



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – February 3rd to 9th, 2025

Updated February 9th, 2025

Overview

For the week of February 3rd to 9th, 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 32 woreda/city administrations across 11 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These zones included the Wag-Hemra, North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder and West Gonder Zones. Developments were also recorded in Addis-Ababa city and in Jijiga city (Somali Region). New military mobilization by Tigray Region Forces [*Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF)] has been recorded in various areas within Raya-Alamata Woreda and surrounding areas.

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

-
- Developments were recorded in over 5 urban administrations across 4 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These urban administrations included Alamata, Kobo, Shewa-Robit, Finote-Selam and Gonder cities in the North Wollo, North Shewa, West Gojjam and Central Gonder Zones.
 - Civilian casualties were recorded in 5 woreda/city administrations across 3 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Baso-Liben, Habru, Sekela, Raya-Kobo and Jabi-Tehnan Woredas in the North Wollo, East Gojjam and West Gojjam Zones.
 - Widespread arrests were recorded in 7 woreda/city administrations across 4 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Jabi-Tehnan, Ibnat, Libo-Kemkem, Gonder, Gonder-Zuriya, Chilga and West Armachiho Woredas in the West Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder and West Gonder Zone Zones. An escalation of targeting of women and children including seniors and infants has emerged, with hundreds of victims rounded up across western Amhara and detained for weeks/months in detention facilities. The victims were accused of having family members affiliated to Fano and were told by regime forces their release was contingent on the surrender of their family members. Arrests were also recorded in Jijiga city in Somali Region.
 - Drone strikes were recorded in 2 woreda/city administrations across 2 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Efratana-Gidim and Jabi-Tehnan Woredas in North Shewa and West Gojjam Zones.
 - A Cholera outbreak has reportedly led to hundreds of reported cases across western Amhara Region with cases recorded in the regional capital of Bahir-Dar city as well as in Central Gonder and West Gonder Zones.

Wag-Hemra Zone

Dehana Woreda

- On February 5th, a significant battle occurred between Fano fighters and regime forces in Dura.
 - The fighting involving the Hailu Kebede Fano Division under the Lasta-Asaminew Corps of the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara).
 - The confrontation arose after regime forces launched an offensive to recapture the strategic area of Dura, which had recently been taken by Fano forces.
 - Despite regime forces' efforts, the Fano successfully maintained control of the area, inflicting severe casualties on the enemy, including both deaths and injuries.

North Wollo Zone

Habru Woreda

- On January 4th, Fano forces launched an offensive against regime forces in Anto-Chefie.
 - The fighting involved members of the Baleshiritu and Tatek Divisions under the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara)
 - The offensive involved use of mortars and targeted regime militias and riot dispersal forces, who were engaged in a meeting regarding Fano.
 - Fano forces inflicted significant casualties, killing and wounding many regime soldiers, forcing them to retreat.
 - In retaliation, regime forces launched indiscriminate heavy artillery fire on civilian areas, resulting in the deaths of 3 civilians (farmers) and injuries to 2

other civilians.

Raya-Alamata Woreda

- On February 6th, TPLF forces were seen deploying troops to several locations within the woreda, including Adis-Kign, near Waja, and Hacha, near Alamata town. This development has sparked public concern regarding the possibility of a TPLF-led invasion.

Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On February 7th, soldiers under the ENDF North-Eastern Command committed physical beatings of civilians and looted over 80 quintals of sorghum belonging to residents of Golesha village.
 - The regime forces are believed to have targeted the village because they suspect the locals of supporting Fano through information and backup during the fighting. Regime forces claimed they were camping for Fano food but instead went door-to-door, stealing more than 80 quintals of sorghum and transporting it to Kobo city.
 - This incident followed heavy losses inflicted on regime forces by the Asaminew and Hawjano Divisions of the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) during recent battles in the area between Zobel and Waja.

South Wollo Zone

- On February 5th, the Amhara Fano Wollo Command announced the formation of a new Corps structure named Mekit, which consists of three divisions.

Borena Woreda

- On February 2nd, Fano forces successfully defended their positions against a regime offensive.
 - The conflict involved the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) Western Wollo Corps' Engineer Dessalegn Assefa Mekane-Selam Division.
 - The regime attempted to attack Fano forces in Bili, a small town near Mekane-Selam town.
 - The clashes resulted in 6 fatalities and over 20 injuries for regime forces.

