



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – October 14th to 20th, 2024

Updated October 20, 2024

Overview

For the week of October 14th to 20th, 2024, 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, a new wave of abuses against Amhara residents by Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) militants in Raya-Alamata (North Wollo Zone) was reported. The *Oromia Region Special Forces* (OSF) and the *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) carried out joint attacks on Amhara communities in Dera Woreda of North Shewa Zone in Oromia Region.

- This week battle events and rights violations were recorded in 41 woreda/city administrations across 13 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These zones included Wag-Hemra, North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, Bahir-Dar city, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder, West

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

Gonder and North Gonder Zones. There was also conflict recorded in Dera Woreda in North Shewa Zone of Oromia Region.

- Battle events were recorded in over 8 urban administrations across 5 zonal administrations. These urban administrations included Kobo, Woldia, Alamata, Dessie, Debre-Birhan, Shewa-Robit, Bahir-Dar and Debre-Tabor cities in the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, Bahir-Dar city, and South Gonder Zones.
- Civilian casualties were recorded in more than 17 woreda/city administrations across 10 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Raya-Kobo, Raya-Alamata, Amhara-Sayint, Berehet, Debre-Birhan Zuriya, Gozamin, Dejen, Guagusa-Shikudad, Dangila, Bahir-Dar city, North Mecha, Ibbat, Debre-Tabor, West Belessa, Gonder-Zuriya, Metemma and West Armachiho woredas in the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, Awi, Bahir-Dar city, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder and West Gonder Zones.
- Use of airstrikes and drones were recorded in 9 woreda/city administrations across 7 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included South Mecha, North Mecha, South Achefer, Berehet, Hulet-Eju-Enese, Dega-Damot, Dangila, West Belessa and West Armachiho Woredas in the North Gojjam, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Central Gonder and West Gonder Zones.
- Widespread arrests were reported in 8 woreda/city administrations across 6 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These include Raya-Alamata, Shewa-Robit, Gozamin, Bahir-Dar city, Lay-Gayint, Ibbat, West Belessa and Gonder-Zuriya Woredas in the North Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, Bahir-Dar city, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones.

Wag-Hemra Zone

Korem Town

- Between October 18th and 19th, over 30 militias who had previously aligned with the Prosperity administration have been ordered to surrender their military equipment to TPLF forces.
 - A specific case involves Hayelom Birhanu, former administrator of Hayalo Kebele, who was forcibly taken to Mayimado after resisting the disarmament order.
 - He was detained and subjected to 10 days of torture before being released on October 18th, following the surrender of his weapon by his wife to TPLF forces.
 - Hayelom’s persecution was largely driven by his Amhara ethnicity and his refusal to comply with the disarmament directive.
 - This campaign of forced disarmament, marked by intimidation and arbitrary arrests, continues unabated, particularly in areas such as Fala, Guara, and Lat Kebeles.
 - Militias in these regions face severe repression, with many being unlawfully detained or harassed.

North Wollo Zone

- On October 14th, the Head of Public Relations for the Amhara Fano in Wollo, Fano Abebe Fentaw, gave a special interview for *Amhara Broadcasting Center (ABC) TV*.²

²See October 14, 2024 [interview](#) on Amhara Broadcasting Center (ABC) TV.

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- He explained that this year (2017 E.C.) has been particularly successful for Amhara Fano, with significant achievements across the Wollo sub-region (north-eastern Amhara Region). Various divisions have captured numerous regime forces and seized a large amount of military equipment.
 - He highlighted a major victory on the Kalim front, where Fano forces neutralized a significant number of regime soldiers, forced several to surrender, and captured a range of military equipment, including heavy weapons.
 - Additionally, Fano Abebe Fentaw mentioned victories in multiple areas including Habru Woreda (around Libso), Raya-Kobo (Robit, Gobiye, Menjelo and Waja), Woldia City, and Mekdela. He stated that Fano forces also had a significant presence in Lasta and surrounding areas.
 - He noted that Fano is actively organizing new members in various parts of Wollo and plans to launch operations in Dessie and Kombolcha cities soon.
- In an interview with Ethio-251 Media, Commander of the Amhara Fano in Wollo Mihret Wodajo discussed recent military progress in the Wollo sub-region between October 14th and 17th.³
 - These victories spanned the areas from Wageh-Mira to Amhara-Sayint, where Fano forces successfully repelled attacks by regime forces.
 - Commander Mihret Wodajo emphasized that Fano forces had completely destroyed the 101st and 112th ENDF Regiments during intense fighting. He further revealed that numerous high-ranking commanders were either killed or captured, including Abdulahi Nasir, head of human resources for the 101st and 112th Regiments.
 - In addition to these victories, he mentioned that Fano forces also captured a

³See October 18, 2024 [report](#) from Ethio-251 Media.

large cache of military equipment from regime forces, further weakening the regime's operational capacity in the region.

Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On October 13th, regime forces launched a heavy weapons attack targeting civilian homes in Kalim, near Woldia, causing severe casualties and the complete destruction of several houses.
 - Among the identified victims were: (1) Ato Ayele Mengiste, an elderly man, who was killed by the regime's weaponry and (2) Mulu Ayele, Ato Ayele's daughter, who suffered a leg injury.
 - The regime's indiscriminate offensive also caused minor injuries to a farmer at another residence.
- Intense fighting has continued between the Amhara Fano in Wollo under command of Fano Mire Wodajo, and regime forces in several areas above the main road from Woldia to Alamata.
 - Between October 14th and 15th, Fano forces, specifically the Zobel-Amba and Dibi and Workie-Baleshiritu Divisions encircled regime troops advancing from Muja, Abahoy-Gariya, and Bekilo-Manekiya areas, launching attacks in Tekulesh.
 - From October 15th until late into the night, regime forces launched artillery fire from the Hormat River into the mountainous areas west of Kobo city.
 - While casualty numbers are not yet confirmed, informants fear that the indiscriminate shelling may have caused severe civilian casualties.
 - After two weeks of communication blackout, telecommunication network service was restored in Raya-Kobo on October 15th, at around 1 pm.

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- Indiscriminate shelling of mountainous areas, including Tekulesh and Kalim, continued from October 13th to 16th. Sources predict significant casualties due to ongoing indiscriminate offensive targeting civilians.
 - On the night of October 15th, armed clashes took place in Kobo city between the Amhara Fano in Wollo and regime forces. However, casualty figures from this encounter have yet to be confirmed.
 - On October 17th, the regime has continued heavy artillery bombardment of mountainous areas in western Kobo. This bombardment has been ongoing for the past three to four days. However, casualties from the attacks have not yet been confirmed.
 - On October 14th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo achieved a significant victory against regime forces west of Kobo city, particularly in the Tekulesh area. In a swift and coordinated attack by the Fano freedom fighters, regime forces were forced to retreat, suffering heavy losses. Witnesses reported seeing regime forces transporting their casualties.
 - Starting on October 18th, regime forces launched artillery strikes from the Horbat River, located near Kobo city, targeting mountainous areas such as Tekulesh. These strikes were intended to provide cover for regime forces' retreat from the area.
 - On the evening of October 18th, approximately four heavy artillery strikes were launched at Zobel, a strategically important mountainous area in the eastern part of Raya-Kobo Woreda. Zobel's military significance has made it a focal point in the ongoing conflict.
 - On October 18th, regime forces launched indiscriminate heavy artillery attacks in the area, resulting in significant casualties among civilians and livestock.

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- Over 20 cattle were brutally killed in the area known as Aligenamba, located between Bewa-Mikael and Tekulesh. Civilian deaths have also been reported, although the exact number of casualties is yet to be confirmed.
 - The regime’s forces used emerging crops as defensive cover, causing extensive damage to farmlands in areas such as Aradum and Horamat.
 - The popular Saturday market in Zobel, which previously attracted a large number of people, was canceled due to the previous day’s heavy weapons fire towards the Zobel Mountains by regime forces, creating a dangerous and hostile environment.
 - On October 15th, it has been confirmed that TPLF armed groups are supporting the regime in their military efforts.
 - These groups were stationed at Baso-Liben and engaged in combat alongside regime forces against Fano fighters in Karayila.
 - Reports from local sources and Ethio-News indicated that 12 vehicles were involved in the conflict, two of which were used to transport injured personnel and deceased individuals.⁴
 - In the clash, two TPLF commanders were killed by Fano fighters.

Woldia City

- Following intense fighting between the Amhara Fano in Wollo (led by Fano Mire Wodajo) and regime forces on October 13th, transportation services in the city were significantly disrupted on October 14th. The clashes, which began around 8 pm, ended around midnight on the same night. Although the fighting stopped on October 14th, Fano forces remain present in various parts of the city.

⁴See October 20, 2024 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

Raya-Alamata Woreda

- On October 14th, armed TPLF forces reportedly committed a group rape against a 7-year-old child in Selen-Wuha, near Gedera. The attack occurred near a TPLF camp, within a millet field. Sources indicated that more than 11 rape cases have already been reported in the area, and there are calls for human rights organizations to conduct a thorough investigation.
- On October 15th, a teacher named Abadi Fanitay Shamoy was seriously injured by TPLF forces in Alamata city.
 - Abadi was attacked with a knife (locally called *chube*) in several parts of his body and is currently receiving intensive medical treatment.
 - He was a teacher at Misrak Primary School and had been targeted due to the opposition to the TPLF's imposition of the Tigrigna language in schools, which has led to the prohibition of Amharic, the community's native tongue.
 - Residents reported that despite earlier accusations brought to court by the victim's family, the Prosperity Party's Command Post in the area refused to take action. The lack of accountability has emboldened TPLF forces, who continue to intimidate, arbitrarily arrest, injure, rape, and kill civilians in Alamata and Raya-Alamata Woreda.
- Religious leaders in Alamata city, Zata, Korem, and surrounding areas are facing intimidation for rejecting the Tigray Orthodox Church and choosing to align with the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church. These acts of religious persecution are ongoing and have sparked further tensions.

