

War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – February

17th to 23rd, 2025

Updated February 23rd, 2025

Overview

For the week of February 17th to 23rd, 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 39 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 4 woreda/city administrations across 3 zonal administrations in Oromia Region and Addis-Ababa city. Tigray Region Forces or *Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF) militants carried out a military offensive in West Telemt Woreda (North Gonder Zone) after

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

crossing the Tekezze river from areas in western Tigray Region where new mass mobilization of forces has taken place despite the Pretoria cessation of hostilities agreement signed in November 2022.

- Developments were recorded in over 5 urban administrations across 4 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These urban administrations included Kobo, Debre-Birhan, Shewa-Robit, Debre-Tabor and Gonder cities in the North Wollo, North Shewa, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones.
- Civilian casualties were recorded in 12 woreda/city administrations across 8 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Delanta, Enarj-Enawga, Debay-Telatgin, Jabi-Tehnan, North Achefer, Estie, Lay-Gayint, Gonder-Zuriya, Central Armachiho, Metemma, West Armachiho and Telemt Woredas in South Wollo, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder, West Gonder and North Gonder Zones. Casualties were also recorded in Kiremu and Limu Woredas of East Wollega Zone in Oromia Region. In Limu Woreda, civilians were targeted by *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) militants in reprisal for military losses.
- Widespread arrests were recorded in 5 woreda/city administrations across 4 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Delanta, Shewa-Robit, Jabi-Tehnan, Metemma and West Armachiho Woredas in South Wollo, North Shewa, West Gojjam and West Gonder Zones.
- A drone attack was recorded in Goncha-Siso-Enese Woreda of East Gojjam Zone in Amhara Region

North Wollo Zone

Update from the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) Lasta Asaminew Corps (February 22nd, 2025)

• The Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) Lasta Asaminew Corps' Tirari Division has graduated new commando forces after six months of training.

Kobo City

• On February 18th, the regime disrupted transportation services in Kobo city, causing significant hardship for locals, particularly for those needing transportation to health centers. This disruption occurred under the pretext of a visit by regional and zonal officials.

Habru Woreda

- On February 20th, Fano forces carried out an offensive against regime forces in 020 Kebele.
 - The offensive was carried out by the Baleshiritu and Hawjano Divisions under the East Amhara Corps 1 of the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amahara).
 - The battle took place in an area called Habru within 020 Kebele. In this attack, more than five regime soldiers were killed and injured.

South Wollo Zone

Werebabo Woreda

 On February 17th, fighting between Fano forces and regime forces took place in 012 Kebele.

- Fighting involved the East Amhara Corps 1's Baleshiritu Division and Lij
 Eyasu Corps' Ras Ali Division under the Amhara Fano in Wollo
 (Bete-Amhara).
- Fighting took place in a location called Argoba in 012 Kebele.
- In this fighting, 12 regime soldiers were killed, 24 were injured and over 2,500 rounds of ammunition in addition to firearms were seized from regime forces.

Delanta Woreda

- Between February 17th and 18th, intense battles occurred between Fano forces and regime forces in Tsehay-Mewcha.
 - Fighting began on the evening of February 17th lasting until 10 am on
 February 18th involving the Bete-Amhara Corps' Tsinat and Mekdela
 Divisions and the Mekit Corps' Yedegaw Mebrek Division (under the Amhara
 Fano Wollo Command).
 - Severe casualties were reported among regime forces, including the destruction of over 20 vehicles, and the killing of the Woreda Police commander whose funeral was held in Wegel-Tena. In addition, three vehicles were destroyed, and three others were severely damaged.
 - Regime forces killed 7 civilians using heavy weapons, and arbitrarily arrested others who were forced by the regime to falsely claim they were captured Fano members.

Legambo Woreda

• On February 17th, Fano forces carried out an attack targeting regime militias and riot dispersal forces in Genete town. The attack was carried out by the Sheikh

Hussein Jibril Brigade. Over 10 regime soldiers were killed and several others injured.

North Shewa Zone

Debre-Birhan City

- On February 16th, Fano forces carried out an offensive operation on a regime military camp in Midre-Genet Kebele in Atse-Zerayakob sub-city.
 - The operation was undertaken at 7 pm by the Amhara Fano in Shewa Negodgud Division's Anbesaw Brigade, and 10th Battalion which opened fire on the military camp.
 - More than 15 regime soldiers were killed in the sudden assault, and over 20 others were injured.
 - The attack led to the temporary capture of the army camp, with the militia members dispersing and leaving an unknown number of captives behind.

Shewa-Robit City

- On February 17th, an armed clash took place in Shewa-Robit city.
 - The clash took place between 4:30-5:00 pm with casualty details unconfirmed.
 - Afterwards, regime forces conducted mass arbitrary arrests and those arrested were reportedly asked to pay over 50,000 ETB for their release.
- As of February 21st, regime forces have continued mass arbitrary arrests in Shewa-Robit city.
 - The recent escalation in arrests targeted youth followed an offensive undertaken by the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command on February 17th.

 These arbitrary detentions have been ongoing for four consecutive days, with reports indicating that hundreds of individuals have been arrested.

Merhabete Woreda

- On February 18th, Fano forces launched an offensive against regime forces in Geb-Zemoy Kebele, Atlefigne village.
 - The attack involved members of the Amhara Fano in Shewa's Nadew Division and led to intense fighting from 11:20 am to 1:30 pm near Alem-Ketema town.
 - During this operation, an unknown number of regime soldiers were killed.

Hageremariam-Kessem Woreda

- On February 19th, Fano forces launched an attack on regime forces near Shola-Gebeya town.
 - The operation involved the Hailemariam Mamo Brigade, part of the Amhara Fano in Shewa's Kessem Division.
 - The attack took place at around 8 am as regime forces were traveling from Shola-Gebeya town to Wolele-Mikael (located 1-km away) to disrupt religious celebrations.
 - The attack resulted in over 18 casualties among regime forces.