Legehida Woreda

- On February 8th, a major battle took place between Fano forces and regime forces.²
 - The fighting involved the 7-52 Brigade's Eagle (Nisir) Battalion under the Wereilu Sub-Division of the Western Wollo Corps of the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara).
 - The battle took place near the Addisu (new) Health Center and the Legehida Woreda Council compound, where regime forces were stationed.
 - Fano forces inflicted substantial casualties on regime forces, leaving many dead and wounded. The 7-52 Brigade's Public Relations Officer Fano Muhammad Shifferaw, stated that the enemy was mentally and physically humiliated.

²See February 8, 2025 [update](#) from the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara).

North Shewa Zone

Shewa-Robit City

- On February 2nd and 3rd, regime forces launched heavy artillery towards areas surrounding Shewa-Robit city, including Charie, Ensertu, and Kobo. The exact number of casualties remains unconfirmed at this time.
- On February 8th, regime forces attempted an offensive in Wanza (08) Kebele but suffered severe casualties to Fano forces.
 - The fighting involved the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command.
 - At 7:30 pm, regime forces began launching heavy artillery attacks, though the total casualties remain unknown.

Ensaro Woreda

- On February 4th, the Amhara Fano in Shewa graduated newly trained forces.

Minjar-Shenkora Woreda

- On February 4th, a regime militia member killed at least 3 regime militias who were harassing the public and confiscating property in Arerti town.
 - The incident took place at around 6:30 pm as the militias were drinking alcohol at a store, refused to pay for their drinks, and later, on their way to camp, forced civilians to give them money.
 - Witnessing these actions, the militia member retaliated by shooting three of the militia members identified as Dereje Desta (who had previously killed a church servant and was ostracized by society for his actions), Abay Tilahun, and Tesfaye Solomon.
 - The individual later joined the Amhara Fano in Shewa's Kessem Division.

-
- On February 7th, Fano fighters ambushed regime forces in Bessa Kebele.
 - The ambush involved the 4th Battalion of the Nebelbal Brigade under the Amhara Fano in Shewa’s Kesseem Division.
 - Regime forces were traveling from Balchi town to St. Yohannes Church with the intention of attacking the Fano on the occasion of the St. Yohannes religious celebration. However, the Fano, having received prior information, ambushed regime forces in Bessa Kebele.
 - The ambush resulted in significant casualties including both deaths and injuries among regime forces.

 - Between February 7th and 8th, Fano forces successfully regained control of a regime camp in Bolo-Giyorgis Kebele, which the regime had occupied for over a year.
 - The recapture of the camp followed intense fighting between regime forces and the Nebelbal Brigade under the Amhara Fano in Shewa’s Kesseem Division.
 - The regime forces suffered severe casualties during the confrontation, further weakening their position in the area.

Efratana-Gidim Woreda

- On the morning of February 8th, the regime carried out a drone strike on civilian homes in Zonba Kebele.
 - The attack left 4 civilians killed including a child and his mother. In addition, over 20 cattle were killed, and homes were destroyed.
 - The regime claimed the strike was targeting Fano forces, although no Fano members were present at the time of the attack.

East Gojjam Zone

Baso-Liben Woreda

- On February 4th, heavy fighting took place in Kork Kebele.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces to enter and suppress Fano fighters in Kork Kebele.
 - The Abrajit Fano Brigade reportedly mounted a fierce confrontation with regime forces. Despite encountering resistance, regime forces managed to enter Kork Kebele that day. Ultimately, regime forces withdrew from Kork as additional Fano groups joined and launched a counteroffensive against regime forces that had entered Kork Kebele.
 - During the exchange of gunfire, two Fano fighters were killed while casualties on the regime's side were described as numerous. Sources claimed to have killed 35 and injured 14 regime soldiers. Fano fighters also captured several firearms from regime soldiers.
 - Additionally, sources confirmed a civilian being killed due to indiscriminate shelling by regime forces.

Shebel-Berenta Woreda

- On February 5th, fighting took place in two locations in Shebel-Berenta Woreda.
 - The fighting reportedly began when regime soldiers raided the rural kebele of Weyniye. Upon entry, regime forces attempted to load and take away the collected crops, claiming they had been used by Fano fighters. Fano fighters then launched an attack to prevent regime forces from withdrawing with the collected crops.

-
- This led to an exchange of gunfire and resulted in casualties on both sides. One fighter was killed, and one was injured from the Fano side, while the casualties among regime soldiers remain unknown.
 - Fano fighters also initiated fighting in Yedoha town to prevent the movement of reinforcements to the battle areas. Sources reported at least 11 regime forces killed and 3 more injured during the confrontations. Fano fighters claimed to have damaged two vehicles.