South Wollo Zone

Dessie City

- On October 14th, Chief Judge Mulugeta Kebede of Dessie city was killed in a bombing while inside his car. It remains unclear who was responsible for the attack, but some link the killing to a conflict with the city mayor, Samuel Molalign.

Mekdela Woreda

- The Amhara Fano in Wollo Mekdela Division's Sheikh Hussein Jibril Brigade engaged in heavy fighting with regime forces near Koreb developmental city in Yerenza. The brigade reportedly killed 10 regime soldiers and injured many others.

Amhara-Sayint Woreda

- On October 16th, armed clashes between the Amhara Fano in Wollo and regime forces have continued. Heavy weapons, including mortars and heavy machine guns, were heard in the area.
- The regime has also maintained its blockade of networks and telecommunication services, which remains in effect as of October 16th.
- On October 17th, an armed clash between regime forces and the Amhara Fano in Wollo, resulting in significant casualties for regime forces in Ajibar and surrounding areas. 5 civilians were killed in the conflict, and three homes were set on fire. Regime forces reportedly prevented funerals for the deceased civilians.

Borena Woreda

- On October 17th, Fano forces launched a swift attack against regime militias near Abay-Sheleko in Mekane-Selam city. The attack resulted in the deaths of 4 regime militias, with several others wounded.

Legahida Woreda

- On October 18th, the Amhara Fano Wollo's Nigus Mikael Division launched a swift and targeted attack on regime forces near Woyinamba town at midday. This ambush resulted in the deaths of several regime police and militia personnel. Regime cadres, who were enroute to a meeting, fled the scene to avoid being caught in the conflict, forcing the meeting to be canceled.

Kelela Woreda

- On October 20th, a fierce battle between Fano fighters and regime forces took place, though the number of casualties remains unconfirmed at this time.

North Shewa Zone

Menz-Lalo-Midir Woreda

- Between October 13th and 14th, Fano forces under the command of the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command (led by Fano Meketaw Mamo) launched a significant attack on regime militias in Wogere-Atikes. According to sources, a total of 11 regime militias were killed during the clashes between October 13th and 14th.⁵

Armed clashes that began on October 11th, have continued through October 15th. Sources reported hearing ongoing fighting in Wogere.

Asagirt Woreda

- On October 11th, a mother of two children identified as Asbera Mohammed Nur was brutally shot and killed by regime forces in Soten Kebele (Kebele 03).⁶

⁵See October 14, 2024 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

⁶See October 15, 2024 [update](#) from the Amhara Association of America (AAA).

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- The victim, Asbera, was returning from Berehet Woreda when she was shot by regime forces using a heavy machine gun weapon at 8 am in the morning. Her 2-year-old child was found bleeding next to her and was rescued by Fano forces nearby.
 - Asbera had been running a small tea and coffee business. Her children are now left in dire circumstances following her tragic death.

Berehet Woreda

- On October 16th, the regime carried out a drone strike targeting civilians in Kebele 04 (Dires area).
 - The drone strike resulted in the deaths of at least 2 civilians, with some sources reporting up to 4 fatalities. Among the identified victims were Behailu (last name not identified) and Lakachew (last name not identified).
 - Additionally, more than 7 civilians were injured in the attack.
 - The drone strike targeted three residential houses, two of which were completely destroyed, along with their properties, while the third house sustained severe damage and injuries to its occupants.

Menz-Mam-Midir Woreda

- On October 15th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command launched a successful offensive against regime forces near Molalie-Zuriya, around the Anigawa area.
 - Sources reported witnessing funerals for numerous regime soldiers, indicating significant casualties from the Fano attack, as evidenced by the transportation of bodies in FSR vehicles.

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- As a result of the regime forces’ defeat and serious injuries, they retaliated by shooting and killing a child named Wolanisa Gebru, who was tending cattle in the area.

Shewa-Robit City

- On October 16th, regime forces carried out mass arrests, mainly targeting daily laborers in Shewa Robit city, accusing them of providing information to Fano forces. However, these arrests appear to be part of the regime’s broader arbitrary crackdown.

Debre-Birhan City

- On October 19th, regime forces conducted house-to-house searches across Debre-Birhan city. In addition to the searches, regime forces reportedly engaged in widespread looting, stealing valuables such as jewelry, and vandalizing household property, leaving many homes damaged.

Basona-Werana Woreda

- On October 20th, a heavy armed clash erupted in Gudo-Beret, near Debre-Birhan city, involving regime forces. Around 10:30 am, the regime launched a violent attack on civilians, resulting in one civilian death and three injuries. The attack involved the use of heavy weaponry.

