



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – December 23rd to 29th, 2024

Updated December 29th, 2024

Overview

For the week of December 23rd to 29th, 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 battle events and rights violations were recorded in more than 48 woreda/city administrations across 12 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These zones included the Wag-Hemra, North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder, West Gonder and North Gonder Zones. Developments were also recorded in Addis-Ababa city, and in North Shewa and East Wollega Zones of Oromia Region.
- Events were recorded in over 8 urban administrations across 6 zonal administrations. These urban administrations included Korem, Kobo, Woldia,

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

Shewa-Robit, Debre-Birhan, Debre-Markos, Debre-Tabor and Gonder cities in the Wag-Hemra, North Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones.

- Civilian casualties were recorded in 12 woreda/city administrations across 7 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Gubalafto, Raya-Kobo, Lasta, Woldia city, Kewet, Enarj-Enawga, North Mecha, Simada, Tach-Gayint, East Dembiya, Debark and Dabat Woredas in the North Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder and North Gonder Zones.
- Drone and air strikes were recorded in 6 woreda administrations across 4 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Sekela, Jabi-Tehnan, Quarit, Fagita-Lekoma, North Mecha and Debark Woredas in the West Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam and North Gonder Zones.
- Widespread arrests and hostage-taking were reported in 6 woreda/city administrations in 6 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These include Korem city, Raya-Kobo, Kewet, Simada, Gonder-Zuriya and Telemt Woredas of Wag-Hemra, North Wollo, North Shewa, South Gonder, Central Gonder and North Gonder Zones. A mass abduction incident was also recorded in North Shewa Zone of Oromia Region. Intensified mass detentions have also been undertaken by the the Tigray Region Forces against Amhara residents in Telemt (North Gonder Zone) and in Korem city (Wag-Hemra Zone) which remain under occupation by the Tigrayan settler administration.
- In Addis-Ababa city, Amhara political prisoners are reportedly experiencing denial of medical care and other provisions while suffering life-threatening conditions. In addition, authorities issued suspensions against several prominent human rights organizations. Thirdly, opposition political parties raised concerns over lack of impartiality and others issues related to the *National Dialogue Commission* (NDC).

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- Regime forces have continued their forced disarmament campaign against Amhara communities in Kiremu Woreda of East Wollega Zone (Oromia Region). This campaign has previously been associated with targeted abuses against civilians by ENDF and Oromia Region Special Forces, and the *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA).

Wag-Hemra Zone

Korem City

- TPLF armed groups have continued to target religious leaders in Korem town, subjecting them to beatings and intimidation.
 - These actions are in retaliation for the religious leaders’ opposition to the “*Tigray Aba-Selama*” movement, a secessionist faction of the EOTC.
 - Those opposing the Aba-Selama have been beaten, forced to leave the area, and subjected to mass arrests.
 - This pattern of repression, including physical abuse and intimidation of religious leaders, is also prevalent in Alamata city and throughout Raya-Alamata Woreda.

North Wollo Zone

Gubalafto Woreda

- On the night of December 23rd, Fano forces ambushed regime force camps in Doro-Gibir, a strategic town connecting the main road connecting Addis-Ababa, Woldia and Kobo cities.
 - The ambush was carried out by the Amhara Fano in Wollo East Amhara Corps One Asaminew Division’s 2nd Battalion.

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- 7 regime riot dispersal forces were killed, and several others were injured during the attack.
 - In retaliation, regime forces executed an extrajudicial killing of a bajaj driver (a civilian) traveling from Woldia to Doro-Gibir.
 - Regime forces also engaged in acts of intimidation and physical abuse of the town's residents.

Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On the night of December 23rd, regime forces carried out arrests, beatings, and intimidation against local farmers accusing them of having ties to Fano fighters.
 - Regime forces arbitrarily arrested one civilian, a civilian farmer, and subjected his family to severe beatings in Zobel.
 - His father-in-law, a man over 50-years-old, was badly injured during the assault.
 - Additionally, a 20-year-old youth was beaten by regime forces under suspicion that his father had connections with Fano forces, although they were unaware of his whereabouts.
 - The family is in a state of deep distress, and his whereabouts remain unknown. His wife, who recently gave birth two months prior, is left to cope with this additional hardship.
- On December 25th, regime forces committed extrajudicial killings of civilians in Kobo city.
 - Among the killed victims, was Azimera Adino, a resident of Kebele 01 and a mother of three children. Another victim, a youth was killed and a third victim, a woman, was wounded.

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- Similarly, a youth was killed by regime forces in Makezikeza.
 - In Kebele 03, regime forces wounded a mother identified as Serkie Zegeye, who was subsequently moved to Kobo Hospital for medical care.
 - On December 26th, after funeral ceremonies, a group of mothers staged a protest in front of the Kobo city administration building, demanding justice for the victims. They condemned the actions of the regime associates in the region.
 - As of December 26th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo regained control of Tekulesh and surrounding areas west of Kobo city.
 - This followed a strong offensive launched by Fano forces against regime forces.
 - Guerrilla attacks against regime forces have been a persistent tactic in this area for a prolonged period.
 - On December 28th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo East Amhara Corps 2's Zobel-Amba Division ambushed regime forces in Zobel town, a strategically important location in the eastern part of Kobo city. The attack resulted in significant casualties among regime forces, including mortar holders. Fano forces also seized various military equipment.
 - On December 28th, regime forces carried out indiscriminate shelling in Zobel town killing one civilian and injuring another.
 - The attack was reportedly an act of reprisal following an ambush by Fano forces.
 - The killed victim was a woman identified as Fentanesh who was reportedly an IDP from Wollega (western Oromia Region).

Meket Woreda

- On December 25th, intense fighting occurred in Meket Woreda. Regime forces launched indiscriminate heavy weapon attacks, targeting areas from Gashena to Dibiko. Additionally, regime forces advancing from Lalibela launched heavy artillery into the Dog-Meda area.

Lasta Woreda

- On December 25th, a major battle took place near the Lalibela rock-hewn churches, a UNESCO registered world heritage site.
 - The conflict began when regime forces moved from Shumshiha Airport in Lalibela to Gelesot town, located 10-km from Lalibela, intending to attack the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Lasta Asaminew Corps, and Eshet Division.
 - Fano forces successfully repelled regime forces, achieving decisive victories, and regime forces were unable to accomplish their objectives.
 - However, during their retreat, regime forces committed acts of violence against civilians, including the killing of 70-year-old Melese Yegizie, a resident of the Key-Amba area in Gelesot Kebele. Another resident was injured in the attack.
 - Despite the regime forces' retreat, Fano forces continued their offensive, further displacing regime forces from the area.
- On December 28th, an intense battle occurred between the Amhara Fano in Wollo Lasta-Asaminew Corps' Tirari and Tekezze Divisions and regime forces in Kulmesk and Hamusit. Over 30 regime soldiers were killed or injured in this battle.

Woldia City

- On December 26th, a bomb explosion occurred in the Gonder-Ber area of Woldia city.

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- The explosion took place at the residence of the North Wollo Zone Administrator, Ato Arage Yimer.
 - It has been reported that the son of the administrator was injured in the attack. There are also suspicions of additional injuries to his family members and security personnel.
 - As of now, no group or individual has claimed responsibility for the attack.
- Following the bomb explosion on December 26th, which targeted North Wollo Zone administrator, Ato Arage Yimer, regime forces carried out an extrajudicial killing of a civilian in the Gomata area of Woldia city. The killed victim, identified as Yesuf (father's name unknown), was reportedly shot while attempting to flee the scene.