Enemay Woreda

- On February 7th, a brief gunfire exchange took place in Yerez Kebele.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces in order to encircle and suppress a Fano commander.
 - After encountering encirclement by regime forces, the Fano commander, identified as Haymanot Afewerk, was confronted and killed by regime soldiers. This individual, a key figure in the area, contributed to organizing Fano fighters in the locality and to the training of commando forces at the brigade and division levels.

Awabel Woreda

- Between February 6th and 8th, heavy fighting took place in various kebeles of Awabel Woreda.
 - On February 6th, regime forces mobilized from Lumame towards Yesenbet Kebele to locate and neutralize Fano fighters in the area. The Fano fiercely resisted in order to prevent the regime's advance. Despite sustaining casualties, regime forces entered Yesenbet Kebele after a prolonged confrontation.

-
- The next day (February 7th), the Fano regrouped and launched a counteroffensive targeting regime forces. This heavy offensive forced regime forces to withdraw from Yesenbet Kebele.
 - On February 8th, regime forces deployed towards Chendefo Kebele. Forewarned about the regime’s mobilization, Fano fighters awaited them while holding a strategic position. When regime forces arrived at this location, Fano fighters carried out a sudden attack, leading to a heavy exchange of gunfire. During this confrontation, Fano fighters decisively defeated regime forces, inflicting numerous casualties on regime soldiers, with no reported casualties on the Fano side.

West Gojjam Zone

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On the afternoon of February 3rd, heavy fighting was conducted in the area of Jiga town.
 - Reports indicate that the clashes began when regime forces mobilized towards the Wenge area to confront Fano fighters. The Fano responded vigorously, engaging regime soldiers in an effort to repel their attack.
 - It is reported that regime forces deployed heavy weaponry during the engagement.
 - Sources reported that Fano fighters inflicted heavy casualties among the regime soldiers. Sources also claimed that Fano inflicted significant casualties on regime soldiers, asserting to have captured at least 5 soldiers in command positions with their vehicles. It was reported that regime forces later managed to rescue some of their comrades by deploying reinforcements from Jiga and Finote-Selam city.

-
- Between February 3rd and 5th, regime forces conducted illegal arrests of civilians in Jiga town.
 - The arrest campaign reportedly targeted businessmen who were assumed to have private firearms. The arrested victims included both women and the elderly.
 - Within a span of three days, sources reported that the regime detained over 15 civilians. Several of the detained victims were reportedly transported to Dangila military camp.
 - Below are some of the detained victims.
 1. Getinet Siraw
 2. Belaynesh (last name unknown)
 3. Habtamu (last name unknown)
 4. Zelleke Tilahun

 - On the morning of February 6th, the regime conducted a drone strike in Yeraber Kebele.
 - The drone strike reportedly targeted the Yeraber Primary School. At least 6 civilians lost their lives while several others sustained injuries ranging from light to severe.
 - Following the drone attack, the regime forces launched an assault in the Wenge area. Fano fighters reportedly engaged in fierce confrontations with the regime soldiers, leading to casualties among the regime soldiers.

 - Between February 5th and 6th, regime forces carried out mass arbitrary arrests in Jiga town and surrounding areas with several young men reportedly arrested.

-
- On February 8th, fighting took place in three locations in the area around Mankusa town.
 - The fighting was initiated when regime forces mobilized from Mankusa and Finote-Selam towards Mana, Zaba, and Guaywubshet Kebeles to suppress Fano fighters. The Fano mounted fierce resistance to prevent the regime forces' advancement to these locations.
 - Sources reported heavy casualties among regime soldiers, including the killing of a key Prosperity Party official accused of leading regime military operations. Despite this resistance, regime forces managed to enter these areas, however regime forces could not locate the Fano fighters.
 - The regime forces committed multiple violations during their incursion into the area. Sources reported the killing of 3 civilians in Guaywubshet Kebele. The regime forces also looted large amounts of crops and food items from Zaba and Mana villages. Further details regarding this incident are ongoing.

Sekela Woreda

- On January 27th, regime soldiers killed 3 civilians in Ambisi Kebele.
 - Regime forces engaged in arbitrary detentions after failing to locate Fano fighters on the streets. After detaining the victims, they killed all three.
 - The victims were identified as 25-year-old Adamu Nigussu, and Getaneh Animaw and Kefale Delele, the latter two estimated to be between 15 and 20 years of age. The first victim was taken while gathering crops on his farmland.
 - The killings were described as brutal involving dismemberment and mutilation.
 - Sources reported that the bodies of all three victims were buried at the cemetery of Ambisi St. George's Church.

