



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – January 27th to February 2nd, 2025

Updated February 3rd, 2025

Overview

For the week of January 27th to February 2nd, 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 31 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, Bahir-Dar, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder and West Gonder Zones. Developments were also recorded in Gurage Zone (Central Ethiopia Region) and in Addis-Ababa city.
- Developments were recorded in over 4 urban administrations across 4 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These urban administrations included Kobo,

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

Shewa-Robit, Bahir-Dar and Gonder cities in the North Wollo, North Shewa, Bahir-Dar and Central Gonder Zones.

- Civilian casualties were recorded in 12 woreda/city administrations across 9 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Mida-Woremo, Debre-Elias, Raya-Kobo, Aneded, Metemma, Qwara, Gonder, Enarj-Enawga, Jabi-Tehnan, Guagusa-Shikudad, North Mecha and Bahir-Dar Woredas in the North Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, Bahir-Dar, Central Gonder and West Gonder Zones.
- Widespread arrests were reported in 3 woreda/city administrations across 3 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Raya-Kobo, Aneded and Gonder city Woredas in the North Wollo, East Gojjam and Central Gonder Zones. Arrests were also recorded in Abeshigie Woreda in Gurage Zone (Central Ethiopia Region) and in Addis-Ababa city. In Metemma Woreda (West Gonder Zone), high-ranking ENDF leaders reportedly deployed clandestine militants which have carried out various abuses and violent attacks targeting civilians including hostage-taking for ransom.
- This week, the *Ethiopian Human Rights Commission* (EHRC) announced the appointment of a new Chief Commissioner. The decision was met with widespread criticism over allegations of complicity in past human rights abuses.

North Wollo Zone

Statement from the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara)

- On January 31st, the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) Lij Eyasu Corps, Bete-Amhara Division, announced the graduation of newly trained troops.
 - The event was held under the motto: “*we train and fight, we fight and train,*

our existence in our united arms.”

- The newly trained forces have been tasked with ensuring the survival of the Amhara people.
- They also expressed their gratitude to both domestic and international stakeholders who contributed to the training efforts.

Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On January 28th, an intense battle occurred between Fano and regime forces in several areas.
 - The fighting involved various divisions under the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara), including Asaminew, Kalakorma, and Hawjano.
 - Fano forces launched an offensive against the regime in Gobiye, Menjelo, Robit, Keyu-Gariya, and Zobel, aiming to disrupt the regime’s transportation of forces to Zobel and to ambush regime forces.
 - The Fano successfully ambushed regime forces in Zobel early in the morning, catching regime forces while they were asleep. This resulted in numerous casualties, with one Fano member reportedly killing around 20 regime forces, highlighting the severity of the attack. The fighting continued until 1 pm.
 - The Fano claim to have caused over 100 casualties overall, including killed and injured regime forces.
 - On the Fano side, four fighters were killed including a senior leader named Getahun Bihonegn, and another 20 were injured.
 - In retaliation, regime forces launched heavy weapons from Kobo towards Zobel, injuring at least 2 civilians and damaging livestock due to indiscriminate fire.

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- On January 29th, a significant battle occurred between the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) and regime forces in Robit, a key area connecting Woldia and Kobo cities. The extent of casualties remains unknown at this time.
 - On January 29th, intense fighting took place in the mountainous areas of Rama, as well as in the nearby areas of Addis-Kign and Dingay Kebele.
 - The Asaminew and Hawjano Fano Divisions under the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) launched a strong offensive against regime troops, who were attempting to advance into Rama and Addis-Kign with mechanized support.
 - However, the Fano’s offensive successfully forced regime forces to retreat back to Kobo and Waja towns.
 - The engagement resulted in heavy casualties, with most of the regime soldiers, including key leadership personnel stationed in these areas, either killed or wounded. Overall, regime forces suffered severe losses in this battle.
 - On January 30th, regime forces arrested a civilian in Zobel town.
 - The victim was identified as a woman named Wubit Tarekegn. Wubit had been supporting her family by selling food and beverages, including tej and beer.
 - The regime accused her of feeding or selling food to Fano forces at night, leading to her detention.

Wadla Woreda

- On January 27th, a brief armed clash occurred between the Amhara Fano Wollo Command and regime forces in Wotet-Mariyam. Casualties from this incident remain unconfirmed.

