



## War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – August 19th to 25th, 2024

*Updated August 26th, 2024*

### Overview

For the week of August 19th to 25th, 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> In addition, renewed violence has swept through areas of Oromia Region bordering Amhara Region.

- Fighting in urban areas has continued with new engagements recorded in Woldia, Debre-Tabor, Finote-Selam and on the periphery of Bahir-Dar cities.
- Deadly attacks on unarmed civilians by regime forces were reported in Raya-Kobo, Moretena-Jiru, Sekela, Bahir-Dar-Zuriya, Alefa and Dabat Woredas. In Mekdela Woreda, a 10-year-old girl was reportedly raped by regime forces.

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<sup>1</sup>Regime forces are primarily comprised of regular army members of the *Ethiopian National Defense Force* (ENDF), regional riot dispersal forces, regional militias and regional police forces. However other groups have also fought alongside the regime.

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- In Telemt Woreda (North Gonder Zone), the *Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF) aligned settler administration has continued acts of persecution and harassment against native residents. In addition, landslides have led to casualties and displacement of thousands of residents.
  - In Dera Woreda of North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region) regime forces and allied *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) militants carried out attacks against Amhara civilians in Tuti Kebele.

### **North Wollo Zone**

- Following the passing of a transport restriction by the Amhara Fano in Wollo, transportation services were completely stopped in all parts of the Wollo sub-region between August 19th and 23rd. All main roads including Addis Ababa-Debre Birhan-Dessie, Dessie-Woldia-Kobo, Woldia-Gashena-Bahir Dar, and Dessie-Mekaneselam-Bahir Dar remained closed. Transportation within towns were not restricted in most cities but was restricted in some cities including in Woldia due to repeated bombings and mortar attacks on regime targets by Fano forces.

### **Woldia city**

- During the transport restriction, Fano controlled all three entrances to Woldia city and launched bomb and mortar attacks targeting regime officials and military facilities. On August 20th, Fano fighters from the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Asaminew Division carried out an unexpected mortar attack on regime forces encamped at Yejju Honey Processing Factory, and Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Alamode Stadium, in the west and southern parts of the city, respectively. On August 22n
- Fano fighters carried out three consecutive explosive detonations in the Piassa,

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Gonder-Ber, and Meneharia parts of the town. Such attacks panicked and destabilized the regime's civil and security administrations and the military. The civil administrators in the town were forced to flee and take refuge in a military camp of regime forces located in Hara town, around 20-km from Woldia in Gubalafto Woreda.

### **Raya-Kobo Woreda**

- Intense fighting took place between August 18th and 19th between Amhara Fano in Wollo and regime forces. On August 18th, regime militias opened fire on Fano fighters in Workie Kebele by the anti-Fano incitement of a local administrator. Even though the militias received artillery cover from nearby regime troops, Fano took the upper hand and took control of the kebele. Since the night of the same day and the following day, intense fighting between regime forces and Fano fighters took place in several parts of the woreda including Aradum, Robit, Abuare, and Chobi-Ber.
- On August 23rd, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime forces encamped at a military camp located in Chobi-Ber Kebele. The attack resulted in significant casualties for regime forces and fighting assisted by heavy artillery.
- The regime forces attacked civilians and wounded persons suspected of being combatants and receiving medical treatment and doctors providing medical assistance to them.
  - On August 13th, a civilian named Atalo Belay was executed by regime soldiers in Aradum Kebele.
  - On August 18th, Abuare Kebele, 3 civilians were summarily executed by regime troops. These victims were identified as 45-year-old Dergu Addisu, 30-year-old Yirga Molla, and 25-year-old Alemu Degu.

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- On August 18th, a young man, Adino Tekuarie, was abducted by regime soldiers in Aradum Kebele and taken to a military camp instead of a 10-year-old boy for the mere reason of his question of why they should arrest a child. After that, they replaced the boy with Darhie.
  - On August 20th, the 3 suspected Fano fighters who were receiving medical assistance in Kobo Hospital and a medical doctor were killed. Both the wounded persons and the doctor were killed with gunshots. Three of the victims including the doctor's dead bodies were found thrown into Hormat River, located near Kobo city.
  - On August 21st, another civilian not identified by name was killed by regime forces in a place called Chufa-Garia in Aradum Kebele.