South Wollo Zone

Ambassel Woreda

- On December 23rd, the Amhara Fano Wollo Command's Lij Eyasu Corps ambushed regime forces at their camp in Wuchale town.
 - The attack led to the deaths of four regime soldiers, with several others injured.
 - In retaliation, the regime launched artillery shelling towards the Ambassel Mountains and surrounding areas, including Golbo, Marye, and Wurgessa Mountains.

Mekdela Woreda

- On December 27th, the Amhara Fano Wollo Western Wollo Corps, Amhara-Sayint-Mekdela Division's Shekh Hussien Jibril Brigade ambushed regime forces in Disim.

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- Fano forces neutralized numerous regime troops, and military patrols were destroyed in the area.
 - Fighting is reportedly underway in several woredas of South Wollo Zone.

Tenta Woreda

- On December 27th, 11 regime militia members, who had refused to fight against Fano forces, defected to the Amhara Fano in Wollo in Tenta Woreda.

North Shewa Zone

- Between December 26th and 27th, several regime forces including military commanders joined various divisions of the Amhara Fano Shewa Command across North Shewa Zone including in Minjar-Shenkora Woreda, Debre-Birhan city, and Enewari town (Moretina-Jiru Woreda).

Minjar-Shenkora Woreda

- On December 22nd, a militia member was killed in Arerti town.
 - The individual was a former member of the Amhara Police, who had resigned due to pension-related issues.
 - Later, he worked as a bank guard at the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia's Arerti Branch, while also serving as a part-time militia member.
 - The Amhara Fano Shewa Command Kessem Division's Nebelbal Brigade claimed responsibility for the killing, which occurred at 8:40 pm. They also reported seizing all of his weapons.
- On December 28th, intense clashes erupted between the Amhara Fano Shewa Command and regime forces in an area called Abucha-Ager in Cholie Kebele, starting at 6 am.

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- The regime forces also carried out artillery shelling during the conflict.
 - The battle began when regime forces launched an offensive to mark the Chelie-Gabriel religious holiday in four locations, using aggressive tactics.
 - The Amhara Fano Shewa Command, particularly the Kesseem Division's Nebelbal Brigade, inflicted significant damage on regime forces, resulting in several injuries.
 - Eventually, regime forces were forced to retreat.

Debre-Birhan City

- On December 23rd, protests erupted at Debre-Birhan University.
 - The protests were sparked by dissatisfaction with the quality of food served to students.
 - In response, the regime deployed tear gas and other violent measures to suppress the protest.
- On December 27th, an armed clash took place between 10:15 pm and 11:00 pm in the areas of Chole, Abo-Gedam, and Tebasie (areas surrounding Debre-Birhan city). Gunfire was also reported within the city itself, which is located 129-km from Addis-Ababa city.

Kewet Woreda

- On December 22nd, the regime launched repeated artillery shelling in the Rasa area, resulting in the deaths of four farmers.
 - The regime forces retreated from Rassa, and by December 23rd, Fano forces had fully regained control of the area.

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- In addition to the fatalities, there were several other casualties, and a number of farmers, mostly elderly civilians aged 56 and above, were taken hostage and transported to the Zuti military camp.
 - On December 28th, intense battles continued in Terie, Rassa, and other areas controlled by Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command with the regime disrupting electricity in these areas.
 - On the same day, an intense battle took place between regime forces and Fano forces near the Shewa-Robit city administration.
 - Regime forces were forced to retreat to Molale-Selassie.
 - On December 28th, regime forces killed a civilian mother and child in Mafud. The regime continued to carry out indiscriminate artillery shelling, targeting civilian residences.

Asagirt Woreda

- On December 25th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command Kessem Division's Asmare Dagne Brigade took action against regime militia forces in Ginager town.
 - The Fano operation targeted militia members who served as security for the regime and who were involved in the intimidation and mass arrests of civilians who were targets of abuse under pretext of being family members of Fano fighters.
 - The Fano forces killed one militia member and captured another. Both had been complicit in the mass arrests of youths under the pretext of their involvement with Fano, as well as in the intimidation of Fano families.

Hageremariam-Kessem Woreda

- On December 25th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command Kessem Division's Hailemariam Mamo Brigade achieved a significant victory against regime forces.
 - The attack occurred after regime forces moved from Shola-Gebeya to Mesno-Ber-Mewcha in Zola-Zembaba Kebele, where they sought to take control of teff farmlands belonging to Fano forces.
 - The Fano forces successfully disrupted the regime's plans, resulting in casualties and injuries among regime forces.

East Gojjam Zone

Debre-Elias Woreda

- On December 22nd, intense fighting erupted in the Yesaser-Abo area, marking a continuation of recent escalations in violence.
 - Gunfire exchanges have become common, as regime soldiers seek to expand their control while Fano fighters resist vigorously. On this day, Fano fighters launched assaults both in the morning and afternoon, specifically targeting regime soldiers who had recently advanced into their area of operations. The results of these exchanges, including casualties, remain unclear at this time.
 - On December 22nd, reports indicate that the regime orchestrated a meeting with teachers in Elias town, compelling participants to attend under duress.
- On December 24th, regime officials orchestrated a meeting with residents of Elias town aimed at discussing military operations against Fano fighters.
 - However, the details of this meeting were leaked to the Qeste-Damena Fano Brigade, prompting them to launch gunfire early in the morning on the

outskirts of Elias town.

- As the sounds of gunfire filled the air, residents hesitated to participate in the meeting, leading regime soldiers to resort to coercive tactics. They intimidated locals and physically assaulted anyone who crossed their path, especially targeting individuals returning from church.
- During the meeting, the regime’s military and administrative officials accused the gathered residents of acting as informants for Fano fighters while they lack cooperation with regime forces.
- Reports indicate that if this trend of non-cooperation continues, the regime forces officials warned that they may be compelled to withdraw from the area, stating that they will not take responsibility for the potential consequences.

Gozamin Woreda

- On December 23th, violent exchanges of gunfire occurred in the Yebo area of the Debre-Markos neighborhood.
 - The fighting reportedly commenced when members of the Jibela-Mutera Fano Brigade conducted a sudden infiltration to strike against state militias and riot control police units.
 - Following the successful assault, Fano fighters promptly withdrew from the scene.
 - Reports from sources indicate a number of regime soldiers were either killed or wounded, although exact figures remain unspecified.

Shebel-Berenta Woreda

- On the evening of December 25th, Fano fighters launched an offensive in Yedoha town. The results of this exchange of fire, including any casualties, remain

unconfirmed as the fighting began later in the day.

Enarj-Enawga Woreda

- On December 25th, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime soldiers mobilizing from Debre-Werk town towards Ginde-Woyn.
 - This confrontation occurred in the rural kebele of Shifere, resulting in an exchange of gunfire.
 - One Fano fighter was confirmed dead, while casualties among regime soldiers remain unreported.
 - During the skirmish, regime soldiers killed a civilian and injured another. The deceased was identified as 35-year-old Mitiku (last name unknown), and the injured victim, was a 44-year-old woman, who is in critical condition and receiving medical treatment.
 - Reports indicate that regime soldiers shot these individuals under the accusation of harboring Fano fighters.

