

# War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – November

# 18th to 24th, 2024

Updated November 24th, 2024

## Overview

For the week of November 18th to 24th, 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.<sup>1</sup>

- This week battle events and rights violations were recorded in 46 woreda/city
  administrations across 11 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These zones
  included the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam,
  Awi, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder, West Gonder and North Gonder
  Zones. There were also developments recorded in Addis-Ababa city and North
  Shewa Zone of Oromia Region.
- Battle events were recorded in over 8 urban administrations across 6 zonal administrations. These urban administrations included Kobo, Woldia, Alamata,

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

Debre-Birhan, Debre-Markos, Finote-Selam, Debre-Tabor and Gonder cities in the North Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones.

- Civilian casualties were recorded in more than 13 woreda/city administrations across 8 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Habru, Mekdela, Gozamin, Enarj-Enawga, Dejen, Machakel, Jabi-Tehnan, Fagita-Lekoma, Mena-Meqetewa, Ibnat, Gonder-Zuriya, East Dembiya and Metemma Woredas in the North Wollo, South Wollo, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, South Gonder, Central Gonder and West Gonder Zones.
- Use of airstrikes and drones were recorded in 7 woreda/city administrations across 4 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Amhara-Sayint, Mekdela, Asagirt, Dembecha, Metemma, West Armachiho and Qwara Woredas in the South Wollo, North Shewa, West Gojjam and West Gonder Zones.
- Widespread arrests were reported in 9 woreda/city administrations across 5 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These include Dejen, Enbese-Sar-Midir, Jabi-Tehnan, North Mecha, Ibnat, Simada, Dera, Gonder-Zuriya and East Dembiya Woredas in the East Gojjam, West Gojjam, North Gojjam, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones and in Addis-Ababa city.

## North Wollo Zone

#### Habru Woreda

- On November 17th, the Fano forces ambushed regime forces in Mehal-Amba as they were traveling from Mersa to Wurgessa.
  - The operation was conducted jointly by forces from the Amhara Fano in Wollo and the Amhara Fano Wollo Command.

- In response, regime forces launched a counteroffensive using ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns and heavy machine guns.
- On November 21st, regime forces launched over ten heavy artillery attacks targeting Merto.
  - This indiscriminate attack caused several casualties including killing of a civilian who was working on his farm, severe injuries to members of a family when their home was struck, and destruction to two residential houses.
  - Ethio Focus News reported 8 civilians killed, 2 injured, and multiple homes destroyed.<sup>2</sup> The media further reported that over 22 youths were forcibly taken to Woldia and they were coerced into appearing as voluntary defectors for regime propaganda.

#### **Gubalafto Woreda**

• On November 17th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Asaminew Division ambushed regime forces in Sanka. The attack successfully disrupted a meeting planned between regime representatives and local residents.

#### Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On November 18th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo ambushed regime forces on Golina River around Aradum.
  - The regime convoy was traveling from Kobo to Woldia.
  - The attack resulted in significant casualties, with multiple regime soldiers killed or injured.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>See November 22nd, 2024 report from Ethio Focus News.

- On the same day, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Hawjano Division ambushed regime forces in Chobi-Ber, causing additional losses.
- On November 19th, sounds of gunfire were reported throughout the day in areas such as Gariaw Kebele and Menetser-Muyaw in Zobel. Sources noted uncertainty about the exact events, but they suspected the gunfire might be related to military training exercises conducted by regime forces.
- Regime forces have been extorting farmer militias, especially in the Zobel area, demanding 150,000 ETB from those whose military equipment was seized by Fano forces.
- On November 22nd, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Zobel-Amba Division launched a successful ambush against regime forces in Tekulesh, located on the western outskirts of Kobo city. The operation inflicted significant casualties on regime forces, forcing them to retreat to Kobo.
- On November 23rd, sounds of gunfire were reported near Kobo. However, sources were unable to confirm the exact context of the incident.

#### Woldia City

- On the night of November 18th, regime forces launched indiscriminate heavy weaponry targeting areas surrounding Woldia city, including Merto. These attacks have exacerbated the already dire living conditions of civilians, particularly affecting vulnerable groups such as children, elders, and women.
- On November 24th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Asaminew Division ambushed regime forces in Afriker (Kalim Megenteya), near Woldia city. The ambush resulted in significant casualties among regime forces, including deaths and injuries. The

regime forces were compelled to retreat to Sanqa, carrying their casualties with them.

#### Raya-Alamata Woreda

• It was reported that on November 23rd, a 9-year-old girl was raped by TPLF forces in Metalencha. The victim is reportedly receiving treatment at Ayder Hospital in Mekelle (Tigray Region).

## South Wollo Zone

#### **Ambassel Woreda**

- On November 17th, intense fighting broke out after the Amhara Fano Wollo Command's Liji Eyasu Corps ambushed regime forces traveling from Wuchale town to Wurgessa at Goro River. Another ambush by the same command resulted in injuries to the Woreda Militia Head, who was later transported to Dessie Hospital for treatment.
- On November 24th, it was reported that the Amhara Fano Wollo Command launched an attack on a regime military camp in Wurgessa town.
  - The Fano forces successfully took control of Wurgessa town.
  - Sources reported approximately 30 regime forces were killed and 22 were injured during the assault.
  - The Fano forces seized a significant amount of military equipment from the regime's camp. Fighting is ongoing in the area.

#### **Amhara-Sayint Woreda**

• On November 18th, the regime carried out a drone strike in Waro-Shiwot Kebele. While no casualties were reported, the strike completely destroyed a residential house.

#### Wogdi Woreda

- On November 20th, the Amhara Fano Wollo Command reportedly liberated Gorenji town from regime.<sup>3</sup>
  - The battle began in the early morning and lasted until 11 am.
  - Over 30 regime forces were killed, and others were injured.
  - In retaliation, regime forces have engaged in indiscriminate artillery attacks, burning collected crops and residential houses in the area.

#### Mekdela Woreda

- On November 21st, the regime conducted repeated drone attacks targeting civilians traveling to celebrate the St. Michael's religious holiday at Tenta-Mikael.
  - According to the Amhara Fano in Wollo's head of public relations head Fano Abebe Fentaw, the attacks targeted civilians in Chingua and Doshit Kebeles, including residential houses and public schools.<sup>4</sup>
  - The strikes caused significant destruction, demolishing residential homes and public schools.
- According to a report by Tana Satellite TV, regime forces carried out a drone strike targeting Kebele 018 and 028 on November 22nd.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>See November 20th, 2024 report from Tana Satellite TV.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>See November 21st, 2024 statement from the Amhara Fano in Wollo Head of Public Relations Fano Abebe Fentaw.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>See November 22nd, 2024 report from Tana Satellite TV.