-
- Between February 5th and 6th, surprise attacks and heavy fighting took place in Sekela Woreda.
 - On February 5th, Fano fighters carried out a sudden attack on regime forces who were enroute from Ambisi to Gishabay town. This sudden attack led to a brief exchange of gunfire, resulting in casualties among regime soldiers.
 - On the next day, February 6th, regime forces departed from Gishabay and mobilized towards Surba Kebele.
 - * This location is a strategic place that connects three woredas: Sekela, Fagita-Lekoma, and North Mecha.
 - * Initially, Fano fighters made a tactical retreat to minimize casualties. Subsequently, after regrouping, Fano fighters launched a heavy counteroffensive, leading to encirclement of the regime soldiers and prolonged fighting. Ultimately, Fano fighters decisively defeated regime forces and forced them to retreat to Gishabay town.
 - * During the retreat, regime soldiers killed civilians through indiscriminate shooting and mortar shelling. Sources confirmed the killing of at least 2 civilians, while several others sustained injuries.

Dega-Damot Woreda

- On February 6th, intense fighting took place in Damot-Tsiyon Kebele.
 - The fighting was initiated by the regime's special operations plan. During the night of February 5th, regime forces mobilized from Feres-Bet town towards Damot-Tsiyon Kebele. In an attempt to enter and suppress the Dega-Damot Fano Brigade, regime forces launched a heavy offensive supported by intense artillery shelling.

-
- To minimize casualties and avoid direct confrontation with the regime’s forces, Fano fighters initially made a tactical retreat. The regime forces then managed to enter Damot-Tsiyon Kebele. After regrouping and receiving reinforcements, Fano fighters launched a counteroffensive against the regime forces who had entered Damot-Tsiyon Kebele. This led to heavy gunfire exchanges, which resulted in casualties on both sides. Ultimately, regime forces were compelled to leave Damot-Tsiyon Kebele and return to Feres-Bet town.
 - Two confirmed deaths were reported from the Fano side, while casualties among regime forces were described as numerous.

Dembecha Woreda

- On February 7th, intense fighting took place in Dembecha Woreda.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces, who mobilized from Dembecha town towards Gelila Kebele. The Fano fighters mounted a fierce confrontation with regime forces who were enroute to Gelila. Additionally, another Fano unit suddenly infiltrated Dembecha town, launching gunfire on regime forces stationed there.
 - Sources reported that regime forces suffered losses during this confrontation and were forced to retreat from Gelila back towards Dembecha town. Sources also reported Fano repelled the regime’s attack and inflicted significant casualties among regime soldiers.
- On February 8th, a gunfire exchange took place in the Yechereka area.
 - The fighting was initiated when regime forces suddenly entered the area to suppress Fano fighters who had set up a checkpoint there.
 - The confrontation led to a heavy exchange of fire, resulting in casualties on both sides, with particularly significant losses reported on the regime’s side.

Wemberima Woreda

- On February 7th, fighting occurred in Shindi town and other nearby areas.
 - The fighting was initiated when regime forces mobilized from Shindi town into the Wegedad area to locate and neutralize Fano fighters. Forewarned about the regime mobilization, the Fano carried out a sudden attack before regime forces reached the Wegedad area. This led to a heavy exchange of fire, resulting in casualties on both sides.
 - Fano fighters also entered Shindi town, where they launched an attack on regime forces that remained there. The Fano managed to control Shindi town for several hours before subsequently withdrawing when the mobilized regime forces returned to Shindi town.

AWI Zone

Dangila Woreda

- The Amhara Fano in Gojjam is actively strengthening its military capabilities by training new commando recruits.³ Over the weekend, the Bitwedded Mengesha Jenbere Brigade completed training of a substantial number of special commando soldiers, after over six months of training.
- On February 5th, heavy gunfire exchanges took place in Abadra Kebele.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces, who mobilized from Dangila towards Abadra to suppress Fano fighters. The Fano mounted a fierce confrontation with regime forces moving into this area.

³See February 3rd, 2025 [report](#) from Nisir Media.

-
- Although the figures remained unidentified, sources reported that Fano fighters inflicted casualties among regime soldiers, ultimately forcing them to withdraw from the Abadra area.
 - On the same day, regime forces reportedly carried out a drone attack and continuous aerial surveillance in the Abadra Kebele, with no human casualties reported thus far.