Sinan Woreda

- On December 29th, intense fighting erupted in rural areas of Sinan Woreda.
 - The conflict began when regime soldiers mobilized heavy forces from Rebu-Gebeya into Fano strongholds.
 - The regime soldiers launched a strong offensive, employing heavy artillery.
 - The Sinan-Abajime Fano Brigade responded fiercely, inflicted over 50 casualties on regime soldiers and captured numerous firearms during the confrontation.

West Gojjam Zone

Sekela Woreda

- Between December 21st and 22nd, multiple sources reported defections among regime soldiers, with estimates ranging between 40 to 50 regime troops choosing to leave the military. These defectors subsequently joined the ranks of the Fano fighters.
- On December 24th, regime forces conducted a drone strike in Surba Kebele.
 - This drone attack reportedly targeted an elementary school, inflicting both human casualties and significant property damage.
 - Preliminary reports suggest that between seven to ten individuals were killed or wounded, predominantly those who were recently defected regime soldiers that had subsequently joined Fano fighters.
 - Sources indicate that the targeting of defected soldiers may point to a deliberate strategy by the regime, suggesting that their defection may have been strategically timed to facilitate attacks on Fano fighters.

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On December 22nd, regime forces apprehended three businessmen from Jiga town, accusing them of providing support to Fano fighters. The following day, on December 23rd, light gunfire erupted in Jiga town when Fano fighters learned of a regime meeting in the area. This exchange prompted the immediate dispersal of the meeting attendees.
- On December 28th, the regime conducted a drone strike in the Agut area, near the border entry of Sekela Woreda, resulting in three deaths.

Dega-Damot Woreda

- On December 24th, intense fighting took place in Gisangis Kebele.
 - Reports indicate that the confrontation was initiated by the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Tefera Damtie Division’s Dega-Damot Brigade.
 - The Fano operation primarily targeted regime soldiers who had recently been deployed to the area.
 - Reports suggest that the Fano fighters achieved significant success, overwhelming the regime forces, which resulted in withdrawal of the regime forces following substantial casualties.

- Intense fighting occurred in Dega-Damot Woreda between December 27th and 28th.
 - On December 27th, regime soldiers advanced into Damot-Tsiyon Kebele in an attempt to suppress Fano fighters.
 - The Amhara Fano in Gojjam Tefera Damte Division’s Dega-Damot Brigade, mounted a fierce resistance, forcing regime soldiers to retreat to Feres-Bet town.
 - The following day, regime forces mobilized into Arefa-Medhanialem Kebele, deploying large contingents from two directions along with heavy artillery.
 - Fano fighters confronted them to prevent any advancement into Arefa Kebele.
 - Additionally, they launched heavy gunfire in Feres-Bet town, particularly targeting the Ziquala and Technical College camps, likely to disrupt regime mobilization and compel their retreat from Arefa-Medhanialem.
 - Fano fighters claimed they successfully repelled the attack and inflicted heavy casualties on the regime soldiers.

Bure-Zuriya Woreda

- On December 27th, regime soldiers mobilized from Bure and Sekela, advancing into the Yederequa area with intent to suppress Fano fighters entrenched there.
 - Despite a brief resistance from Fano forces, the regime eventually entered Yederequa. However, they found no Fano presence, as the fighters had been informed of the impending advance and had withdrawn from the area prior to the regime's arrival.
 - Reports indicate that upon entering Yederequa, regime soldiers engaged in property looting and physical abuses against local residents.

Quarit Woreda

- On December 28th, another drone strike was executed in the Biradama neighborhood; however, this attack did not result in any known casualties.

Awi Zone

Dangila Woreda

- On December 25th, light exchanges of gunfire occurred. The conflict began when regime soldiers advanced into rural areas of Dangila neighborhood in search of Fano fighters. However, upon facing a counteroffensive from Fano fighters, the regime soldiers quickly retreated back to Dangila town.
- On December 27th, intense combat occurred along the borderlines of Dangila and Fagita-Lekoma Woredas.
 - In the evening of December 26th and the following morning, regime forces mobilized large contingents from Dangila, advancing into the Hamusit and Guder areas in an effort to eliminate entrenched Fano fighters.

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- The Amhara Fano in Gojjam Gojjam-Agew-Midir Division’s Bitwedded Mengesha Jembere Brigade engaged in fierce confrontations in Afesa Kebele, attempting to halt the regime’s advance.
 - Despite suffering casualties, the regime ultimately managed to penetrate into the Hamusit and Guder areas, although the exact number of casualties from these battles remains unconfirmed.
 - On December 28th, regime forces mobilized into Chiro Kebele, a small town previously held by Fano fighters.
 - Initially, the regime forces managed to establish a foothold in Chiro town.
 - In response, the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Gojjam-Agew-Midir Division’s Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Jembere and Ephrem Atnafu Brigades launched a counteroffensive against regime soldiers which entered into the town.
 - Intense fighting continued until evening, with casualty figures from this engagement remaining unconfirmed, though Fano sources claim to have inflicted significant losses on the regime.

Fagita-Lekoma Woreda

- On December 25th, regime forces moved from Addis-Kidam town into nearby rural areas but withdrew when confronted by Fano fighters who opened fire.
- On December 28th, a drone strike targeted Dimama-Angeref Kebele, reportedly killing at least four people. Further investigations into these drone attacks are ongoing.

Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda

- On December 27th, fierce fighting erupted in Tilili town and surrounding areas, including Ashifa and Askuna-Giyorgis Kebeles.

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- The conflict began when regime soldiers mobilized from Tilili and nearby bases overnight on December 26th, advancing towards Fano strongholds.
 - The Zengena Fano Brigade, in collaboration with the Simeneh Desta and Giyon Brigades, mounted a vigorous defense against the advancing regime forces.
 - Reports from Fano sources suggest that over 42 regime soldiers were killed, with more sustaining injuries during these clashes.
 - Additionally, Fano fighters infiltrated Tilili town, launching attacks on regime encampments and inflicting further casualties.

North Gojjam Zone

Bahir-Dar Zuriya Woreda

- On December 22nd, heavy clashes broke out in the Qimbaba area. The confrontation began when Fano fighters stationed at Qimbaba Primary School initiated an offensive. They claimed to have inflicted significant casualties on regime soldiers during this encounter.

North Mecha Woreda

- On December 23rd , a fierce exchange of gunfire unfolded across several kebeles in North Mecha Woreda.
 - The initial engagement occurred in Amaret Kebele, where Fano fighters from Colonel Tadesse Muluneh Brigade targeted encamped regime soldiers.
 - Reports indicate that Fano fighters inflicted numerous casualties and successfully drove the regime forces out of Amaret Kebele.

