



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – February 10th to 16th, 2025

Updated February 16th, 2025

Overview

For the week of February 10th to 16th, 2025, fighting between *Amhara Fano freedom fighters* (Fano) and *Prosperity Party regime joint forces* (regime forces) has continued in various parts of Amhara Region in Ethiopia.¹

- This week battle events and rights violations were recorded in more than 37 woreda/city administrations across 11 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These zones included the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder, West Gonder and North Gonder Zones. Developments were also recorded in Dera Woreda (North Shewa Zone) and Gera Woreda (Jimma Zone) of Oromia Region and Addis-Ababa city.

¹Regime forces are primarily comprised of the *Ethiopian National Defense Force* (ENDF) often with backing from regional riot dispersal, militia and police.

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- Developments were recorded in over 5 urban administrations across 3 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These urban administrations included Woldia, Lalibela, Debre-Birhan, Shewa-Robit and Debre-Tabor cities in the North Wollo, North Shewa and South Gonder Zones.
 - Civilian casualties were recorded in 5 woreda/city administrations across 3 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Bure-Zuriya, Jabi-Tehnan, Fogera, Metemma and West Armachiho Woredas in West Gojjam, South Gonder and West Gonder Zones. Casualties were also recorded in Gera Woreda of Jimma Zone (Oromia Region).
 - Widespread arrests were recorded in 4 woreda/city administrations across 3 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Lalibela city, Jabi-Tehnan, Wemberima and West Armachiho Woredas in North Shewa, West Gojjam and West Gonder Zones.
 - Drone strikes were recorded in Ambassel Woreda of South Wollo Zone.

North Wollo Zone

Woldia City

- Between February 12th and 13th, heavy gunfire was reported in Woldia city, administrative center of North Wollo Zone. However, the exact number of casualties is still unclear.

Lalibela City

- On the night of February 13th, Fano forces carried out an offensive against regime forces in Lalibela.

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- The operation was undertaken by the Tefera Mamo Division’s Shambel Habtamu Battalion under the Lasta Asaminew Corps of the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara).
 - In retaliation, regime forces resorted to acts of violence against civilians, carrying out beatings and conducting arbitrary arrests in the Shimbirima area.
 - On February 14th at mid-night Fano forces carried out a military operation in Lalibela city.
 - The operation was undertaken by the Lasta Asaminew Corps’ Maregu Temare Division under the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara).
 - During this operation, the Fano captured two militia members.

South Wollo Zone

Update from the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) [February 15, 2025]

- On February 15th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) announced the restructuring of its leadership following the Merto Declaration, which underscores the unity and operational strength of Fano forces in the region.
 - In line with this, the leadership appointed Fano Mire (Mihret) Wodajo as Chairman, Fano Dirsan Birhanie as Vice-Chairman and Military Commander, and Fano Henok Addisie as Vice-Chairman and Head of the Political Affairs Office. In total, more than 20 leadership positions have been filled within the Fano structure.
 - The group has called on the Amhara people, the greater Ethiopian people, and other supporters to back their cause, urging resistance against the “*dictatorial regime*” of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, which they claim is nearing its end.

Delanta Woreda

- On February 9th, an intense battle took place between Fano forces and regime forces in Tsehay-Mewcha.
 - The fighting involved the Asaminew Division under the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara).
 - Similar clashes also occurred in Teleyayen (Tenta Woreda), an area located between Mekdela and Tenta Woredas.

Were-Illu Woreda

- On February 8th, Fano forces launched an operation in Were-Illu town. The operation involved the Amhara Fano in Shewa's Atse Yekuno-Amlak Division which entered the town, capturing six armaments, and capturing two militia members.

Ambassel Woreda

- Between February 12th and 13th, intense battles took place between Fano and regime forces in the Teleyayen and Marye areas in the Ambassel Mountains.
 - The fighting involved the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara).
 - The fighting has extended into the surrounding Delanta and Tenta mountains.
 - Regime forces carried out repeated air and drone strikes, deploying mechanized, air, and ground troops from four divisions. In Abewat, near the frontlines, multiple drone strikes were reported.
 - Sources indicate a substantial number of casualties among regime forces with Fano capturing several armaments and capturing over 40 regime soldiers.

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- Fano sources reported 5 drone strikes, resulting in 6 civilian fatalities including a mother and her children and the injury of a 70-year-old elderly person.²
 - Due to the ongoing nature of the fighting, it remains difficult to confirm exact casualty numbers. Sources suggest the casualty count may increase.
 - Furthermore, the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) reported that they convened a meeting with representatives from various structures evaluating their progress over the past two years, discussing regional challenges and outlining future plans for their campaigns.
- On February 15th, regime forces set fire to civilian residences in Delba-Giyorgis village, escalating the violence in the region.
 - This occurred shortly after the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) held a historic meeting, where they announced their leadership and subsequently left the area.
 - Prior to this, between February 12th and 13th, the regime carried out devastating air and drone strikes, targeting civilian residences. These attacks resulted in the deaths of numerous civilians, including children and elderly individuals.

