

# SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

## No. 462 - 13 July 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 13 July)

- The Sudanese Foreign Ministry strongly rejected deployment of any foreign forces in Sudan. Statement came as a reaction to Monday's meeting of the IGAD quartet countries which called for a meeting with the East Africa Standby Force to consider potential deployment of forces.
- Killings of and attacks on civilians of Masalit ethnic group that were carried out by Arab militias in West Darfur in the past months amount to war crimes, said Human Rights Watch (HRW).
- HRW called on the International Criminal Court, the EU, the UN and the AU to carry out independent investigations of this incident.
- Rapid Support Forces (RSF) reportedly ordered bodies of 87 Masalit victims to be buried in a mass grave outside El-Geneina, denying local people to bury the bodies in a decent manner, said the UN Human Rights Office. Burials took place on 20 and 21 June.
- These acts of the RSF and allied militia were condemned by Volker Türk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Türk called for independent investigation into these allegations and urged all sides to treat deceased bodies with dignity and proper handling.
- Indiscriminate shelling killed at least 34 civilians, including children, in Omdurman's market area. Shelling broke out on Tuesday morning and reportedly lasted at least 3 hours. Most of the victims were merchants and truck drivers working in the area.
- Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) opened new military training camps in River Nile state and Kassala where volunteers who want to join the conflict alongside the SAF will receive their training.
- Due to the mobilisation tactics of SAF, dozens of Pride and Dignity military training camps were opened in Sudan. SAF called for general mobilisation prompting young and capable people to join their forces.
- Recruitment and mobilisation of people from within tribes and ethnic groups is raising concerns for outbreak of large-scale civil war, according to observers.
- The Central Bank of Sudan instructed the banks to reopen branches in areas which are not directly affected by the conflict.

### Refugee Situation (per 13 July)

- UN experts strongly condemned the deportation of Eritrean refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from Ethiopia to Eritrea which took place at the end of June.
- Deportations caused many cases of family separation, leaving several children behind without parents.
- Recalling the prohibition of mass expulsion by international law, experts warned that deportation without proper risk assessment procedure constitutes refoulement.
- Ongoing arrests and arbitrary detention of Eritreans in Ethiopia raises concerns among UN experts. They say that the specific targeting of Eritreans amounts to discrimination.
- Displacement of people affected by conflict in Sudan exceeded 3.1 million, according to the IOM Tracking Matrix. This includes 737,801 refugees who crossed the border and 2,414,625 people who are internally displaced in Sudan.

- The United Arab Emirates opened a field hospital to support medical treatment of refugees arriving from Sudan in Amdjarass, Chad. The UAE Ambassador to Chad, Rashid Saeed Al Shamsi, said that the building of the field hospital is a part of humanitarian relief addressing the needs of people.
- 1 in 10 refugee children arriving in Chad from Sudan face dangerous malnutrition. The World Food Programme country director for Chad, Pierre Honnorat, warned that fast prevention measures have to be put in place before the rates fall into the severe malnutrition category.

### **Situation in Tigray (per 13 July)**

- The Tigray Orthodox Tewahedo Church confirmed the nomination of 10 episcopates that are due to be appointed on 16 July by the newly established See of Selama Kessate Berhan Archdiocese.
- This announcement came after the visit of Abune Mathias I, Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC), to Tigray on Monday. Abune Mathias I did not meet in person with religious leaders of the Selama Kessate Beharan Archdiocese in Tigray.
- The EOTC Patriarch only met with Getachew Reda, the president of Tigray Interim Administration and other regional officials. He met with them following a visit to the IDP camp in Mekelle.
- IDPs who met with the delegation accused the EOTC of fuelling the war in Tigray and ignoring the suffering of people and destruction of historical and religious sites.

### **Situation in Ethiopia (per 13 July)**

- The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in their new annual report that ongoing attacks in Oromia and the deterioration of security in Amhara regional states, including enforced disappearances, are very concerning.
- The report also highlighted “excessive use of force by government security forces” in several instances causing deaths or injuries.
- EHRC expressed concerns over Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers in Ethiopia whose situation is characterised by detention, forcible return and suspension of registration and documentation process.

### **Regional Situation (per 13 July)**

- Egypt is hosting the summit of Sudan neighbouring countries discussing regional peace efforts addressing the Sudan's conflict and possible ways to end it. Summit was attended by leaders of Ethiopia, South Sudan, Chad, Eritrea, the Central African Republic and Libya.
- Prior to the summit Egyptian president, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, met for a bilateral meeting with Ethiopian PM Amiy Ahmed discussing long disputed issues over Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. In a separate bilateral meeting El-Sisi met with Eritrean president Isaias Afwerki.

### **International Situation (per 13 July)**

- The UK imposed sanctions on the businesses controlled by SAF and RSF in order to prevent fueling the war in Sudan. The sanctions limit financial freedom of those companies and freezes their assets.

### **Links of interest**

[Sudan rejects deployment of African forces, threatens to quit IGAD](#)

[Sudan: Darfur Town Destroyed](#)

[Sudan: At least 87 buried in mass grave in Darfur as Rapid Support Forces deny victims decent burials](#)

[Indiscriminate shelling kills 34 civilians in Sudan's Omdurman](#)

[Sudan army mobilisation intensifies with Pride and Dignity training camps for volunteer recruits](#)

[UN experts urge Ethiopia to halt mass deportation of Eritreans](#)

[IOM: Sudan - Situation Report \(12\)](#)

[UAE opens Chad field hospital to support Sudanese refugees](#)

[Sudan crisis: You don't dare ask refugees where the men have gone, say UN aid teams](#)

[Executive Summary: Ethiopia Annual Human Rights Situation Report \(June 2022 – June 2023\)](#)

[Tigray Orthodox leaders remain on course to appoint episcopates amid efforts to resolve schism](#)

[Orthodox Patriarch, delegation return to Addis without meeting Tigray religious leaders](#)

[Twitter: Tigray Television](#)

[Sudan's neighbors meet in Cairo for summit as Egypt unveils new initiative to end raging conflict](#)

[UK sanctions businesses funding Sudan war](#)

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