Habru Woreda

- On February 1st, fighting took place between Fano and regime forces in the Jara area.
 - The fighting involved the Baleshiritu Division under the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) under command of Fano Indris Gudile.
 - According to Fano, numerous regime forces were killed, injured, and captured while traveling from Dire-Roqa to conduct a community meeting aimed at denouncing Fano.² One regime cadre was reportedly captured while spreading regime propaganda. Additionally, 10 regime militias defected to the Fano.

South Wollo Zone

Mekdela Woreda

- On January 27th, a regime official was killed in Kebele 027.
 - The targeted operation was attributed to the Mekdela Division, under the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara). This was reportedly a targeted operation and part of a larger effort to target key regime intelligence officers and key personnel.
 - The official was identified as Dawud Muhiye, who had been serving as administrator of Kebele 027. Dawud had reportedly been assisting regime forces by providing information about Fano movements and guiding regime forces, despite multiple warnings from the Fano.

Were-Illu Woreda

- On January 27th, Fano forces captured the deputy-mayor of Were-Illu town.

²See February 1st, 2025 [update](#) from the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara).

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- The operation was undertaken by the Dagim-Kitet-Were-Illu Division under the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara).
 - The captured official was identified as Ergetie Kidanie.
 - Ergetie had reportedly been involved in military activities targeting Fano and had received warning by the Fano to cease his actions.

Ambassel Woreda

- On January 29th, Fano ensured the safe celebration of the Gishen-Debre-Kerbe Asteriyo-Mariam holiday in Amba Sel Woreda.
 - Leaders from the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) participated in the event and used it as an opportunity to share information about the Fano struggle with community members.
 - They emphasized attacks on both the churches and mosques, which have been targeted due to their Amhara ethnic identities. These were noted as the primary driving forces behind their armed struggle.
 - Religious congregants at the church showed their support for these remarks.

North Shewa Zone

Mida-Woremo Woreda

- On January 26th, a fierce battle broke out between the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command and regime forces in Rema town.
 - Regime forces launched their attack by travelling from two locations: Alem-Ketema, the administrative center of Merhabete Woreda, and Mida-Meragna, advancing toward Rema town.

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- However, the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command’s Amde-Tsion Corps, composed of various divisions, mounted a strong counter-offensive, securing a decisive victory over the regime forces.
 - The regime forces were ultimately pushed back and retreated to their original positions in Alem-Ketema and Mida-Meragna.
 - The Fano counter-offensive resulted in heavy casualties for regime forces, including numerous deaths and injuries. By midday, Alem-Ketema Hospital was overwhelmed with injured regime personnel, forcing the facility to prioritize emergency treatments and deny care to non-critical civilians.
 - In retaliation, regime forces killed a 12-year-old boy named Abaynew Melkamu in Dengorie-Guranba Kebele.

Shewa-Robit City

- On January 26th, fierce fighting between the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command and regime forces took place in Shewa-Robit city including in the Kobo and Mengs area starting in the morning and continuing until 3 pm.
 - Fighting involved use of heavy weapons such as canons, ZU-23s, mortars and other artillery. Regime forces fired these weapons from the town towards surrounding areas.
 - Fighting led to the destruction of a public school in Kobo Kebele (06) due to indiscriminate shelling by regime forces. Civilian properties were also destroyed during the clash.
 - Regime forces gained control of Kebele 06 which had been under Fano control for more than six months.

Merhabete Woreda

- On January 27th, Fano forces led an ambush against regime forces in Tota-Beret.
 - The offensive was undertaken by the Mekdela Brigade under the Amhara Fano in Shewa's Nadew Division.
 - The regime forces were traveling from Alem-Ketema town, administrative center of Merhabete Woreda, to attack Fano positions.
 - The ambush resulted in severe casualties among regime forces and the capture of armaments.

Minjar-Shenkora Woreda

- On January 30th, Fano forces ambushed regime forces.³
 - The ambush was reportedly carried out by the Amhara Fano in Shewa Kesseme Division's Nebelbal Brigade.
 - The attack originated from Minjar-Shenkora Woreda and extended into Ajerie town, located in East Shewa Zone (Oromia Region), near the Mojo-Nazreth road.
 - The Fano inflicted significant damage on regime forces during this ambush, resulting in the suspension of transportation services between Mojo and Ajerie.