- The strike specifically hit civilian areas, including farmlands, and weavers' workshops.
- The attack resulted in significant property destruction, with working areas, crops, and other essential livelihoods destroyed or set ablaze.

#### Legambo Woreda

- On November 22nd, intense fighting between the Amhara Wollo Command's Mebrek Division and regime forces erupted in the Belchuma, Keymebrat, and Warja areas.
  - Regime forces launched a nighttime offensive, advancing toward these areas from three different directions.
  - However, Fano forces employed guerrilla warfare tactics, forcing regime forces to retreat, especially in the Warja area.
  - The clashes resulted in significant casualties, with numerous deaths and injuries reported among regime forces.

## North Shewa Zone

#### Mida-Woremo Woreda

• On the night of November 18th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command ambushed regime forces traveling from Meragna to Chelemit. Fano forces disclosed that they had prior intelligence about the regime's movements, allowing them to prepare for the ambush. The attack resulted in significant casualties among regime forces.

#### **Berehet Woreda**

- Between November 21st and 22nd, fierce fighting erupted between the Amhara
   Fano Shewa Command's Kessem Division and regime forces in various kebeles of
   Berehet Woreda.
  - The fighting began on the night of November 21st and escalated the following day.
  - Regime forces traveling from Meteh-Bila town (the administrative center of Berehet Woreda) to 04 Kebele faced severe casualties from Fano attacks.
  - In Meteh-Bila town, regime forces conducted mass detentions, targeting elders and youths.
- On November 24th, regime forces have intensified forced military recruitment efforts. In Metiteh-Bila town, regime forces coerced local youths to join security forces. Those refusing recruitment were threatened with arbitrary arrest or forced conscription.

#### Asagirt Woreda

- On November 21st, intense clashes occurred as regime forces attempted to take control of Asagirt town.
  - A drone strike was launched in the area, reportedly killing livestock.
  - Despite the attacks, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command's Asmare Dagne
     Brigade and Negodguad Division successfully repelled the regime's advance.

#### Hageremariam-Kessem Woreda

• On November 23rd, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command Kessem Division's Hailemariam Mamo Brigade, graduated newly recruited commando members.

- The graduation ceremony was attended by Amhara Fano Shewa Command Kessem Division executives.
- Fano Degu Tesfaye, the Kessem Division's Head of Political Affairs, delivered a powerful address highlighting the ongoing persecution of the Amhara people, including forced displacement, destruction of property, and deprivation of basic rights.
- He emphasized the Fano's commitment to defending the Amhara people through organized, well-trained leadership.

#### **Debre-Birhan City**

- On November 23rd, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command's Negodguad Division, conducted a planned attack on a regime military camp in Debre-Birhan city.
  - The operation involved the division's Gatew and Mebreku Brigades.
  - The camp housed members of the ENDF, riot dispersal forces, state militias, and other security forces.
  - The attack occurred between 4 and 9 pm in Wushawushign Kebele located in Atse Menilik sub-city.

## East Gojjam Zone

#### **Gozamin Woreda**

- On November 18th, regime forces mobilized from Debre-Markos, Lumame, and Amber areas toward Yebokla to suppress entrenched Fano fighters.
  - The Amhara Fano in Gojjam Haddis Alemayehu Division's Yebokla Abay Brigade launched a joint counteroffensive in the Qegn-Abo area, inflicting casualties on regime forces and preventing their advance into Yebokla.

- Meanwhile, Fano fighters also engaged regime troops at Eenegatra and Yesenbet Kebeles in Awabel Woreda, where the regime was advancing from Amber and Lumame. Fano fighters claimed to have inflicted substantial casualties, successfully halting the regime's progress toward Yebokla.
- Fighting that began earlier in Gozamin Woreda persisted on November 19th in the Qegn-Abo, Yebokla, and Eenemochera areas.
  - Despite fierce resistance the day before, regime soldiers managed to enter
     Yebokla during the night of November 18th.
  - On the morning of November 19th, Fano fighters from the Mebreku Brigade, Yebokla-Abay Brigade, and the divisional commando force launched a counterattack against the regime presence in Yebokla, reportedly inflicting significant casualties.
  - In retaliation, at least 7 civilians were reported killed by regime forces.
- On November 21st, regime soldiers were mobilized from Debre-Markos city towards the Chimit area to confront Fano fighters. However, the Jibela-Mutera Fano Brigade mounted a fierce resistance, forcing regime soldiers to retreat after several hours of fighting. The casualties resulting from both sides remains unreported.
- On November 23rd, further mobilization from Debre-Markos city occurred as regime forces moved to Libanos, another Fano stronghold in Gozamin Woreda.
   Fano fighters engaged regime troops, who reportedly withdrew to Debre-Markos city without achieving any military objectives.
- The fighting that began earlier in Gozamin Woreda has continued to escalate as of November 24th.

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- Despite suffering casualties, regime forces have continued efforts to expand control into new areas. Intense fighting erupted in the Libanos area on this date, resulting in numerous casualties on both sides.
- The Jibela-Mutera Fano Brigade engaged regime soldiers, confirming at least
   7 deaths among Fano fighters, with regime casualties reported as significant.
- In the meantime, the Jibela-Mutera Fano Brigade confronted regime forces in the Chertekel and Leklekita areas.
- Regime soldiers, mobilized from Debre-Markos, launched an offensive intending to penetrate and advance into Debre-Elias Woreda. Reports indicate that Fano fighters inflicted substantial military losses, including the capture of 5 regime soldiers along with their firearms.

#### Enarj-Enawga Woreda

- On November 18th, clashes erupted in Metay Kebele when the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Belay Zeleke Division's Soma Brigade launched an attack on regime troops who had encroached upon local militia-owned crops.
  - Fano fighters executed a surprise assault, resulting in the deaths of over 17 regime soldiers.
  - In retaliation, regime forces executed 2 civilians found on the streets. Further details regarding civilian casualties are still under investigation.

#### **Debre-Markos City**

- On the night of November 18th, intense gunfire erupted in Debre-Markos city and neighboring areas.
  - Sources indicate that the confrontation began in the Enerata area when Fano fighters attacked regime soldiers stationed at a checkpoint.

- This offensive, reportedly led by the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Nigussie Division's Jibela-Mutera, Nigus Tekle-Haymanot and Nisir commando Brigades and soon expanded into the city itself as Fano fighters intensified their assault.
- The fighting lasted for several hours, with residents reporting continuous gunfire throughout the night, including the sounds of heavy weaponry.
- In response to the surprise offensive by the Fano, the regime was compelled to withdraw troops and relocate to nearby areas.
- While unconfirmed, reports suggest that Fano fighters inflicted numerous casualties on regime soldiers.

