

Europe External Programme with Africa

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

No. 447 - 8 June 2023

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 8 June)

- A fuel storage facility in the Yarmouk residential area of Khartoum has been on fire since Wednesday. The facility is in a close proximity to an army base and a factory which manufactures weapons.
- Fire is endangering the civilian neighbourhoods next to the facility.
- The fire broke out during the ongoing fighting between Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid support Forces (RSF) over the control of the weaponry complex.
- Civilians struggle to bury dead bodies of victims that are left lying on the street or inside buildings.
- Using unprofessional methods for burial may destroy evidence of war crimes and can lead to spread of disease, warned Dr Attia Abdullah Attia, the head of Sudanese Doctors' Union.
- Neighbours volunteer in digging graves and creating provisional burial places as they feel there are currently no other options due to collapsed infrastructures. In order to provide identification in the future, volunteers are taking pictures of buried bodies.
- 280 children and 70 caretakers from the Maygoma Orphanage in Khartoum were safely evacuated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to Wad Medani on Wednesday.
- ICRC obtained assurance from warring sides for the safe evacuation passage. The children were taken into the custody of personnel of the Ministry of Social Development.
- Cases of sexual violence against women continue to rise. Women are being attacked en route when they are fleeing their homes, as well as in their homes.
- "There is not a single woman in Khartoum now who feels safe, not even in her own home," said Sulaima Ishaq al-Khalifa, head of the government's Combating Violence Against Women and Children Unit.
- The Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Sudan came under attack in the early hours of Thursday.
- The Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemned the attack on residences of Saudi employees and vandalism of the embassy's building and property.
- The RSF and SAF are discussing the possibility of a 24-hour ceasefire to be monitored by the facilitators, the US and Saudi Arabia, through surveillance drones.
- A spokesperson of the RSF stated that in case of a violation, sanctions would be imposed on the party that breached the ceasefire and negotiations would be permanently suspended.
- Sudan's army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan has replaced two state governors, of North Kordofan and of Sennar, state-run news agency Suna reports. The reason for their dismissal is still unclear.

Refugee Situation (per 8 June)

- Ethiopian refugees in Sudan continue to be stranded between the escalating conflict in Sudan and unfavourable conditions in their home region Tigray that is continuously occupied by foreign Eritrean forces and Amhara forces, reports VOA.
- New arrivals of people fleeing from Sudan to South Sudan have surpassed 100,000, confirmed UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Operations Raouf Mazou.

- Most of the new arrivals are South Sudanese returnees together with Sudanese refugees. The response and delivery of basic support is organised through the UNHCR, IOM and South Sudanese government.
- The situation for refugees and host communities in border towns however is not easy as basic goods are scarce and prices constantly increasing.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 8 June)

- USAID is suspending food aid to all of Ethiopia, after uncovering a nationwide scheme of diverting food aid, coordinated from within the federal and regional Ethiopian government entities, according to an internal memo seen by various media.
- The investigation by USAID uncovered “a coordinated and criminal scheme” in which food aid has been diverted by officials to feed (ex-)combatants and to be sold on the open market.
- USAID also called on other donors to monitor where the food is going and recommended alternative aid modalities such as cash transfers.
- The Humanitarian and Resilience Donor Group (HRDG) recommended that the Ethiopian government implement a number of measures, including making public statements condemning the diversions and to identify and dismantle the organised structures that are orchestrating the diversion schemes.
- They also asked the government to work with local authorities to identify the donor-funded commodities and return them into the custody of implementing partners.

Situation in Tigray (per 8 June)

- The term limit of the AU Monitoring, Verification and Compliance Mechanism (AU-MVCM) has been extended until December 2023.

Regional Situation (per 8 June)

- Al-Shabaab attempted to attack the Ethiopian military base in Doolow, in the border region of southern Somalia, but was stopped by Ethiopian forces, states the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- ATMIS together with the UN and the Somali federal government have launched a campaign to plant 30,000 trees with the intention of reducing soil erosion and stabilising soil hydrology.

International Situation (per 8 June)

- US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Faisal bin Farhan pledged to continue supporting efforts to end conflict in Sudan.
- The UN Security Council made a statement on the situation in Somalia, expressing concern about the situation in Laascaanood and calling for the withdrawal of Somaliland security forces. They also called on donors to scale-up humanitarian assistance to the region.
- China’s foreign minister, Qi Gang, will be visiting a number of countries on the African continent, including Kenya, to discuss issues related to debt.

Links of interest

- [Arms depot battle rages in Sudan as fuel facility burns](#)
- [Sudan conflict: What to do with the dead bodies in Khartoum](#)
- [Sudan: 280 children and 70 caretakers from Khartoum orphanage reach safety](#)
- ['No Woman Feels Safe': Sexual Violence Rampant in Sudan War](#)
- [Saudi Arabia condemns attack on its embassy in Sudan](#)
- [Sudan rivals could use drones to monitor 24-hour truce](#)
- [Sudan's military ruler replaces two state governors](#)
- [Caught Between Two Wars: Sudan's Ethiopian Refugees](#)
- [South Sudan hits dire milestone of 100,000 new arrivals to the country fleeing violence in Sudan](#)
- [News: Ethiopia ceasefire monitoring experts' term extended until December](#)
- [USAID cuts food aid supporting millions of Ethiopians amid charges of massive government theft](#)
- [Donor-funded food diversion in Ethiopia 'coordinated, criminal scheme': covers seven regions, involves fed gov't, regional entities](#)
- [Ethiopian forces in Somalia foil attack by Al-Shabaab militants: Foreign Ministry](#)
- [SOMALIA: ATMIS to plant 30,000 trees to green the country by December 2024](#)
- [Blinken and Saudi FM pledge to continue cooperation to end fighting in Sudan](#)
- [Security Council Press Statement on Situation in Somalia](#)
- [China's foreign minister expected in Kenya](#)

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