East Gojjam Zone

- In another development, the regime has intensified the deployment of recently trained soldiers to the Gojjam sub-region. Eyewitness accounts have noted the presence of underage and inexperienced soldiers in various locales.

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- Additionally, the regime continues to transfer recently arrested Amharas from different locations to military camps in the Bir-Sheleqo and Dangila areas.
 - Fano forces in the Gojjam sub-region have continued training new commando units. Notably, the Belay-Zeleke Brigade in Machakel Woreda, the Debay-Choke Brigade in Debay-Telatgin Woreda, and the Mezgebu-Walelegn Brigade in Bibugn Woreda all announced the completion of training for new recruits this week.

Hulet-Eju-Enese Woreda

- On October 15th, the regime conducted a drone strike in Asteriyo Kebele, targeting a primary school where Fano fighters were having breakfast.
 - While several Fano members were present, many managed to evade the strike after noticing earlier drone surveillance. Reports indicate that 5 Fano members were killed, with one more critically injured. The attack also caused significant damage to the school. Additionally,
 - On the same day, Fano fighters ambushed regime soldiers moving from Motta to Woyn-Wiha, launching a surprise attack in the Endiyamba and Arate areas and reportedly inflicting substantial casualties on the regime forces.

Gozamin Woreda

- On October 16th, the Jibela-Mutera Brigade of Fano fighters from the Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Division launched a sudden attack in Gozamin Woreda. The regime was reportedly transporting recently arrested civilians from Debre-Markos city to the Bir-Sheleqo military camp. Reports suggest that Fano fighters destroyed a regime patrol at the forefront, resulting in casualties, including over 5 riot dispersal police.
- On October 19th, Fano fighters, particularly the Jibela-Mutera Brigade, ambushed regime soldiers traveling from Debre-Markos to Amanuel town. The Jibela-Mutera

Brigade executed a sudden attack on two military convoys in the Qulech area, reportedly causing substantial casualties for regime forces.

Dejen Woreda

- On October 16th, clashes erupted in Kurar Kebele of Abrajit village.
 - The fighting began when regime soldiers attempted to suppress Fano fighters in the area. Reports indicated that regime soldiers had initially surrounded the Fano fighters; however, the latter managed to break the encirclement and escape after inflicting casualties on regime troops.
- On October 19th, regime militias killed 2 civilians and injured 3 others in Kurar Kebele.
 - According to sources, the civilians were killed and injured when local militias launched arbitrary gunfire on a public transport vehicle, accusing the driver of violating a checkpoint. The passengers were said to be traveling from Addis-Ababa city to Motta town. The two deceased victims were women, identified as Ansha Abubaker and Hawa Endris. The identities of the three injured victims have not yet been identified.

Enemay Woreda

- Between October 18th and 19th, regime forces mobilized from Bichena town toward the Yetmen area in an effort to encircle and suppress Fano fighters. As regime soldiers approached the Fano encampment, the latter chose to withdraw without any significant exchange of fire. No casualties were reported on either side.

West Gojjam Zone

Dega-Damot Woreda

- On October 15th, the regime carried out a drone strike in Feres-Bet town, targeting the administrative building housing the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia branch. The strike occurred in midday and resulted in the death of a 4-year-old child named Amen Eniyew, who was near the site of the attack. Though it was not possible to identify the extent, property damage was also reported in this incident.

Dembecha Woreda

- On October 19th, a brief exchange of gunfire occurred at the entrance of Dembecha town when the Engineer Kiber Temesgen Fano Brigade launched an assault on regime soldiers stationed at a checkpoint. The attack, which took place early in the morning, lasted less than an hour and resulted in casualties for the regime, with reports indicating at least 4 regime soldiers killed and 3 others injured. Additionally, Fano fighters managed to seize firearms during the encounter.

Awi Zone

- The defection of regime soldiers to the Fano forces continues at a significant rate. This week, more than 11 soldiers defected from the Jawi Fendika military camp, joining Fano fighters in the area and bringing with them both small arms and heavy weaponry. A similar trend was reported in Jiga town of Jabi-Tehnan Woreda (West Gojjam Zone), where over 20 soldiers defected and joined Fano forces within the past week.

Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda

- At the beginning of this week, regime forces re-entered Tilili town and took control of the area. When regime forces entered, confirmed reports indicated that regime soldiers carried out physical assaults on residents, resulting in injuries to civilians ranging from light to severe.