#### Sinan Woreda

- On November 21st, intense fighting occurred in Sinan Woreda.
  - On the night of November 20th, regime forces mobilized from Debre-Markos and Rebu-Gebeya towns into the stronghold of the Fano fighters with the intent to encircle and suppress them. Anticipating this movement, the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Division's Sinan-Abajime Brigade secured strategic positions and launched a preemptive attack on regime soldiers in an area known as Mestawet.
  - The skirmish lasted less than two hours but resulted in heavy casualties and military losses for the regime.
  - Reports suggest that Fano fighters killed numerous regime soldiers and captured over 20 heavy and small firearms.
  - Additionally, it is reported that some soldiers were taken prisoner by the Fano fighters, while others quickly withdrew from Mestawet and retreated to Debre-Markos and Rebu-Gebeya.

- On November 23rd, intense fighting was reported in Sinan Woreda.
  - Sources indicate that regime soldiers moved from Rebu-Gebeya town to the Welqite area during the night of November 22nd.
  - Anticipating this mobilization, the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Qegn-Geta
     Yoftahe Division's Sinan Abajime Brigade mounted a fierce counterattack
     against the regime forces.
  - Reports suggest that regime forces employed heavy weaponry throughout the conflict.
  - Additionally, Fano fighters launched an attack on regime soldiers remaining in their encampment in Rebu-Gebeya town, resulting in significant casualties among regime soldiers.

#### Dejen Woreda

- On November 21st, an exchange of gunfire occurred between ENDF soldiers and local militias in Qoncher Kebele and Dejen town.
  - Earlier in the week, reports indicated that regime soldiers had arrested over 40 civilians, predominantly families and relatives of Fano members.
  - In retaliation, Fano members captured family members of the militias, demanding the release of their own detained relatives.
  - On November 20th, militias began freeing family members of Fano members, which led to a clash between the ENDF and the militias when the ENDF questioned the decision to release the families.
  - This disagreement escalated into an armed confrontation on November 21st, resulting in 3 deaths and 4 critical injuries on both sides.

#### **Enbese-Sar-Midir Woreda**

- On November 22nd, gunfire erupted in an area known as Eneba.
  - The gunfire was initiated when regime soldiers mobilized from Merto-Lemariam and advanced into Eneba in an attempt to suppress Fano fighters.
  - After two hours of intense exchanges, the fighting subsided as regime forces retreated back to Merto-Lemariam. Casualty figures remain unknown for both sides.
  - The following day, on November 23rd, reports emerged from a small town called Dibo indicating that regime soldiers forcibly apprehended at least 15 civilians and transported them to Merto-Lemariam. The civilians are reportedly being coerced into participating in propaganda efforts, portraying themselves as Fano members who have surrendered to the regime.

#### Hulet-Eju-Enese Woreda

• In the afternoon of November 23rd, Fano fighters unexpectedly entered Motta town and conducted a bombing attack targeting regime officials at a hotel. According to reports from Fano, several regime cadres present at the Nathan Hotel were killed or injured. Sources also reported seeing ambulances transporting the wounded to hospitals.

#### Machakel Woreda

- Intense fighting was reported on November 24th in the Yemar-Gota area.
  - The conflict was initiated by regime soldiers attempting to enter Fano strongholds. The Belay Zeleke Fano Brigade confronted regime forces with

determination, inflicting casualties and halting their advance into the Gira-Kidamen area.

 The regime reportedly fired heavy artillery more than 12 times at residential areas, with civilian casualties currently under investigation.

#### **Debre-Elias Woreda**

- On November 24th, intense fighting occurred in three key areas: Qerer, Angetam-Abo, and Menba-Giyorgis.
  - The hostilities began when regime soldiers mobilized a large force in an attempt to penetrate Debre-Elias Woreda, which has been under Fano control for an extended period.
  - The Keste-Damena Fano Brigade mounted fierce resistance, successfully repelling regime assaults from multiple directions. Reports indicate heavy casualties among regime forces during these clashes.

## West Gojjam Zone

#### **Dembecha Woreda**

- On November 18th, intense fighting erupted in Dembecha town and surrounding areas.
  - The previous day, Fano fighters had gathered in the Daba-Gelila area for a ceremonial event. In response to this gathering, regime forces mobilized a large contingent to encircle and suppress Fano fighters.
  - Initially, the regime encircled the Engineer Kiber Temesgen Brigade, resulting in at least 4 casualties among Fano fighters. However, the Fano fighters launched a fierce counter-resistance and managed to break the encirclement.

- Reinforcements from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Nigussie Division's Belay Zeleke Brigade and the 2nd (Tefera Damtie) Division's Mezgebu Walalegn Brigade joined the combat, launching a counteroffensive against regime forces in the Dabata area.
- Reports indicate that the joint Fano forces inflicted significant casualties on regime soldiers.
- Additionally, the Engineer Kiber Temesgen Brigade initiated an offensive in Dembecha town to disrupt regime reinforcements, successfully entering and controlling the town for several hours around midday.
- The fighting that began on November 18th continued into November 19th.
  - Regime soldiers stationed in the Dabat-Gelila area maintained fierce resistance, hindering Fano fighters from completely displacing them.
  - In response, Fano launched an offensive in Dembecha town, aiming to draw regime forces away from Dabat.
  - Reports indicate that Fano inflicted numerous casualties and destroyed heavy weaponry while claiming to have captured 16 regime soldiers and killed an unspecified number.
  - In the afternoon, the regime conducted three successive drone attacks in Dembecha town, forcing Fano fighters to retreat to the suburbs. The number of casualties from the drone strikes is currently under investigation.
  - Various brigades from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam, including the Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Nigussie Division's Belay Zeleke and Engineer Kiber Temesgen Brigades and the Tefera Damte Division's Dega-Damot Brigade, were reportedly involved.