Ankober Woreda

- On February 21st, Fano forces ambushed regime forces in the Kundi or Mariyam area.
 - The ambush was executed by the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command Mohammad Bihonegn Corps Atse Zera-Yakob Division's Taytu Brigade

- The attack targeted a six-patrol convoy of the regime's army. The convoy, which originated from Debre-Birhan was escorting regime emissary cadres attempting to reach Ankober.
- The ambush resulted in deaths and injuries of several regime forces.

Minjar-Shenkora Woreda

- On February 21st, Fano forces carried out a swift military operation against regime militias in the Solomon-Hagere-Arsema area of 02 Kebele in Arerti town.
 - The operation was carried out by the Amhara Fano in Shewa Kessem Division's Nebelbal Brigade.
 - The number of regime casualties is unconfirmed however one militia was captured in the operation.

East Gojjam Zone

Gozamin Woreda

- On February 17th, intense fighting occurred in the Chertekel area.
 - The fighting was initiated by combined Fano groups under the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Nigussie, targeting recently deployed regime soldiers in the area.
 - Reports indicate the fighting was intense, involving heavy weaponry shelling.
 Sources reported that the Fano initially dominated the fighting, inflicting significant casualties among regime soldiers. The fighting reportedly subsided as the Fano withdrew following the regime forces' arrival of reinforcement forces from Debre-Elias and Debre-Markos.

Sinan Woreda

- On February 20th, a heavy exchange of gunfire occurred in Rebu-Gebeya town.
 - The gunfire was initiated by the Sinan-Abajime Brigade from the Amhara
 Fano in Gojjam's Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Nigussie Division. On that day, regime
 forces orchestrated a meeting, compelling residents, particularly civil servants,
 to participate. While this took place, Fano fighters infiltrated Rebu-Gebeya
 town and launched heavy gunfire. Consequently, the meeting was disrupted,
 and the participants dispersed.
 - Sources reported that Fano fighters killed and injured some of the regime soldiers and cadres during the confrontation.

Goncha-Siso-Enese Woreda

- On February 20th, the regime conducted a drone attack that resulted in several civilian casualties in Enegesh Kebele.
 - According to sources, the drone strike targeted civilian shops.
 - Sources confirmed that 16 people were killed and over 10 others were injured in the attack, many of them critically injured.
 - The incident was also covered in a report by BBC Amharic.²

Enarj-Enawga Woreda

- On February 20th, regime forces killed two civilians in Enarjsima Kebele.
 - Regime soldiers mobilized from Debre-Werk town towards the rural kebele of Enarjsima in an attempt to locate and suppress Fano fighters however the soldiers failed to locate Fano fighters in the kebele as they intended.

²See February 21st, 2025 news article by BBC Amharic News (English translation here).

 When they were unable to find any Fano fighters, the regime soldiers shot and killed two civilians they encountered on the street. The identities of the victims remained unknown.

Dejen Woreda

- On February 22nd, a gunfire exchange occurred in Sebshengo Kebele.
 - The fighting was initiated by the Zambera Fano Brigade, which infiltrated into the rural kebele and launched a heavy offensive
 - Sources confirmed that at least 2 militia members were killed, while an unspecified number of others were injured. One confirmed injury was also reported on the Fano side.

Debay-Telatgin Woreda

- On February 22nd, a heavy exchange of gunfire took place in Yedama and Jerems Kebeles.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces that mobilized toward the area and initially managed to encircle members of the Debay Choke and Aba-Kostir Brigades, part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's 8th (Belay Zeleke Division) which engaged in intense confrontations with regime soldiers to break the encirclement.
 - The exchange of gunfire resulted in casualties on both sides. Sources reported two confirmed deaths from the Fano side, while casualties among regime soldiers remain unidentified.
 - Reports also indicate that regime soldiers killed 2 civilians and injured 2 more in Mewlad Kebele. According to sources, the deceased victims were identified as Ato Wendimneh Tenaw and Ato Yesgat Lake.

Enemay Woreda

 On February 22nd, regime forces mobilized to Qecher Kebele. Initially, the regime forces were deployed overnight and launched gunfire on the Aba-Kostir Brigade, part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's 8th (Belay Zeleke) Division. Reports suggest that the Fano eventually repelled the attack, forcing regime forces to retreat.

West Gojjam Zone

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On February 17th, fighting took place near the Birsheleqo military camp and in the Jiga and Maksegnit areas.
 - Fano fighters carried out a sudden attack in the vicinity of the Birsheleqo military camp.
 - * The operation was reportedly launched by the Arenzaw-Damot Brigade from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Atikem Division.
 - The sudden attack targeted regime soldiers guarding a checkpoint.
 According to sources, Fano fighters managed to completely neutralize the soldiers deployed there and captured firearms.
 - Fighting also took place in the Jiga and Maksegnit neighborhoods.
 - * The fighting reportedly began when regime forces mobilized in an attempt to advance into Maksegnit and Quarit Woreda. Despite the regime forces' overnight mobilization, they reportedly retreated after encountering heavy resistance from Fano fighters.
 - * Sources reported that the regime forces that mobilized into the Maksegnit area suffered heavy casualties.

- On February 21st, skirmishes were reported in Wenge and near Yejimat, while regime forces carried out arrests of civilians in Jiga town.
 - The first incident occurred in the Wenge area, which serves as a border point connecting Jabi-Tehnan to Dembecha Woreda. Following the recent deployment of regime forces in the Yechereka area, they advanced into Wenge to confront Fano fighters on this date. Sources indicate that the Fano fighters mounted a strong defense and successfully repelled the regime's advance, inflicting casualties on the soldiers, who were forced to retreat back to Yechereka.
 - In a separate development, regime forces moved from Finote-Selam toward the Yejimat area. Sources reported exchanges of gunfire in the vicinity, although the outcome and resulting casualties remain unclear.
 - On the same day, a campaign of arrests was initiated by regime forces in Jiga town, reportedly targeting civilians who were accused of being family members of Fano fighters. At least five individuals, including women and the elderly, have been confirmed detained thus far.
- On February 22nd, regime forces carried out multiple violations against civilian residents in Jiga town.
 - Among other incidents, the regime soldiers looted large quantities of maize crops from civilians, particularly from those they accused of being family members of Fano fighters. According to sources, this action created anger among residents of Jiga town.
 - The regime soldiers also continued their campaign of mass arrests in Jiga town, reportedly detaining an unspecified number of civilians between February 21st and 22nd.

