

# SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

## No. 443 - 2 June 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 Sudan (per 2 June)**

- The US and Saudi Arabia facilitators announced suspension of the Jeddah talks due to repeated violations, impeding humanitarian aid and the restoration of essential services. The facilitators note the parties remain bound to the 11 May Jeddah Declaration and the 29 May ceasefire.
- The facilitators say they stand ready to resume the talks after privately communicated “confidence-building measures” have been implemented.
- The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) had announced its withdrawal from the Jeddah negotiations a day earlier, saying that the RSF repeatedly broke the ceasefire agreement.
- Sudan’s Youth Citizens Observers Network observed that the ceasefire had been broken in Khartoum, West, Central and South Darfur, and South Kordofan. In these 5 states, the agreement had not been followed at all, the network said.
- Citizens have been taking arms in Khartoum, and West and Central Darfur.
- Shelling was reported in Khartoum and there was artillery fire around the state television building in Omdurman.
- The SAF has announced that they are bringing reinforcements to the capital.
- Over 30 newborns have died in a hospital due to oxygen shortages and electricity blackouts since the start of the fighting in April.
- An analysis of the tweets supporting the SAF showed that the top 5% of users were robots created around the time of the uprising against military rule in 2019. Other (real) users in support of the SAF shared tweets that focused on a quick end to the fighting and the safeguarding of civilians.
- The art scene in Sudan has scattered with the war, and there are concerns for Sudan’s heritage. A gallery based in Khartoum has been raising money to support artists during the conflict.

### **Refugee Situation (per 2 June)**

- UNHCR expressed concern about the refugee situation in Sudan. They are unable to access Khartoum to help refugees there. It is estimated that 150,000 refugees have left Khartoum, many of which have suffered human rights abuses, including theft, and physical and sexual violence.
- Refugees that managed to flee from Khartoum to Medani have been relocated and key border crossings are being monitored.
- The situation for refugees in Darfur is critical, many refugees and IDPs there are living in dire conditions.

### **Situation in Ethiopia (per 2 June)**

- Protestors at the Grand Anwar Mosque in Addis Ababa were fired upon by security forces leading to injuries. The protests were related to the demolishing of mosques in Oromia.
- Protests also took place in various cities in Oromia.
- The Islamic council has expressed its discontent with a statement by the Oromia region on the demolition of mosques, in which it was stated that the region is carrying out a campaign of demolishing “illegal buildings” throughout the region, which includes mosques.

- The regional government of Amhara said that the war in northern Ethiopia caused 522 billion birr in damage (\$9.6 billion) in the Amhara region.
- There were multiple injuries and possible deaths due to fighting between armed groups and the ENDF at a local monastery in the Amhara region.

### Regional Situation (per 2 June)

- The president of Uganda, Museveni, stated that the attack on the ATMIS forward operating base in the lower Shabelle region on 26 May, which was manned by Ugandan troops, was caused by corruption within the army.
- He stated that the corruption started at home, where soldiers that were not ready for the front, were deployed in Somalia.
- East African Community (EAC) heads of state have adopted the verification report of the application of Somalia to join the EAC. The EAC Secretariat and Council will start negotiations with Somalia.
- An app launched in 2021 by Sahamiye Foundation, called Daariz, has been improving literacy across the Horn of Africa. It has especially helped women and girls in overcoming educational barriers.

### International Situation (per 2 June)

- The US announced financial sanctions and visa restrictions on Sudan. Financial sanctions target 4 companies tied to SAF and RSF that allegedly profited from and contributed to the fighting. The visa restrictions target specific individuals who are accused of undermining Sudan's transition to democracy.
- The sanctions on the companies include a holding company controlled by Hemedti and another one by his brother. The sanctions should limit the parties' access to weapons and resources.
- The visa restrictions will affect officials from both RSF and SAF, as well as leaders in al-Bashir's regime.
- The president of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, held talks with the Vice Chairman of the Transitional Sovereignty Council of Sudan, Malik Agar Eyre Ngamyoufa.
- Museveni stressed the importance of ending the conflict and carrying on the transition to a democratic rule in Sudan, calling on activists to promote reconciliation.
- The BBC reported that evidence for human rights abuses are lost after being removed by platforms such as youtube and instagram. In response, organisations were identified which archive the footage before it disappears.
- Somalia's group of security partners will be meeting in Doha, Qatar, next week.
- The UN Security Council convened today to deliberate on the renewal of Sudan UNITAMS mandate.

### Links of interest

- [U.S. suspends temporary cease-fire in Sudan, announces new sanctions](#)
- [Gunfire around state TV building in Sudan capital - reports](#)
- [Mapping Sudan's baffling propaganda battlefield on social media](#)
- [Sudan's war scatters an emerging art scene](#)
- [Newborn babies victims in Sudan conflict](#)
- [Twitter: Sudan News](#)
- [BBC news: 02 Jun 2023](#)
- [UNHCR increasingly concerned about safety of refugees caught up in Sudan conflict](#)
- [Twitter: Addis Standard](#)
- [News: Fighting at local monastery in Amhara region leaves multiple casualties, authorities confirm military action](#)
- [News: Islamic Council expresses discontent with Oromia region statement on demolition of Mosques, engaged in discussion with federal gov't](#)
- [Free language app builds Horn of Africa literacy](#)
- [Corruption caused UPDF Somalia attack - Museveni](#)
- [Twitter: East African Community](#)
- [Biden administration imposes sanctions and visa restrictions in response to ongoing Sudan violence](#)
- [President Museveni Meets Sudan's Vice President to Discuss Deteriorating Situation in Sudan](#)
- [AI: War crimes evidence erased by social media platforms](#)
- [Somalia's partners to meet in Doha next week](#)

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