East Gojjam Zone

Debre-Elias Woreda

- On January 27th, intense fighting took place across various kebeles of Debre-Elias Woreda.

³See January 30th, 2025 [report](#) from Roha TV.

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- The fighting was launched by regime forces which mobilized toward the Guay area, as they attempted to suppress Fano fighters.
 - In response, Fano fighters from the Qeste-Damena Brigade mounted a fierce resistance in the Gofchema and Guay-Megenteya areas, located on the roadways leading to the St. Selassie Monastery. The regime’s mobilization led to the Fano counter, resulting in a fierce exchange of gunfire that lasted several hours. Ultimately, the Fano managed to halt regime forces from reaching the Guay area as initially intended.
 - Reports indicate that both sides suffered casualties, with particularly heavy losses inflicted on regime forces. Confirmed reports indicate 3 injuries from the Fano side, with other sources claiming over 100 casualties from the regime side along with the capture of military vehicles and considerable firearms.
 - Initial reports also indicate civilian casualties resulted from the regime shelling.
- On January 28th and 29th, fighting intensified across various kebeles of Debre-Elias Woreda.
 - Regime forces continued efforts to expand control by deploying troops to rural areas previously held by Fano fighters. In response, Fano fighters mounted fierce resistance to thwart the regime’s expansion through counteroffensives.
 - On January 28th, regime forces managed to enter Yegedad and Marzeneb Kebeles after intense confrontations with Fano fighters. The following day, January 29th, fighting persisted as Fano fighters launched counteroffensives to expel regime forces from Yegedad Kebele.
 - Reports indicated casualties on both sides. Sources claim 30 regime soldiers killed and another 35 wounded during the confrontations.

Debay-Telatgin Woreda

- On the night of January 26th, fighting took place in the Yedama and Gerems areas.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces who mobilized from Quyi to the Gerems area in an attempt to suppress Fano fighters.
 - Forewarned about the mobilization, the Fano carried out an ambush in the Yedama area. Despite incurring casualties, regime forces managed to advance into Gerems with reinforcements from Quyi. However, upon reaching closer to Gerems area, regime forces encountered a heavy counter-offensive in the area. This counter-offensive forced the soldiers to retreat into the Yedama and Quyi areas.
 - Sources reported that casualties resulted on both sides. Fano sources claimed to have inflicted significant losses.

Awabel Woreda

- On January 28th, heavy fighting took place in various locations within Awabel Woreda.
 - The conflict began when regime forces mobilized overnight into the Lega and Chendefo areas, aiming to suppress the Mebreku Fano Brigade.
 - Reports indicate that the regime deployed heavy weaponry and engaged in persistent shelling. Residents stayed indoors during the confrontation.
 - Sources indicate 10 regime soldiers were killed during the clashes.
 - Fano fighters reportedly infiltrated Lumame town, launching gunfire at regime forces stationed there to disrupt their military movements towards Lega and Chendefo.

Aneded Woreda

- On the night of January 27th, regime forces mobilized a large military contingent from Amber and Yejube towns towards the small town of Jama.
 - Anticipating the regime’s approach, Fano fighters shifted their positions, leaving regime forces unable to locate them upon entry. Consequently, regime forces resorted to door-to-door searches, resulting in the deaths of an unspecified number of civilians. So far, three civilian casualties have been confirmed, including a 21-year-old man named Abate Mersha, who was shot by regime soldiers. The whereabouts of many others remain unknown.
 - After occupying the town for several hours, regime forces withdrew at around 4 pm.
- On January 28th, sources confirmed that regime forces committed multiple violations against civilians in the small town of Jama.
 - On that day, sources reported regime forces raided Jama overnight in an attempt to locate and suppress Fano fighters. However, upon entering the town, they were unable to locate any Fano fighters.
 - During their occupation, which lasted several hours, regime forces conducted door-to-door searches, resulting in the deaths of 2 civilians, injuries to 6 others, and the arbitrary detention of 4 individuals.
 - * Among the injured and detained were women. The two killed victims were identified as 21-year-old Abate Mersha Kebede and Wudu Arega Chanie, whose bodies were laid to rest at the St. Mary’s Church Cemetery in Jama.
 - * Of the six injured victims two were critically wounded and the other four suffering minor injuries. The critically injured individuals were identified

as Shumete Mekonnen and Yirged Mekonnen (a female victim).