Werebabo Woreda

- On February 12th, intense fighting took place between regime forces and Fano near Bokekisa town.
 - The fighting took place in a strategic area within South Wollo Zone located near the cities of Dessie, Kombolcha and Hayk. The fighting involved the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) Baleshiritu and Ras Ali Divisions.

²See February 13th, 2025 [update](#) from the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara).

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- Regime forces suffered heavy casualties and were forced to retreat to Bistima. Over 28 regime forces were killed or injured in the confrontation.
 - On February 16th, Fano forces ambushed regime forces traveling from Bistima to Arbati.³
 - The operation was carried out by East Amhara Corps 1’s Baleshiritu Division and the Lij Eyasu Corps’ Ras Ali Division, both under the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara).
 - The ambush occurred as regime forces were traveling from Bistima to Arbati with the intent of forcibly collecting taxes.
 - The ambush resulted in severe casualties among regime forces, and their mission was effectively thwarted.

North Shewa Zone

Debre-Birhan City

- Between February 7th and 10th, Prosperity Party officials from North Shewa Zone held a meeting in Debre-Birhan city.
 - The primary agenda was centered around Fano forces, including discussions on the ability of Fano forces to enter and leave the city at will, as well as their freedom to take any actions within the town. This included the potential to target Prosperity Party officials in Debre-Birhan.
 - The meeting concluded with the observation that these incidents occurred because the local population is sympathetic to Fano.
 - As a result, officials discussed strategies to alienate the Fano from the people. Two approaches were planned:

³See February 16th, 2025 [update](#) from the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara).

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- * *Punitive measures*: Taking residential homes of residents who refuse to join the state militia structure, particularly those who have land through lease agreements.
 - * *Incentive*: Offering benefits like kiosk shops and other resources to those who voluntarily join the state militia.

Berehet Woreda

- On February 10th, the regime's riot dispersal forces defected to Fano in Meteh-Bila town. These forces had initially been recruited to fight for the regime but later defected, with at least four members joining the Nebelbal Brigade under the Amhara Fano in Shewa's Kessesem Division.
- Between February 8th and 10th, intense battles took place in various parts of Berehet Woreda including Mintamir and Salayish.
 - The conflict began when regime forces attempted an offensive from Minjar-Shenkora Woreda. In response, Fano forces launched a counter-offensive. The Fano offensive involved the Nebelbal, Hailemariam Mamo, and Tesfa Gebreselassie Brigades under the Amhara Fano in Shewa's Kessesem Division.
 - The Fano forces, familiar with the geographic terrain and having strong motivation, successfully maintained control of the area. In the engagement, regime forces suffered heavy casualties.
- Fighting which began on February 8th has entered its fourth day as of February 11th between Fano forces and regime forces across several areas of Berehet Woreda.
 - The fighting involved the Kessesem Division under the Amhara Fano in Shewa.

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- The fighting has spread through areas such as Hoste, Akrimit, Mintamir, Guramba, Aguracha, Rayu, Mitie, and Woku-Ager.
 - Regime forces have attempted to secure the line from Minjar-Shenkora Woreda to Meteh-Bila, focusing on logistics and guarding recruits and officials for the regime’s national dialogue commission.
 - Regime forces have faced repeated and fierce attacks from Fano forces, with more than nine encounters. In retaliation, regime forces targeted civilian property, burning down five houses and destroying 200 quintals of cash crops, likely in an attempt to cut off Fano’s logistical supply lines.
 - Following an intense four-day battle with the Amhara Fano in Shewa, regime forces destroyed civilian property.
 - Over 10 residential homes were set on fire, and more than 300 quintals of cash crops were destroyed.
 - Regime forces accused civilians of supporting Fano while looting and destroying private property.

Shewa-Robit City

- On February 9th, Fano forces took decisive action against regime forces and riot dispersal forces who were guarding Prosperity Party officials.
 - Fano forces from the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command’s Muhammed Bihonegn Corps ambushed regime forces in Firfir, near Shewa-Robit, while they were traveling from Shewa-Robit to Debre-Birhan.
 - The attack resulted in several casualties among regime forces, including both deaths and injuries.

Gishe Woreda

- On February 9th, Fano forces successfully ambushed regime forces in Kurfit.
 - The fighting involved the Amhara Fano in Shewa.
 - The attack took place as regime forces were traveling from Jama and Were-Illu, intending to liberate regime militias captured by the Fano forces in Were-Illu. This ambush forced the regime forces to retreat.

Ankober Woreda

- The Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command held a public meeting in several kebeles within Ankober Woreda. The command has established new organizational structures in 22 out of 23 kebeles in the woreda which are under Fano control.