- Tensions escalated as Fano maintained a presence on the outskirts of Dembecha while regime forces reinforced their positions.
- Fighting that began earlier in Dembecha Woreda continued for a fifth consecutive day on November 22nd.
  - Regime forces persisted in their efforts to expand control into rural areas.
     However, soldiers who previously advanced to the Daba-Gelila area returned on November 21st after sustaining heavy casualties.
  - That day, regime soldiers attempted to cross into Dega-Damot Woreda but faced significant resistance from Fano fighters, resulting in the reported deaths and injuries of at least 100 regime soldiers.
  - On November 22md, the regime mobilized from Dembecha towards the Wad area, but encountered fierce resistance, preventing their advancement.
  - Tensions remained high, as further attacks from the regime were anticipated during the night.
- Fighting has continued for the seventh consecutive day in various locations throughout Dembecha Woreda, as regime forces persist in their attempts to penetrate Fano strongholds.
  - On November 24th, regime forces focused on advancing into the Wad area.
  - The Engineer Kiber Temesgen Fano Brigade mounted fierce resistance to repel the regime's advance.
  - Heavy casualties were reported during this confrontation, with significant losses among regime soldiers.
  - Fano fighters claimed that several high-ranking officials were among the dead, including Colonel Mohammed Ali and Inspector Shegaw (last name unknown).

#### Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On November 18th, regime forces attempted to mobilize from Jiga to nearby rural villages.
  - The Fano fighters in the area, particularly the Amhara Fano in Gojjam
     Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Atikem Division's Arenzaw-Damot Brigade,
     launched a counteroffensive that forced regime soldiers to retreat back to their
     encampment in Jiga.
  - Upon reentering Jiga, regime forces resorted to punitive measures against civilians, arresting approximately 19 businessmen under the pretext that they were wanted for questioning. Among those arrested were:
    - 1. Asnake Ayele, a businessman
    - 2. Emebet Asnake
    - 3. Getachew Getinet
    - 4. Zerihun (last name unknown)
    - 5. Mekete (last name unknown)
    - 6. Tigist Abebaw
    - 7. Yalemzerf (last name unknown)
    - 8. Meseret (last name unknown)
    - 9. Assefu (last name unknown)
    - 10. Binayaw Shibabaw
- Intense fighting erupted on November 22nd in a location known as Klinik.
  - Regime forces mobilized from Finote-Selam city in an attempt to encircle and suppress Fano fighters in the area.
  - Anticipating the regime's mobilization, Fano fighters mounted fierce resistance, preventing their entry into Klinik.

- Fano fighters claimed to have inflicted numerous casualties, forcing regime soldiers to retreat to Finote-Selam city.
- During the conflict, regime soldiers shelled heavy weaponry, resulting in 1 civilian death, 3 injuries, and damage to a residential home. The full extent of civilian casualties remains under investigation.
- Additionally, light gunfire exchanges occurred in Mankusa town, where Fano fighters claimed control.

#### **Dega-Damot Woreda**

 On November 21st, high-ranking Amhara Fano leaders from Gojjam convened a meeting with members of the Dega-Damot Brigade and the 2nd (Tefera Damtie) Division.

## Awi Zone

#### **Banja-Shikudad Woreda**

- The fighting that began on November 17th in the Injibara area continued into November 18th.
  - The regime mobilized significant forces into rural areas of the woreda, demonstrating its determination to expand its control.
  - Reports indicate that a joint force consisting of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam
     3rd (Gojjam-Agew-Midir) Division's Giwon, Ephrem Atinafu, Qegn-Azmach
     Simeneh Desta, and Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Jenbere Brigades mounted
     fierce resistance across three battlefronts, including in the Rebu-Gebeya,
     Satmiya Dangiya, and Mirkata areas.
  - Although they suffered casualties, regime forces managed to penetrate the Satmiya-Dengiya area. Reports suggest that the regime appropriated the St.

Kidane-Mihret Church as a shield, using it for cover while shelling from its vicinity.

- Ultimately, the regime was compelled to retreat, suffering severe losses, including the confirmed deaths of several soldiers and the capture of over 70 small firearms.
- The fighting that began earlier in the Injibara region continued into November 19th.
  - Reports indicate that a coalition of brigades from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Gojjam-Agew-Midir Division successfully confronted regime forces advancing into the Satma-Dengiya, Rebu-Gebeya, and Mirkata areas.
  - Fano fighters were able to approach Injibara town and launched further attacks on regime installations, inflicting additional casualties.

#### **Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda**

 On November 19th, fighting erupted in Tilili town and surrounding villages, initiated by the Zengena Fano Brigade, which attacked regime encampments. Amhara Fano fighters in Gojjam claimed to have maintained control of the town until evening.

#### Fagita-Lekoma Woreda

- On November 19th, intense fighting occurred in at least three battle areas within Fagita-Lekoma Woreda.
  - Sources indicate that regime forces mobilized to Fagita Kebele and Guder-Amsalta Kebele to suppress the Ephrem Atnafu Fano Brigade.
  - In a fierce confrontation, the Ephrem Atnafu Brigade engaged in two battles, inflicting significant casualties on regime forces.

- Additionally, Fano conducted an attack on the regime's encampment in Addis-Kidam town, reportedly causing over 50 regime fatalities and seizing control of the town for several hours.
- In retaliation for their defeat, regime troops executed 2 civilians identified as
   23-year-old Garde Muluken and 19-year-old Welelaw Shifferaw, after the Fano withdrew and regime forces re-entered the town.
- The fighting that began earlier in Fagita-Lekoma and surrounding woredas escalated through November 20th.
  - The regime intensified its military presence, deploying forces from Addis-Kidam and Dangila towns to suppress Fano fighters entrenched in Fagita Kebele.
  - In retaliation, Fano fighters from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam 3rd (Gojjam-Agew-Midir) Division's Ephrem Atnafu Brigade, launched a counteroffensive in the Emabanju area to preempt the regime's advance toward their strongholds.
  - Sources report that regime soldiers frequently employed heavy artillery, often targeting civilian areas. Following initial losses, the regime brought in additional reinforcements from Addis-Kidam, where Fano fighters mounted fierce resistance, thwarting further advancements.
  - However, in retaliation, regime soldiers killed at least six civilians and looted residents' properties.
  - The killed victims in the Emabanju area were identified as follows:
    - 1. Mrs. Mastewal Girma
    - 2. Ato Birhanu Erke
    - 3. Degfe Birhanu

- 4. Ashenafi Worku
- 5. Elias Worku (child)
- 6. Belew Getahun
- The regime's effort to advance into Fagita Kebele continued on November 22nd.
  - Regime troops mobilized through Dangila and launched an offensive into Fagita via Afesa Kebele.
  - Fano fighters from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's 1st and 3rd Divisions
     executed a coordinated attack before the regime could reach the Waz area.
  - The Fano brigades involved included the 1st Division's Colonel Tadesse
     Muluneh Brigade and the 3rd (Gojjam-Agew-Midir) Division's Zengena and
     Ephrem Atnafu Brigades.
  - Reports indicated significant casualties for regime soldiers, with Fano fighters claiming to have inflicted over 120 casualties, successfully repelling the advance into Fagita Kebele. Civilian casualties were also reported, though details remain unconfirmed.