## **South Wollo Zone**

### **Mekdela Woreda**

- According to Ethio-News, a 10-year-old girl was raped by a regime soldier in Masha town. She is facing a severe physical health problem due to the rape and has been referred to a hospital in Dessie city for better medical treatment since August 19th.

## **North Shewa Zone**

### **Debre-Sina Woreda**

- On August 23rd, fighting took place between Fano fighters and regime forces. The regime's forces were planting trees as parts of their *Green Legacy* initiative when they were attacked by Fano fighters near Wofe-Washa Kebele. Reports indicate that dozens of regime forces were killed in the attack.

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## **Moretena-Jiru Woreda**

- Following intense fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces between August 15th to 17th, regime forces reentered Enewari town. In retaliation for losses to Fano, they conducted extrajudicial killings of civilians in the town.

## **East Gojjam Zone**

- The Amhara Fano in Gojjam announced the lifting of a transportation restriction that had been in place for the past nine days.<sup>2</sup> Transportation services have resumed to some extent, though not fully. In some areas, regime soldiers have reportedly imposed fines on drivers who resumed services. For instance, in Debre-Markos city, regime soldiers fined and harassed drivers, questioning both why they had stopped and why they had resumed services. This action has significantly hindered the full resumption of transportation in many areas.

## **Enemay Woreda**

- On August 18th, regime officials escorted by troops were ambushed by Fano fighters in the Weyira area. This sudden attack resulted in an exchange of gunfire, though casualty figures remain unconfirmed. The regime troops and officials eventually managed to reach their destination.
- On August 21st, intense fighting occurred in the Dima and Telima areas. In the morning, regime forces mobilized from nearby bases such as Debre-Work and Bichena to confront Fano fighters in rural kebeles surrounding Dima. However, Fano fighters, forewarned of the attack, ambushed the regime troops before they could reach Dima, leading to intense confrontations and heavy fighting. The regime forces used heavy artillery, targeting residential areas and reportedly demolished at

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<sup>2</sup>See August 22, 2024 [press statement](#) from Amhara Fano in Gojjam

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least five houses. The fighting continued until midday, resulting in casualties on both sides, with significant losses for regime forces. Gunfire was also reported in neighboring cities, including Felege-Birhan and Debre-Work, as other Fano groups aimed to distract regime forces engaged in Dima.

- Fighting that began on August 21st continued through August 23rd in Dima and surrounding areas. On August 22nd, regime forces launched further operations to crush Fano fighters, but Fano forces fiercely resisted, inflicting significant losses on the regime. Reports indicate that Fano fighters captured troops and seized a large cache of firearms and ammunition. On August 23rd, the regime mobilized reinforcements from Bichena camp, but Fano ambushes in the Gotera and Arajo areas prevented their advance towards Dima.

### **Debre-Markos City and Machakel Woreda**

- On the night of August 18th, there was a brief exchange of gunfire in Debre-Markos, with the reasons and outcomes remaining unclear. Reports indicate that Fano fighters managed to infiltrate the city from four directions and opened fire. On August 19th, all activities in Debre-Markos came to a standstill, with transportation and commercial services nearly completely shutdown.
- On August 21st, light gunfire exchanges were reported in Debre-Markos city, initiated by Fano fighters in the vicinity of the prison center. Casualty figures have not been disclosed. The transportation activity and other services in the city have been largely limited for three days by the restriction called by Fano leaders. Meanwhile, Fano announced the resumption of internal transportation services within Debre-Markos city.
- Additionally, Fano fighters carried out a sudden attack in Amanuel town of Machakel Woreda on August 21st. Fano fighters attacked regime police officers at a

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café, resulting in the deaths of at least three officers.