Basona-Werana Woreda

- On February 14th, Fano forces successfully ambushed regime forces.
 - The attack took place as regime troops, having traveled from Debre-Birhan, attempted to launch an offensive against Fano forces early in the morning at Chiraro-Debir Kebele.
 - Members of the Amhara Fano in Shewa's Negodguad Division ambushed the regime forces near Kukyelesh, inflicting significant casualties and forcing regime forces to retreat back to Debre-Birhan city.

East Gojjam Zone

- Between February 5th to 13th, regime forces have imposed transportation restrictions from towns to kebeles in some woredas in East Gojjam Zone.

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- Reports indicate that the blockade specifically targets communities in kebeles controlled by Fano militants, particularly in Enemay, Shebel-Berenta, Dejen, and Debay-Telatgin Woredas.
 - According to reports, the transportation restrictions were implemented to block delivery of goods to areas controlled by Fano fighters. These blockades have severely restricted access to essential supplies, leading to acute food shortages for communities in the targeted areas.

Enemay Woreda

- On February 11th, fighting took place in Bichena town, Mahbere-Birhan, and Weyra Kebeles.
 - The conflict began when Fano fighters launched an attack on regime encampments located in the three areas. Reports indicate that Fano fighters suddenly infiltrated Bichena town, primarily targeting regime militia members, riot dispersal police, and administrative buildings. On the same day, Fano fighters executed a sudden attack on regime encampments in the Mahbere-Birhan and Weyra Kebeles.
 - Confirmed reports indicate that in Bichena town, Fano fighters inflicted casualties on regime soldiers and also captured two militia members during the fighting. Sources indicated that the Fano maintained temporary control of the town until they withdrew when the regime mobilized reinforcements from nearby bases.
- On February 12th, intense fighting took place in the Dima neighborhood.
 - The conflict was instigated by regime forces that began mobilization from Bichena towards the Dima area. On the morning of February 12th, a

significant exchange of gunfire occurred in the Lemchen and Dima areas, reportedly continuing until the evening.

- Although it was difficult to confirm exact figures, sources indicate substantial losses among regime forces.

Enarj-Enawga Woreda

- On February 11th, exchanges of gunfire occurred in Tebamit, Tenguma and Agamina Kebeles.
 - These locations are located along the border area connecting Enarj-Enawga with Enemay Woreda. The gunfire in these areas was initiated by Fano fighters to prevent reinforcement mobilization from Debre-Werk town. The casualties resulting from these exchanges of gunfire remain unknown.
 - In the same woreda, Fano fighters also launched sudden gunfire in Agamina Kebele, targeting regime cadres and regime affiliated individuals who were holding a meeting. Upon hearing the gunfire, the planned meeting was disrupted as participants scattered. No casualties have been reported from this exchange of gunfire.

Dejen Woreda

- On February 11th, heavy fighting occurred in various kebeles of Dejen Woreda.
 - The conflict was initiated by regime forces who mobilized and launched an offensive against Fano fighters encamped in Werkamba, Yenegnat, and Qol Kebeles. The exchange of gunfire reportedly continued until midday, after which it subsided following withdrawal of regime forces from these areas.
 - Sources reported at least 10 regime soldiers killed and 8 more injured. One confirmed death was also reported from the Fano side.

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- On February 13th, Fano forces carried out a successful operation in the Werkamba area.
 - The operation involved the Zembera Brigade, part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam’s Belay Zeleke Division.
 - This sudden attack targeted regime soldiers who were moving around in military vehicles. The Fano used explosives to attack regime soldiers and overwhelmed many of them.
 - Sources reported no surviving soldiers among those who were present in the vehicles. Sources estimated that overall 30 soldiers were killed or injured. No casualties were reported from the Fano side.

Baso-Liben Woreda

- On February 12th, regime forces mobilized from Yejube town to the rural kebele of Dendegeb. Regime forces entered Dendegeb Kebele intending to locate and suppress Fano fighters. However, they were unable to find Fano fighters, who had already left the area. Sources reported regime forces looted a large quantity of crops collected by Fano members.

West Gojjam Zone

- Sources reported that on February 13th a large quantity of military logistics was transported from Addis-Ababa city and delivered to regime military camps in the Demebecha and Finote-Selam cities.
- On February 13th, between 60 to 70 civilians who were detained the previous week were released after receiving “*training to assist regime forces*” in their fight against Fano fighters. Some trainees explained that they were instructed to patrol and guard their villages and to provide up-to-date information regarding Fano movements.

Regime forces portrayed themselves as peace-seekers to the trainees while informing them that the Fano fighters are anti-peace extremists and bandits.