- On the evening of February 22nd, Fano fighters executed a successful operation in Jiga town and in reprisal regime forces engaged in attacks against civilians.
 - Reports indicate that the operation was carried out by the Arenzaw Damot Brigade, which is part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Atikem Division.
 - According to sources, Fano fighters unexpectedly infiltrated Jiga town during the evening and opened fire on regime forces present in a recreational area. As a result, at least 2 riot dispersal personnel were reportedly killed, while several others were injured during the attack by Fano fighters.
 - The following day, regime forces retaliated against civilian residents of Jiga town. Sources state that the soldiers arbitrarily subjected civilians to severe physical beatings, resulting in injuries ranging from minor to critical in severity. One individual who was beaten is reported to have sustained critical wounds, leaving little chance for survival.

Dembecha Woreda

- On February 17th, intense fighting occurred in the Yechereqa area.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces mobilized from Dembecha and Jiga towns in an attempt to encircle and suppress Fano fighters under the Engineer Kiber Temesgen Brigade, part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Nigusse Division. In this location, Fano fighters had established a checkpoint and were collecting customs from vehicles. The intention of the regime forces was to disperse the Fano and stop checkpoint establishment in the area. Anticipating the regime's mobilization, Fano fighters prepared by holding strategic locations. As the regime forces advanced into this area, Fano fighters launched a counteroffensive, leading to a heavy

exchange of gunfire. Initially, Fano fighters dominated the confrontation, inflicting heavy casualties among the regime forces. By reinforcing forces from Jiga and Dembecha towns, the regime forces then began employing heavy weaponry shelling. The indiscriminate heavy weaponry shelling reportedly targeted residential areas, compelling the Fano fighters to make a tactical retreat. The regime forces then managed to enter the Yechereqa area around midday. As evening approached, Fano fighters regrouped and launched a reattack on the regime forces. After a brief exchange of gunfire, regime forces withdrew from Yechereqa and retreated to Jiga and Dembecha towns.

- On February 19th, regime forces mobilized from Jiga and Dembecha towns into the Yechereka area.
 - During this deployment, there was a light exchange of gunfire. Fano fighters offered minimal resistance in an attempt to halt the regime's advance. The gunfire subsided as Fano fighters withdrew from the area. The regime forces subsequently established their camp at Yechereka secondary school.
 - On the following day (February 20th) the Engineer Kiber Temesgen Brigade, part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Nigussie Division, regrouped and launched a strong offensive against regime forces stationed at the school. Eventually, the fighting subsided when the Fano fighters withdrew, as the regime brought in reinforcement soldiers and heavy weaponry from Dembecha and Finote-Selam city. The regime forces then managed to maintain control over the Yechereka area.
 - The intensity of the offensive resulted in casualties on both sides. Sources reported that the Fano fighters inflicted heavy losses on regime force.

Dega-Damot Woreda

- On February 18th, fighting occurred in Gudba-Sekela Kebele.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces, who mobilized from Feres-Bet town towards Gudba-Sekela Kebele with the intention of encircling and suppressing Fano fighters stationed there. The Dega-Damot Brigade, part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Tefera Damte (2nd) Division, having been forewarned about the regime's mobilization, mounted fierce resistance and managed to repel the regime's attack. The casualties resulting from this confrontation remain unidentified.
 - On the following day (February 19th), sources reported continued fighting continued in the woreda with heavy artillery shelling from Finote-Selam city, directed toward Dega-Damot Woreda.

Awi Zone

Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda

- On February 18th, intense fighting took place in Tilili town and surrounding areas.
 - The fighting reportedly began when Fano fighters launched a surprise attack, targeting regime forces enroute to Sekela Woreda. This sudden attack led to a heavy exchange of gunfire, expanding into Tilili town as Fano fighters infiltrated from three directions. This operation reportedly involved the Zengena Brigade, part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Gojjam-Agew-Midir Division. Regime forces reportedly employed heavy weaponry to counter the Fano's coordinated offensive. The regime forces were then forced to bring additional forces from Injibara town, leading to the Fano fighters withdrawing and the confrontation subsiding.

- Sources reported at least 15 regime soldiers killed and several others wounded during the confrontation.
- On the afternoon of February 22nd, Fano conducted a surprise attack on regime forces in an area bordering Awi and West Gojjam Zones.
 - The operation was carried out by the Zengena and Giyon Brigades, part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Gojjam-Agew-Midir Division.
 - The attack was carried out against regime forces who were moving between Gishabay and Tilili for logistical exchange. This surprise attack led to intense fighting between Fano and regime forces along the border line connecting Guagusa-Shikudad and Sekela Woredas. Fighting began in Ashifa Kebele (Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda, Awi Zone) and expanded into the Ambisi area (Sekela Woreda, West Gojjam Zone).
 - Sources reported heavy casualties among the regime forces, while only two injuries were reported among the Fano fighters.

Dangila Woreda

- On February 19th, fighting took place in the Abadra and Yotadati neighborhoods.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces when mobilizing to these rural kebeles. Anticipating the regime's mobilization, the Bitwedded Mengesha Jembere Brigade, part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's 3rd (Gojjam-Agew-Midir) Division, confronted the regime forces before they reached their camps.
 - This gunfire exchange lasted for hours, ultimately resulting in regime forces suffering extensive casualties and being forced to retreat.