#### Dangila Woreda

- On November 19th, regime soldiers set fire to a primary school in an area known as Abadra.
  - Local sources indicate that the soldiers intentionally poured gasoline on parts of the school before igniting the flames.
  - While the exact motive behind this alarming act remains unclear, speculations suggest it may have been a retaliation for recent military losses the regime suffered during clashes with Fano fighters. Others suggest that frustration over the school's delayed opening and the absence of students in the school might

also have triggered the attack. Regardless of the reasons, this deliberate act seems aimed at intimidating or retaliating against the local community.

- Eyewitness accounts report that some sections of the school were entirely consumed by fire, destroying classrooms and vital educational resources.
- Once the regime soldiers had departed, the community rallied together to extinguish the flames. Utilizing the tools and resources at their disposal, residents managed to contain the fire, safeguarding portions of the school from complete destruction and mitigating the overall damage.

#### Jawi Woreda

- On November 20th, a brief exchange of gunfire erupted in Fendika town, the administrative center of Jawi Woreda.
  - The confrontation began when the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Jawi Division launched an attack on the regime's encampment.
  - Reports indicate that the attack, carried out by a small number of Fano fighters, was successful in terms of military gains, resulting in the death and injury of an unspecified number of regime soldiers, as well as the capture of additional soldiers and firearms.

## North Gojjam Zone

#### North Mecha Woreda

- On November 20th, intense fighting broke out in North Mecha Woreda as regime forces advanced into rural villages to confront Fano fighters.
  - The Amhara Fano in Gojjam 1st Division's Colonel Tadesse Muluneh Brigade mounted a fierce counteroffensive.

- The fighting, which began in the morning and continued into the afternoon. A spokesperson for the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's 1st Division reported significant losses among regime forces.
- Reports also indicate that the fighting extended to Merawi town, likely as Fano fighters sought to prevent further reinforcements from reaching the frontline.
- On November 21st, regime soldiers conducted mass arrests in Merawi town, detaining over 200 civilians, primarily targeting bajaj drivers.

## **South Gonder Zone**

- Throughout this week, intense fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces has raged across South Gonder Zone.
  - The conflict spanned numerous locations including:
    - \* Dera Woreda: Clashes extended from Wanzaye to Arb-Gebeya town.
    - *\* Estie Woreda*: Fighting occurred from Mekane-Eyesus town to Lwaye, Mikre, and Sholekt Kebeles.
    - \* *Simada Woreda*: Significant engagements were also reported in this woreda.
    - *Tach-Gayint Woreda*: Battles took place in Agat-Medhanialem, Berenta, Gan-Wiha, Tiliq-Wenz, and Midaqua-Terara.
  - In all these areas, Fano forces achieved significant victories, clearing regime forces from key strategic locations. These successes resulted in over 84 confirmed regime fatalities.
  - Further conflicts also took place in Ibnat and Libo-Kemkem Woredas:
    - Intense fighting occurred in Gela-Metatebiya (Ibnat Woreda) on November 23rd. On November 22th, a fierce battle in Embachiko Kebele

resulted in at least 20 confirmed regime fatalities and the death of 2 farmers at the hands of regime forces. One Fano fighter was also killed.

- \* Fighting, beginning on November 21st and continuing on November 22nd in Fach Kebele (located on the border between Libo-Kemkem and Ibnat) resulted in the death of a regime captain and numerous other soldiers.
- \* Intense fighting on November 22nd in Arno-Gari resulted in significant regime losses.
- \* On November 22nd, significant fighting also took place in Ambo-Meda,
   Wiliha, and Tara-Gedam.
- Nineteen regime soldiers, fully equipped, defected to the Fano from the Belessa front in Ibnat Woreda. A major regime offensive toward Mena-Meqetewa Woreda, involving troop movements from Ibnat and Dega-Melza, and from Guna-Begemidir via Kimir-Dingaye town, Wuqro-Medhanialem, Amjaye-Giyorgis, Megendi, and Arb-Gebeya, resulted in heavy regime casualties and failed to secure control of the woreda. 11 civilians were killed by regime shelling during this offensive. The regime suffered significant losses including high-ranking officers.
- In a propaganda effort, the regime spread misinformation in Lwaye town on November 22nd, falsely claiming that Fano forces in Motta and Mertule-Maryam (East Gojjam) had surrendered and urged local residents to convince their children to surrender as well, offering to buy their heavy weapons. Furthermore, over 100 bank accounts belonging to families suspected to be associated with Fano fighters were blocked by the regime in Estie Woreda on November 20th.

#### **Estie Woreda**

- On November 17th, two separate battles erupted in Estie Woreda between Fano fighters and regime forces.
  - The first clash occurred in Sholekt Kebele, near Mekane-Eyesus town. This engagement began when regime forces, under the cover of darkness, launched a surprise offensive against the Fano. The Fano adopted a defensive strategy, engaging regime forces in intense fighting that lasted throughout the day.
     Regime forces suffered significant losses, and were forced to retreat to Mekane Eyesus in the evening, carrying their dead and wounded.
  - Despite this setback, the regime mobilized reinforcements and returned to Sholekt on November 18th, renewing the fighting.
  - Simultaneously, on November 17th, the Fano launched a two-pronged offensive against regime forces approaching Mekane-Eyesus from Lwaye and Andabet. These attacks inflicted heavy casualties on the regime. Furthermore, another significant battle took place throughout the day in Mikre Kebele, where regime forces deployed from Estie and Simada Woredas were engaged by Fano. The regime forces employed mortars, heavy machine guns, and ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns in the engagement.
- Intense fighting has continued unabated in Estie Woreda for three consecutive days, starting from November 17th to 19th, particularly in Sholekt and Mikre Kebeles.
  - Regime forces attempted to encircle Fano fighters in Mikre, but the Fano launched a counter-offensive, breaking the encirclement and inflicting heavy casualties on the regime forces. The Fano sustained limited losses, with one fatality and one injury.

- In retaliation for these losses, regime forces resorted to destroying private property, claiming they belonged to Fano members.
- Amidst fierce fighting in Sholekt Kebele, one Fano member managed to infiltrate a regime camp and carry out a surprise attack. He detonated three bombs and then killed 7 regime soldiers in close-quarters combat. He fought for 8 hours with 200 rounds of ammunition and managed to return seizing three kalashnikov rifles and four bombs.
- On November 20th, fierce fighting took place between Fano fighters and regime forces in Jibasra-Maryam Kebele.
- On November 24th, intense fighting erupted between regime forces and Fano forces at approximately 11 am local time, in Amjaye Kebele. The fighting is ongoing, and therefore, casualty figures remain unknown.