### **Debay-Telatgin Woreda**

- On August 19th, Fano fighters ambushed regime soldiers traveling from Debre-Markos to Quyi town in the Makaleya area at midday. Sources reported light casualties among regime soldiers, who eventually managed to reach Quyi town.
- On August 20th, intense fighting erupted in Quyi town, initiated by Fano fighters who targeted a regime encampment. The clashes began in the early morning and continued into the afternoon. Reports indicate casualties on both sides, though the exact numbers remain unconfirmed.
- On August 22nd, regime soldiers from Quyi town advanced toward the Gorems area to suppress entrenched Fano fighters. Both sides suffered casualties during the confrontation. Meanwhile, Fano forces launched an attack on Quyi town, possibly to disrupt the regime's efforts in Gorems. By evening, regime soldiers had withdrawn from Gorems and returned to Quyi town.

### **Hulet-Eju-Enese Woreda**

- On August 19th, Fano fighters launched a sudden attack on a small café in Motta town, specifically targeting military officers who were present. The attack involved a bomb explosion, resulting in the death of one commander and injuries to several other military personnel. The commander succumbed to his injuries shortly after being taken to Debre-Markos Hospital.

### **Sinan Woreda**

- On August 22nd, regime soldiers mobilized from Debre-Markos to Sinan Woreda in an attempt to deliver military supplies to troops stationed in Rebu-Gebeya.

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However, Fano forces ambushed the regime's military convoys three times in the Yeted and Enerata areas. Reports indicate that Fano fighters captured a convoy carrying food and supplies. Due to repeated ambushes, regime soldiers were unable to transport logistics to their intended destination.

### **Aneded Woreda**

- On August 25th, intense fighting erupted in Amber town, Aneded Woreda. According to sources, Fano fighters, who had gathered from Awabel, Aneded, Baso-Liben, and surrounding areas, launched an offensive against the regime's encampment in Amber town. The battle began early in the morning and lasted until the afternoon. Confirmed reports indicate that three Fano fighters were killed, while numerous casualties were reported among regime soldiers. Initially, the Fano fighters forced the regime soldiers to abandon their camp. However, with reinforcements from Lumame and Debre-Markos, the regime troops managed to retake the camp.
- In connection with the fighting in Amber town, there was a brief exchange of gunfire in Lumame town, Awabel Woreda. The gunfire started when Fano fighters ambushed regime soldiers mobilizing to support their troops in Amber. Casualty numbers remain unknown.

### **Dejen Woreda**

- On August 25th, fighting broke out in the Gubiya area of Dejen Woreda. Fano fighters initiated the battle around midday, with the skirmish reportedly lasting for at least three hours. The outcome remains unclear.



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## **West Gojjam Zone**

### **Sekela Woreda**

- On August 20th and 21st, fighting was reported in the Ambisi area of Sekela Woreda. Regime forces attempted to suppress Fano fighters at their stronghold in Ambisi. Fano fighters confronted the regime soldiers, inflicting significant damage. Following the skirmish, some regime troops sought refuge in St. George's Church. The next day, they were forced to leave the church and retreat to Gish-Abay. Reports indicate that on August 20th, regime forces killed two civilians in Sekela, one of whom has been identified as Abebaw Abiye, while the other victim remains unnamed.

### **Dembecha Woreda**

- On August 23rd, heavy fighting erupted in the Anjeni area as Fano fighters clashed with regime troops attempting to advance into Dega-Damot early in the morning. Reports indicate that Fano forces inflicted significant losses on regime soldiers, halting their advance into Dega-Damot.

### **Finote-Selam City**

- On August 23rd, Fano fighters carried out a surprise attack on a checkpoint in Finote-Selam city. The attack, reportedly executed via a bomb explosion, killed and injured several soldiers at the checkpoint.
- On the morning of August 25th, Fano fighters launched another surprise attack on regime security and intelligence personnel in Finote-Selam city. Reports indicate the attack occurred during a social gathering following a burial, resulting in the deaths of an intelligence officer and a soldier.

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## **Awı Zone**

### **Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda**

- On August 17th, civil officials from the regime were attacked by Fano fighters while traveling from Tilili to Sekela. Reports suggest an unknown number of Prosperity Party cadres were killed or injured, with Fano claiming responsibility for the death and injury of at least eight individuals.
- Fighting that started earlier in Ashifa and Gundil areas continued through August 22nd. Fano fighters engaged regime soldiers who were attempting to advance into Sekela Woreda. After 2-3 days of intense battle, Fano forces neutralized the regime soldiers and forced the survivors to retreat to Tilili town.