Ayo-Guagusa Woreda

- On February 22nd, intense fighting took place in multiple locations within the woreda.
 - The fighting was reportedly initiated by the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Atikem Division.
 - Reports indicate that Fano fighters launched a strong offensive on regime forces stationed in Ehudit and Ayo Kebeles. During the heavy confrontation in these areas, regime forces attempted to bring reinforcements from neighboring bases in Shindi and Azena. However, the Fano forces confronted the reinforcement soldiers, preventing them from reaching their comrades.
 - According to sources, regime forces faced heavy losses although the exact figure remained unidentified.

North Gojjam Zone

North Achefer Woreda

- On February 18th, fighting occurred in the Qunzila neighborhood.
 - The fighting was initiated when the Bitwedded Ayalew Mekonen Brigade, part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's 3rd (Gojjam-Agew-Midir) Division, launched a sudden attack on regime forces who were moving from Qunzila to Bahir-Dar and vice-versa for logistical exchange. Fano fighters conducted this surprise attack in an area called Estumit in the Qunzila neighborhood. This surprise attack led to a gunfire exchange that lasted for nearly an hour.
 - Sources reported casualties among regime soldiers which forced them to retreat to their departure point, leaving behind their food rations. Reports also indicate that mortar shelling by regime forces resulted in civilian casualties.

South Gonder Zone

- Since February 14th, Fano forces have launched a coordinated law enforcement operations targeting criminal elements including robbers in the area.
 - In the Guna region, six robbers were apprehended by the Estie Densa Brigade (part of the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder's Guna Division). During this operation, the Fano suffered one fatality due to the actions of the criminal elements.
 - An additional thirteen robbers were captured in Alem-Saga forest by the General Nega Tegegn Division (part of the Amhara Fano Gonder Province Command). Moreover, fifteen robbers, including regular soldiers implicated in hostage-taking and looting activities in Alem-Saga, were killed by Fano fighters.
 - These individuals were reportedly using the guise of Fano fighters to commit their crimes.

Lay-Gayint Woreda

- On February 18th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in the Guna-Megenteya area, particularly around Welela-Bahir.
 - This strategically important location serves as a critical junction for roads leading to Simada and Kimir-Dingay towns, making it a key military objective. Combat unfolded in six distinct locations, including Gedeba Kebele.
 - The operation was spearheaded by the Gebriye Division, the Ambesaw-Gayint Division, and the Major-General Wubante Abate Tewerwari Division, who collectively launched a surprise attack against regime forces.

- A significant tactic employed by the Fano was to isolate elements of the regime forces, cutting off their communication lines and preventing them from coordinating their defenses. In other engagements, Fano fighters successfully encircled regime troops, subjecting them to intense attacks from all sides. These tactics resulted in heavy casualties for regime forces. Further exacerbating their losses, the Fano launched an offensive attack against regime forces while they attempted to regroup and reposition their military assets within the region. This surprise assault rapidly escalated into intense close-quarters combat, spreading across Welela-Bahir, Gedeba, Dera-Meskel, Chora, and Minaqus villages.
- During these engagements, at least 35 regime forces were killed, and a significant, yet unspecified, number sustained critical injuries. The Fano managed to seize a considerable amount of weaponry from the regime forces, including 18 kalashnikov rifles, one heavy weapon, mortar ammunition, and thousands of rounds of ammunition.
- On the night of February 19th, seven soldiers defected from the regime forces and joined the ranks of the Fano fighters.
 - These defectors brought with them a significant cache of weaponry, including one light machine gun, one sniper rifle, and five black kalashnikov assault rifles.
 - In response to this defection, regime militia forces were issued an order to locate and apprehend the former soldiers. These militia members subsequently initiated a house-to-house search in Nefas-Mewcha town, attempting to locate the defectors.
 - In their pursuit, they also engaged in acts of violence against civilians, beating them in an effort to extract information regarding the defectors' whereabouts.

- On February 22nd, Fano fighters executed a planned ambush against a moving convoy of regime forces near Gobgob town.
 - The attack resulted in the deaths of 6 members of the riot dispersal forces and regular army soldiers. In addition, a significant number of soldiers sustained critical injuries.
 - In the aftermath to the ambush, regime forces, reportedly in a state of anger and recrimination, executed 2 members of their own riot dispersal forces, accusing them of negligence and falsely assuring them that the area was clear of Fano fighters, leading the convoy into the ambush.
 - The Ambesaw-Gayint Division claimed responsibility for conducting the ambush.

Sede-Muja Woreda

- On the night of February 18th, a significant number of infantry forces from the regime abandoned their military posts.
 - This large-scale defection has created considerable alarm and apprehension among regime political cadres and military officers. The majority of the defecting soldiers are reported to have joined the Fano, specifically the Hagere-Bizen Brigade, which is affiliated with the Guna Division (Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder). This event marks the first instance of such a large-scale desertion of regime forces in this region. While the precise number of defecting soldiers remains unknown, the scale of the defection is substantial.

Ibnat Woreda

• As of February 18th, regime forces have engaged in widespread looting of farmers' properties in multiple locations throughout Ibnat Woreda.

- These actions are reportedly based on the unsubstantiated allegation that the farmers' children, who were previously enlisted in the military, have defected from their posts. Despite the farmers' assertions that their children were willingly recruited into the military and that they possess no knowledge of their current whereabouts, regime forces have proceeded to loot their belongings, offering unconvincing justifications for their actions.

Estie Woreda

- On February 18th, regime forces carried out abuses against civilians and destruction of private property in Qoma-Fasiledes and Debre-Hawaryat villages.
 - Regime forces advancing towards Qoma-Fasiledes and upon reaching
 Debre-Hawaryat village these forces engaged in a campaign of deliberate
 vandalism and destruction, targeting properties of local farmers.
 - Numerous residents of Qoma-Fasiledes town were subjected to physical violence and beatings by regime soldiers. Furthermore, the soldiers looted livestock from the farmers, subsequently slaughtering and consuming the stolen animals. This act was justified under the false pretense that the farmers were Fano sympathizers, highlighting a pattern of abuse and retribution against the local population.

