.
- Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki made a statement welcoming any Sudanese person or foreigner living in Sudan to Eritrea.

### **International Situation (per 12 May)**

- The trilateral mechanism, consisting of the UN, the AU and IGAD, have welcomed the signing of the Declaration of Commitment to Protect Sudanese Civilians.
- They urge the parties to convert the agreement into meaningful action on the ground, and express their readiness to offer support therein.
- Eritrean President Isaias will pay a state visit to China to meet President Xi, starting from 14 May.

### **Links of interest**

[SAF and RSF sign agreement intended to lay groundwork for humanitarian assistance in Sudan, say US officials](#)

[Sudan's warring sides agree to protect civilians amid fighting](#)

[Communal violence and civilian deaths in Sudan fuel fears of widening conflict](#)

[Sudan's army and RSF fight on after ceasefire talks fail](#)

[Alarm bells ring over Le Figaro journalist's pro-Hemeti article](#)

[Sudan fighting in its 28th day: A list of key events](#)

[Local ceasefires and disrupted aid: How Sudan's conflict is impacting Darfur](#)

[Tigray Television](#)

[Twitter: Yemane G. Meskel](#)

[Twitter: Tigray Education Bureau](#)

[Twitter: Tesfanews](#)

[Statement By The Trilateral Mechanism On The Signing Of A Declaration Of Commitment To Protect The Civilians Of Sudan](#)

[Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki to visit China](#)

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