- * The regime forces also detained four civilians, taking them to an unknown location as they left the town. Among those detained were Tagel (last name unknown) and Haymanot Abineh, while the identities of the other two remain unknown, although one is reported to be a woman who sold local drinks.

Bibugn Woreda

- On January 28th, Fano fighters executed a sudden attack on regime forces mobilizing from Motta to Weyn-Wiha town.
 - Sources indicated that the regime’s plan was to encircle the Fano fighters with additional units coming from the Rebu-Gebeya direction. However, the Fano launched a preemptive strike, inflicting heavy losses on regime forces and disrupting their military plan.
 - The following day, January 29th, Fano fighters infiltrated Digo-Tsiyon, administrative center of Bibugn Woreda. Upon entry, they unexpectedly attacked regime cadres and security officials who were in a meeting at that time, resulting in casualties among regime forces and disrupting the meeting.

Enarj-Enawga Woreda

- On January 30th, heavy fighting took place in the area of Debre-Werk town.
 - Sources reported hearing heavy artillery gunfire in the area close to the town. Fighting was initiated by regime forces in Ayalfush Keble.
 - According to reports, initially regime forces had managed to encircle the Fano fighters. Then, the Fano broke out of the encirclement and launched a counteroffensive against regime forces.

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- The outcome of the battle, including casualties, is unconfirmed.
 - On January 30th, heavy fighting took place in the Debre-Werk town area.
 - Sources reported that fighting was initiated by regime forces who mobilized from Debre-Werk towards Ayalfush Kebele. On that day, regime forces moved to this location overnight and managed to encircle Fano fighters. Then, regime forces launched an attack targeting the Fano while they were asleep using heavy artillery shelling. Sources reported heavy artillery gunfire in the area close to the town.
 - The Fano fighters then reorganized, claiming to have broken the encirclement and launched a counteroffensive against regime forces. The casualties sustained from the regime side remained unidentified.
 - Apart from this, regime forces entered into Yegosa Kebele on January 30th, and extrajudicially killed 2 civilians and critically injured a third.

Baso-Liben Woreda

- On January 29th, a heavy exchange of gunfire took place in Baso-Liben Woreda.
 - The exchange of fire was initiated by a regime troop deployment.
 - The Fano reportedly responded with heavy weaponry shelling from Kork town. The regime forces also fired heavy artillery shelling from Yesibech Kebele towards Kork.
 - The casualties resulting from this exchange of gunfire remained unidentified.

Enemay Woreda

- On January 29th, a small number of Fano fighters launched an attack against the regime's administrative and security officials who were traveling from Motta to

Bichena town.

- This sudden attack was launched in the Telima area, located in the Bichena area. Regime militias who were anticipating the attack had prepared for it and launched a counteroffensive.
- The engagement resulted in the killing of 3 Fano fighters while a few others managed to escape from the Fano side. The casualties from the regime side remained unidentified.

Enbese-Sar-Midir Woreda

- On January 31st, a heavy exchange of gunfire took place in the Merto-Lemariam area.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces who mobilized from Merto-Lemariam and Segno-Gebeya towards Enebre Kebele to suppress Fano fighters. Initially, the Fano made a tactical retreat when regime forces entered the Enebre Kebele. The regime forces were then unable to locate the Fano fighters. Afterwards, the Fano fighters launched a counteroffensive, leading to a heavy exchange of gunfire.
 - Sources reported casualties resulting from both sides, with significant losses reported from regime forces. Sources reported 3 military vehicles being targeted with one of them reportedly destroyed in the attack. Fano also claimed to have captured over 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

West Gojjam Zone

Sekela Woreda

- On January 27th, fighting took place in the Gundil area.

