

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 16 June)

- The Sudanese government accused the Kenyan government of sheltering and providing support to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). They also rejected Kenya's Chairmanship of IGAD, instead wanting South Sudan to retain its role.
- UNHCR released a press statement expressing its concern about the human rights violations, abuses and sexual violence that civilians in Sudan are facing.
- Women and girls who fled the conflict have reported incidents of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation and physical violence, with some women arriving pregnant in neighbouring countries as a result of rape.
- There is an increase risk of adolescent girls being married off, which is motivated by the belief that it will protect them from further risks of sexual violence, assault or exploitation.
- Children have also been facing physical and psychological abuses, with reports of killing, maiming, and their recruitment into the armed forces.
- Many children have been separated from their families, increasing the risk of forced labour, recruitment, Gender-Based Violence, and trafficking. This is especially the case in East Sudan.
- There is a pattern of ethnic cleansing in el Geneina, with systematic attacks from the RSF and their allies against civilians, hospitals and humanitarian supplies, an open letter by civil society to the international community warns.
- Refugees have reported that the attacks are targeting non-Arab populations, and particularly Massalit. There has been footage of RSF soldiers stating they want to turn the region into an Arab area.
- Organisations in Sudan have urged the international community to hold the RSF accountable and publicly denounce the crimes that have been committed by their soldiers. They also ask that the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) be held accountable for their crimes.
- The US released a press statement condemning the atrocities in Darfur, in particular the "reports of widespread sexual violence and killings based on ethnicity in West Darfur by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and allied militias"
- Eyewitnesses have seen that Wagner is supplying the RSF through routes running through the Darfur region. Observers state that the RSF uses the same war tactics as the Wagner group: to create chaos and seize power.
- Shortly before the war started, there was an increase in supplies from Wagner to the RSF.
- IGAD had plans to send 5 heads of states to Sudan and proposed that Khartoum should be made into a demilitarised zone. The proposal was immediately rejected by the SAF.
- The Sudanese ambassador of Jordan has said that any ceasefires are intended only for humanitarian purposes rather than dialogue with the RSF, stating that 60% of RSF fighters are foreign.
- Sources state that the intensity of fighting in Khartoum has diminished over the past days, which is speculated to be related to a deliberate pause by the SAF to consolidate gains.

- The Horn of Africa Civil Society Forum (HoACSF) published a statement expressing concern about the continuation of the war between the RSF and SAF and the escalation in sexual violence, as well as abduction and violence against human rights defenders, political activists, and journalists.
- The HoACSF calls on both parties to agree to a ceasefire and protect civilians, on the AU to engage with the warring sides for a permanent ceasefire and to finalise the political framework agreement for transition to a civilian government.
- The HoACSF further calls on the UN to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law since the start of the conflict. They also urge countries in the Horn of Africa and East Africa to grant asylum and protection to refugees.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 16 June)

- The demolition of mosques has triggered large protests in Addis Ababa. The Mayor of Shegar city stated in an interview that 11.000 “illegal structures of poor people” had been demolished.
- The Afar region is still in urgent need of more medical supplies as the number of cases of malaria and dengue fever keep increasing.
- The humanitarian situation in Oromia is deteriorating, with reports of armed attacks on civilians in Horo Guduru Wellega Zone, Amuru and Jardega Jarte woredas and Kiremu Woreda in East Wellega Zone.
- The cholera outbreak in Ethiopia is continuing to expand; so far 153 deaths have been reported. The global shortage of cholera vaccines is impeding an effective response to the situation.

Situation in Tigray (per 16 June)

- Japan, in collaboration with UNICEF, has donated \$8.1 million to provide water, sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services as well as restoring education in Tigray and Amhara regions.

Regional Situation (per 16 June)

- East African nations will convene in Addis Ababa within the next 10 days, to find viable solutions to the war in Sudan, and increase regional cooperation in the resolution of the crisis.
- The war in Sudan is disrupting supplies of chemicals, fuel and equipment to South Sudan, which may slow its oil production.
- After a visit to Djibouti, the IMF has concluded that the peace agreement in Ethiopia, which is Djibouti's main trading partner, has resulted in an increase in port, rail and road freight activity.

International Situation (per 16 June)

- The US is expecting to come up with a new way forward regarding the war in Sudan in a couple of days, in consultation with Saudi Arabia.
- The UN High Commissioner of Human Rights has expressed his appalment at the killing of the governor of West Darfur by the RSF. He has also expressed deep concern of the rising hate speech in West Darfur

Links of interest

[Twitter: Sudan ministry of foreign affairs](#)

[UNHCR: Heightened risks, violations and sexual violence reported by civilians fleeing Sudan](#)

[Open Letter to the United Nations, African Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, European Union and their member states, and other regional and international actors concerned about the situation in Sudan, including the US, UK, Canada, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council](#)

[Condemning Atrocities in Darfur](#)

[Kill, terrorize, expel: Testimonies detail atrocities by Wagner-backed militia in Sudan](#)

[Statement HoACSF: It's high time to stop the war and save lives in Sudan](#)

[Sudan: High Commissioner appalled by killing of West Darfur Governor](#)

[UN OCHA ETHIOPIA Situation Report](#)

[Japan donates over \\$8 million to UNICEF to restore education and provide WASH services in schools in conflict-affected areas in Ethiopia](#)

[East African nations to convene in Ethiopia to tackle Sudan crisis](#)

[Sudan war disrupting supplies to South Sudan's oil industry](#)

[IMF Staff Concludes Visit to Djibouti](#)

[US to announce 'next way forward' on Sudan in coming days](#)

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