Fagita-Lekoma Woreda

- On February 4th, fighting was conducted in three locations within Fagita-Lekoma Woreda.
 - Regime forces mobilized overnight from Addis-Kidam towards Dimama and Delekez to combat Fano fighters. Aware of the regime's movements, Fano fighters mounted a fierce resistance on regime forces who were enroute to the Dimama area. They also launched an offensive against the regime's main base at Adiguami Mountain, aimed at disrupting reinforcements and weakening the regime's forces in their camp. Additionally, Fano fighters attacked regime soldiers stationed at a checkpoint in the Ashewa-Medhanialem area.
 - While the exact casualties from these confrontations remain unclear, sources report that Fano inflicted significant losses on regime forces.

North Gojjam Zone

North Achefer Woreda

- On February 4th, fighting took place in the Yismala area.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces who mobilized from Liben to Yismala to suppress Fano fighters. After a light exchange of gunfire, regime

forces managed to enter the Yismala area. Upon entering Yismala, the regime forces could not locate the Fano as they had already left.

- Regime forces committed violations against civilians whom they accused of affiliating with Fano fighters. The regime forces reportedly burned one motorcycle and a vehicle belonging to residents. Ultimately, regime forces withdrew towards their camp in Liben.
- During their journey, regime forces encountered a car accident, resulting in the killing and injury of regime soldiers. Sources claimed that 4 regime soldiers were killed and 15 were injured in the accident.
- On February 9th, heavy fighting occurred between regime forces and Fano in an area called Sankra. The fighting was initiated by regime forces mobilizing from Liben towards Sankra . Sources reported that casualties occurred on both sides, with details remaining unidentified.

South Mecha Woreda

- On February 6th, fighting occurred in the Sangi area.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces, who mobilized from Dagi and Mehal-Genet (Gerchech) towns towards Sangi. Regime forces managed to enter Sangi with no significant encounters from Fano.
 - Upon entry, they reportedly looted medical equipment from the health station in the Sangi area. After occupying the area for hours, they reportedly left, fearing a Fano counterattack.
 - While leaving the area, Fano fighters carried out a sudden attack, leading to an exchange of gunfire. Sources reported over 10 regime soldiers killed and 7 others injured.

South Achefer Woreda

- On February 9th, a brief exchange of gunfire took place in Durbeti town and the surrounding area.
 - The fighting was initiated when regime forces mobilized from Durbeti towards rural areas. The Fano fighters mounted fierce resistance to prevent their advancement. Additionally, the Fano entered Durbeti town and launched an attack on regime forces that remained there.
 - Sources reported both material and human losses among regime forces. Sources reported at least five regime militias and cadres captured by Fano, as well as firearms from regime forces.

South Gonder Zone

Massive detention of women in Gonder sub-region

- The practice of detaining mothers and elderly women by regime forces has emerged as a troubling human rights issue in the Gonder sub-region.
 - Numerous elderly women have been apprehended and held by the regime based on alleged involvement of their children and grandchildren in the Fano freedom movement. This policy of holding family members accountable for suspected actions of others is a form of collective punishment and an unacceptable transfer of responsibility.
 - Specific instances highlight the scale of this problem:
 - * In Melza town of Ibnat Woreda (South Gonder Zone) approximately 100 women remain in the custody of regime forces.
 - * In Maksegnit town of Gonder-Zuriya Woreda (Central Gonder Zone) the number of detained elderly women has been confirmed to be around 70.

-
- * In West Armachiho Woreda (West Gonder Zone), over 30 elderly women are still being held by the regime.
 - * Furthermore, in the Chilga Seraba military camp in Chilga Woreda (Central Gonder Zone), 113 women are currently detained.
- These detainees have been explicitly informed that their release is contingent upon the surrender of their children, grandchildren, or close relatives who have joined the Fano movement.
 - Even within Gonder city, at the 6th police station, numerous individuals have been held for nearly six months without ever appearing before a court. Their continued detention is purportedly justified by the fact that their children or close relatives have joined the Fano freedom movement. The detainees in this facility range in age from a three-month-old infant to an 83-year-old woman, underscoring the indiscriminate nature of these detentions and the regime's disregard for fundamental human rights principles.

Lay-Gayint Woreda

- On February 4th, ethnic Amhara soldiers within the ENDF were reportedly executed by their Oromo counterparts in Mekuabiya Kebele.
 - The incident took place during a meeting of regime forces held in Mekuabiya. During this meeting, Amhara soldiers voiced their concerns, questioning the targeting of civilians and criticizing the regime's highest authorities for consistently ignoring their complaints that civilians must not be subjected to violence. The soldiers reportedly expressed their frustration, stating that their appeals for improved administration and an end to the targeting of civilians had been ignored. Furthermore, they alleged racial bias and illicit activities among the general staff of the regime forces.