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- The fighting was initiated by regime forces who mobilized from Gishabay town towards the Gundil area, located at the border connecting Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda and Sekela Woreda.
 - On that day, Fano fighters executed an ambush in the Gundil area, compelling regime forces to retreat towards Gishabay by midday.
 - The casualties resulting from this confrontation have not yet been identified.
 - On the night of January 31st to February 1st, fighting took place in the border areas of Sekela and Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda.
 - The fighting began on January 31st when Fano fighters carried out an ambush on regime forces who were moving from Gishabay to Tilili town.
 - Forewarned of the regime forces' mobilization, the Giwon Fano Brigade launched a sudden attack in the Gundil area.
 - Sources reported that regime soldiers sustained significant casualties.
 - The next morning (February 1st), regime forces deployed a reinforcement unit from Tilili town.
 - The mobilized soldiers advanced into Ashifa Kebele in Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda. The Zengena Fano Brigade mounted a fierce confrontation with regime forces that moved to this area. Despite the Fanos' resistance, regime forces managed to enter Ashifa Kebele.
 - Upon entry, regime forces allegedly killed at least 4 civilians from a single family in their homes.

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- Between January 31st and February 1st, heavy fighting took place in the Jiga town area.

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- On January 31st, regime forces, who mobilized from Finote-Selam and Jiga towns, raided the Jimat area, a location that had long been held by Fano fighters.
 - * Upon entering this area, regime forces resorted to property looting and destruction, particularly targeting properties belonging to the Fanos and their families. Sources reported that a substantial amount of collected crops were taken by regime forces, and significant amount was burned to ashes.
 - * The regime forces' actions then provoked Fano fighters to launch an attack, leading to heavy confrontation. Regime forces used heavy artillery to repel the Fanos' offensive.
 - * The regime shelling resulted in the killing of 2 civilians and the injury of 1 individual. One of the killed victims was an elderly woman who sold Tela (local traditional drink). She was known by villagers as Emenesh (last name unknown). Another victim was a teenager who was allegedly killed while participating in a wedding ceremony.
 - On February 1st, the fighting continued as regime forces mobilized a reinforcement unit from Jiga town.
 - During the two days of confrontation, one confirmed injury was reported from the Fano side, while casualties among regime forces were described as numerous.

Bahir-Dar City

- On January 28th, light gunfire exchanges occurred in the Zenzelima area, a suburb of Bahir-Dar city.
 - The gunfire was initiated by regime forces attempting to suppress Fano

fighters in the area. Sources indicate at least 7 regime soldiers were killed during the engagement.

- Sources reported the killing of a key intelligence personnel named Chale Dilnessa in an area called Abaraj, who was allegedly involved in targeting Fano fighters and abusing the local population.
- On February 1st, regime forces killed a civilian, a well-respected physician, in Bahir-Dar city.
 - That day, sources confirmed that regime forces shot and killed Dr. Andualem Dagne, a highly respected surgeon and a sub-specialist in liver, pancreas, and bile duct surgery at the Bahir-Dar University College of Medicine and Health Sciences.
 - According to sources, Dr. Andualem was on duty at the Tibebe-Ghion Hospital during the day. As he was leaving the hospital in the evening, around 7 pm, he was fatally shot by riot dispersal police, who had set up a checkpoint in the Qoshe area. The circumstances surrounding the shooting are still unclear, but it is reported that the police opened fire on Dr. Andualem’s vehicle, killing him instantly.
 - His shocking death sent waves of grief and disbelief among hospital staff, prompting a temporary suspension of hospital operations as colleagues mourned the loss of a valued friend and professional. Bahir-Dar University issued a statement confirming the tragic incident, describing Dr. Andualem’s death as a “*sudden and unfortunate event*.”⁴
 - Dr. Andualem, who was originally from Bure (West Gojjam Zone) was estimated to be between 35 and 40 years of age and leaves behind two children. Dr. Andualem’s body was laid to rest on February 2nd at the

⁴See February 1st, 2025 [statement](#) from Bahir-Dar University.

Dibanke-Medhanialem Cemetery in Bahir-Dar city, in the presence of family members, friends, and colleagues.

North Gojjam Zone

North Mecha Woreda

- On January 31st, regime forces raided Enashenfalen Kebele.
 - Upon entry, regime forces reportedly committed violations against civilian farmers. Sources reported the killing of at least 3 civilians by regime forces, two of whom were reported to be brothers. The regime forces killed the victims by dragging them out of their residential homes.
 - Sources also indicate that the number of killed civilians might be greater than three.

Yilmana-Densa Woreda

- On January 31st, fighting took place in Rebu-Gebeya Kebele.
 - The fighting reportedly initiated when regime forces mobilized to this rural kebele to locate Fano fighters. The Fano confronted regime forces.
 - Sources reported 6 regime soldiers killed and 4 injured during the confrontation.