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On February 10th, several civilians were additionally arrested by the regime's joint forces.
 - That day, the arrest campaign reportedly took place in Dembecha-Ber village in Jiga town. The number of arrested victims remains unknown; however, sources described it as numerous.
 - This follows the detention of between 50-100 civilians the previous week. Sources had reported that the arrest victims were taken to a military camp and forced to undergo military training.
- On the afternoon of February 11th, fighting took place in Jiga town.
 - The initial attack was carried out by Fano fighters, who launched a surprise assault on a small number of regime soldiers. The fighting then escalated into the town center as the regime mobilized reinforcing soldiers, prompting continued confrontation from the Fano fighters.
 - The Fano initially killed at least 4 regime soldiers without sustaining any casualties themselves however the ultimate outcome and overall casualties during this engagement remain unknown.
- On February 14th, a brief exchange of gunfire took place in the area of Jiga town.
 - Sources reported that fighting occurred in Chefarit-Mikael village, when regime forces, particularly riot dispersal police, mobilized to this area and launched a sudden attack on Fano fighters who had set up a checkpoint in the

area. This gunfire led to heavy fighting as Fano fighters launched a strong confrontation.

- Consequently, Fano fighters overwhelmed the advancing soldiers and forced them to retreat. In retaliation, regime soldiers killed a civilian and injured 2 others in the area. The victim was a bajaj driver who was shot and killed while he was parked by the bajaj.
- On February 15th, Fano fighters captured two vehicles and nine oxen from regime forces in two incidents.
 - In the first incident, the Fano launched gunfire and captured a vehicle loaded with nine oxen while it was being transported to the Birsheleqo military camp along with personnel who had facilitated the delivery to regime soldiers.
 - In the second incident, Fano fighters launched sudden gunfire in the Chefarit-Mikael area of the Jiga neighborhood. The gunfire targeted three regime vehicles. After a brief exchange of gunfire, two patrol vehicles managed to escape, while one of the vehicles was captured along with its driver.
- On February 16th, fighting took place near Maksegnit, Jiga and Zindib.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces following their mobilization from Finote-Selam city and Jiga towns in an attempt to expand into areas controlled by Fano fighters.
 - In the first incident, regime forces mobilized from Finote-Selam city and advanced towards the Maksegnit area. Forewarned about the regime mobilization, Fano fighters preemptively launched an attack before regime forces reached the Maksegnit area. The confrontation continued until midday, with some casualties resulting. Sources reported that Fano fighters caused at

least 2 casualties among regime soldiers, with no known casualties reported among the Fano. Ultimately, the regime forces were compelled to retreat towards Finote-Selam after encountering heavy resistance from the Fano side.

- In the second incident, regime forces, gathered from Jiga town and Finote-Selam city, mobilized large forces in an attempt to expand into Quarit Woreda. They began mobilization and stopped at an area called Zindib, fearing a Fano ambush. As regime forces mobilized into Zindib, the Fano suddenly infiltrated Jiga town and launched gunfire on regime forces remaining in the town. Upon the Fano's entry, the regime soldiers quickly entered their camps and began responding with heavy weaponry, shelling while confined to the camps. Following the Fano's attack in Jiga town, regime forces mobilized in Zindib were compelled to return and enter Jiga to support their comrades and push the Fano out of Jiga town. After two hours of occupation, Fano fighters withdrew from Jiga around midday. The casualties resulted from the confrontations in Jiga and Zindib remained unidentified.

Dembecha Woreda

- On February 10th, fighting broke out in the Yechereka area.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces who mobilized from Jiga to attack Fano fighters.
 - Sources reported that Fano fighters inflicted casualties and successfully repelled the regime's attack.

Quarit Woreda

- On February 9th, Fano fighters carried out a sudden attack on regime forces who were enroute from Biradama toward Adet town.

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- The Fano reportedly executed this ambush in an area called Wechit, leading to a heavy exchange of gunfire.
 - Sources reported that Fano fighters inflicted significant military losses on regime forces, although details are yet to be investigated.

Wemberima Woreda

- On February 10th, fighting occurred in Dende-Amanuel Kebele.
 - The confrontation was initiated by regime forces who mobilized from Shindi town towards this rural kebele to locate and suppress Fano fighters. Regime forces were unable to locate them in the area. Upon entry to the village, the regime conducted arbitrary arrests and physical abuse, as well as looting of property. Subsequently, Fano fighters infiltrated and launched a counteroffensive against regime forces leading to heavy exchanges of gunfire.
 - Casualties were reported on both sides though sources indicated regime forces suffered significant losses ultimately forcing them to retreat from the area. Fano sources reported that they had compelled regime forces to release more than 20 abducted victims and return property looted from civilians.
- On February 13th, intense fighting erupted in Shindi town and surrounding areas.
 - The gunfire was initiated by Fano fighters early in the morning. On that day, combined Fano brigades from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Atikem Division unexpectedly infiltrated Shindi town and launched a heavy attack on regime forces. The regime forces were confined to their camps and responded with heavy artillery. The fighting was extremely intense, with casualties reported on both sides. Reports indicate that Fano fighters gained control of Shindi town for a period until they withdrew when regime forces were reinforced and began a counteroffensive.

