

SITUATION REPORT - HORN OF AFRICA

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Situation in Sudan (per 7 December)

- The US determined that the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) as well as Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) committed war crimes since the outbreak of war in Sudan, said US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken.
- "I have also determined that members of the RSF and allied militias have committed crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing", added Blinken.
- Blinken urged both sides to silence the guns and comply with international and human rights law.
- Humanitarian and commercial convoys to deliver supplies to North Darfur have reportedly been suspended as the joint force of armed groups which was previously established to protect civilians and aid convoys abandoned neutrality, reports Sudan Tribune.
- As a result, all commodities and supplies are critically low in North Darfur with fuel prices soaring to 40,000 Sudanese pounds (approx. €61) for a gallon of gasoline.
- Sexual and gender based violence is on the rise in Sudan while less than 3% of total cases are being recorded, according to the Combating Violence Against Women Unit.
- Several inter-communal conflicts between local tribes were recorded in November in South Darfur, North Darfur and South Kordofan states, according to IOM. These conflicts killed at least 20 people and forced thousands to leave their homes.
- An oil refinery in the Al-Jaili area near Khartoum was attacked on Wednesday causing a fire. Both RSF and SAF accused each other of carrying out the attack.
- Crop production has been affected by the war in Sudan with sorghum and millet production dropping by 24% and 50%, respectively, according to a new report by the Food and Agriculture organisation of the United Nations.
- Crop production is weakened by pests, lack of fertilisers and plant diseases.
- Animal production is also affected by ongoing fighting, diseases, unusual rainfall patterns and lack of veterinary services causing unconventional livestock movements.

Situation in Ethiopia (per 7 December)

- Over 50 civilians were killed in attacks in Ethiopia between 23 and 29 November as a result of clashes between Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) and Ethiopian government, according to the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission.
- Attacks occurred in the Oromia region as well as border villages in Benishangul-Gumuz.
- 23 Oromo organisations in the US urge the OLA and Ethiopian government to resume the peace talks and "to be mindful of the scale of destruction the conflict has wrought and agree to honorable and principled compromises".

Situation in Tigray (per 7 December)

- Former employees of Tigray regional security institutions demand for the Tigray Interim Government to take urgent measures to address their unemployment. More than 1,000 people submitted petitions calling for reinstatement of their offices and payment of withheld salaries.

- The former employees were forced to leave their offices during the two-year war in Tigray but were denied resumption of their duties without lawful justification, says local human rights organisation, Human Rights First Ethiopia.
- Getachew Reda, president of Tigray Interim Regional Administration (IRA), met with a delegation led by the US ambassador to Ethiopia, Ervin Jose Massinga, on Tuesday. The parties discussed the need for full implementation of the Pretoria Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.
- Getachew Reda reiterated that the plan of the Federal government to hold a referendum over the disputed border areas with the Amhara region is unconstitutional.
- According to him, regional elections, establishment of regional government and withdrawal of the foreign forces need to be prioritised before any referendum can take place.
- The IRA announced the establishment of a Drought Disaster Committee to address the difficult situation caused by severe droughts in the Tigray region.

Regional Situation (per 7 December)

- South Sudan's economy faced stagnation due to impacts in oil production and low investment in human capital, according to the World Bank (WB). Education, health, and social protection in South Sudan should be addressed with priority in order to boost the country's economy, it states.
- "With an illiteracy rate of 70 percent and around 60 percent of school-aged children being out of school, South Sudan needs to make a serious turnaround in its human capital outcomes", said Tehmina Khan, Lead Economist, WB South Sudan.
- Three children have died from measles in Nasir county - Upper Nile State, South Sudan which currently faces an outbreak with more than 120 confirmed cases.
- Somali National Army in collaboration with the US Africa Command and African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) carried out an operation in central Somalia against Al-Shabaab. The joint operation reportedly killed 10 members of Al-Shabaab including two commanders.

International Situation (per 7 December)

- Eritrea accused global human rights governance and UN human rights mechanisms of putting forward misguided policies that push forward ideological agendas in a statement at the symposium commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Beijing, China.
- Natnael Yebio, Representative of the Eritrean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that documents and guidelines published in the past years on Eritrea are based on "unsubstantiated findings and allegations", spreading disinformation and having "an agenda against Eritrea".
- The UK Embassy in Somalia announced a package of additional £5.5 million in support of humanitarian assistance responding to the El Niño crisis in Somalia.

Links of interest

[War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, and Ethnic Cleansing Determination in Sudan](#)

[North Darfur faces scarcity of essential goods as humanitarian convoys cease](#)

[Sexual violence still a major threat as Sudan's conflict grinds on](#)

[Sudan Humanitarian Update \(7 December 2023\)](#)

[The Sudan: Rapid assessment on the summer season agricultural performance](#)

[Over 50 Civilians Killed in Ethiopia Attacks: Rights Body](#)

[An Open Letter to Call upon the Government of Ethiopia and the Oromo Liberation Army and the Mediators to Resume the Stalled Peace Talks with Resolve and Recommitment](#)

[News: Rights Group urges Tigray admin to address joblessness crisis among former security personnel](#)

[X: Tigray Television](#)

[X: Addis Standard](#)

[The World Bank Projects Modest Economic Growth Recovery in South Sudan](#)

[3 children succumb to measles in Nassir](#)

[Speech Delivered at the International Symposium Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the UDHR Beijing, China](#)

[UK announces further humanitarian support in response to El Niño in Somalia](#)

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