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- In response, the regime soldiers resorted to heavy artillery shelling in an attempt to repel the Fano offensive. Consequently, this fire caused substantial damage to grain belonging to local farmers.
 - On December 25th and 26th, intense exchanges of gunfire were reported in the Birakat and Amaret regions.
 - These battles reportedly began when Fano fighters launched an offensive against regime soldiers who were stationed in these areas.
 - Sources indicate that heavy weaponry was used, with the sound of gunfire echoing for an extended period.
 - Sources suggest that the Amhara Fano in Gojjam 1st Division's Colonel Tadesse Muluneh Brigade engaged in fierce confrontations, demonstrating a significant advantage over regime forces. Reports from the Fano side claim that they inflicted substantial losses on regime forces, successfully pushing them out of these areas.
 - In recent developments between December 25th to 27th, following the withdrawal of ENDF forces from various locations within North Mecha Woreda, Fano fighters have intensified their offensive operations targeting regime positions.
 - These offensives have specifically targeted state militias and riot dispersal police.
 - On December 27th, the Amhara Fano in Gojjam First Division's Colonel Tadesse Muluneh Brigade, launched a significant assault within the town and the area known as China Camp, which was previously held by regime soldiers.
 - The confrontations unfolded in multiple rounds throughout the day, both in the morning and afternoon.

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- Reports indicate that numerous members of state militias and riot police were either killed or injured, with many others captured by Fano fighters.
 - Notably, Fano forces reportedly gained control of Merawi at one point, although they later withdrew.
 - A spokesperson for the First Division informed media outlets that the Colonel Tadesse Muluneh Brigade had killed at least 38 regime soldiers, injured several others, and captured 14 soldiers along with a substantial cache of firearms.
 - Similarly, Fano fighters launched offensives in the Dagi and Birakat areas, forcing regime soldiers to retreat towards Adet and Bahir-Dar city.
- Fighting in the Merawi neighborhood, which began earlier, persisted into December 28th.
 - During the December 27th battle, regime forces conducted at least two drone strikes in the area, with initial reports indicating no casualties from these strikes.
 - However, the drone attacks prompted Fano fighters to vacate the town.
 - Additionally, persistent artillery shelling by the regime arbitrarily targeted the town.
 - On the following day, fighting resumed in the afternoon of December 28th when regime soldiers attempted to advance into Amaret Kebele.
 - However, the regime's advance was halted and forced to retreat after Fano fighters opened fire.
 - Reports indicated that three civilians were killed near the China Camp.

North Achefer Woreda

- On December 22nd, Fano fighters executed an ambush against regime soldiers traveling from Liben to the Yismala area for logistical purposes.
 - This encounter led to heavy confrontations and significant casualties among regime troops.
 - Fano fighters reported the loss of over 28 regime soldiers and claimed to have captured 14 additional soldiers, along with a considerable amount of firearms.

South Achefer Woreda

- On December 27th, Fano fighters infiltrated Durbeti town and opened fire on regime soldiers stationed there.
 - Taken by surprise, regime troops quickly retreated to regroup at their camp.
 - In response, they indiscriminately fired heavy artillery.
 - Following a brief exchange of gunfire, Fano fighters withdrew to their positions.
 - Casualty figures from this incident remain unconfirmed.

South Gonder Zone

- On December 28th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Delego Kebele, situated on the border between Libo-Kemkem and Ibbat Woredas.
 - The regime forces sustained significant casualties in this fierce encounter, with numerous injured soldiers being transported to Addis-Zemen town and Ibbat town for medical treatment.

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- Furthermore, on the same day, Fano fighters ambushed a convoy of regime militia forces traveling from Ibnat town towards Debre-Tabor city.
 - This surprise attack resulted in the confirmed deaths of at least six militiamen. Later that night, between 9 and 10 pm local time, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on the 1st police station located in Debre-Tabor city.
 - While specific casualty figures for this assault are currently unavailable, it is believed that the Fano’s objective was to facilitate the release of detainees held at the station.

Simada Woreda

- On December 22nd, a fierce battle erupted in Tsedoye-Gebriel Kebele between Fano fighters and regime forces.
 - The conflict began when the Fano ambushed a convoy of regime forces who were transporting prisoners from Simada, destined for Debre-Tabor city via Estie Woreda.
 - The heavily guarded convoy included numerous military trucks, indicating the importance of the transport. The Fano’s ambush in the morning hours inflicted significant casualties on the regime’s regular military and riot dispersal forces, leading to intense close-quarters combat that lasted for hours. The battle was particularly bloody, leaving the ambush site stained with the blood of numerous soldiers and security personnel. The regime forces sustained considerable losses, though difficult-to-quantify.
 - In response to this devastating ambush, additional regime forces were dispatched from Wegeda town, administrative center of Simada Woreda.
 - These reinforcement troops, enraged by the sight of their fallen comrades, engaged in retaliatory violence against civilians in Tsedoye, indiscriminately

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- killing individuals who had no connection to the military confrontation.
- Among the civilians killed was a local farmer named Tsege Atnafe.
 - The main road where the regime forces had traveled was reportedly left covered in blood, a gruesome reminder of the day's violence.
- Regime militia forces are reportedly intensifying their campaign of terror against civilians, targeting those suspected of being related to Fano fighters.
 - The campaign involves the systematic abuse and arbitrary detention of individuals, including expectant pregnant women. Specifically, women in their sixth, seventh, eighth, and later months of pregnancy have been forcibly marched on foot from Robit town, administrative center of Sede-Muja Woreda, to Wegeda town, administrative center of Simada Woreda (a distance of approximately 70-km).
 - These pregnant women, including Bahirnesh Yaregal, Tinsaye Begashaw, Yisferu Belachew, Haregitu Sete, and Kassaye Adugna, were detained for periods ranging from 15 to 30 days.
 - Some were subsequently transferred to detention facilities in Debre-Tabor city, Dangila, and Seraba.
 - Women nearing their delivery dates were eventually released after a month of detention. In addition to these abuses against pregnant women, elderly men, including an 86-year-old, were also subjected to the same kind of treatment and forced marches.
 - On December 26th, Fano fighters launched a series of coordinated surprise attacks targeting regime forces.
 - These attacks were executed in Tsedoye Kebele (Simada Woreda) and Alem-Ber Kebele (Andabet Woreda).

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- Regime forces sustained significant casualties in these engagements, with at least 26 soldiers confirmed killed and a larger, yet undetermined, number suffering critical injuries.
 - Furthermore, on December 27th, Fano fighters preempted a planned military campaign against them by launching an offensive attack on regime militia forces in Dagut, located within Estie Woreda.
 - This attack inflicted heavy losses on regime militias, with numerous fatalities and critical injuries. A witness reported seeing at least nine dead bodies of militia members at the scene.
 - The scale of the casualties is further evidenced by the fact that two ambulances were repeatedly transporting injured militia forces from Dagut to the Mekane-Eyesus town Hospital (Estie Woreda).
- On December 27th, a disturbing incident of infighting occurred within regime military ranks in Wegeda town.
 - The conflict, stemming from a dispute over a woman, escalated into a prolonged exchange of fire between soldiers, resulting in the confirmed deaths of at least eight personnel.
 - A separate incident of internal conflict erupted in Tsedoye on the same day, involving both militia forces and the regular army.
 - * This clash resulted in injuries to a military captain and his bodyguards, as well as injuries to five members of the militia.
 - * The root cause of this second conflict was an internal evaluation of a recent military campaign conducted by the captain against Fano forces.
 - * During the evaluation, the captain reportedly criticized certain militia members, accusing them of leaking military secrets regarding the

campaign's plan and of deserting their posts shortly after the campaign began.

- * This critique provoked a violent reaction from the implicated militia members, leading them to open fire on the captain and his guards.