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- Sources reported over 100 casualties among regime soldiers, while 7 confirmed deaths and 3 injuries were reported from the Fano side. Fano sources claimed to have killed more than 94 soldiers and injured more than 47 others, with several others captured by Fano fighters. Sources reported that the Wollega Fano Command (Bizamo) was also involved in the fighting.

Bure-Zuriya Woreda

- On February 12th, fighting erupted in the rural kebele of Abage.
 - The conflict was initiated by regime forces mobilizing from Bure town towards the rural village of Abage in an effort to locate and suppress Fano fighters entrenched there. During their advance, regime forces encountered minimal resistance from the Fano side, which had strategically retreated in light of military losses inflicted by the regime. Ultimately, regime forces departed from Abage village as evening approached.
 - During their stay in the village, regime soldiers committed abuses and violations against civilians. Reports also indicate that regime forces killed civilians and looted private property.

Sekela Woreda

- On February 13th, an exchange of gunfire took place in Gishabay town, initiated by Fano fighters.
 - Fighting involved the Giyon Brigade under the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Gojjam-Agew-Midir Division.
 - On that day, regime forces gathered the local population and some regime-affiliated individuals in the town. The aim of the Fano fighters was to disrupt the meeting orchestrated by the regime which was framed "*to assist*

residents in their efforts to combat Fano extremism.” When the Fano launched heavy gunfire, regime soldiers quickly retreated to their camps and began responding with artillery shelling. Consequently, the planned meeting was dispersed due to the Fano fighters’ infiltration and the ensuing gunfire.

- The casualties resulting from the exchange of gunfire remain unidentified.

Dega-Damot Woreda

- On the night of February 14th, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime forces in Galakob.
 - Reports indicate that the operation was carried out by the Dega-Damot Brigade, part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam’s Tefera Damte (2nd) Division.
 - The attack was conducted in an area called Galakab, located between Dembecha and Feres-Bet. The regime forces were transporting logistics from Finote-Selam to Feres-Bet, escorted by a large number of personnel and heavy weaponry. After the Fano allowed some of the vehicles to pass, they initiated a heavy offensive with explosive devices on a military convoy that remained behind. The regime forces responded with heavy weaponry fire, leading to a brief confrontation.
 - Sources reported that Fano fighters inflicted significant casualties among the regime forces, with no known casualties on the Fano side. However given their deployment of a large number of forces and heavy weaponry, the regime forces managed to pass through the area and entered Feres-Bet despite sustaining considerable casualties.

Awi Zone

Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda

- On the night of February 15th, Fano fighters carried out a sudden attack in Ashifa-Mariam Kebele.
 - This sudden attack targeted regime forces who had mobilized from Tilili for a logistics exchange. Sources reported that Fano fighters disrupted the regime movement and compelled them to retreat.
 - According to sources, regime forces sustained heavy casualties, although the exact figure remained unmentioned.

North Gojjam Zone

North Achefer Woreda

- The fighting that began earlier in North Achefer Woreda continued into February 10th.
 - On this day, heavy fighting occurred in the area of Liben town. According to reports, Fano fighters carried out an attack in the Liben town area.
 - Although the resultant casualties remain unknown, sources claimed regime forces suffered heavy losses.

South Gonder Zone

- During the night of February 12th, a significant number of regime military personnel defected to the ranks of the Fano fighters in various places.
 - At least 34 soldiers defected from three towns including 15 in Ibnat town, located in Ibnat Woreda, and 15 in Wereta town and 4 in Alem-Ber town,

located in Fogera Woreda. All of the defecting soldiers brought their full military equipment with them, bolstering the Fano fighters' resources.

- In Wereta town, regime forces opened fire on the defecting soldiers, resulting in the deaths of 4 civilians. Three of the victims were reportedly sitting together at a hotel, while the fourth civilian was killed while at home.

Debre-Tabor region

- On February 10th, Fano fighters launched a surprise offensive against a combined force of riot dispersal units and regular military personnel escorting civil authorities in the Alem-Saga forest area.
 - The fighting involved the General Nega Tegegne Division under the Amhara Fano Gonder Province Command.
 - The initial attack resulted in the immediate deaths of 4 members of the riot dispersal forces. Additionally, over 20 members of the joint forces sustained critical injuries and were subsequently admitted to Debre-Tabor Hospital for medical treatment.
 - Following the initial ambush, the engagement transitioned into intense close-quarters combat between the Fano and the remaining regime forces. This protracted fighting lasted for approximately four hours, spanning the area from Welqite village to the Alem-Saga forest.