## **North Gojjam Zone**

### **Bahir-Dar Zuriya Woreda**

- Amid the ongoing tensions between August 16th to 19th, regime forces have reportedly committed numerous violations against civilians. Reports indicate that business owners and vehicle drivers were coerced into resuming operations, with many others arrested and their properties confiscated. There are credible reports of regime forces killing and injuring civilians in the Abay-Mado area, whom they accused of affiliations with Fano fighters. The exact number of casualties and identities of the victims remain unknown. Additionally, Fano fighters have continued to launch surprise attacks on the outskirts of Bahir-Dar city, particularly in the Sebatamit and Zenzelima areas.
- On August 19th, an exchange of fire occurred in the Meshenti neighborhood of Bahir-Dar, initiated by Fano fighters targeting the regime encampment in the area. Fano claimed to have inflicted casualties among regime soldiers stationed there.

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## **South Achefer Woreda**

- Intense fighting occurred in Durbeti town on August 18th, initiated by Fano fighters who infiltrated a regime encampment early in the morning. Reports indicate casualties on both sides. Three Fano fighters and three motorbike riders were killed when the regime launched an ambush as the Fano entered the town. Conversely, over 30 regime troops were reportedly killed by Fano fighters during the confrontation. Fano claimed to have inflicted significant damage on regime forces mobilizing from Merawi to support their troops in Durbeti.

## **South Gonder Zone**

### **Debre-Tabor city**

- Following the Fano fighters' declaration to block all road transportation services, Debre-Tabor city has been inundated with heavy trucks, arriving from various locations including Nefas-Mewcha, Djibouti, Woldia, and other areas within North Wollo Zone. As of August 19th, all main roads leading out of South Gonder Zone are completely blocked.
  - The regime forces, under the guise of inspecting the trucks, are engaged in looting drivers in Debre-Tabor city. Transportation has also been halted since early morning on all routes connecting Gonder city to Bahir-Dar and Debre-Tabor via Maksegnit. Furthermore, roads between Gonder and Addis-Zemen, Gonder and Dabat, and Gonder and Debark town are completely closed to traffic.
- On August 20th, a tragic incident occurred when a dean of the health science college at Debre-Tabor University was killed by the regime forces. This act of violence triggered a subsequent exchange of gunfire in the village of Asfaw-Girar,

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located between the villages of Enatitu-Maryam and Medhanialem. The village, caught in the crossfire, became a focal point of the escalating conflict.

- On August 20th, militia forces, under the guise of searching for illegal firearms and Fano fighters, engaged in a systematic looting spree targeting residents of Tsegur-Kidanemihret and Melo villages in Debre-Tabor city. Their actions went beyond mere searches, as they plundered personal property, confiscating valuables such as mobile phones and gold necklaces. This blatant disregard for civilian rights and property exposed their true intentions, which were not about upholding the law, but rather exploiting the situation for personal gain.
- On August 22nd, Fano fighters captured the highest-ranking Prosperity Party political official in South Gonder Zone. While the identity and exact position of the captured official have not been publicly disclosed, this capture follows the killing of the zone's highest political authority figure by the Fano two days earlier in Debre-Tabor City.

### **Guna-Begemidir Woreda**

- In a daring display of tactical prowess, Fano fighters launched a successful ambush against a mechanized regime force near Jibara village located nearby Kimir-Dingaye town. The regime convoy, heavily armed with ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns and other heavy weaponry, was caught completely off guard. The Fano fighters, utilizing their intimate knowledge of the terrain, unleashed a devastating surprise attack, inflicting significant casualties on the regime forces. The attack resulted in the complete destruction of the ZU-23 and the elimination of numerous regime soldiers. The ambush underscored the Fano's ability to effectively counter the regime's mechanized forces, highlighting their strategic ingenuity and tactical mastery.

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## **Estie Woreda**

- The regime forces' complete withdrawal from Andabet, the administrative center of Estie Woreda, left their militia allies in the lurch. Without any prior notification, the regime forces abandoned the militia, forcing them to surrender their weapons and ammunition to the Fano fighters. In response, the Fano issued an ultimatum to militia forces stationed in Mekane-Eyesus, demanding the surrender of their military equipment by August 26th and a return to civilian life in their home villages.