Sede-Muja Woreda

- On December 22nd, intense clashes occurred between Fano fighters and regime forces near Robit town, administrative center of Sede-Muja Woreda.
 - The Fano fighters inflicted significant casualties on the regime forces, resulting in the deaths and critical injuries of over 10 regime militia and riot dispersal personnel.
 - The regime's political representatives and military units, who were attempting to establish regime offices in the area, were ultimately forced to retreat back into Robit town, carrying their dead and wounded comrades.

Tach-Gayint Woreda

- On December 23rd, intense combat erupted in Agat-Medhanialem Kebele as regime forces launched an offensive to penetrate Fano fighter strongholds.
 - The Fano, having received advance intelligence of the regime's approach, initiated a counter-offensive, resulting in a fierce and protracted five-hour battle.
 - The regime forces suffered significant casualties, with numerous uncollected bodies left behind in Agat.
 - In a particularly egregious act, regime forces indiscriminately fired mortars towards the Agat marketplace, killing 2 civilians and critically injuring many others who were present at the time.

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- Captured soldiers later revealed that their military commander had ordered them to infiltrate and eliminate Fano fighters under the cover of darkness.

Andabet Woreda

- On December 26th, Fano fighters launched a significant offensive against regime forces in Alem-Ber Kebele.
 - This attack specifically targeted a convoy of regime forces transporting both military supplies and arbitrarily detained individuals.
 - The ambush resulted in heavy casualties for the regime forces.
 - In a coordinated action, Fano fighters initiated surprise attacks at approximately 1:30 am local time in two separate locations: Gono-Gebriel and Gota.
 - These initial engagements quickly escalated into intense close-quarters combat that continued until 12 pm local time.
 - During the fighting, regime forces, who were enroute to Debre-Tabor city with detainees, suffered substantial losses, and numerous soldiers were killed. Ultimately, the heavy losses forced the regime forces to retreat back to Andabet.
 - While some detainees were able to escape amidst the chaos but not all managed to break free.
 - Following this successful operation, the Fano seized twelve small arms from the retreating regime forces.

Dera Woreda

- On December 28th, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime forces stationed in Arb-Gebeya town.

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- This operation, executed by the Tana Gelawdewos Fano Division at 3 pm local time in the evening, resulted in significant casualties for the regime, with numerous militia members killed, as well as a lieutenant and his bodyguards.
 - Following this successful assault, regime forces responded by firing heavy weapons indiscriminately throughout the night.

Central Gonder Zone

West Belessa Woreda

- On December 22nd, intense combat broke out between Fano fighters and regime forces near Arbaya-Belessa town, with the most concentrated fighting occurring in Wareb Kebele.
 - The Mebrequ Fano Division led by Commando Yalew Adugna, engaged the regime forces in a fierce battle.
 - During this engagement, the Fano fighters captured 23 regime soldiers and inflicted heavy casualties on the regime's joint forces, with over 60 regime soldiers killed or critically injured. Among the killed regime combatants was Colonel Sendeq who was leading the regime forces.
 - The following day, on December 23rd, fighting continued in Qale-Medhanialem Kebele from the early morning.
 - * The heavy losses sustained by the regime forces the previous day forced them to retreat without recovering their injured comrades.
 - * A directive was reportedly issued to the regime forces instructing them to prioritize the withdrawal of their mortar systems at all costs, even if it meant abandoning their wounded.
 - * This order suggests a significant concern about the Fano forces potentially capturing these weapons.

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- * However, the Fano fighters captured small arms and at least four heavy machine guns from the regime forces.
 - On December 25th, intense fighting broke out in two distinct areas within West Belessa Woreda.
 - The first conflict zone stretched from Wareb Kebele towards Mendi Kebele, while a second front opened up from Neqelo Kebele towards Mendi Kebele.
 - The clashes commenced early in the morning, marking a significant escalation in the conflict.
 - The regime forces, apparently seeking to avenge previous heavy losses, launched a large-scale offensive, deploying reinforcements from Gonder city, Maksegnit, and Arbaya into West Belessa Woreda.
 - Despite the regime’s efforts, Fano fighters are actively repelling this offensive, resulting in sustained and fierce combat across the region.
 - On December 26th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Koza Kebele, situated west of the town of Arbaya. Additionally, a separate and equally fierce battle has been ongoing since the afternoon in Qualisa, located within Ibnat Woreda (South Gonder Zone). This area is also adjacent to West Belessa Woreda, indicating a broader conflict spanning multiple regions.
 - The intense conflict that began on December 25th, between Fano fighters and regime forces persists through December 27th, with ongoing battles unfolding in three distinct locations.
 - The fighting in Koza, which started on December 26th, continues unabated. In this area, regime forces have suffered substantial casualties, and following fierce resistance and significant blows from Fano fighters, both regular army units and militia forces were compelled to retreat back to Arbaya town.

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- On December 27th, intense combat erupted early in the morning in Abiye Kebele, located in close proximity to Arbaya town.
 - A third major battleground emerged in the afternoon in Serge Kebele, further intensifying the conflict. The severity of the fighting has forced regime forces to continually dispatch reinforcements to West Belessa, attempting to counter the fierce resistance they are encountering from Fano fighters advancing from the Degoma and Maksegnit directions.
 - Moreover, Fano fighters from various other areas are also converging towards Arbaya town, aiming to repel the encroaching regime forces and solidify their position.
 - On December 27th, Fano fighters executed a targeted military operation within the town of Arbaya.
 - This special operation focused primarily on disarming and capturing regime militia forces stationed there.
 - The Fano fighters successfully apprehended a significant number of militia personnel, along with all of their military equipment.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On December 23rd, Islamic extremists, reportedly armed by regime forces, took 11 Orthodox Christians hostage and killed one (a prominent local religious leader) in Sar-Wiha Kebele near Enfranz town.
 - Among those taken hostage were a prominent priest identified as Kokeb Takele and a deacon.
 - The extremists murdered the priest by strangulation, and subsequently desecrated his body, including mocking the Holy Cross he held in his hand.

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- The deacon was also severely beaten.
 - The nine remaining hostages were local farmers from Sar-Wiha, and the violence occurred specifically in Wiqro village.
 - The priest, 52-year-old Kokeb Takele, left behind seven daughters and three sons, and was known for his strong faith. He and his family had previously suffered loss, with eight of his close relatives having been killed by regime forces in Denb-Arbaytu Kebele.
 - Following his murder, his body was handed over to regime forces, who buried him on December 24th.
 - This incident is particularly appalling because it suggests the extremists acted with the tacit approval of regime forces, as evidenced by the fact that they handed over the priest's body to the military after his murder. This act is also believed to be a deliberate attempt by the regime to instigate religious conflict in the region, aiming to divert attention from the ongoing war between Fano fighters and regime forces.
- On December 28th, intense fighting erupted in Amsa-Fej Kebele, between Fano fighters and regime forces.
 - This clash was initiated when regime forces entered the kebele, prompting Fano fighters to launch an immediate offensive attack.
 - The attack by the Fano resulted in heavy casualties for regime forces, who were subsequently forced to retreat from Amsa-Fej, carrying away their dead and wounded comrades.
 - A significant number of injured soldiers have been admitted to hospitals in Tseda and Gonder city, indicating the severity of the losses sustained by regime forces.