South Gonder Zone

Ibnat Woreda

- On the night of January 26th, a significant mass defection occurred within the regime's joint forces stationed at their military camp in Ibnat town.

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- This coordinated abandonment of their posts saw a confirmed total of 28 individuals join the ranks of the Fano. This included 12 militias, 15 regular soldiers, and their commanding officer, all of whom defected together. Furthermore, these defectors brought with them their full military equipment, representing a notable gain of resources and manpower for the Fano forces.
 - In addition to this, 3 regular soldiers also defected on January 27th.
 - In response to this significant loss, regime forces have initiated a rigorous search operation at all checkpoints surrounding Ibnat town in a desperate attempt to locate and apprehend defected personnel, demonstrating their concern over the growing number of defections and their impact on their control of the region.
- On the night of February 1st, a group of 17 regime forces stationed in Ibnat town defected to Fano.
 - This defection included 15 regular soldiers and 2 members of the militia forces, all of whom abandoned their posts, bringing their full military equipment with them to join the Fano ranks.
 - This latest incident reflects a growing trend of mass desertions within the Ibnat Woreda, which has triggered significant alarm and consternation among regime military and political authorities.
 - The escalating defections, with over 64 regime forces having joined the Fano fighters in Ibnat, Belessa, and Mena-Mequetewa within the past 10 days, along with their equipment, indicates a serious erosion of loyalty and morale within the regime's ranks and underscores the growing strength of the Fano movement in the region.

Central Gonder Zone

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On January 29th, intense combat erupted in Bahir-Ginb, a location in close proximity to the town of Maksegnit, as Fano fighters clashed with regime forces.
 - The conflict began with an ambush launched by Fano fighters, catching regime forces off guard. This initial ambush quickly escalated into a brutal close-quarters engagement, characterized by fierce hand-to-hand combat and a rapid exchange of gunfire.
 - Though the fighting was relatively brief, its impact on the regime forces was significant. Unspecified numbers of regime soldiers suffered fatalities and critical injuries as a result of the battle. In the aftermath, a convoy of ambulances was mobilized to transport wounded soldiers to medical facilities in Gonder Ayra Hospital and Maksegnit Hospital, where they received urgent treatment.

Gonder City

- On January 29th, a massive influx of Orthodox Christian faithful entered Gonder city as they gathered to commemorate the annual Azezo Loza Maryam religious festival.
 - This highly anticipated and deeply revered holiday, the most prominent religious observance in Gonder, drew over 1.5 million participants. The festival's purpose is to honor the holy passing of the Virgin Mary.
 - The regime forces intercepted a minibus, detaining all passengers and impounding the vehicle. These youths, including the minibus itself, were subsequently taken to the military camp where they were held in detention. As

of this report, more than 24 youths remain incarcerated within the Central Military Command camp, their fate currently unknown.

Tach Armachiho Woreda

- On February 1st, Fano fighters executed an ambush against regime forces in the area of Kork Kebele, situated near Abrahajira town.
 - The Fano employed heavy weaponry and grenade bombs to devastating effect, targeting the convoys with precision. The ambush occurred at approximately 7 pm local time, taking place under the cloak of early morning darkness, likely enhancing the element of surprise.
 - This attack resulted in significant casualties for regime forces. Two heavily laden military convoys, packed with soldiers, were severely damaged by the onslaught, with a substantial number of soldiers killed in the engagement.

West Gonder Zone

Qwara Woreda

- The intense fighting that has raged for four consecutive days in Qwara Woreda, particularly in the areas of Dubaba, Ferefend-Megenteya, and the Merhum Desert, resulting in devastating casualties for regime forces.
 - The Fano have achieved a decisive victory over the regime in what has been described as a strategically significant and particularly deadly series of engagements. The regime forces suffered immense losses, with over 200 soldiers killed or critically injured by the Fano.
 - The battle that unfolded in Dubaba on January 26th, was especially brutal and inflicted particularly heavy casualties on the regime's forces. In this fierce

fighting, a police commissioner, whose identity remains unspecified, was killed. Furthermore, two high-ranking military officers, identified by informants as colonels due to the three stars on their shoulders, were also killed during the intense combat.