## **Libo-Kemkem Woreda**

- On August 23rd, a significant escalation of the conflict unfolded in Addis-Zemen town. Five regular soldiers manning a checkpoint were captured by the Fano fighters. The soldiers were disarmed, losing their entire military equipment to the Fano forces. This event marks a major setback for the regime forces, demonstrating the growing strength and effectiveness of the Fano fighters in the region. The capture of these soldiers, along with their weapons, represents a significant symbolic victory for the Fano, highlighting their increasing ability to challenge the regime's military presence and control in the area.

## **Central Gonder Zone**

- This week, a series of meetings were convened in the cities of Gonder, Debre-Tabor, and Dessie, bringing together high-ranking officials of the Prosperity Party with lower-level party members. At each meeting, the lower officials voiced their exhaustion with the ongoing war, expressing a strong desire to see it end.
  - The meeting held in Gonder city on August 23rd, saw particularly pointed and critical questions directed at top officials. The lower officials highlighted the disproportionate burden they were bearing as a result of the war, pointing out

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that they were facing the direct consequences of the conflict while the top officials remained safely ensconced in large cities, largely unaffected by the war's hardships. They demanded an immediate cessation of hostilities through peaceful negotiation.

- The top officials, however, dismissed these concerns, asserting that the war could not be stopped as it was a matter of survival. They argued that there could only be one government in power and that the Fano forces, a local resistance group, must be eliminated through continued warfare.
- They declared that either the government would remain in power or the Fano forces would seize control. The choice, they declared, was clear: one side would prevail, and the other would be eradicated.
- The top officials further declared their unwavering resolve to completely destroy the Fano forces, setting a deadline of September 15th for the completion of this objective. This resolute stance, delivered with an air of finality, left the lower officials with a stark choice: to fully commit to the government's war strategy, regardless of their own exhaustion and the cost to their communities, or face the consequences of defying the party leadership.
- This stark contrast between the exhausted voices of the lower officials and the unwavering determination of the top officials highlights the deep divisions within the Prosperity Party regarding the ongoing conflict. It also reveals a potentially dangerous escalation of the war, with the top officials seeming committed to a decisive military victory at any cost.

### **Alefa Woreda**

- On August 17th, fierce fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in a bid to control Shawra town. The battleground spanned four directions: (1) Maryam-Sefer, (2) Gonder-Ber or Awey-Sefer, (3) Tara-Mikael, and (4)

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Atsede-Maryam or Mati-Sefer. Following hours of intense combat, the Fano fighters successfully entered Shawra town during the night of August 17th. They engaged in further clashes with regime forces until 4 am local time on August 18th, ultimately gaining control of the town before withdrawing.

- The Fano fighters stated their reason for leaving was to protect civilians from potential regime reprisals. They claimed that the regime forces often target civilians in retaliation for attacks by Fano. Following the Fano’s withdrawal, regime forces detained numerous civilians, accusing them of providing information to the Fano fighters.
  - In a renewed offensive, Fano fighters launched an attack on Shawra town from four directions on August 19th, beginning at 8:30 pm local time.
- On the night of August 21st, a decisive clash took place in Shahora town as Fano fighters from Alefa and Takusa Woredas launched a coordinated offensive against entrenched regime forces. Led by a trio of seasoned commanders – Samuel Baledl (Amhara Fano in Gonder Adwa Division), Gizachew Ale (Amhara Fano in Gonder Tewodros Division), and Shega Alebachew (Amhara Fano Gonder Command: Qwara Omedela Division) – the Fano forces targeted four key strongholds in the town: Maryam, Abuye, Medhanialem, and Mosque neighborhoods.
    - Despite the regime’s fortified positions, the Fano’s well-planned assault proved overwhelming. By dawn on August 22nd, the regime forces had been completely routed, their strongholds captured, and their defenses shattered. The victory was resounding, leaving behind a significant haul of enemy equipment: 5 machineguns guns and 135 firearms were seized by Fano forces from regime soldiers. Over 130 regime soldiers were killed, and many others sustained critical injuries.