Lay-Gayint Woreda

- During the night of February 9th extending into February 10th, Fano fighters infiltrated Nefas-Mewcha town, the administrative center of the Lay-Gayint Woreda.
 - The operation was undertaken by members of the Mehal-Gaynit Brigade, which is part of the Gebriye Division led by Kefyalew Dessie (under the

Amhara Fano Gonder Province Command).

- Entering from three different directions, they launched a coordinated offensive against the military camp housing militia forces. The surprise attack resulted in over 9 militiamen being killed or critically injured. Those who sustained injuries were transported to Nefas-Mewcha Hospital for treatment.
- The Fano stated that this action was taken in response to the militia's leading role in the regime's military campaign against them, and their perceived responsibility for grave human rights violations committed against civilians within the woreda.

Andabet Woreda

- On February 13th, a significant number of personnel from the 74th army division of the regime forces defected to Fano fighters, marking a notable blow to the regime's military strength.
 - This defection included two high-ranking military officers, along with numerous soldiers, indicating a potential erosion of loyalty within the regime's military ranks. The defectors comprised the main commander of the 74th army division's military campaign, the second Shaleqa of the 74th army division's chief commander (holding the rank of full lieutenant), another lieutenant who served as a Shambel leader, two Ganta leaders, two corporeal leaders, and one ordinary soldier.
 - Critically, these soldiers defected with their full military equipment, a move that significantly augmented the Fano fighters' resources. They also supplied the Fano with a substantial quantity of ammunition and grenades, bolstering their combat capabilities.
 - The defecting soldiers joined the Andabet Fano Brigade under the Guna

Division under the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder.

Simada Woreda

- On February 13th, a civilian managed to escape detainment and subsequently joined Fano forces in Wegeda town. The civilian attacked a police commander who was guarding him, using a stone, seizing the commander's kalashnikov rifle and successfully escaped from detention, subsequently joining the ranks of the Fano.
- On February 14th, a regime military commander (Shaleqa rank) along with his bodyguards, defected to the Fano, bringing their military equipment with them.
 - This group of five individuals has been confirmed to have joined the Hagere-Bizen Brigade under the Guna Division (Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder). The defectors reportedly stated that many members of the regime's military forces are deeply discontented with orders to fight against their own people, suggesting growing moral conflict within the ranks. In addition to the military officer and his bodyguards, over seven members of the militia forces also joined the Hagere-Bizen Brigade on the same day, bringing their military equipment with them. This surge in defections underscores the increasing appeal of the Fano fighters and the potential for a significant shift in the balance of power.
 - In just five days, the Fano fighters, particularly those within the Guna Division, have gained six military officers, 47 regular soldiers, and seven militiamen, signifying a substantial influx of personnel and resources. The majority of these defecting soldiers belonged to the 64th and 74th army divisions, further indicating a concentration of dissent within these units.

Tach-Gayint Woreda

- On February 15th, Fano forces carried out a law enforcement operation against regime militias extorting civilians in Arb-Gebeya town.
 - Members of the Gebriye Division (Amhara Fano Gonder Province Command) intervened against militia forces who were forcibly extorting money from people heading to the market to contribute towards regime forces' military provisions.
 - The Fano killed these militiamen and confiscated their military equipment. These civilians were being forced to contribute money as they attempted to enter Arb-Gebeya town for market purposes, with the majority of them being farmers simply trying to conduct their business.

Central Gonder Zone

East Dembiya Woreda

- On the night of February 12th, intense combat erupted near Robit town, administrative center of East Dembiya Woreda, as Fano fighters engaged regime forces.
 - The battle focused on a military camp heavily populated by regime troops. This fierce confrontation raged for twelve continuous hours, lasting throughout the entire night. Cornered and under immense pressure from the sudden and overwhelming influx of Fano fighters surrounding their camp, regime forces resorted to indiscriminately firing ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, mortars, and heavy machine guns in an attempt to break the encirclement. The Fano fighters themselves employed heavy machine guns and mortars in their offensive, contributing to the intensity of the conflict.

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- Reports indicate that the Fano inflicted substantial casualties on regime forces during the battle. While the precise number of casualties remains unconfirmed, it is known that the Begemidir Fano Division (Amhara Fano Gonder Province Command) spearheaded the assault.