Debre-Tabor Region

- On February 19th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Werqe Kebele.
 - The conflict was triggered by the deployment of a combined force of regime troops from Debre-Tabor towards Werqe Kebele which is situated

approximately 2-km from Debre-Tabor city. Fighting commenced at approximately 3 am local time.

- Casualties from the conflict remain unconfirmed.

Central Gonder Zone

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On January 8th, regime forces stationed in Enfranz town abducted and gang-raped a civilian (a young woman).
 - On January 5th the woman who had dedicated her life to religious devotion as a nun at the Tara Monastery, journeyed to her family home for the Christmas celebration. This marked nearly a decade since she had embraced monastic life. On January 8th, regime forces abducted and gang-raped the woman.
 - Since the violent incident, the woman has been found to be pregnant and HIV-positive. Despite being urged to terminate the pregnancy, she steadfastly refused for religious reasons. She is deeply distraught at the premature ending of her monastic life and has reportedly refused to eat for an extended period.
 - This act of sexual violence is part of a larger pattern of weaponized rape against the Amhara population. Reports indicate that more than 45 girls have been raped in Gonder-Zuriya Woreda alone in the past three months.
 Furthermore, medical examinations have revealed that the majority of these women are HIV-positive, suggesting a deliberate effort to spread the virus as a tool of oppression.
- On February 16th, twelve militia members stationed near Tseda defected to Fano, bringing their complete military equipment with them.

- On February 16th, the Fano have been engaged in internal security operations, capturing fifteen individuals engaged in robberies in Tseda and Fenter Kebeles.
- On February 17th, intense fighting broke out between Fano fighters and regime forces near Maksegnit town, administrative center of Gonder-Zuriya Woreda.
 - Fighting in this area has been undertaken by the Dil-Ber Brigade under the Atsewochu Division (under the Amhara Fano Gonder Province Command).
 - The fiercest clashes occurred in Jayra village, located adjacent to Maksegnit.
 Reports indicate the use of heavy weaponry, including heavy machine guns, mortars, and ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, on both sides.
 - The conflict stemmed from an attempt by regime forces to escort regime political cadres to rural kebeles with the aim of reinstating the previously disbanded regime administration. The Fano fighters launched a sudden offensive against these moving squads at Jayra. As the fighting continues, the full extent of casualties remains unknown.
- On February 20th, Fano fighters launched an ambush against regime forces in the vicinity of Maksegnit town.
 - The ambush involved the Gondere-Begashaw Division, part of the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder. The regime forces were enroute from Maksegnit to Dinzaz Kebele when their military truck came under attack.
 - The surprise assault resulted in the immediate deaths of 8 members of the riot dispersal forces and militia forces. Furthermore, more than 11 joint forces sustained injuries, ranging in severity from critical to minor.
- On February 22nd, intense fighting occurred between Fano fighters and regime forces in the Chinchaye and Degola Kebeles.

- The fighting involved both ambushes and close-quarters combat, resulting in significant casualties for regime forces. More than 22 soldiers were killed by Fano fighters.
- Regime forces were ultimately compelled to withdraw from these locations, ceding control to Fano fighters. In their retreat, they forcibly removed detained individuals, carrying them along as they retreated toward Maksegnit town.
- The Gondere-Begashaw Division (Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder), along with the Fitawrari Shifferaw Mamecha and Dil-Ber Brigades, were the Fano units responsible for expelling regime forces from these kebeles.

Wegera Woreda

- On February 17th, Fano forces launched a surprise offensive against a military camp housing militia forces in Werq-Demo Kebele.
 - The offensive was undertaken by the Gondere-Begashaw Division (Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder).
 - The attack, executed under the cover of night, inflicted significant casualties on the militia members, with many killed or critically injured. In addition to the severe losses inflicted on regime forces, the Fano successfully seized a large quantity of weapons during their assault on the military camp, further weakening the militia's position.
 - The ferocity and effectiveness of this attack forced militia forces stationed in nearby Wegera town to disband and disperse, effectively dismantling their presence in the area.

Central Armachiho Woreda

- On February 17th, regime forces gang raped a civilian (a woman) in Bedewi village, as part of a wider campaign of sexual violence in the region.
 - The victim was attacked by seven regime soldiers who took turns raping her.
 - An unspecified number of other women in Central Armachiho Woreda, including the wives of priests, have also been subjected to rape by regime forces. These violent acts have sparked outrage among residents of the woreda.

Gonder City

- On February 19th, Lieutenant-General Birhanu Bekele convened a meeting in Gonder city with local authorities and military officers from the command post.
 - During this meeting, he issued an order mandating that all privately owned firearm holders in the Gonder region must undergo mandatory military training. Upon completion of this training, these individuals would be required to participate in combat operations against Fano fighters. The Lt. Gen. further stipulated that individuals possessing firearms who refused to enroll in the compulsory military training program would have their weapons confiscated by regime forces.
 - A similar attempt to implement this policy in Central Gonder Zone was
 previously met with resistance. The populace demonstrated an unwillingness
 to participate in military training or engage in the armed conflict against Fano.
 Furthermore, attempts by regime forces to disarm farmers in that region were
 met with fierce resistance and self-defense from the farmers themselves.
- On February 19th, Fano fighters captured a high-ranking official of the Prosperity Party within Gonder city. The official was apprehended at his residence. His

specific authority within Gonder city and his precise identity have not been publicly disclosed. He was subsequently taken to an undisclosed location.