#### **Ibnat Woreda**

- On November 17th, regime forces abandoned Ambo-Meda town, a strategically important location situated between Addis-Zemen and Ibnat.
  - This withdrawal followed an internal disagreement between ENDF soldiers and state militia stationed there. As the regular soldiers retreated towards Addis-Zemen, the militia forces followed suit, leaving Ambo-Meda and its surrounding rural areas undefended.
  - The Fano fighters subsequently retook control of Ambo-Meda and the surrounding kebeles without encountering significant resistance, marking a significant territorial gain for the Fano.
- On November 20th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Melbaye village, Melza Kebele.

- The battle, which began early in the morning, marked another significant clash in the ongoing conflict.
- Simultaneously, Fano forces launched a successful ambush against regime forces in Abbo-Gedam, near Ambo-Meda town, specifically in Giracha-Abbo village, within Birkote Kebele. This ambush resulted in substantial casualties for the regime.
- In reprisal for their military setbacks, regime forces murdered 11 civilians in Abbo-Gedam. Among the victims were a four-year-old child and his father, killed by mortar fire while inside their home.
- A fierce battle took place on November 20th, in Giracha-Abbo, an area bordering between Ibnat and Libo-Kemkem Woredas.
  - During this engagement, the Fano fighters killed a high-ranking regime military officer. While some reports identify the officer as a colonel, others claim he held the rank of captain. Regardless of his exact rank, his death represents a significant loss for the regime; he was buried in Addis-Zemen's Hannah Church on the same day.
  - The following day, November 21st, a convoy of six regime military trucks carrying joint forces departed Ibnat town. Approximately two kilometers outside of Ibnat, near Tunjit Ber, one of the trucks overturned, resulting in numerous fatalities and serious injuries among the soldiers. This accident further demonstrates the challenges the regime faces in sustaining its military operations amidst the ongoing conflict.
- On November 23rd, a fierce battle took place between Fano fighters and regime forces in Gela-Metatebiya village.

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- Regime forces suffered heavy casualties during this engagement. In retaliation, and under the accusation that the civilian population was sympathetic to the Fano, the regime forces burned numerous bajaj motorized rickshaws.
- Furthermore, a significant number of bajaj drivers were arrested, and many young people were arbitrarily detained. There are serious concerns that these detained youths may be forcibly recruited into military training programs.
- On November 24th, the regime's invading army, recently severely weakened in skirmishes around Ibnat, launched a renewed attack. This assault targeted a specific Fano unit called the Zozamba Nigussie Division Tekezze Front Nadew Brigade's Wula-Maryam Special Force, in a location called Neyteta.
- The attack resulted in significant regime casualties, with many combatants wounded and killed. The routed remnants of the regime's forces subsequently fled to Ibnat town.
- Following this devastating defeat, regime forces indiscriminately killed 12 civilians from Wula-Maryam Kebele in a public execution. These civilians had no involvement in the conflict.

#### **Debre-Tabor City**

- A powerful bomb exploded in Debre-Tabor city on November 17th, targeting a camp occupied by regime militia and riot dispersal forces in Ajbar-Meda. The blast resulted in casualties among these forces, although the precise number remains unconfirmed. The perpetrator successfully escaped capture.
- In response to growing unrest, Prosperity Party political cadres convened a meeting with local residents to address the escalating crisis.
  - Participants expressed deep concern over the party's increasingly precarious situation, warning of its potential consequences for the nation and the safety of

its citizens.

- They highlighted the stark contrast between the security situation in Fano-controlled rural areas (where incidents of hostage-taking and robbery are rare) and the frequent occurrences of such crimes in regime-controlled urban centers.
- This disparity led to pointed criticism of the regime's inability to maintain order in the areas under its control.
- The meeting also addressed the worrying trend of police officers abandoning their posts. The cadres openly acknowledged their concerns about the high number of missing police personnel.

#### Simada Woreda

- During the period between November 17th and 19th, regime forces carried out various abuses against residents of Tsedoye Kebele.
  - Regime forces arbitrarily detained numerous individuals, alleging they were family members of Fano fighters. Many of these detainees were severely beaten.
  - Regime forces destroyed private property including televisions, accusing residents of watching satellite channels sympathetic to the Fano movement. Additionally, motorcycles were burned.
  - 10 civilians were detained, all of whom were women.
  - 4 medical doctors were brutally beaten for allegedly treating wounded Fano members. The injured doctors required hospitalization due to the severity of their injuries.

#### **Dera Woreda**

- On November 19th, Fano fighters executed a successful ambush against a regime convoy traveling from Licha to Arb-Gebeya.
  - The convoy, comprised of riot dispersal forces and regular ENDF soldiers, was moving at 9 am under the cover of darkness with two military vehicles. The Fano, strategically positioned in Azaba Kebele, launched a surprise attack resulting in the killing of all soldiers that were on board.
  - Enraged by these losses, regime forces retaliated in the morning by detaining 15 women in Arb-Gebeya town.
  - Regime militia forces murdered a young man in Azaba and publicly burned his body.
- On November 20th, regime forces engaged in a campaign of intimidation and propaganda, disarming 28 legally armed farmers.
  - These farmers were then compelled to appear on television, making false statements that they were Fano members.
  - The regime promised to return their weapons only after they made these televised confessions, further coercing them into declaring their surrender to regime forces.
  - This coercion and propaganda campaign took place in Tebabari,
     Sene-Maryam, Wiha, and Dihon Kebeles. Farmers who refused to participate in this false narrative had their weapons confiscated.
  - Simultaneously, intense fighting erupted in Azaba and Wetmera Kebeles on November 21st. This escalating conflict is part of a broader regime military operation aimed at clearing the area of Fano fighters before approaching Bahir-Dar.

 The regime's actions reveal a strategy combining both brute force and deceptive propaganda to suppress resistance and consolidate its control over the region.

#### **Tach-Gayint Woreda**

- On November 19th, intense fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces erupted in Agat Medhanealem Kebele continued into November 20th.
- Between November 19th and 21st, intense fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces has raged in Agat-Medhanialem Kebele.
  - The conflict, characterized by three distinct phases of intense close-quarters combat and bomb explosions from both sides, primarily took place across three mountain peaks in the area.
  - Regime forces suffered a significant defeat, resulting in at least 73 confirmed fatalities and forcing a retreat. The Fano captured a substantial amount of weaponry, including over 27 black kalashnikovs from a single battle site, along with over 20 mortar rounds and thousands of kalashnikov rounds of ammunition.
  - 14 regime soldiers, including a junior officer, were also taken prisoner.
  - During a subsequent engagement on a fourth peak, they suffered losses that included Fano Engineer Alebachew Werash, commander of the Ras-Gayint Fano Brigade, who was killed in action. Kefyalew Dessie, commander of the Gebriye Fano Division led the Fano forces in this battle, employing sniper tactics against regime forces.