-
- The two outspoken soldiers were then ordered to dig their own graves and were subsequently executed in front of the assembled troops. This act of brutality underscores deep ethnic divisions and tensions within the regime’s military and highlights severe consequences for those who dare to question or challenge the established order.

Libo-Kemkem Woreda

- On February 5th, intense fighting erupted in Mikael-Debir, with the conflict originating from two separate fronts.
 - The fighting involved the Engineer Kitaw Ejigu and the Nisir-Belessa Brigades under the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder’s Mebreq Division.
 - Attacks were launched from the Belessa-Degoma direction, as well as from the direction of Addis-Zemen and Enfranz, all converging towards Mikael-Debir. Regime forces advancing from Addis-Zemen and Enfranz encountered fierce resistance at Jirat village, significantly hindering their progress. Similarly, regime forces approaching from Degoma faced a determined defensive assault in Grariya Kebele.
 - The strong defensive measures employed by the Fano ultimately forced the Degoma contingent to retreat. The combined effect of these engagements resulted in the regime forces sustaining substantial casualties.
- On February 5th, intense combat occurred between regime forces and Fano fighters.
 - The fighting involved the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder’s Mebreq Division led by Commando Yalew Adugna while the command is under Arbegna Habte Wolde.

-
- Despite inflicting heavy casualties on regime forces during the initial fighting, the Fano strategically withdrew from Mikael-Debir after the town was subjected to indiscriminate shelling by the regime’s ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns and heavy artillery.
 - Following the Fano withdrawal, regime forces entered Mikael-Debir and immediately began a campaign of harassment against the civilian population. Civilians were accused of sympathizing with the Fano fighters, and many were subsequently taken to undisclosed locations.
 - On February 8th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces spanning a region from Mikael-Debir to Arnogari, Belessa, and Tara Monastery.
 - The clashes resulted in significant casualties for regime forces. Previously, Fano fighters had strategically withdrawn from Mikael-Debir town to safeguard it from potential destruction by indiscriminate ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns strikes from the regime. Following this strategic retreat, the Fano unexpectedly launched a counter-offensive against regime forces who had entered Mikael-Debir.
 - This surprise attack resulted in over 50 regime soldiers being either killed or critically injured. Furthermore, the Fano seized a substantial amount of weaponry, including more than 37 black Kalashnikov assault rifles, from the defeated regime forces.
 - The fighting is still ongoing in the wider Libo-Kemkem Woreda, suggesting a continued and contested control of the region.

Mena-Mequetewa Woreda

- On February 6th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in the Mena River area.

-
- The conflict is characterized by the use of heavy weaponry, including ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, on regime forces’ side and heavy machine-guns and mortars on both sides.
 - The Fano engaged in this particular battle were members of the Etege-Tsehaytu Division commanded by Fano Teshome Abebaw and part of the Amhara Fano Gonder Province Command, which falls under the leadership of Arbegna Dereje Belay.
 - Due to the ongoing nature of the fighting, the extent of casualties suffered by either side is unconfirmed.

Central Gonder Zone

Tach Armachiho Woreda

- On February 2nd, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime forces in Kork town, resulting in significant losses for regime forces.
 - The targeted forces were traveling in a convoy of three heavy military trucks when Fano fighters launched their sudden assault, catching regime forces off guard.
 - The attack resulted in the immediate death of 21 soldiers, while another 11 sustained critical injuries, bringing the total casualties to at least 32. Among the fatalities was the vice commander of the 78th ENDF army division, who held the rank of full colonel at the time of his death.

Gonder City

- On February 4th, a meeting of the Gonder University council took place at the Haile Resort Hotel.