Dangila Woreda

- On October 17th, the regime conducted two consecutive drone attacks in Afesa Kebele, located on the outskirts of Dangila.
 - The drones targeted a secondary school where Fano fighters had been encamped. However, the Fano fighters reportedly vacated the area shortly before the drone strikes, likely sensing impending attacks. As a result, only one Fano fighter was killed, and another sustained critical injuries.
 - However, civilian casualties were significant, including Abinet students, women, and teenagers. Other civilians, including those tending to livestock or merely present in the area, were also killed or injured. According to reports from Roha Media and statements from Fano leaders, the attacks resulted in the deaths of 6 civilians and injuries to 7 others, along with property damage and the deaths of farm animals.
 - Roha media identified 6 killed victims as follows:
 1. Ato Aweke Kassa – 65-years-old
 2. Mezgebu Tadele – 7-years-old
 3. Hiwot Yaregal – 12-years-old (female)
 4. Yilkal Yaregal – 14-years-old
 5. Zelalem (last name unknown) - 24-years-old

6. Animut Tsega – 15-years-old

- On October 19th, Fano fighters of the Bitweded Mengesha Jenbere Brigade carried out a sudden attack inside Dangila town. Sources reported that the attack occurred in the evening, killing 3 regime troops (2 riot dispersal police and an ENDF soldier). It was reported that an additional soldier was left injured.

Bahir-Dar City

- The regime has continued arrests among civilians for undisclosed reasons.
 - In recent days, reports confirm the detention of three public prosecutors, four judges, and a lecturer. The arrested individuals were identified as Tomas, Getinet, and Hageru, all public prosecutors at the woreda level.
 - Additionally, Judges Getachew Gedamu and Baye (last name unknown) from the high court have also been apprehended.
 - The Amhara Region Judges Association corroborated this report in a statement released this week to denounce the recent illegal arrests of judges in the Amhara region.
 - Additionally, credible reports indicate the arrest of Endalemaw Kinde, a lecturer at Bahir-Dar University, and journalist Yalelet Wondiye.

North Gojjam Zone

South Mecha Woreda

- On October 14th, a brief exchange of gunfire occurred in the Birakat area.
 - The fighting reportedly began when regime forces attempted to suppress entrenched Fano fighters. Fano fighters mounted a strong defense, inflicting casualties among the regime's soldiers.

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- During the confrontation, regime forces conducted an airstrike in the Biti area, which allegedly targeted a school. The number of casualties resulting from the airstrike is currently under investigation.

North Mecha Woreda

- On October 14th, 3 rounds of airstrikes were reported in Felege-Birhan Kebele.
 - According to reports from Fano leaders, a drone strike targeted the residential home of Ato Aysheshim Mengistie. Initial reports indicate that 3 civilians were killed, 5 others were injured and the residential house was completely destroyed.
- On October 16th, regime forces managed to enter Dagi town.
 - The small town was previously regarded as a stronghold for Fano fighters and the regime had made repeated attempts to assert control over the area, conducting intense artillery strikes. After a fierce resistance lasting several days, Fano fighters withdrew in the morning.
 - While advancing toward Dagi, regime soldiers reportedly killed and injured several civilians in the Chiro area, with a priest among those confirmed dead.
 - According to Fano Yohannes, a spokesperson for the Amhara Fano in Gojjam, at least 11 individuals were killed and 4 more wounded in this incident. Tensions remain high in Dagi, with Fano fighters still nearby and poised for potential renewed fighting.

South Achefer Woreda

- On October 14th, two rounds of airstrikes were reported in the Zibist area targeting a school.

South Gonder Zone

Lay-Gayint Woreda

- Following a surprise attack by Fano fighters on regime forces stationed in Nefas-Mewcha town on October 13th, the regime has responded with a wave of mass detentions targeting individuals involved in local governance, security, and commerce.
 - The Nefas-Mewcha town peace and security authority has been arrested, along with numerous members of the Lay-Gayint Woreda cabinet. The regime forces have also detained a large number of traders operating in Nefas-Mewcha town. This crackdown has extended to surrounding areas, as a significant number of farmers in the towns of Sali and Gobgob have been detained as well.

Estie Woreda

- On the morning of October 15th, regime forces have launched a two-pronged offensive aimed at retaking control of Estie Woreda, which has been under the control of Fano fighters for nearly two months.
 - The first advance originates from Debre-Tabor city, moving towards Gasay town through Lwaye and Estie. The second thrust originates from Bahir-Dar city, heading towards Hamusit (Dera Woreda), Arb-Gebeya and Estie Woreda.
 - Fierce fighting has already erupted in Gelawdiwos town (Dera Woreda), as regime forces engage in a fierce exchange of gunfire with Fano fighters. This battle is a critical juncture in the ongoing struggle for control of these strategically important areas.

Guna-Begemidir Woreda

- Since the morning of October 15th at around 7 am fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces took place in Titira-Damot town. The clash continued into the afternoon with the scale and ferocity of the battle suggesting a significant confrontation between the two sides, with the outcome of potentially impacting the broader conflict in the region.
- On October 18th, Fano fighters executed a successful ambush against regime forces traveling through Titira-Damot. The attack, which involved the use of explosives, resulted in the deaths of over 20 regime soldiers. Following the ambush, Fano fighters successfully seized 15 weapons from defeated regime forces, bolstering their own arsenal and further weakening the regime's military capabilities.

