

Europe External Programme with Africa

# SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

## No. 465 - 24 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 24 July)**

- Today marks the 100th day of conflict in Sudan.
- The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) moved into villages south of Khartoum in the Gezira state. The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) conducted airstrikes against them.
- Fighting has flared up in Nyala, South Darfur, since Thursday. At least 20 people were killed and 5.000 displaced.
- Intense clashes are reported from El Obeid, with at least four people killed.
- There are reports of snipers killing civilians in West Darfur, says the Darfur Bar Association.
- Despite the return of a SAF delegation to Jeddah, indirect peace talks do not appear to have started yet.
- 18 people working for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) were attacked on Thursday by a group of armed men while transporting medical supplies to a hospital in southern Khartoum.
- The MSF staff was beaten and whipped, and an MSF vehicle was stolen. The supplies were on the way to one of the two hospitals still functioning in southern Khartoum.
- MSF warns that it cannot continue to function if the basic safety standards are not met.
- At least 435 children were killed and 2025 injured in the 100 days of conflict in Sudan, says UNICEF.
- 2500 reports of severe violations of children's rights have reached UNICEF - an average of one per hour, and the real number is likely far higher.
- 40% of people in Sudan are experiencing hunger, says the International Rescue Committee (IRC). It warns of a man-made food crisis in the coming months, the effects of which could ripple to other countries in the region.
- The leaders of the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC), the former ruling coalition in Sudan, are meeting in Cairo, Egypt, on 24 and 25 July.
- Togo is hosting talks between the parties to the conflict in Darfur on 23 and 24 July. The talks in Lomé do not replace the peace talks mediated by the US and Saudi Arabia.
- Nine people were killed in a plane crash in Port Sudan in what SAF said was a technical failure.

### **Refugee Situation (per 24 July)**

- 183,854 refugees from Sudan have arrived in South Sudan as of 20 July, states OCHA. 91% are South Sudanese returnees. Additional supplies are urgently needed.

### **Situation in Tigray (per 24 July)**

- 43% of women in Tigray experienced at least one type of gender-based violence during the Tigray war, according to a study published in BMJ Global Health.
  - Almost 10% of women of reproductive age suffered from sexual violence, of which almost 70% was gang-raped.
  - Nearly 90% of the women who suffered from conflict-related violence during the Tigray war did not receive any care at a healthcare facility.
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## Situation in Ethiopia (per 24 July)

- Seven Oromo opposition leaders imprisoned for three years without legal basis should immediately be released, states Human Rights Watch.
- The prisoners are frequently disappeared by Oromia police authorities, denied access to their lawyers and family for long stretches of time.

## Regional Situation (per 24 July)

- Foreign envoys in Kenya, led by the US ambassador, held a closed-door meeting with the Wiper Party leader Kalonzo Musyoka about the anti-government protests in Kenya.
- 35 people were killed by police during protests in Kenya this month, states the Independent Medico-Legal Unit, a Kenyan NGO.
- MSF announced it will withdraw from the Laascaanood General Hospital in Somalia, "due to increased volatility and repeated security incidents which have impacted the safe delivery of medical care."
- The decision follows the event on 8 July where the hospital was hit during the fighting, causing injuries to medical staff and caretakers.
- A suicide bomber in Mogadishu, Somalia, killed 13 soldiers in an attack on a military academy on Monday. The attack was claimed by al Shabaab.
- The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) announced a \$730 million grant to upgrade the Addis-Djibouti corridor.
- The project will upgrade the road between Ethiopia and the port of Djibouti, including parts that are currently not accessible to truck traffic.

## International Situation (per 24 July)

- Ukrainian President Zelenskyy had a phone conversation with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The leaders discussed among others the Russian withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain initiative, which guaranteed safe passage for grain shipments across the Black Sea.
- The UK sanctioned 13 individuals and businesses linked to the Wagner militia in Sudan, Mali and the Central African Republic. They are accused of executions, torture and threats to security and peace.
- One of those sanctioned is described as the right-hand man of Wagner-founder Yevgeny Prigozhin.
- It is alarming that the US government stated that Ethiopia is no longer engaging in a "pattern of gross violations of human rights," says HRW Deputy Washington Director Nicole Widdersheim.
- Distribution of resources to Ethiopia should be guided by the atrocity determination made earlier in March, she states. She also notes that human rights abuses in Ethiopia continue.

## Links of interest

[Sudan war enters 100th day as mediation attempts fail](#)

[Severe violations of children's rights an 'hourly occurrence' in Sudan, warns UNICEF](#)

[Sudan: MSF staff threatened and beaten in Khartoum, putting lifesaving care in jeopardy](#)

[Sudan's 100-Day conflict is putting catastrophic pressure on food security, warns IRC](#)

[Nine killed after civilian plane crashes in Port Sudan airport](#)

[Sudan: A first step towards peace](#)

[South Sudan: Response for Sudan Crisis Situation Report No. 5 \(As of 20th July 2023\)](#)

[War-related sexual and gender-based violence in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia: a community-based study](#)

[Ethiopia: Oromo Opposition Figures Held Despite Court Orders](#)

[Zelenskyy invites PM Abiy to visit Ukraine in historic phone call following Russia's withdrawal from Black Sea Grain Initiative](#)

[Foreign Envoys Hold Secret Talks with Kalonzo Over Kenyan Protests](#)

[A man lies in a Kenya morgue. His family says he's one of at least 35 shot dead by police this month](#)

[Extreme violence in Las Anod forces Médecins sans frontières \(MSF\) to close activities](#)

[Addis-Djibouti Corridor to Get Major Upgrade That is Key to Unlocking Connectivity and Trade for Ethiopia and the Horn](#)

[UK sanctions Wagner-linked officials in Mali, Sudan and CAR](#)

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