-
- Notably, this gathering was attended by high-ranking military generals of the regime. During the meeting, General Tigabu Yilma made a controversial request, demanding that the Gonder University council cover the costs associated with the preparation of uniforms for militia forces operating within Gonder city.
 - This request represents a clear breach of established power hierarchies and raises serious questions about the autonomy of the university. The demand for a university, an institution mandated solely for educational purposes, to finance military uniforms is highly irregular and constitutes a blatant violation of its designated role.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- Since January 5th, a significant number of civilians, predominantly elderly women, have been detained by regime forces at Maksegnit military camp.
 - These women, ranging in age from 60 to 80 years old, were rounded up from various woredas, including East Belessa, West Belessa, Gonder-Zuriya, East Dembiya, and West Dembiya.
 - Regime forces informed them that their detention was a consequence of their children, grandchildren, and family members being associated with the Fano movement. They were allegedly told that their release would only be secured upon the surrender of these relatives to the authorities. Initially, these elderly women were held at the Maksegnit police station before being transferred to the more austere conditions of the military camp.
 - Many of them are now suffering from serious health problems but are being denied access to hospitalization and adequate medical care. Furthermore, they are reportedly not receiving sufficient food provisions.

-
- Despite their advanced age and declining health, these women remain in detention, with the majority having been held for approximately one month, while others have been detained for around two weeks.

West Gonder Zone

Cholera Outbreak in Gonder Sub-Region

- A cholera outbreak has been reported throughout the Gonder sub-region, raising significant health concerns.
 - In the West Gonder Zone, specifically within Metemma and Qwara Woredas, two individuals have tragically died from confirmed cholera infections, and an additional 122 individuals have been hospitalized.
 - In Central Gonder Zone there has been one confirmed death related to the outbreak.
 - In the Amhara Region capital of Bahir-Dar city, 33 confirmed cholera cases have been recorded.
 - The primary source of the outbreak appears to be holy water at the Bermil Giyorgis Church, a popular destination for individuals seeking spiritual healing. This church is located in Qwara Woreda, and the cholera infection is believed to have originated and spread from this site.
 - The situation is particularly alarming given the ongoing conflict in the region, which is creating conditions conducive to the rapid spread of disease and straining already limited healthcare resources. There are also concerns that the regime may be exploiting the cholera outbreak as a weapon to further weaken the Amhara Region, adding another layer of complexity to the crisis.

West Armachiho Woreda

- On February 2nd, multiple incidents occurred involving defections and mistreatment of state militias in interactions with the regime's military (ENDF).
 - In Marush Kebele a large number of militia forces were subjected to harsh treatment by regime forces.
 - * These militiamen were first disarmed of their weapons and then placed under the strict guard of ENDF. Subsequently, they were forcibly moved to a military camp, where they were severely beaten before being transported to undisclosed detention centers.
 - * This incident highlights a disturbing trend of regime forces turning against their own auxiliary units.
 - Furthermore, in a separate development, militia forces stationed at military camps in Dereq-Abbo and Bedoye Kebeles were disbanded.
 - * The disbandment occurred through a voluntary decision of the militias themselves, made without informing regime forces.
 - * Their primary motivation for disbanding was a refusal to participate in the ongoing civil war, particularly against the Fano, whom they viewed as fellow Amhara people fighting to prevent the extermination of their ethnic group by what they termed as “Oromo-led genociders”.
 - * These militiamen also expressed their conviction that the conflict should be resolved through genuine political dialogue with the Fano. They communicated this stance to the kebele chairman and other political cadres, advocating for peaceful resolution before departing the meeting place.
 - * The number of militiamen who voluntarily disbanded from their camps is estimated to be over 140, signifying a considerable level of dissent and a

growing reluctance to support the regime’s military campaign.

Qwara Woreda

- On February 3rd, Fano fighters successfully intervened to secure the release of a truck that had been taken hostage by armed robbers.
 - The truck was carrying a valuable cargo of 400 quintals of coffee.
 - In a swift operation, Fano fighters under the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder’s Karamara Division (formerly under the Amhara Fano Gonder Command) managed to apprehend four of the robbers responsible for the hijacking, while the remaining perpetrators escaped. Following the successful recovery, the Fano ensured the safe return of the truck and its valuable coffee cargo to its rightful owner.
 - This coffee was originally intended for export to Sudan before it was seized.
 - The recovery of the stolen truck and coffee underscores the Fano fighters’ capacity to maintain order and address criminal activities in areas under their influence.
- On February 3rd, a gathering of regime political cadres and military officers was convened in Bemur Kebele.
 - However, the meeting was abruptly disrupted when Fano fighters from the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder’s Qwara-Omedla Division launched a surprise offensive against the assembled group. The unexpected attack forced the meeting to be immediately adjourned, and the political cadres and military officers fled the scene amidst the ensuing exchange of gunfire.
 - While the targeted leaders managed to escape, an unspecified number of militia forces and “peacekeeping” troops suffered casualties during the

confrontation with the Fano, including both fatalities and critical injuries.