## **Central Gonder Zone**

- On the morning of November 20th, intense fighting took place in multiple locations across East Dembiya and Gonder-Zuriya Woredas.
  - In fighting which took place in Guramba Kebele of East Dembiya Woreda and Arbayta-Tensa and Sheha-Gomenge Kebeles of Gonder-Zuriya Woreda.
  - These engagements resulted in heavy casualties for regime forces. While precise numbers remain unconfirmed.
  - Reports indicate that at least 51 regime soldiers were captured by the Fano, along with three machine guns, five sniper rifles, and a substantial amount of small arms and ammunition.

#### Alefa Woreda

- Under the cover of darkness on November 18th, regime forces advanced from Atsedemaryam town towards Cheba Kebele, launched a surprise offensive against Fano fighters stationed there.
  - The Fano responded with a well-coordinated defensive action, repelling the regime's attack in a fierce engagement.
  - The regime forces suffered significant casualties during this battle, while the Fano reported no losses.
  - Subsequently, regime forces withdrew from the area, carrying their dead and wounded soldiers.

## Takusa Woreda

• On November 19th, an intense battle took place between Fano fighters and regime forces in Widir village.

- The engagement resulted in a catastrophic defeat for the regime, marking an unprecedented level of destruction inflicted upon their forces by the Fano.
- The regime forces, attempting a nighttime encirclement of the Fano, suffered a devastating ambush. Their plan, however, was compromised when information about their intended maneuver was leaked to the Fano. The Fano, anticipating the attack, occupied strategic positions and unleashed a barrage of gunfire on the unsuspecting regime soldiers as they arrived.
- While the Fano sustained two minor injuries, regime forces suffered significant losses. Hundreds of soldiers were killed or wounded in this ambush, overwhelming the capacity of Delgi Hospital to treat the injured.
- The scale of the defeat forced a hasty retreat of the remaining regime forces, who were seen removing their dead and wounded on five Isuzu trucks.

#### **Gonder City**

- On November 19th, a large number of young detainees were transferred from the Chilga Seraba military camp to the Tewodros campus of Gonder University. These detainees are currently being held under guard by members of the regime's riot dispersal forces. The relocation of the detainees has raised significant concerns about their safety and well-being.
- On November 20th, at 3:30 am, Fano fighters successfully ambushed a convoy of regime riot dispersal and police forces transporting detainees from Angereb Prison to Gonder High Court. The early morning ambush disrupted the transfer of prisoners.
- On November 20th, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on a police convoy escorting detainees from Angereb prison to Gonder High Court.

- The ambush, which occurred near Wiha-Limat village in Kebele 3 of Gonder city, resulted in six police casualties. Four officers were killed outright, and two others sustained critical injuries; one of the critically injured officers later died at the hospital.
- This successful attack allowed the detainees to escape police custody with the assistance of the Fano fighters.

#### Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On November 20th, intense fighting erupted across multiple locations beginning at 11 am.
  - The fiercest battles occurred in Arbayta-Tensa Kebele and Sheha-Gomenge Kebeles.
  - The surviving regime soldiers retreated towards Qulqual-Ber, shelling Sheha-Gomenge and Arbaytu-Tensa with ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns and mortars. The Fano pursued them, launching their own offensive in Qulqual-Ber. This fighting spread across a wide area, from Bahir-Ginb to Sheha-Gomenge and Gorgora.
  - The previous day, November 19th, a surprise attack on regime forces at the Minzro checkpoint resulted in the deaths of at least 10 regime soldiers. 2 civilians were also killed by regime forces following this engagement.
- On November 20th, widespread fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces.
  - In Minzro town, regime forces initially gained entry, but a swift Fano counter-offensive resulted in heavy regime casualties and the recapture of Minzro by the Fano.

- The fighting in Qulqual-Ber also yielded significant losses for the regime, with numerous confirmed fatalities. The Fano also suffered casualties during these intense clashes.
- 7 regime soldiers were captured by the Fano in Qulqual-Ber.
- A similarly decisive victory for the Fano occurred in Arno-Gari, where 35 regime soldiers were taken prisoner, along with over 43 small arms and heavy weapons.
- Hospitals in Addis-Zemen and Gonder city reported a surge in injured regime soldiers seeking treatment.
- In the rural kebeles of Sheha-Gomenge and Arbaytu-Tensa, the Fano inflicted at least 51 confirmed fatalities on regime forces, capturing three heavy machine guns, seven sniper rifles, and numerous black kalashnikov rifles. The regime forces, stationed at the Maksegnit town military camp, spent the night firing their weapons in a show of anger and frustration over their losses.
- Continuing their campaign of intimidation and reprisal, the regime detained ten women in Achera-Maryam and Addisge-Dinge Kebeles on November 21st. They alleged that these women were mothers of Fano fighters. Among the detainees was an 81-year-old woman. Eighty cattle, purportedly belonging to Fano fighters, were also seized by the regime forces.
- On November 22nd, regime forces initiated a series of attacks across multiple locations.
  - In Bahir-Ginb town, the regime carried out a barrage of heavy artillery fire, resulting in the deaths of 2 farmers working in their fields.
  - Simultaneously, a surprise attack employing mortars and heavy machine guns targeted Fano fighters manning a checkpoint in Minzro town. The Fano

responded swiftly with a counter-offensive, inflicting heavy casualties on regime forces.

- Civilian casualties also occurred, with at least 16 fatalities in Arbaytu-Tensa and Sheha-Gomenge attributed to regime attacks. The Fano fighters suffered three casualties – a combination of fatalities and injuries – during these engagements.
- On the afternoon of November 23rd, regime forces launched a heavy barrage of artillery fire, including ZU-23s, heavy machine guns, and mortars, against Fano fighters manning a checkpoint in Minzro.
  - The Fano responded with a coordinated counter-offensive, inflicting significant casualties on regime forces. At least 10 regime soldiers were confirmed killed in this engagement, forcing a retreat back to Maksegnit town.
  - Separately, regime forces stationed near the Megech River shelled Ayimba town with heavy artillery.
  - On November 23rd, regime forces stationed in Dabat (North Gonder Zone), while attempting a surprise attack from Dabat, were decisively repelled in engagements near Benker, Enchuwara, Charbita, and Chila by the Ayalew Birru Fano Division. Suffering significant casualties, they were forced to retreat.
  - In separate incident, the Dil-Ber Fano Brigade launched a swift, 30-minute ambush against regime forces moving from Degoma towards Maksegnit. This attack inflicted heavy casualties on regime forces, forcing a retreat to their point of origin.