West Gonder Zone

Metemma Woreda

- On February 13th, intense fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces broke out early in the morning, particularly centered in Tumet Kebele.
 - The fighting involved the Atanaw Wassie and Qwara-Omedla Divisions under the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder.
 - The hostilities commenced around 11 am local time. Due to the ongoing nature of the conflict, it is currently impossible to determine the precise number of casualties.
 - Adding to the severity of the situation, regime forces perpetrated a massacre in Tumet Kebele, resulting in the deaths of 29 unarmed civilians.
 - * These civilians were targeted and killed by regime forces in the aftermath of a surprise attack launched by Fano fighters. Many were dragged from their homes and executed with shots to the head. A particularly heinous method of killing involved dousing victims with gasoline siphoned from their motorbikes and setting them alight. Five individuals were burned alive in this manner. Regime forces then proceeded to destroy the civilians' motorbikes, using the gasoline to fuel their barbarity against non-combatants. Among the 29 massacred, five were victims of this burning, while another five were subjected to a form of ritualistic execution. These daily laborers were tied to large trees with rope, their

hands and feet secured, before being shot in the forehead. The victims, targeted allegedly for lacking identification cards, were left hanging as a macabre spectacle. Militia forces, riot dispersal forces, and regular soldiers were then ordered to use the bodies for military target practice, firing repeatedly until they were drained of blood, their corpses left dangling as a grim warning.

- * The majority of the killed victims were daily laborers who had traveled to Metemma Woreda from various parts of the Gonder sub-region (north/north-western Amhara Region) in search of work, along with some individuals who operated small businesses in the town itself.
- * Of the victims 17 were subsequently given a mass burial by town residents. However, regime forces initially refused to allow community members to retrieve and bury six of the bodies, leaving them exposed until the evening.
- * Names of ten victims of the February 13th massacre in Tumet town have been identified as follows:
 1. Hagermesh Zegeye (female; operated a small restaurant)
 2. Zewdalem Mekonnen (female; ran a small retail outlet/kiosk)
 3. Birku Tilahun (daily laborer)
 4. Tadla Fente (female; town resident)
 5. Degefaw Mamo (town resident)
 6. Dege Defersha (female; operated a tea house)
 7. Atnafu Biresaw (town resident)
 8. Liweyew Tadlo (daily laborer)
 9. Ergete Dagne (daily laborer)
 10. Alamrew Legesse (daily laborer)

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- * Regime forces also reportedly burned down 12 motorcycles. The justification provided for this brutal act was that the civilians had remained silent during the Fano fighters' large-scale attack and had passively observed the ensuing battle against the regime forces.

Qwara Woreda

- On February 15th, Fano forces carried out fighting against regime forces.
 - The fighting involved a coordinated operation by the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder's Adwa and Qwara-Omedla Divisions, engaged in prolonged and intense fighting against regime forces along the Qwara front throughout the entire day.
 - Persistent clashes on this front underscore the ongoing and active nature of the conflict in the region, suggesting a determined effort by both sides to gain control of strategically important areas.

West Armachiho Woreda

- Since February 1st, regime forces have imposed a coercive order for residents of Midreget town to provide nighttime security for the regime's military forces stationed within the town.
 - Residents who refused to comply with the order have faced detainment and summary execution by regime forces prompting the civilian population to question the military leadership about these brutal measures carried out under auspices of "protection". Concerned residents questioned whether it is the civilians requiring protection from the military, or conversely, whether the military forces are demanding protection from the very civilians they are supposed to serve.

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- Immediately following implementation of the forced security order on February 1st, seven civilians (young residents) were abducted by regime forces to undisclosed detention facilities.
 - On February 13th, regime forces escalated targeting of civilians in the area.
 - * Following the defection of 14 soldiers from their military camp, who absconded with snipers and other heavy weaponry to join Fano, regime forces carried out detentions and killings against the civilian population.
 - * At least 1 civilian (a youth) has been confirmed dead, and 8 others sustained critical injuries requiring hospitalization.
 - * Regime forces, enraged by defections within their ranks, have adopted a policy of intimidation and bullying against civilians who they accuse of complicity. They explicitly threatened the civilian population with severe repercussions if further defections occur, holding them accountable for the actions of individual soldiers.

North Gonder Zone

Dabat Woreda

- As of February 15th, Fano forces have continued to actively engage the regime's military forces in Gedebiya and Dabat towns.
 - The operations involved the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder's Gondere-Begashaw Division.
 - The Gondere-Begashaw Division's Tewodros Brigade, operating under the command of Shaleqa Yirga Dessie, mounted an operation targeting a joint force of regime soldiers who had established a defensive position around Gedebiya town. This operation proved successful, resulting in a significant

number of casualties among the regime’s ranks, including fatalities and injuries.

- Concurrently, the Gondere-Begashaw Division’s Nahusenay Andarge Brigade, led by Shaleqa Wanaw Emuhay, executed a swift and decisive attack against regime forces stationed in Dabat town. This rapid assault yielded an unconfirmed number of enemy deaths and injuries. Notably, during the operation in Dabat, the brigade apprehended a high-ranking Prosperity Party official. The reasons for the official’s detention and subsequent removal from the town remain undisclosed at this time.