- The intense conflict between Fano fighters and regime forces in Qwara Woreda, which had temporarily subsided on January 27th, reignited the following day on January 28th, with renewed ferocity.
 - The fighting erupted in Dubaba early in the morning, with initial clashes occurring at both the entry and exit points of the town. It appears that regime forces, who had been previously separated into three distinct groups by Fano fighters, launched this offensive in an attempt to regroup and consolidate their positions.
 - The Fano in response, mounted a counter-offensive attack, aiming to prevent the divided regime forces from unifying and, crucially, to prevent them from receiving any additional reinforcements.
 - This resurgence of violence has effectively extended the duration of the fighting in this area to six consecutive days, underscoring the intensity and persistence of the conflict.
 - Furthermore, since early morning, the majority of rural districts within the woreda have experienced complete disruption of network services, likely as a result of ongoing fighting, further isolating communities affected by the conflict.
- On January 27th, regime forces killed 4 civilians and carried out sexual violence against 3 women (civilians) in Dubaba town.

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- The victims were subjected to gang rape, resulting in critical injuries and severe trauma. The victims have been hospitalized and regime forces prohibited disclosure of the incident to the general public.
 - It is reported that the soldiers perpetrated these acts as a reprisal measure, following significant losses and setbacks incurred in their engagements with the Fano fighters.
 - In addition, regime forces killed four civilians including two women.
 - While intense fighting that resumed on January 28th, temporarily subsided on January 29th, a palpable tension remains in the area, suggesting a possible outbreak of fierce conflict at any moment.
 - On January 31st, intense fighting erupted on multiple fronts around Delego town, administrative center of Qwara Woreda.
 - Simultaneously, fierce combat also took place in Bemur Kebele, a location strategically important for controlling the border with Sudan.
 - In an attempt to control information flow, regime forces imposed a complete telecommunications blackout across Qwara.
 - During initial engagements, Fano fighters successfully severed regime's forces into three distinct pockets, effectively disrupting their operational coherence. In response to this setback, the regime dispatched reinforcements from the neighboring Metemma Woreda, aiming to bolster their isolated and beleaguered military units engaged in intense fighting.
 - The conflict persisted unabated into February 1st, with particularly ferocious close-quarters combat continuing in Bemur, especially within Buanbua-Wiha Kebele.

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- The intense fighting that had erupted in the Qwara Woreda persisted throughout the night of February 1st.
 - Earlier, on January 31st, a particularly devastating battle had taken place in Dubaba town, resulting in catastrophic losses for regime forces. In this fierce engagement, hundreds of regime soldiers were killed or critically injured, forcing remaining troops to disband and retreat from their units. The Fano seized a significant amount of military equipment, including over 70 automatic rifles and other heavy weapons.
 - While Fano forces also sustained casualties in the battle, they were comparatively minor, with 6 fatalities and injuries reported.
 - This marks the second time in a single week that regime forces suffered heavy losses in the Dubaba Kebele area, underscoring the continued vulnerability and operational challenges they face in this region.

Metemma Woreda

- A campaign of violence, hostage-taking, extortion, and theft against civilians undertaken by armed groups directed by top ENDF generals has intensified, with multiple incidents reported on January 27th.
 - The generals operating from their base in Genda-Wiha town, the zone's administrative center, are reportedly engaged in a systematic campaign of hostage-taking targeting civilians.
 - * These generals have established their own clandestine armed groups, specifically tasking them with the abduction of individuals. These organized groups are provided with ammunition and direct orders from the generals, facilitating their hostage-taking operations. They are given specific missions, targeting wealthy individuals and communities believed

to possess substantial financial resources. Sometimes, these operations are supported by military cover from the regular army, enabling these armed groups to carry out their abductions with greater ease and impunity.

* Once a hostage is seized, the amount of ransom to be paid for their release is determined solely by the generals, demonstrating their direct involvement in this criminal enterprise.