- On February 22nd, high-ranking regime officials convened a meeting of Gonder city executive bodies.
 - The meeting was presided over by Tesfaye Beljige and Dr. Eyob Tekalign. Attendees were selected from regime political cadres who supported the newly appointed Gonder city mayor, Chalachew Dagnew. The participants were pre-briefed before entering the meeting hall, instructed to lavish praise upon Chalachew Dagnew. They were reportedly paid substantial sums of money by the mayor's office in exchange for extolling his achievements, particularly in ensuring peace and security within Gonder city, in front of Eyob and Tesfaye.
 - The recruited attendees comprised various groups, including women supported by the government's safety net program and selected residents of Gonder city, youth who had been granted marketing business centers, Prosperity Party league members, family members of militia forces and political cadres, individuals hoping to gain positions of power within the regime administration, and intellectuals supportive of the regime. Religious leaders who demonstrated limited understanding of their faith but were known for exaggerated praise of the regime, and elderly individuals easily swayed by financial incentives, were also among the selected participants.
 - While many speakers predictably lauded the mayor and his administration, seemingly oblivious to the prevailing realities, a number of participants raised serious questions during the meeting. These critical inquiries were deeply disconcerting to the political cadres, who had not anticipated such dissent despite their careful selection of attendees and the provision of inducement payments prior to the meeting. The Gonder city mayor's office is reportedly

conducting an investigation to determine which sub-cities and kebeles selected individuals sympathetic to the Fano for participation in the meeting.

- Among the serious concerns voiced by the participants were the following:
 - * Since the Prosperity Party assumed power, citizens of Ethiopia have been burdened by unprecedented calamities unparalleled in the nation's history.
 - * The term "*Prosperity*" has become synonymous with extreme poverty and has become a pejorative word for the people of Ethiopia.
 - * Since the Prosperity Party's ascendancy, the Amhara people have been denied their right to travel to Addis-Ababa city, and the Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz Regional States have become "*earthly hells*" for Amharas. The Amhara Region itself has become a battleground, and property, historical heritage, and future generations are being systematically exterminated by the Prosperity Party.
 - * What relevance does the Prosperity Party have for the Amhara people amidst such unprecedented human suffering orchestrated by this party?
 - * The Prosperity Party-led government has accepted proposals from third-party countries for negotiations with the TPLF and OLA; why does it disdain a similar proposal to resolve the problem of the Fano forces through willing and personal disarmament through a neutral, third-party negotiation process? This reflects the disdain the regime holds for the Amhara people in general. The only solution to the problem is for the regime to be willing to engage in negotiations in a third country based on international arbitration procedures and a neutral negotiating table. The problem cannot be resolved simply by demanding the surrender of the Fano forces.
 - * During the Prosperity Party's time in power, the cost of everyday living has become exorbitantly high, rendering it increasingly difficult for

citizens to sustain themselves. Basic commodities have become scarce, with children unable to obtain sugar and residents, especially women, struggling to afford soap for laundry, forcing them to resort to traditional washing plants. Haji Maruf, the president of the Gonder City Islamic Council, raised this issue, becoming visibly emotional as he described the hardships faced by women and children in Gonder city.

- * Other speakers highlighted the plight of residents displaced by the so-called "*corridor development project*" who have not received adequate rehabilitation or support from the Prosperity Party. This situation has exacerbated the suffering in Gonder city.
- Life in Gonder has become exceedingly difficult due to a surge in kidnappings and killings perpetrated by organized, unidentified assailants, a consequence of the Prosperity Party's failure to maintain peace and order in the city. As a result, residents are increasingly compelled to flee the city in search of safety. The participants were visibly moved and many wept as a woman described the dangers faced by drivers in the Gonder sub-region, who frequently become victims of murder and hijacking, their fate often remaining unknown.
- In response to these concerns, Tesfaye Beljige criticized the implementation of the corridor development project in Gonder city, stating that it fell far short of the claims propagated by the mass media. He emphasized the need for alignment with the Prosperity Party's goals and objectives, demanding that the corridor development project be accelerated in accordance with the party's master plans. Failure to do so, he argued, would lead to a negative evaluation of the local cadres' performance, causing embarrassment to the Prosperity Party due to their perceived incompetence and over-reliance on mass media propaganda in lieu of tangible results.

- Eyob Tekalign asserted that the primary objective of their visit to Gonder city
 was to cultivate public support for the Prosperity Party. He promised that if the
 people of Gonder supported the party, all the issues raised would be addressed
 through the National Dialogue Commission.
- Gonder city Mayor Chalachew Dagnew responded in a combative manner, addressing one specific point raised by a speaker. He retorted, "You stated that Amhara people are prohibited from entering Addis Ababa. This is a saddening remark. You are being prevented by the OLA [Oromo Liberation Army], not by the Prosperity Party. But you fail to mention that Amhara extremist groups are preventing people from entering Maksegnit and Gonder city. You are not condemning those extremist groups."

West Gonder Zone

- In recent days, regime forces have increasingly forcibly detained civilians, accused of being family members of Fano fighters, and forcibly transported them to military centers before coercing them into participating in active battles.
 - These families are deliberately positioned at the forefront of intense battles, effectively serving as human shields, absorbing the brunt of enemy fire and exhausting the Fano fighters' ammunition, thereby protecting regime forces.
 - Mass detentions of these civilians have been reported, particularly in Metemma and West Armachiho Woredas, with individuals transported to various military camps located throughout these woredas, including detention sites in Abrhajira, Metemma, Genda-Wiha, and Shinfa town.
 - Mass detentions were reportedly conducted on February 19th, as a retaliatory measure by regime forces following significant military casualties sustained in an attack on the Sur construction military camp by Fano fighters. By detaining

these civilians within military camps, the regime appears to be attempting to deter future Fano offensives, using the civilians as human shields against potential attacks on the military camps. Families previously detained and released have been re-detained for this purpose.

Metemma Woreda

- On February 15th, Fano fighters initiated a surprise attack targeting regime forces stationed near Dil-Ber town.
 - The assault focused specifically on the checkpoint at the town's entry point.
 The operation resulted in the capture of all regime soldiers manning the checkpoint; they were apprehended during the night along with all of their military equipment.
 - Separately, a significant escalation of hostilities is reported in Tumet Kebele between regime forces and Fano fighters. Adding to the tension, regime forces deployed a ZU-23 anti-aircraft gun, firing it in the vicinity of the town.
 - Finally, a notable number of militia members, exceeding fifteen individuals, defected to Fano fighters on the same day. These defectors brought with them their full complement of military equipment, potentially bolstering the Fano fighters' capabilities and resources.
 - These operations were undertaken by various brigades from the Omedla and Atanaw Wassie Divisions (under the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder).
- Since February 16th, intense fighting has raged between Fano fighters and regime forces in Metemma Woreda.
 - The Karamara Division (Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder) initiated an offensive in response to the previous week's massacre perpetrated by regime forces

against residents of Tumet town. Their objective is to honor the memory of these civilian victims and exact retribution against regime forces responsible.