Ibnat Woreda

- In the town of Ibnat, regime forces have continued arbitrary mass detentions of civilians, without providing legal or justifiable grounds for these actions.
 - This latest wave of detentions has targeted individuals who play vital roles in the community.
 - Among the detained are:
 1. Nega Chane - Ibnat Woreda Hospital medical director
 2. Kassa Fente - Ibnat Woreda Hospital manager
 3. Tadesse Weretaw - a worker for the Ibnat Woreda youth secretariat
 - All three individuals were forcibly taken to the military camp located within Ibnat Woreda, leaving their families and the community concerned for their well-being and safety.

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- A fierce battle erupted on October 19th, in Serawde Kebele, as Fano fighters engaged in a strategic ambush against regime forces.
 - The regime, attempting a stealthy advance under the cover of darkness, was met with a well-coordinated ambush by Fano fighters. Having received intelligence about the regime’s movement, the Fano positioned themselves strategically, anticipating the regime’s arrival. This tactical maneuver allowed them to launch a surprise attack, engaging in close-quarters battle that resulted in heavy casualties for regime forces.

Libo-Kemkem Woreda

- On October 15th, Fano fighters staged a series of successful ambushes against regime forces in the vicinity of Tara-Gedam, resulting in significant casualties for the regime.
 - The first ambush targeted regime forces traveling from Gonder city to Bahir-Dar city in military trucks. The attack occurred near Arno-Gari, a small rural town located close to Tara-Gedam. Numerous regime soldiers were killed in the ambush, and many others sustained critical injuries.
 - A second ambush, also conducted by Fano fighters, targeted regime forces traveling from Bahir-Dar city to Gonder city in a bus. The majority of the soldiers on the bus were killed, while others suffered critical injuries. The bus itself was also damaged in the attack.
 - According to Fano leaders Tewodros Terefe, leader of the Mebrequ Fano brigade, and Kitaw Ejigu, leader of the Kitaw Ejigu Brigade, the two brigades coordinated these surprise attacks on regime forces traveling in opposite directions.

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- On October 20th, Fano fighters executed a successful ambush against regime forces traveling from Bahir-Dar city to Gonder city.
 - The attack took place at dawn, near the small rural town of Arnogari, located close to the Tara Monastery.
 - Following the ambush, a fierce close-quarters battle erupted between Fano fighters and remaining regime forces, starting at approximately 3 am local time.

Debre-Tabor City

- On October 17th, Fano fighters successfully infiltrated Debre-Tabor city, launching a surprise attack on regime forces stationed at a checkpoint in Tsegur-Kidanemihret village. The assault resulted in significant casualties for the regime, with at least 11 regime soldiers sustaining heavy injuries.
 - An intense exchange of gunfire ensued between Fano forces and regime troops, lasting for approximately 25 minutes. The regime forces were initially forced to retreat back into Debre-Tabor city. However, they quickly regrouped, returning with armored military vehicles and launching a heavy weapons barrage on the area.
 - This escalation of violence prompted a complete closure of schools in Debre-Tabor city, creating widespread unrest among residents.
 - In a further development, regime forces summoned cabinet members from various woredas, previously under regime forces in South Gonder Zone, demanding their signatures on documents authorizing regime forces to conduct unprecedented measures to regain control of those 10 woredas which are under the control of the Fano fighters. The regime has explicitly cajoled these officials to reinstate back to their positions in those woredas if they sign the

documents authorizing regime forces for intended military measures on those 10 woredas. This move suggests that the regime is attempting to shift responsibility for future drone attacks, mass killings of civilians, destruction of public infrastructure, and airstrikes on residential areas, all under the cover of targeting the Fano. These officials would be the primary responsible entities for future atrocities, as they represent areas largely supportive of the Fano movement.

- The vast majority of the summoned cabinet members have reluctantly signed these documents, caving to the regime’s pressure and fear of reprisal. The international community is likely to condemn this escalating violence, particularly the threats against civilian populations. It remains to be seen whether the regime’s heavy-handed tactics will succeed in suppressing the Fano movement or further exacerbate the conflict, ultimately leading to increased civilian suffering.
- On October 19th, regime forces and Prosperity Party officials convened a meeting at the Hibret Hotel in Debre-Tabor city.
 - The meeting targeted religious leaders and respected elders, with the explicit goal of deterring them from any efforts to reconcile Fano fighters. The chairman of the meeting openly questioned these individuals, demanding to know why they were involved in peacemaking efforts while Fano forces were engaged in internal conflict. This public rebuke highlights the regime’s attempts to undermine peaceful resolutions and exacerbate tensions within the Fano movement.
- Fano fighters eliminated Lieutenant Yenealem Tigabu, chief officer of the militia secretariat in South Gonder Zone.

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- Immediately after his death, photos of Tigabu’s body, bearing the mark of a fatal gunshot wound, were circulated by the Fano fighters in Debre-Tabor city.
 - Yenealem Tigabu, known for his role in mass detentions and extrajudicial killings of civilians in Debre-Tabor, was widely seen as a brutal figure within the regime. His elimination represents a significant blow to the regime’s authority in the region and underscores the Fano’s commitment to holding those responsible for human rights violations accountable.