- On February 6th, intense combat continued between Fano fighters and regime forces in Bedela and Sasge Kebeles.
 - This military conflict was further complicated by the actions of regime political cadres, who were actively attempting to incite ethnic-based conflict between the Amhara, Qemant, and Agew communities, particularly in Sasge and Amohay Kebeles. However, these attempts at fomenting division were largely unsuccessful, as the people resisted the cadres' incitement.
 - Due to a complete telecommunication blackout imposed by the regime in areas experiencing active fighting, the extent of casualties resulting from the ongoing conflict remains unknown.
- In the span of just two days, beginning on February 7th, a significant number of soldiers – totaling 52 – defected from regime forces and joined the ranks of Fano fighters in Qwara Woreda.
 - These defecting soldiers brought their weapons with them, and included both team leaders within the regime military and mortar operators, indicating a level of experience and strategic knowledge. These soldiers primarily joined the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder's Qwara-Omedla Division, specifically the Nebro and Tewodros Brigades.
 - Their stated reasons for defecting centered on a growing disillusionment with fighting against their own people to protect the regime's dictatorial rule. They reported repeatedly appealing to high-ranking military generals to cease targeting of civilians, but their concerns were consistently ignored. Facing deaf ears and a growing sense of moral conflict, they ultimately decided to

align themselves with the Fano. They also cited ethnic-based discrimination, particularly against Amhara soldiers, as a contributing factor in their decision.

- Reports have surfaced of regime forces engaging in deceptive propaganda, falsely claiming that Fano fighters in Qwara Woreda have surrendered. Specifically, they have presented Yitayal Wudu as a Fano leader who has yielded to regime control. However, Yitayal Wudu was not affiliated with the Omedla Division. Instead, he was the leader of a *Kefagn* robbery team, a criminal enterprise established by the regime itself for the express purpose of discrediting the Fano movement. This team engaged in looting and extortion, targeting drivers and local residents while falsely presenting themselves as Fano fighters. The Fano fighters had launched an offensive against this Kefagn group, resulting in the death or capture of many members by the Omedla Fano Division. With their ability to operate as looters severely curtailed, the remaining 20 individuals led by Yitayal Wudu ultimately surrendered to regime forces. The regime is now exploiting these individuals to create the false impression that members of the Omedla Division are surrendering. In truth, no Fano member from the Omedla Division has surrendered to the regime in recent weeks. On the contrary, regime forces are defecting to the Fano fighters, especially to the Omedla Division, in increasing numbers.

Addis-Ababa City

- On February 6th, 16 of the 51 individuals charged with terrorism under the indictment filed under Ato Yohannes Buayalew appeared in court.
 - All 16 defendants denied the charges, claiming that they had not committed any crimes.
 - The trial saw the defendants pleading not guilty, with statements recorded

from each one. The first to testify was Ato Yohannes Buayalew, a member of the Amhara Regional Council, who refuted the charges that he had “*committed a terrorist crime by being a leader, a member, organizing, preparing a strategy document, and leading the extremist Fano.*” He described the allegations as “*fabrications,*” “*unfounded,*” and “*far from the truth.*” Ato Yohannes further explained that they were being charged not for legal offenses but because they were active Amhara politicians and intellectuals. He expressed, “*there is no justice, but I am a free man. The court could have set me free and compensated me for all the wrongs I have suffered.*” Ato Yohannes also defended the Fano movement as an integral part of Amhara culture likening it to the Qeerroo movement in Oromia, emphasizing that “*being Fano is not a crime.*”

- The second defendant to testify was Ato Christian Tadele, a member of the House of Peoples’ Representatives, who also denied the charges. He stated that he had been detained for 550 days under “*cruel and inhumane conditions*” not for committing any crime, but for publicly raising concerns about the injustices faced by the Amhara people. He described his detention as a result of his efforts to challenge the oppressive actions being taken against his people, supported by substantial evidence.

Somali Region

Jijiga City Administration

- According to a reports, Amharas have been subjected to torture at the Gerbasa camp near Jijiga town.⁴
 - Detentions occurred during the Epiphany celebration.
 - Regime forces have been preventing families from contacting the prisoners,

⁴See February 7, 2025 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

leaving them unaware of the situation, particularly regarding female prisoners, who have been isolated from communication.

- The prisoners have been further tortured and beaten at night. The police reportedly beat them while demanding information about “Fano cells” operating in the area.

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.

- Contact us via Email: info@amharaamerica.org
- Visit our website at www.AmharaAmerica.org
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#)
- To make donations: <https://www.amharaamerica.org/get-involved>