- On February 16th, Fano fighters launched an offensive against a regime military camp located at Delelo-Sinar, also known as the Sur construction center.
 - * The attack lasted for two hours, commencing at 2 am and concluding at 4 am local time. Information indicated that the regime forces stationed at this camp were preparing to launch their own offensive, dubbed the *"corridor campaign,"* against the Fano. This force comprised over 300 joint troops drawn from special commando units, infantry divisions, and locally recruited anti-guerilla fighters known as *"peacekeeping forces."*
 - However, Fano fighters specifically the Gobe Melke, Atsewochu, Atanaw Wassie, and Arbegnoch Divisions – became aware of the regime's planned offensive. Consequently, they preemptively launched a coordinated surprise attack against these selected joint forces.
 - The regime forces suffered heavy casualties in this attack, with over 210 soldiers sustaining fatalities and critical injuries.
- Between February 17th and 18th, regime forces launched consecutive attacks at the site of the initial Fano offensive where they sustained significant losses the previous day.
 - On February 17th, regime forces continued their pattern of human rights abuses against the civilian population.
 - In Adagn-Hager-Chaqo Kebele regime forces targeted a wedding celebration, burning down the tent under which many guests had gathered.
 Furthermore, they consumed all the food prepared for the wedding feast.

- * In addition to these acts of destruction and theft, the soldiers physically assaulted the bride, groom, and detained numerous wedding participants and guests.
- On February 18th, regime forces launched an offensive against Fano fighters in Tagur-Shimelbet Kebele.
 - Regime forces advanced from Ergoye, Shimelegara, and Mogese but the Fano successfully repelled the advancing forces, inflicting heavy casualties through a counter-offensive.
 - * At least 44 regime joint forces were killed in the Fano counter-offensive.
 As of February 19th, fighting continued in Agam-Wiha Kebele.
- On February 18th, a fierce battle took place in Dasgundo Kebele throughout the day including between 9 am to 1 pm and then between 9 pm and 11 pm local time.
 - * This engagement resulted in substantial material and human losses for regime forces. The Fano seized numerous weapons, including two heavy weapons.
 - * Following their losses, regime forces abandoned Dasgundo Kebele and retreated to Metemma-Yohannes town. Under the ongoing *Tumet campaign*, the Fano issued an order temporarily suspending civilian transportation between Genda-Wiha and Metemma, as well as between Genda-Wiha and Shinfa. The restriction was announced to remain in effect indefinitely until the Fano complete their military operation against regime forces.
- On February 19th, joint regime forces carried out killings of civilians in Dasgundo Kebele.

- After returning to Dasgundo Kebele, approaching from three separate directions, the regime forces immediately commenced retaliatory killings of civilians. One of the victims was a nine-year-old shepherd boy, murdered while tending to cattle in the fields.
- The justification offered for this horrific act was the child's father's alleged affiliation with Fano fighters.
- Concurrently, intense fighting continues as of February 19th, in
 Tagur-Shimelbet Kebele. Due to the ongoing nature of the conflict, the extent of the casualties is unconfirmed.

West Armachiho Woreda

- On February 22nd, a violent confrontation erupted between regime forces and local farmers in Mandoy Kebele.
 - The fighting was sparked by an unprovoked attack by regime forces on a wedding ceremony. The host was killed inside the wedding tent during the attack.
 - Enraged by this act of violence, the farmers retaliated against regime forces, resulting in the immediate deaths of 8 soldiers and critical injuries to an unspecified number of others.

North Gonder Zone

Dabat Woreda

- On February 16th, Fano fighters launched an offensive operation targeting a high-ranking official from North Gonder Zone.
 - The ambush occurred as the official was traveling from Gonder city to Debark

town. The attack resulted in the immediate deaths of his five security personnel, and the official himself was taken into captivity. The official's identity has not yet been publicly released.

- The capture was executed by the Nahusenay Brigade under the Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder's Gondere-Begashaw Division in Gedebye town. This official was known to be heavily involved in the recruitment and training of militia forces within the zone.
- Following the capture, ten militia members defected to the Fano. Furthermore, four other militiamen were captured. All of these individuals had been stationed at a military post near Dabat town.

West Telemt Woreda

- On February 20th, militants with ties to the TPLF in Tigray Region launched an offensive attack in Tsada-Qerni Kebele of West Telemt Woreda.
 - The Tigray Region militants under command of Colonel Werqaynu carried out the attack after crossing the Tekezze river which is the natural border between the Tigray and Amhara Regional States. The target of this offensive were local militias and riot dispersal forces, who were stationed on duty in the kebele. This initial assault resulted in civilian casualties, although the precise number of casualties remains unknown. In addition to civilian casualties, a significant number of peace-keeping forces and militia forces sustained fatalities and injuries in the attack.
 - Throughout the preceding week, the TPLF had deployed a substantial number of military contingents from Debre-Abay, traveling via the Waldebba Monastery, towards the Telemt area. Their initial tactic involved encircling Amhara Region riot dispersal forces and militia before initiating an armed

assault. Local peacekeeping forces and militia units responded to the TPLF offensive. The TPLF forces aimed to seize control of Arma-Dega Kebele, a strategically important center located near Tsada-Qerni Kebele. However, militia forces and peacekeeping units deployed from Adarkay Woreda and other kebeles in Telemt were able to successfully repel the invading forces, preventing them from taking control of Arma-Dega Kebele. The regime's regular forces attempted to mediate between the two combatant forces but were unable to de-escalate the situation. The existing tension between the two forces carries the potential for escalation into full-blown warfare.