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- Meanwhile, in the village of Amchaho, a separate battle unfolded as regime forces attempted to reinforce their beleaguered comrades in Shahora. The Amhar Fano in Gonder’s Tikur-Anbessa Brigade stood firm, engaging the reinforcements and successfully destroying two of their six armored vehicles with their full soldiers onboard. The Fano also inflicted heavy casualties on the regime forces, including the elimination of a ZU-23’s anti-aircraft gun operator and the capture of numerous regime soldiers.
  - In a chilling display of barbarity, the defeated regime forces retaliated by publicly executing 4 unarmed civilians. This heinous act highlighted their continued disregard for human life and their descent into desperation.
  - In similar manner the Tana Brigade, under the command of Lieutenant Libargachew, part of the Gemdr Division led by Commander Dereje Belay of the Amhara Fano Gonder Command, is currently engaged in fierce combat with regime forces in the Alefa-Takusa area, specifically around Delgi town and Mekonta. The fighting began at morning. This brigade is inflicting heavy casualties on regime forces currently attempting to regroup from various districts into zone capitals.
  - On August 22nd, a fierce battle erupted in Shahura, the administrative center of the Alefa Woreda, between Fano fighters and regime forces. The fighting resulted in significant casualties for the regime forces, with sources in Shahura confirming the presence of numerous dead soldiers scattered throughout the town. One source reported witnessing 27 uncollected bodies of militia forces in a single location, while another observed over 14 dead bodies belonging to riot dispersal forces, regular soldiers, and federal police.
    - Estimates suggest that around 65 regime forces were killed during the battle, leading to a desperate retaliatory response. After the fighting ceased,



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reinforcements from Qoladiba town and Gonder city arrived in Shahura after 6 pm and began killing unarmed civilians, including children, as a reprisal for the losses inflicted on the regime forces. At least 12 civilians were brutally murdered.

- The two military camps in Shahura suffered heavy casualties, effectively decimating the regime’s presence in the town. This forced the deployment of reinforcements, after which the Fano fighters withdrew from Shahura. The Fano forces successfully captured a large quantity of firearms, including heavy weapons, during the battle.

### **East Belessa Woreda**

- On August 18th, a significant shift occurred in the conflict as over 40 regime militia forces, along with their full military equipment, defected to Fano fighters. This defection followed the successful entry of the Fano into Guhala, the administrative center of East Belessa Woreda. The Fano’s victory resulted in the complete liberation of East Belessa Woreda.
- The regime forces attempted to retake Guhala but were unsuccessful. Adding to the Fano’s momentum, militia force coordinators reached out, requesting the Fano’s protection and a guarantee of safety should they surrender. Fighting in Guhala continued into a second day, with heavy casualties reported on the regime’s side. At least 32 militiamen sustained serious injuries or were killed. The Fano captured 30 kalashnikov rifles from regime forces in these clashes.
- On August 19th, the regime launched an offensive attack on Abaya town in Arbaya Belessa, seeking to regain control. However, the day saw a significant setback for the regime forces: their police commander and his escorts were killed in Arbaya.
- On August 22nd, Fano fighters executed a successful ambush against regime forces

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enroute from Gonder City to Belessa in East Belessa Woreda. Utilizing a barrage of explosives, the Fano destroyed three heavily loaded military trucks, killing all the soldiers aboard.

- Following this devastating attack, the newly deployed regime reinforcements launched an offensive in the area, engaging in eight hours of intense fighting with the Fano. The Fano's success was further solidified by the killing of the regime's captain in Belessa and the capture of five soldiers accompanying him.

### **Gonder-Zuriya Woreda**

- On August 19th, intense fighting broke out near Maksegnit town, the administrative center of Gonder-Zuriya Woreda, between Fano fighters and regime forces. The immediate trigger for the confrontation was an attack on a criminal investigations police officer and his escorts by unidentified individuals. The police officer sustained critical injuries, ultimately succumbing to death and was transported to Gonder Hospital.
- On August 20th, a fierce battle erupted in Dinzaz Kebele between Fano fighters and regime forces. The Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on a convoy of ten heavily armed regime military trucks that were heading towards Belessa.
  - This unexpected assault quickly escalated into a full-blown battle. The Fano fighters inflicted heavy casualties on the regime forces, who were caught off guard by the unexpected resistance. This successful ambush demonstrates the Fano fighters' tactical prowess and ability to inflict damage on a much larger and better-equipped military force.