Central Gonder Zone

Tach Armachiho Woreda

- On October 14th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Jingir Kebele located near Sanja town.
 - The clash, which took place in a strategically important area, resulted in heavy casualties for regime forces.
 - Reports indicate that a large contingent of regime soldiers was dispatched to Jingir Kebele with the intention of attacking the Fano fighters. However, the Fano forces, inflicted a crushing defeat on the regime forces, eliminating all of the attacking soldiers. No survivors were reported.
 - The fighting in Jingir Kebele was just one of five separate engagements that occurred within woredas of Armachiho that day (includes Tach Armachiho, Lay Armachiho, Central Armachiho and West Armachiho). The extent of casualties on both sides remains unclear due to a complete telecommunications blackout imposed by the regime. This communication blockade serves to restrict the flow of information and prevent independent verification of events.

West Belessa Woreda

- On October 17th, a fierce battle erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces near Arbaya, highlighting the escalating conflict in the region.
 - The regime forces, attempting to deploy troops from Degoma town to Arbaya, were met with a surprise attack by Fano fighters. The intense engagement involved the exchange of over 40 mortar rounds and lasted for 9 hours. The Fano fighters ultimately gained control of the area, forcing regime forces to retreat back to Degoma town.
 - During the regime’s retreat, they detained a 90-year-old woman, accusing her of being the mother of a Fano member in Degoma town. They also engaged in widespread looting, stealing cattle and destroying civilian property, alleging that they belonged to Fano fighters. The regime forces burned down school chairs, using them as fuel to cook their meals.
- On October 18th, a drone strike on Tala targeted a public transportation vehicle at approximately 3:40 pm, leaving over 37 people dead. Eyewitnesses described the scene as gruesome, highlighting the devastating impact of this indiscriminate attack on civilians.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On October 17th, a fierce battle took place in Dinzaz Kebele.
 - Fano fighters confirmed the killing of over 20 regime soldiers in this engagement. The regime forces, demonstrating a pattern of intimidation and cruelty, forcibly disarmed over 20 legally equipped farmers in Tseda sub-city, severely beating them after seizing their registered weapons.

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- The brutality escalated in Maksegnit town, where regime forces burned down school chairs for fuel and detained numerous civilians, accusing them of being related to Fano fighters.
 - A fierce battle erupted on October 19th, between Fano fighters and regime forces in a village situated near Maksegnit town. The fighting, marked by the heavy deployment of weaponry, has escalated to a new level of intensity. The regime forces are employing ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, underscoring their determination to gain control of the area despite the Fano's fierce resistance. The heavy firepower utilized in this confrontation poses a significant threat to the civilian population in the vicinity, underscoring the dire consequences of this ongoing conflict.

West Gonder Zone

Metemma Woreda

- On October 14th, Fano fighters successfully captured Metemma town's mayor, Azmeraw Amare, along with his driver and 8 security personnel. The capture of the mayor, a key figure in the local regime administration, represents a significant tactical victory for the Fano forces.
- On October 17th, regime forces in Ginet town forcibly commandeered over 200 civilian vehicles, encircling themselves with these cars as they embarked to Awlala town.
 - Four heavy military trucks were used to force the drivers to encircle them, effectively using the civilians as human shields.
 - For an entire day, travelers enroute from Gonder city to Metemma were trapped, held captive by regime forces to prevent attacks from the Fano fighters. These travelers were denied basic necessities, including access to

food and restrooms, forced to endure the uncomfortable conditions of their entrapment.

- Upon reaching Meqa town, regime forces subjected the trapped civilians to extortion, demanding payment before finally releasing them. The exhausted travelers were forced to spend the night in Genda-Wiha town, unable to reach their intended destination in Metemma.
- On October 18th, Fano fighters launched a pre-dawn offensive against regime forces in Masker Kebele. Masker Kebele, situated near Metemma-Yohannes town at the Ethiopia-Sudan border, has become a focal point of the ongoing conflict.

West Armachiho Woreda

- Intense fighting erupted on October 15th, between Fano fighters and regime forces in Dir-Mar.
 - The battle saw Fano fighters successfully target a regime tank, killing the driver instantly. An assistant driver was then called to remove the tank from the conflict zone.
 - In a separate incident, Fano fighters launched an attack on a military tank in Girar-Wiha, employing an anti-tank gun. This attack resulted in partial damage to the tank, which was subsequently removed from the area on October 15th using a heavy truck.
 - The communication blackout imposed by the regime continues as of October 16th, making it difficult to gather independent verification of events and assess the overall impact of the fighting.
- Intense fighting erupted in the early morning hours of October 18th, as Fano fighters launched a multi-pronged offensive against regime forces.