- The TPLF forces are being directed by Colonel Werqaynu, who has established his command post in Endabaguna, a location within Tigray Region in close proximity to Telemt. His mission encompasses securing Debre-Abay, Adigebru, Enkoy-Leham, Kerti-Teklit, and Tekezze, with the ultimate goal of invading the entirety of the Telemt region. He has issued orders for numerous soldiers to traverse to the Waldebba Monastery.
- Similarly, Wedi-Azer, leader of the 17th TPLF army division, has assumed responsibility for deploying troops from Dedebit, Maynehas, Tselimogn, Kisadgiba, and Shire towards Wef-Argif town, which lies within Welkait-Tegede-Setit-Humera Zone. Wedi Tsegaye, commander of the 13th TPLF army division, is overseeing deployment of troops from Adidearo to Shiraro and ultimately to Humera town. He is deploying a substantial numbers of troops, heavily equipped, in Adihageray, Zimba-Gedena, and Adihila. These forces are positioned close to Humera town, situated on the other side of the Tekezze River.
- Following resistance from the Amhara Regional security forces, the invading TPLF militants were compelled to retreat from Tsada-Qerni Kebele to May-Lebetat Kebele. While they attempted to advance towards Maygaba

Kebele, they faced a strong defensive opposition from regional security forces. As reinforcement, one Shaleqa (battalion commander) with more than 200 armed forces crossed from Debre-Abay, passing through the Walddeba Monastery, to the location where the initial offensive attack was launched on February 20th. These TPLF reinforcement forces were selected from the TPLF's 11th army division. They were assigned to support the militants who had previously infiltrated the Amhara Region. These reinforcement forces were deployed on February 21st, and have already joined the TPLF forces in May-Lebetat.

 Furthermore, the TPLF is converging its military forces towards Wef-Argif from the Dedebit desert, in the direction of Welkait, and from Shiraro in the direction of Humera town, administrative center of Welkait-Tegede-Setit-Humera Zone. Although they have not yet launched an attack in these areas, they are amassing a significant number of well-equipped militants in these locations.

Addis-Ababa City

- The regime's decision to postpone the working period of the *National Dialogue Commission* (NDC) was opposed by Dr. Dessalegn Chanie, a representative of opposition party *National Movement of Amhara* (NaMA).
 - Dr. Chanie criticized the lack of inclusivity, transparency, and commitment to solving problems peacefully, despite three years of discussions.
 - He highlighted the dual strategy of the regime: using war to solve issues while disguising it as a peace effort.
 - Dr. Chanie further questioned the ability of the NDC to proceed effectively given the ongoing imprisonment of Amhara political and civil society figures

and the tense situation in the region.

- Between February 16th and 17th, five opposition party members were abducted by regime forces.³
 - The victims were members of the organizing committee for the Morning Star for Ethiopia (Yenigat Kokeb le Ethiopia) party including the party's deputy chairman of the organizing committee Sebsibe Alemu.
 - The party leadership, who wished to remain anonymous, explained that the party had been preparing to hold a founding general meeting in March, during which they aimed to collect 10,000 signatures to submit to the election board. The party believes the purpose of these kidnappings is to sabotage the collection of signatures and disrupt the planned general assembly.
 - The party reported the situation to the Election Board and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, as the hostages could not be located in prisons or police stations.

Nazreth City (Oromia Region)

 As of February 18th, over 500 households have been ordered to vacate their homes within three days in Nazreth city.⁴ Critics have described this as a regime led plan to displace civilians under the guise of development.

Jimma Zone (Oromia Region)

Gera Woreda

• Killings and forced displacement have entered a fifth day in Gera Woreda, with

three bodies discovered in forests, including one belonging to a 7-year-old child.

³See February 19, 2025 statement from Yenigat Kokeb le Ethiopia.

⁴See February 18th, 2025 report from Amhara Broadcasting Center (ABC) TV.

- Over 2,000 cattle have been looted by Qeerro, militias and regime security forces.
- Oromia Regional Special Forces and OLA militants have been involved in the forced displacement operations, while the ENDF has been preventing displaced people from escaping to the South West Region, specifically around the Gojeb River to save their lives.
- The displaced people, largely comprised of women and children, have not received any humanitarian assistance, and over 7,900 IDPs are currently located in the South West Region without support.
- Despite repeated promises by Oromia Region officials to return IDPs to their homes, the forced displacement has continued.

East Wollega Zone (Oromia Region)

Kiremu Woreda

- Since February 16th, tensions has escalated in Bajin and Haro Kebeles, areas predominantly inhabited by Amharas.
 - On February 16th, regime soldiers brutally killed a civilian identified as Fetene Bire.
 - * According to sources, three weeks before the incident, Fetene had turned in his firearm and returned home during the regime's disarmament campaign however despite his compliance, regime soldiers killed him on February 16th without any justifiable reason.
 - In a related development, sources reported that the regime is attempting to deceive Amhara residents in Haro and Bajin Kebeles.

- * According to these sources, local cadres and security personnel have pressured Amhara residents for months to surrender their firearms in the name of reconciliation. They promised that no arrests or other violations would occur if residents complied and returned to peaceful living. Accepting this promise, many Amhara residents, who had previously fled to the jungle, surrendered and began their peaceful lives.
- * However, this week, regime forces began targeting selected Amharas in arrests. Reports indicate that the regime has already issued arrest warrants for at least 14 Amharas and commenced their hunt, despite local objections. The regime has also closed bank accounts of these individuals and withdrawn significant amounts of money without their knowledge.

Limu Woreda

- On February 18th, OLA militants entered Arqumbi Kebele and attacked regime soldiers stationed there.
 - This assault led to a heavy exchange of gunfire, resulting in numerous casualties on both sides. Particularly, the OLA militants were incensed after a member in a command position was killed during the confrontation.
 - In retaliation, OLA militants shot and killed two civilian during their retreat.
 Further details regarding the identities of the deceased victims are still under investigation.

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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