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### **East Dembiya Woreda**

- On August 20th, a deadly internal conflict unfolded in Qoladiba town, where elements of the regime's regular military forces engaged in a deadly internal conflict. This self-inflicted battle resulted in the confirmed deaths of 10 soldiers. The immediate trigger for the clash was a growing sentiment among some soldiers that their continued involvement in the confrontation with the Fano forces was futile, as it yielded no tangible progress. These disillusioned soldiers decided to abandon the conflict zone, seeking to escape the fighting. This decision sparked a counteroffensive by their comrades, who sought to prevent their withdrawal, leading to the brutal clash that claimed the lives of 10 soldiers.

### **Tach Armachiho Woreda**

- On the night of August 22nd, the town of Abrehajira was a scene of escalating tension. The Fano fighters, a local resistance group, distributed leaflets urging the regular police and militia forces to lay down their arms, surrender their military equipment, and return to their villages. The leaflets called for an end to the hostilities and a return to normalcy.
  - This bold move by the Fano fighters seemed to have shaken the regime forces. In response, the joint forces, fearing a possible imminent attack, began digging trenches and fortifications around Abrehajira town. They also established a defensive position at the back of the town's administration building, indicating a heightened state of alert.

### **Gonder city**

- On August 22nd, a visually impaired law student in Gonder University was physically assaulted by regime forces.

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- The student was enjoying an evening at the Infinity bar and restaurant in Gonder city. While there, he was approached by a member of the riot dispersal force and two militia members. They introduced themselves as members of the Fano fighters and the student invited them to join him for a beer.
  - After sharing drinks, the group left the bar together and headed towards a military camp situated in Debre Birhan Selassie, within Gonder city. This camp housed riot dispersal forces and militia forces. Upon arriving, the student was subjected to a brutal beating by the group he had just been drinking with. They accused him of being a staunch supporter of the Fano fighters, a claim the student denied.
  - The attack was so severe that they dragged him behind a car, leaving him unconscious in the middle of the street. His unconscious body lay vulnerable to passing cars, but fortunately, he was discovered by passersby who rushed him to the hospital for medical attention.

## **West Gonder Zone**

### **Qwara Woreda**

- The complete withdrawal of regime forces from Qwara Woreda, a vast territory within West Gonder Zone, marked a significant military setback for the regime and a resounding victory for the Fano fighters. Following their success, the Fano facilitated the election of a new public administration for the Woreda, gathering the residents to participate in this crucial democratic process. This move solidified the Fano's commitment to restoring order and governance in the region, empowering the local populace to choose their own leaders and determine their future. The liberation of Qwara Woreda serves as a powerful testament to the Fano's determination to liberate their communities from the regime's grip.

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## West Armachiho Woreda

- Fierce fighting between the Fano fighters and the regime forces raged in the towns of Armachiho, Soroqa, and Achere, starting from the evening of August 20th continuing into August 21st. The regime forces suffered significant losses during these engagements, sustaining heavy casualties. Reliable sources indicate that hundreds of regime soldiers were killed or injured in the confrontations with the Fano forces. Furthermore, the Fano fighters successfully captured 19 regime soldiers, highlighting their tactical prowess and determination.
- In West Armachiho Woreda which borders Tach Armachiho Woreda (West Gonder Zone), the conflict took a dramatic turn. On August 22nd, a regime force convoy traveling from Maserodenb to Soroqa town was ambushed by Fano fighters in Shembeqit Kebele. The attack was sudden and unexpected, resulting in heavy casualties for the regime forces. Reports indicate at least 10 soldiers were killed, and many others sustained critical injuries.
  - The Fano fighters targeted the wheels of a heavy military truck, causing it to plunge into a steep ravine. Leading this particular Fano army division is Tadla, a remarkable female leader, demonstrating the diverse nature of the resistance.
  - These events demonstrate the growing conflict in the region, marked by both the Fano's increasing assertiveness and the regime forces' defensive response. The ambush signals a shift in the power dynamics, raising concerns about the potential for further escalation of violence.