Alefa Woreda

- On December 26th, intense fighting broke out between Fano fighters and regime forces in Dikul-Arba and Beg-Menkir Kebeles, both situated in the area surrounding Delgi town.
 - The conflict was triggered by an attempt by regime joint forces, accompanied by political cadres, to establish a new regime political administration in Dikul-Arba.
 - However, Fano fighters launched a strong offensive attack against these forces, resulting in heavy casualties for the regime.
 - Unable to withstand the Fano's resistance, regime joint forces were ultimately forced to retreat back to Delgi town, abandoning their attempt to install a new administration.

Gonder City

- On December 26th, a shocking incident unfolded in the city when a group of hostage-takers, identified as members of the regime's security personnel, forcibly entered the home of a prominent grain trader.
 - Believing the trader possessed significant wealth, these individuals intended to take him hostage and demand a hefty ransom for his release. However, the trader courageously defended himself, fatally shooting two of the intruders with a pistol. He managed to subdue a third assailant, forcing him to kneel and subsequently seizing the captured hostage-taker's kalashnikov rifle.
 - In retaliation for the trader's resistance, the hostage takers detonated bombs and unleashed a barrage of gunfire towards his house.

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- The resulting explosion caused significant damage to his home, and tragically, two of his children sustained injuries and are currently hospitalized at the Gonder University Referral Hospital.
 - Residents of Gonder city have rallied in support of the trader, visiting him to express their admiration for his bravery and drawing inspiration from his act of self-defense.
 - This incident has further eroded public trust in the government, as it highlights the fact that the very security apparatus tasked with protecting citizens is now implicated in acts of hostage-taking.
 - In the absence of reliable government protection, residents are being forced to consider how to defend themselves against such threats.
- During the night of December 28th, a significant exchange of gunfire was reported in Gonder city.
 - This fighting, which commenced in the Chanq village area at around 5 pm local time, involved heavy weaponry.
 - The full extent of the damage caused by this intense conflict is not yet known, indicating the potential for significant destruction and highlighting the volatile security situation in the area.

Chilga Woreda

- On December 28th, intense combat erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Dawa-Dangur.
 - The Arbegnoch Fano Division’s Dejazmach Birre Zegeye Brigade, is actively engaged in fighting against regime forces in this area.

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- As the battle continues to rage, a full assessment of casualties on both sides is not yet available.
 - The intense fighting that commenced on December 28th between Fano fighters and regime forces in Dangura continued into December 29th.
 - Although regime forces were effectively dispersed during the previous day's fierce battles, they returned to the same location on December 29th with newly deployed reinforcements, reigniting the conflict.
 - The initial fighting in Dangura was triggered on December 28th when Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on a regime joint military camp.
 - This initial assault resulted in significant casualties for the regime, with more than 50 regime soldiers reportedly killed by Fano fighters.

Central Armachiho Woreda

- On December 28th, Fano fighters carried out a targeted operation in the vicinity of Masero-Denb town, resulting in the deaths of several local regime officials.
 - Among those killed was a regime militia commander, the administrator of Deresa Kebele, and another security officer from the woreda.
 - These individuals were reportedly targeted for their alleged involvement in a recent drone attack in the area.
 - Furthermore, they were accused of actively engaging in intelligence gathering and providing information on Fano movements to the drone operators.

East Dembiya Woreda

- On December 28th, intense fighting raged between Fano fighters and regime forces in Weqir-Abbo Kebele, with particularly fierce combat concentrated in Ancha Got.

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- Regime forces, equipped with three machine guns and other heavy weaponry, advanced into Ancha, comprised of two battalions.
 - The Fano fighters responded with a strong counter-offensive in Ancha, a location characterized by a rift valley and rugged terrain.
 - In the ensuing battle, Fano fighters inflicted significant casualties on regime forces, killing 15 regime soldiers and critically injuring 12 more.
 - Fano fighters also sustained losses, with one member killed and some suffering minor injuries.
 - Regime forces also killed five civilians. Among the victims were a woman who ran a small restaurant, who was killed while working, and an elderly man and a young child who also lost their lives in Ancha Got.
 - Furthermore, as regime forces retreated towards Qoladiba town, they were ambushed again by Fano fighters in Derfora Kebele, suffering further heavy casualties.

West Gonder Zone

Metemma Woreda

- The intense conflict between Fano fighters and regime forces in the Shinfa region continued on multiple fronts, with significant engagements occurring throughout December 22nd and 23rd.
 - On December 23rd, fighting persisted in Bedela, located at the border of Qwara Woreda, which followed a separate, but equally fierce clash on the evening of December 22nd in Shimelegara Kebele, particularly around Tabor village.

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- * In that evening engagement, regime forces attempted to infiltrate Fano strongholds under the cover of darkness but were successfully repelled, resulting in at least 14 regime soldiers killed or critically injured, while Fano fighters suffered one fatality and one injury.
 - The clashes in Shinfa were part of a larger series of engagements, including significant battles the previous day, December 22nd, in Metemma Woreda.
 - * In those operations, regime forces stationed in Shinfa town attempted to advance through Bedela towards Qwara but were met by the Qwara Omedla Division's Tewodros Brigade, under the command of Yeshaleqa Tensaye Gebreyohannes.
 - * The initial Fano assault eliminated over 80 regime soldiers, forcing a disorganized retreat.
 - * Subsequently, a second Fano ambush led by Arbegna Berihun Getachew and Abiyu Shaleka Babey Gizachew resulted in the elimination of an additional 50 regime soldiers.
 - * The remaining forces retreated to fortified positions. Simultaneously, other Fano units including the Nebro Brigade (led by Arbegna Asfaw Bayeh) and the Aysheshim Brigade (led by Arbegna Babey), engaged and neutralized regime forces at Shinfa-Jejebit, preventing them from establishing a blocking position, resulting in heavy enemy casualties and a subsequent retreat.
 - * Further south, the Kara-Mara Division encircled regime forces that had advanced from Tumet, inflicting heavy casualties and forcing them to abandon their wounded as they retreated to their dug-in positions at Tumet-Maikadra exit.
 - * These combined operations on December 22nd resulted in the Fano capturing over 95 kalashnikov rifles.

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- * Overall, more than 100 regime joint forces were killed and more than 45 regime forces sustained critical and minor physical injuries during the fighting.
 - * Additionally, the Bedela area saw the destruction of three regime vehicles with their supplies, under the operations of Arbegna Berihun and Tensaye Gebreyohannes.
- On December 24th, intense fighting erupted near Tumet, a location situated just outside of Shinsa town, and continued for two consecutive days.
 - By the afternoon of that day, regime forces had reportedly cut off all telecommunication services in the area, severely hindering communication and the flow of information.
 - The conflict involved the use of heavy weaponry, suggesting a significant escalation in the intensity of the clashes.
 - It appears the regime forces are attempting to utilize this route as an entry point into Qwara Woreda (West Gonder Zone) and Awi Zone.
 - As the fighting remains ongoing, the extent of casualties on either side is currently unknown, and information regarding the impact of the conflict remains limited due to the communications blackout.
 - On December 26th, further clashes erupted early in the morning in Zebad and Lemlem Kebeles.
 - During the fighting in Zebad, Fano fighters reportedly inflicted losses on regime peacekeeping forces and seized over sixteen small arms and heavy weapons.
 - Later in the afternoon, renewed fighting broke out in Selfedin and Lubaba Kebeles, indicating a continued escalation of the conflict.