Addis-Ababa City

- Amid the upcoming AU Summit, the Oromo Prosperity Party regime has been conducting mass detentions in various parts of Addis-Ababa city. Observers speculate that the detentions may be part of an effort to “*cleanse*” street youths to present a more favorable image for AU Summit participants.
- On February 9th, bomb explosions were reported in Addis-Ababa city.⁴ The explosions took place near the palace at around midnight, with other unexploded bombs discovered near the mayor’s office and surrounding areas such as Kazanchis.
- On February 12th, city police conducted intimidation and investigations of daily laborers around the palace. The regime forces discovered unexploded bombs, prompting special protection measures and encircling the palace by Federal Police from Arat-Kilo, Biherawi, Kazanchis, etc. This has heightened tensions and the security situation in Addis-Ababa city.
- On February 13th, the regime arrested executive committee members of opposition

⁴See February 13th, 2025 [update](#) from Ethio Focus News.

group the *Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party* (EPRP).⁵ Among the arrested EPRP executives is Yisihak Wolday, who was taken from his residence to an undisclosed location.

- On February 13th, ten political prisoners, under the case of Solomon Fekade, were presented in court in Addis-Ababa city.⁶ The court has scheduled witness hearings from February 23rd to February 26th.
- On February 14th, reports of increased restrictions and tightened security have emerged across Addis-Ababa city
 - The regime has disrupted freedom of movement, particularly in areas such as Mexico, Kazanchis, Arat-Kilo, Sidist-Kilo, Piassa, Biherawi, Legehar, and surrounding neighborhoods. Individuals in these areas are facing prohibitions, harassment and intimidation.
 - Transportation services have been heavily disrupted, making it difficult to travel in these areas.
 - The regime has forcibly removed individuals from the streets, particularly those engaged in daily labor and street vending. These groups, including “*shoe shiners*,” have been completely cleared from central city streets.
 - Checkpoints have been set up throughout most of the city including in key districts like Mexico, Kazanchis, Arat-Kilo, and Piassa. These checkpoints are significantly disrupting freedom of movement for the public, making it difficult to even stand or sit in public spaces.

⁵See February 13th, 2025 [report](#) from *Ethiopian Media Services* (EMS).

⁶See February 14th, 2025 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)

Dera Woreda

- Reports indicate that the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command has continued to train and graduate new Fano recruits. The latest recruits were commandos trained as part of the Tana Brigade, under the Atse Amdetsion Corps' Atse Dawit Division. A second round of graduations took place in Kolu Kebele.

Jimma Zone (Oromia Region)

Gera Woreda

- Since February 13th, there has been widespread destruction, killings, and mass displacement in Wala Kebele in Gera Woreda, located near Beshasha, the birthplace of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.
 - In Wala Kebele, Korie town was severely destroyed, with over 1,900 houses burned and over 20 vehicles set on fire. All of the affected properties were owned by ethnic Amharas. The violence has resulted in at least 12 civilian deaths, over 20 injuries, and the theft of more than 1,500 cattle. The whereabouts of several civilians remain unknown. Thousands have been displaced into the surrounding regions of southwestern Ethiopia.
 - The violence began on February 13th, and continued through February 15th, with youth groups initiating the destruction. The situation escalated after the intervention of the ENDF and regional forces.
 - * The violence appeared to be an act of mob justice carried out by members of the Oromo community who targeted areas predominantly inhabited by ethnic Amharas and Orthodox Christians.

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- * Sources reported that a large number of residential homes were burned down, and a large number of civilians were displaced to neighboring areas of the South-West Regional State. Some media sources also reported that there were killed and injured individuals during this violence, with further details yet to be verified.
 - * According to sources, the cause of the violence was the killing of a businessman in the area. The deceased victim was found dead, and the perpetrators remained unidentified. Following this incident, locals reasoned that the perpetrators must be ethnic Amharas and followers of the Orthodox Christian faith, as the killed victim was an ethnic Oromo and follower of the Islamic faith.
 - Reports indicate that, prior to this wave of displacement, the regime had disarmed over 800 Amharas three months ago, fueling suspicions that the displacement was part of a larger planned effort. Additionally, Orthodox churches have been attacked and closed, indicating a religious and ethnic dimension to the violence.
 - The people are at risk of further massacres and a severe humanitarian crisis, which urgently requires the attention and intervention of relevant regional and international stakeholders.

About the Amhara Association of America (AAA)

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) is a non-profit civic organization based in Charlotte, North Carolina that investigates and documents human rights violations in the context of conflict, violence and political repression in Ethiopia. AAA seeks to inform U.S. policymakers, international human rights organizations, journalists, researchers, and all Ethiopian stakeholders to pressure Ethiopian leaders to change laws, policies, and practices in Ethiopia so perpetrators are held accountable and victims receive justice. AAA also collaborates with Amhara organizations in the U.S., supports independent Amhara organizations in Ethiopia, and provides humanitarian aid for Amharas impacted due to targeted ethnic attacks. AAA's funding comes directly from members and supporters; the organization is not affiliated with any Ethiopian or American political or governmental entities.

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