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#### East Dembiya Woreda

- On November 20th, intense fighting erupted across multiple locations beginning at 11 am.
  - The fiercest battles occurred in Guramba Kebele.
  - In a separate incident near Robit town, a large contingent of regime forces, positioned to launch a surprise attack on Fano forces, were instead encircled and decisively defeated.
  - The regime initiated a major offensive towards Robit town, deploying forces from Gorgora, Seraba, Qoladiba, and Berse-Anqer Kebeles. This offensive also resulted in substantial regime losses. Two Fano fighters were killed in the fighting around Robit.
  - On November 20th, the regime launched an offensive into Jerjera, Aba-Lomi, Jibara, and Jiba Kebeles (East Dembiya Woreda), attempting to disarm local farmers. This operation resulted in the deaths of 5 farmers, including a father and son from the same family, who were killed by regime gunfire.
- On November 20th, widespread fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces.
  - In Robit town, regime forces murdered 3 farmers working in their fields. The victims included a 70-year-old man tending to his onion crop. His children were also killed by the regime forces when they came to retrieve their father's body. After these killings, the regime forces returned to Chuahit, the administrative center of West Dembiya Woreda, celebrating their supposed victory.
- On November 23rd, regime forces detained at least 50 civilians in Robit town. In a separate act of aggression, these forces systematically destroyed the baking

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equipment of farmers, moving from house to house. The regime justified this destruction by claiming that the farmers were providing food to Fano fighters.

## West Gonder Zone

• Throughout the day of November 23rd, beginning in the early morning hours, regime forces conducted repeated drone surveillance missions over multiple locations in Metemma, West Armachiho, and Qwara Woredas. This aerial surveillance was particularly concentrated in West Armachiho Woreda, which experienced continuous monitoring by drones. The extensive and persistent drone activity suggests a significant military operation is either planned or underway in these regions.

#### Metemma Woreda

- On November 19th, regime forces based in Abrahajira (the administrative center of Tach-Armachiho Woreda) launched an operation into Qutir 1 Kebele of Metemma Woreda.
  - Upon arrival, they engaged in extrajudicial killings, targeting civilians under accusations of supporting Fano fighters.
  - At least 4 civilians were killed including a seven month pregnant woman.
     Three of the victims were women.
  - The regime forces further committed extrajudicial killings in Nega-Wiha
     Kebele, where an unspecified number of farmers were killed while working in
     their sorghum fields.

## North Gonder Zone

#### **Dabat Woreda**

 On November 23rd, regime forces stationed in Dabat, while attempting a surprise attack from Dabat, were decisively repelled in engagements near Benker, Enchuwara, Charbita, and Chila by the Ayalew Birru Fano Division. Regime forces suffering significant casualties, they were forced to retreat.

### Addis-Ababa City

- On November 17th, a fire broke out in Merkato, near Dinich-Berenda, the country's largest marketplace. The fire caused loss of life and significant property damage.
- On November 18th, many shops in Merkato were closed due to disputes over receipt enforcement and other related issues.
- On November 19th, strikes in numerous shops in the Merkato area persisted and have further spread to adjacent neighborhood shops in Addis-Ababa city, disrupting daily economic activities.
- On November 19th, the Prosperity Party's draft proclamation on civil servants faced opposition during discussions in the House of Peoples' Representatives.
  - The proposed Civil Servants Proclamation, which aimed to "consider ethnic composition" in federal government offices, was criticized by MPs, including Dr. Dessalegn Chanie from NAMA's Bahir Dar constituency.
  - Dr. Dessalegn argued that the draft undermines merit-based employment and is premised on an incorrect and unnecessary assumption that federal offices are dominated by one ethnic group.

- Sources highlighted allegations that regime security officers in Addis-Ababa city, including the Kality area, are demanding bribes to release detainees.<sup>6</sup>
  - The Ethiopian Reporter newspaper and residents have reported widespread arbitrary arrests and forced conscription under the pretext of "Corridor Development" and activities related to the recent Great Ethiopian Run on November 19th.
  - Many compare the current forced conscriptions under the regime to those during the Derg era, with increasing reports of coercion.
- The regime has suspended several civil society organizations advocating for human rights and democracy at the national level.
  - The Center for Advancement of Rights and Democracy (CARD), the Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia (AHRE) and Lawyers for Human Rights were among those suspended.
  - The regime accused these organizations of lacking political neutrality and engaging in activities contrary to national interests.
  - Critics argue the suspensions highlight the regime's authoritarian tendencies and raises concerns about the future of civil society organizations in Ethiopia.

## North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)

- On November 21st, the Oromia Region Communication Office issued a statement accusing Fano of carrying out an ethnic-based attack on an adolescent in Dera Woreda.
  - The statement followed the November 19th killing of 17-year-old Dereje Amare in Dera Woreda.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>See November 20th, 2024 report from The Ethiopian Reporter.

- Several Fano groups including the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command Atse Dawit Division's Asaminew Brigade and the Amhara Fano in Gojjam, and prominent activists, condemned the killing as a brutal act.
- Analysts and human rights advocates suspect the regime may have orchestrated the incident to provoke support using Oromo nationalist sentiments.
- The regime has been mobilizing university students across Oromia Region for demonstrations, allegedly aimed at inciting support for its political policies.
- Many recall similar tactics used following the killing of Oromo singer Hachalu Hundessa in June 2020, and the encirclement of Oromo politician and media mogul Jawar Mohammed by regime security forces in October 2019. In both cases, these events were exploited for political ends and led to inciting violence against Amhara civilians. Analysts warn the Dera incident may follow the same trajectory.
- Reports of intensified forced mass military recruitment have emerged in various parts of Oromia Region, particularly in areas like Nazreth, Sheger and North Shewa Zone.
- Pro-regime and Oromo nationalist activists have circulated inflammatory anti-Amhara messages.
- On November 24th, national opposition party Enat Party issued a statement condemning the regime and state-affiliated media for inciting inter-communal violence.<sup>7</sup>
  - The statement highlighted the brutal murder of a youth in Dera Woreda (North Shewa Zone, Oromia Region), whose video recently circulated on social media.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>See November 24th, 2024 statement from Enat Party.

- Enat Party cited the regime's previous silence on mass killings in Wollega,
   Dera, Mojo, and other areas, raising suspicions regarding the murder in Dera.
- The party called for an independent investigation into the murder and urged the regime and media to refrain from divisive rhetoric and actions.

# 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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