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- Adding to the day’s engagements, another intense battle occurred in Tumet, triggered by the arrival of regime reinforcements dispatched from the town of Genda-Wiha.
 - The conflict between the Fano fighters and regime forces continues unabated in Qwara and Metemma Woredas with over 180 regime casualties reported during fighting in the areas of Shekriya and Tumet.
 - As of December 27th, fierce fighting in the Metemma Woreda, which serves as a crucial link to Qwara, continues unabated.
 - The fighting is concentrated along the route extending from Shinfa to the exit point towards Qwara.
 - On December 26th, regime forces, having suffered substantial losses from a significant blow dealt by Fano fighters, were compelled to retreat back to Shinfa.
 - However, on December 27th, reinforced with additional troops from both Genda-Wiha town and Shinfa, regime forces launched a renewed offensive.
 - Despite being supported by a mechanized army division, regime forces are facing valiant resistance from Fano fighters who continue to fiercely contest their advance.

Qwara Woreda

- On December 28th, intense fighting occurred along the stretch from Lubaba to Delego, located in Qwara Woreda, between Fano fighters and regime forces.
 - In the evening, regime forces attempted to advance towards Delego town, an area that had been under Fano control for the past six months.

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- However, Fano fighters mounted a fierce defense in Lubaba, effectively repelling the regime’s advance.
 - In addition to the military action, the regime has implemented a telecommunications blackout in the region, potentially aimed at controlling information flow and hindering communication.

North Gonder Zone

Telemt Woreda

- Regime forces are reportedly engaged in the arbitrary detention of Amhara residents based on suspicions that they oppose the reintegration of Telemt into the Tigray Region.
 - On December 22nd, several individuals were detained, including Lemma Alamrew, who was arrested while visiting family in Anbesa-Meqabir; teacher Abreha Teshome, also detained in Anbesa-Meqabir; and Melaku Atnafu, a worker at the Mai-Temri town customs bureau, who had previously challenged the entry of Tigrayan militants into Telemt.
 - These detentions suggest a pattern of repression aimed at suppressing dissent and resistance to the reintegration process, highlighting the vulnerable position of Amhara residents.

Debark Woreda

- On December 24th, regime joint forces, having marshalled their full resources to seize Tirahina town located near Debark town, the administrative capital of North Gonder Zone, encountered a powerful and coordinated counter-offensive
 - The Fano counter-offensive involved several divisions under the Amhara Fano

Gonder Command including the Dib-Telemt-Tekezze Division under the command of Arbegna Alemu Melesse, the Semien-Amba-Ras Division led by Arbegna Shambel Mesafint, and the Chenna Division under command of Arbegna Daniel Asres, which strategically encircled regime forces, inflicting substantial personnel and material losses.

- This decisive battle resulted in the deaths of over 150 regime joint forces, the capture of a significant number of enemy combatants, including 60 regime soldiers, and the seizure of approximately 200 individual weapons.
- The Fano command leadership, noting their many past victories, declared this triumph to be of an unprecedented scale, highlighting that the militia forces acting as the vanguard for the regime also suffered heavy casualties during the Fano's counter-offensive.
- The regime forces, who had aimed to eliminate the Fano fighters in Bozana and Tirahina before advancing towards Ajere-Janora, were reportedly completely defeated. Those who were not killed or captured were wounded or forced to retreat in disarray from Debark and Zarima towns, abandoning their dead, injured, and equipment.
- The routed regime's joint forces, who had confidently predicted they would clear the area before December 30th, sparked accusations of collusion from regime military generals, who reportedly executed several of their own militia guides.
- The regime generals and their associated cadres stationed in Debark town are said to be in a state of panic following this crushing defeat.
- Furthermore, on December 24th, regime forces conducted a drone strike in Tirayna town; however, the casualties resulting from this attack are currently unknown.

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- Intense fighting erupted on December 24th, and continued unabated for 72 hours, particularly in the areas of Tirahina and Boza.
 - This sustained conflict involved the regime’s 68th ENDF Division engaging with Fano fighters.
 - The fighting resulted in what appear to be unprecedented casualties for the regime forces. Over 400 members of the regime’s joint forces were reportedly killed, critically wounded, or captured by Fano fighters.
 - Furthermore, four military radio communication units, along with their operators, were also seized.
 - Following these significant military losses, the regime’s military commanders, believed to be a Brigadier-General, who had been leading the offensive, reportedly went missing from his post. This disappearance is speculated to be linked to the heavy casualties and a fear of potential reprisals from higher military authorities.
 - Further, a number of other officers, ranging in rank from Lieutenant-Colonel to Brigadier-General, have also gone missing from their positions in Menafesha, near Debark town.
 - The conflict proved exceptionally devastating for the regime forces, marking a particularly violent episode since the outbreak of hostilities between Fano fighters and regime forces throughout the Gonder sub-region. For example, many regime soldiers are reported to have died after falling into ravines and on December 26th, Fano fighters and residents of Tirahina and Boza were engaged in recovering and burying bodies of fallen soldiers. During this search, an additional 72 regime soldiers were captured by Fano fighters, while the remains of 22 soldiers were found in the ravines.

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- The terrain where the fighting occurred presented extremely difficult topography, hindering the regime’s military operations.
 - Despite launching offensives from three different directions towards Tirahina and Boza, regime forces were soundly defeated by Fano fighters.
 - The Fano forces seized over 300 small arms and heavy weapons, as well as 6 high-ranking military cadets (“*Mesmerawi Mekonenoch*”), 19 machine guns, and 19 sniper rifles.
 - A notable aspect of this conflict was the absence of riot dispersal and militia forces, indicating that the fighting was conducted primarily by the regime’s regular army. This may explain the unprecedented number of casualties suffered by the regime forces, suggesting that recently recruited soldiers were not adequately trained.
- On December 26th, regime forces carried out an aerial strike on Weged Kebele, situated within the Debark Woreda.
 - Notably, this attack occurred in an area where no active combat was taking place between Fano fighters and regime forces.
 - The airstrike resulted in the deaths of ten farmers (civilians).
 - This action appears to be a retaliatory measure against the civilian population, seemingly in response to the significant military losses suffered by regime forces in Tirahina and Boza two days prior.

Dabat Woreda

- On December 26th, intense clashes erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces.

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- The regime, aiming to reassert control over Enqash and Ajire-Janora, launched an offensive from the Dabat direction.
 - The resulting battles were concentrated in Adishelo and Menderge Kebeles.
 - Adding to the conflict, regime forces deployed significant military reinforcements via Qola-Wegera, moving towards Enqash.
 - Furthermore, forces were also deployed from Sanja in the direction of Jingir Kebele, where the Gobe Melke Fano Division has been actively engaged in combat against them.
 - This recent escalation follows a significant setback for regime forces in the Armachiho area. On December 24th and 25th, Fano fighters executed a remarkably well-planned attack, forcing regime forces to abandon twelve key military positions.
 - Consequently, Fano fighters have taken control of Densuma, Borka, Zemene-Beriq, Gabla, Marsh towns, and other strategically important areas. The fighting continued into the morning of December 26th, with fierce combat reported in Sahra, located near the town of Masero-Denb in Armachiho.
 - The intense fighting that began on December 26th between Fano fighters and regime forces has continued into December 27th.
 - A particularly disturbing development is the use of heavy artillery by regime forces, which has resulted in the deaths of civilians in Ajire-Janora.
 - The confirmed death toll of civilians killed by regime forces is at least 14.
 - The entirety of December 26th was marked by fierce combat between the two sides. However, in the evening, regime forces entered Ajire-Janora and began targeting civilians, apparently as a retaliatory measure.