- On January 27th, it was confirmed that more than 8 civilians were taken hostage by regime armed groups in Metemma Woreda. The ransom demands for these individuals range from 600,000 to 1 million ETB per person.
- On January 27th, regime-affiliated armed groups reportedly drove over 2,000 cattle, stolen from local farmers, across the border into Sudan, indicating a large-scale operation that extends beyond hostage-taking and into large-scale theft of livestock.
- This coordinated campaign of violence, extortion, and theft, directed by the highest-ranking military officials in the region highlighting the breakdown of law and order and the exploitation of the local population for personal gain.
- On January 28th, regime-affiliated militants have carried out robberies and hostage-taking targeting motorists along the stretch of road from Qutir 1 to Wedigemzo Kebele, where regime forces deployed groups of robbers who falsely presented themselves as Fano fighters.
 - Robberies were concentrated in the areas of Qutir 1, Delelo, Shimelegara, and Wedigemzo, further indicating a coordinated and strategic operation.
 - In a single day, the imposters targeted and robbed 24 heavy truck drivers. The robbers, while committing these acts, explicitly identified themselves to the drivers as members of the Fano movement active in Metemma Woreda,

claiming they lacked the resources to fight and demanded contributions for their daily sustenance.

- The robbery teams, who called themselves *Kefagn*, were specifically organized and equipped by regime forces, ostensibly to fight against the Fano. However, they also used their positions to loot and extort the community, viewing it as a form of personal enrichment.
- The drivers, in addition to being robbed, were also taken hostage by the robbers.
- On January 29th, Fano fighters initiated a decisive offensive against regime-affiliated forces in the Qutir 1 and Nefs-Gebeya Kebeles.
 - The regime-backed *Kefagn* militants, was deliberately created by the regime to operate under the guide of “Fano” to undermine the legitimate Fano struggle for freedom and to sabotage the ongoing resistance against regime forces.
 - A particularly egregious act of the imposters involved the abduction of 24 drivers and the seizure of their vehicles.
 - The Fano launched a forceful counter-attack, inflicting heavy losses on the *Kefagn* contingent in both kebeles. Over 30 members of this illegitimate group were confirmed killed, including those directly involved in the hostage-taking of the drivers.

Addis-Ababa City

- On January 28th, 16 of 51 defendants accused of terrorism in the case involving Yohannes Buayalew appeared before the Federal High Court for hearings related to constitutional and terrorism charges.

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- The Supreme Court upheld a previous ruling and ordered the prosecutor to amend the case, citing the need for additional evidence and documents.
 - Some of the defendants, including Christian Tadele and Yohannes Buayalew, argued for an expedited resolution, claiming they were present to offer confessions. However, the prosecutor requested more time to present further evidence.
 - The court hearing, originally scheduled for February 12th, 2025, has been rescheduled for February 8th, 2025, following a petition from the defendants.
 - On January 30th, the House of Peoples’ Representatives appointed Birhanu Adelo, as the new Chief Commissioner of the EHRC.
 - The appointment has sparked significant opposition from human rights activists and political analysts, who view it as a sign of the Oromo Prosperity Party regime’s disregard for human rights and the end of any remaining hope for political reform.
 - Sources have raised concerns about Birhanu’s past, noting that he previously held various government positions before being removed from office a decade ago. Reports indicate that the new commissioner was dismissed from his previous positions due to multiple complaints. This has raised concerns about whether he has the necessary experience and track record to effectively lead the EHRC, an institution that is supposed to protect and promote human rights in Ethiopia.
 - On January 30th, regime forces detained poet and producer Misrak Terefe, who is known for his work in the Tobiya Poetic Jazz group.
 - She was held at the Addis Ababa Police Commission.

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- On January 31st, the Court issued a seven-day order, requiring Misrak to be presented on February 7th (Tir 30, 2017 E.C).
 - Misrak’s detention underscores the regime’s zero-tolerance approach to freedom of expression and highlights its increasingly authoritarian nature. Several Amhara journalists and other media personnel remain imprisoned for exercising their right to freedom of opinion and expression. The Prosperity Party regime has continued detentions against media personnel amid its second general assembly in Addis-Ababa city.

Gurage Zone (Central Ethiopia Region)

Abeshigie Woreda

- On January 26th, Ethio Focus News reported that regime forces interrupted a wedding ceremony and arrested several people in Darge Kebele.⁵
 - The regime’s actions were reportedly in response to the wedding organizers playing Amharic music, which the authorities took issue with.
 - The bride and her father have been arrested, while the mother was injured and hospitalized.
 - Many Amhara civilians in Abeshigie Woreda have been subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture, and other human rights abuses.

⁵See January 28th, 2025 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

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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