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- The fierce battle commenced at approximately 11 am local time, with Fano forces attacking from four distinct directions towards the regime forces stationed in Abrahajira town.
 - The first front advanced from Arsema directly towards the Abrahajira town administrative center and town police station. The second front originated from Mikael Church, while the third emerged from Mar-Zeneb, near the exit of Gonder city. The fourth front launched its assault from the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) office.
 - The regime forces suffered heavy casualties immediately after the fighting erupted. The Fano fighters, swiftly gained control of the West Armachiho Woreda administrative office and the police station in Abrahajira town.
 - Despite the regime’s deployment of heavy artillery, tanks, and ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, the Fano forces continued their advance. Fierce fighting is underway in Arsema village, where the regime maintains a significant military camp. This battle involved a coalition of Fano army divisions, including the Arbegnoch, Gondere-Begashaw, Gobe-Melke, and Telemt-Tekezze Fano divisions, all participating in the coordinated offensive.
 - On October 18th, a fierce battle erupted in Abrahajira town between Fano fighters and the regime forces, resulting in a significant loss of life for both sides.
 - The Fano fighters inflicted heavy casualties on regime forces, with at least 78 soldiers confirmed killed in the fighting.
 - Overwhelmed by the Fano’s assault, regime forces called for drone support. This led to a drone strike on the center of Abrahajira town, claiming the lives of 14 civilians (including 8 daily laborers) and critically injuring 17 others. All victims of this drone strike were civilians, highlighting the indiscriminate nature of the attack and the regime’s disregard for civilian lives.

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- The Fano fighters, despite their military victory, suffered casualties as well, with 6 fatalities and 9 injuries during the fighting. None of these casualties were caused by the drone strike.
 - The Fano forces, having gained control of most of Abrahajira town by evening, made the decision to withdraw, a decision based on the loss of civilian lives due to the drone strike and the continued shelling of the town center by regime forces, who were launching heavy artillery fire from their base in Arsema. Despite their withdrawal, the Fano fighters successfully captured 12 regime soldiers from the Arsema front alone, along with seizing over 49 small arms.
 - On October 19th, regime forces launched a second drone strike near Abrahajira town.
 - This indiscriminate attack tragically resulted in the deaths of 21 civilians, as well as the killing of livestock belonging to local farmers. The drone strike targeted the villages of Girar-Wiha and Dirmaga, where many daily laborers had gathered to harvest sisal seeds during the harvesting season. This attack directly targeted vulnerable individuals who were simply engaged in their livelihoods.
 - The drone strike, which killed over 70 cattle grazing in the area, appear to be a direct reprisal for significant losses regime forces suffered during the fierce battle with the Fano fighters on October 18th.
 - The regime’s forces, suffered over 172 casualties, including numerous deaths, in the previous day’s engagement.

North Gonder Zone

Debark Woreda

- On October 17th, a fierce battle erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces near Weqin town, located close to Debark town.
 - The Fano launched a surprise attack on regime troops stationed in Dequa-Kidanemihret Kebele, situated near Weqin Mountain.
 - This decisive attack resulted in significant casualties for the regime, with at least 15 soldiers confirmed killed by Fano fighters. Numerous other soldiers sustained critical injuries during the assault. While the Fano forces achieved a decisive victory, the fight also came at a cost, with one Fano fighter killed and another injured in the engagement.

North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)

Dera Woreda

- On October 18th, coordinated attacks were launched by the OSF and the OLA targeting residential areas inhabited by Amharas in Dera Woreda. While reports confirm that these attacks occurred, the number of casualties has not yet been verified.

Addis-Ababa City

- On October 14th, several opposition parties held a press conference to highlight human rights violations resulting from the *Corridor Development* project in Addis-Ababa city.
 - The four political parties—Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Party, Giyonawi

Amhara Movement, All Ethiopian Unity Organization, and Enat Party released a joint statement.

- The parties claimed that the Corridor Development project, led by the Prosperity Party regime, has violated the human rights of residents and failed to account for their living conditions and economic capabilities.
 - They further warned that the ongoing project may spark popular protests and related issues in Addis-Ababa.
- On October 15th, the majority of Amhara political prisoners held in Kality detention center, including journalists Meskerem Abera, Gobeze Sisay, and artist Yordanos Aleme, did not appear in court however Dr. Wondwossen Assefa was present. The court has rescheduled the hearing for October 22nd.
 - On October 17th, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed confirmed his regime’s intention to continue demolishing parts of Addis-Ababa city.⁷
 - He emphasized that his regime would not leave any area in Addis Ababa untouched which sources argue indicates their intention of demographic and social change within the city.
 - The regime has also doubled transportation costs, with new rates taking effect on October 16th.
 - After demolishing homes, the regime has forced residents to relocate to distant areas on the outskirts of the city. The sudden increase in transportation costs has exacerbated the hardships faced by these displaced residents.

⁷See October 17, 2024 [report](#) from state media Ethiopian Broadcasting Center (EBC).

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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