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- The violence extended to property destruction, with regime forces reportedly burning down the homes of prominent local Fano fighters.
 - On December 27th, regime forces, comprising a large contingent and heavy military equipment, found themselves in a precarious situation, having entered Ajire-Janora and now facing encirclement by Fano fighters.
 - These regime forces, who had initially entered the area under cover of heavy shelling, are now completely trapped.
 - The challenging topography of Ajire-Janora, while difficult for regime forces, provides a significant tactical advantage to the Fano fighters.
 - Exploiting this, Fano fighters secured control of the single exit point from Ajire-Janora, launching a surprise counter-offensive against the beleaguered regime forces.
 - Consequently, encircled regime forces appear to have no escape route unless they surrender to Fano.
 - The gravity of the situation has caused considerable apprehension among the regime's highest military authorities, who are now scrambling to dispatch a heavily mechanized army division and additional infantry units from Dabat town towards Ajire-Janora in a desperate attempt to assist their entrapped soldiers.
 - This situation evokes a parallel to events of the previous year, when a similar incursion by over 160 regime forces into Ajire-Janora resulted in the annihilation of the entire force by the Fano's strategic and highly effective marksmanship.
 - On December 28th, the ongoing conflict between Fano fighters and regime forces persisted in Enqash and Ajire-Janora.

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- Beginning at 4 pm local time, regime forces resorted to deploying combat helicopters to these areas.
 - These helicopters were utilized to drop in specialized commando units and to evacuate injured soldiers from the battlefield.
 - The fighting in these locations has proven exceptionally difficult for regime forces, particularly due to the fact that the single route for exiting the area has been completely blocked by Fano fighters.
 - This strategic blockade has severely hampered the regime’s ability to maneuver and reinforces the challenging circumstances they are currently facing.
- As of December 29th, the regime is currently deploying substantial troop reinforcements to Ajire-Janora from Dabat, Boza, and Armachiho.
 - Military supplies are being transported into this rugged and challenging terrain, utilizing even pack animals such as donkeys to reach all areas.
 - The regime’s stated objective is to clear Ajire-Janora of Fano fighters within the next ten days.
 - This intensified effort has drawn a large number of Fano Divisions into the ongoing conflict including the Gobe, Ras Amba, Chenna, Gondere-Begashaw Divisions, and other Fano units which are participating in the fierce fighting, demonstrating a united front against the regime’s offensive.

Addis-Ababa City

- On December 23rd, the regime transferred several Amhara political prisoners from Kality Prison to Kilinto Prison.²

²See December 23rd, 2024 [news report](#) from BBC Amharic (English translation available [here](#)).

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- Notable prisoners include Ato Christian Tadele, a member of the House of Peoples’ Representatives; Ato Yohannes Buayalew, a member of the Amhara Regional State Council; and Kassa Teshager (PhD), a member of the Addis-Ababa City Council, among others.
 - Kilinto Prison is known for its harsh conditions, which are considered even worse than those of Kality Prison. Human rights activists have strongly criticized the regime for transferring these prisoners to such a facility.
 - Furthermore, Ato Yohannes Buayalew and Ato Christian Tadele, who recently underwent surgery, are in critical condition. Both are suffering from continuous bleeding and have run out of painkillers.
 - Ato Yohannes Buayalew was placed in Zone 5 alongside alleged OLA members prompting human rights advocates to raise alarms about the severe danger facing Ato Yohannes Buayalew in this hostile environment
 - The families of the prisoners and human rights advocates are urgently calling for immediate medical treatment, fearing for the prisoners’ lives.
- On December 25th, *civil society organizations* (CSOs) such as the *Ethiopian Human Rights Council* (EHRCO) and the *Ethiopian Human Rights Defenders Center* (EHRDC) received letters from the Ethiopian Civil Society Authority, announcing their suspension.³⁴
 - The EHRCO which has been advocating for human rights in Ethiopia for over three decades, was suspended under the pretext of engaging in political activities outside of its established objectives.
 - Recently, the regime also suspended other CSOs including the Association for

³See December 26th, 2024 [statement](#) from the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) (English translation available [here](#)).

⁴See December 26th, 2024 [statement](#) from the Ethiopian Human Rights Defenders Center (EHRDC).

Human Rights and the *Center for Advancement of Rights and Democracy* (CARD).

- The decision has been criticized by experts which warn it signals shrinking of Ethiopia’s civic space.
- On December 27th, two opposition political parties released a joint statement condemning the actions of the NDC.
 - In their statement, the Enat Party and the *All Ethiopian Unity Party* (AEUP) announced that they would not participate in the upcoming dialogue sessions of agenda gathering scheduled to be held in Amhara Region.⁵
 - The parties expressed concerns over the ongoing conflict in various zones of the Amhara Region, stating that it is challenging to conduct agenda gathering while the region remains embroiled in war.
 - They further questioned whether the NDC had become an instrument used by a single actor to further its own interests.
 - As a result, the parties declared their lack of confidence in the NDC and reiterated their decision not to engage in the agenda gathering.
- On December 28th, Balderas for True Democracy, an opposition party, released a statement regarding the suspension of *Civil Society Organizations* (CSOs).⁶
 - The statement condemned the suspensions as a sign of an authoritarian government, noting that the regime has now suspended five CSOs.
 - The party called on the Civil Society Authority to lift the suspension and urged human rights activists, media and CSOs to expose these anti-democratic measures.

⁵See December 27th, 2024 [joint statement](#) from Enat Party and the All Ethiopian Unity Party (AEUP).

⁶See December 27th, 2024 [press statement](#) by Balderas for True Democracy Party.

North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)

- On December 22nd, over 56 passengers traveling from Addis-Ababa to Debre-Markos (Amhara Region), were abducted by unknown forces in an area near Gebre-Guracha.
 - Among the passengers, three women managed to escape.
 - However, one young man who attempted to flee was killed, and three vehicles were set on fire by the assailants.
 - Previously, OLA militants were implicated in widespread abductions for ransom and killings in this area.⁷⁸

East Wollega Zone (Oromia Region)

Kiremu Woreda

- Since December 19th, regime soldiers entered three kebeles in Kiremu Woreda where they initiated a campaign of forced disarmament.
 - Over 100 Amhara residents were compelled to surrender their firearms in Bajin, Haro-Addisalem, and Chefe-Gudina Kebeles (areas predominantly inhabited by Amhara residents).
 - Many other Amhara residents have fled to nearby forest areas, fearing the repercussions of this disarmament campaign.
 - The situation remains tense as the regime continues its efforts to disarm all Amhara residents inhabited in these areas.

⁷See September 1st, 2024 [War Update Report](#) from Amhara War Update.

⁸See July 5, 2024 [report](#) from BBC Amharic (English translation available [here](#))

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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