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## North Gonder Zone

### Dabat Woreda

- On August 20th, three Fano fighters, seeking refuge and perhaps planning an operation, checked into the Eyerusalem hotel in Dabat town. Their presence was quickly reported to regime military forces, who swiftly surrounded the hotel. Three military intelligence personnel were then covertly deployed inside the hotel, likely with the intention of apprehending the Fano fighters.
  - In a surprise move, the Fano fighters launched a preemptive attack, successfully eliminating the three military intelligence personnel. Seizing their opportunity, the Fano fighters escaped from the hotel, taking possession of the military equipment belonging to the slain intelligence personnel.
  - Following the attack, the regime forces retrieved the bodies of their intelligence operatives from the hotel. In a retaliatory action, they commenced a heavy barrage upon the hotel using a ZU-23 anti-aircraft gun. This resulted in damage to the hotel's windows and, tragically, the death of a three-year-old girl who was crushed by a vehicle carrying the ZU-23 gun used in the attack.
- The town of Gedebye witnessed intense fighting on August 20th, as Fano fighters engaged in a fierce battle with the regime forces. The fighting, which began in the morning, continued throughout the day, ending only in the evening.
  - The conflict was initiated by the regime forces, who launched a two-pronged offensive with the aim of retaking control of Gedebye town. However, the Fano fighters put up a strong resistance, effectively repelling the regime forces and preventing them from re-occupying the town. The regime forces eventually retreated, having suffered significant losses due to the Fano fighters' fierce defense.

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- Tragically, the fighting resulted in civilian casualties. Four civilians were killed by government forces, including a woman and her infant who were caught in the crossfire during the exchange of gunfire.

### **East Telemt, West Telemt and Mai-Temri Woredas**

- The TPLF’s highest military officials convened to strategize regarding the upcoming referendum in Telemt, aimed at determining its regional affiliation – Tigray or Amhara. While acknowledging the need for a referendum, they deemed a hasty one disadvantageous. Instead, they devised a cunning plan to influence the outcome in favor of Tigray.
  - Their primary objective was to manipulate the pool of voters by ensuring that the referendum was not limited to the native residents of Telemt. They planned to flood the woreda with Tigrayans from other regions, effectively diluting the native population and guaranteeing a Tigrayan majority in the referendum. To facilitate this, they decided to delay the referendum until a sufficient number of Tigrayans could be transferred into Telemt.
  - This manipulative scheme extended to the newly established provisional administration for Telemt. The TPLF leaders mandated that the administration be composed of 50% Tigrayan newcomers and 50% native Telemt people. Crucially, this administration was to be answerable only to the Tigray Regional Government, effectively cutting off any accountability to the federal government. Furthermore, they decreed that any identity-related disputes be resolved by the Tigray Regional Government, further solidifying their control over the region.
  - This strategy, rooted in manipulation and disregard for democratic principles, reflects the TPLF’s determination to annex Telemt into Tigray, regardless of

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the genuine wishes of the native population. Their actions underscore their willingness to subvert democratic processes and exploit vulnerabilities for territorial gain.

- A devastating landslide struck the Nola area of Abna Kebele in Telemt Woreda on August 24th, resulting in a tragic loss of life and widespread destruction. The disaster claimed the lives of 10 people, with search and rescue efforts ongoing for the remaining six missing individuals. Four bodies have been recovered thus far.
  - The landslide also inflicted severe injuries upon eight individuals who are currently receiving medical treatment at the Dejach-Meda Health Center. The disaster’s impact extended beyond human casualties, with over 35 livestock animals perishing and over 30 hectares of farmland suffering significant damage.
  - The landslide displaced 480 households, encompassing a total of 2,400 individuals, who were forced to flee their homes. These displaced families have found temporary refuge in local community facilities located in the Kebele center.
  - Recognizing the continued threat of landslides due to the ongoing heavy rainfall, Tesfaye Workneh, the head of the Telemt Woreda Government Communication Office, issued a warning to residents of Nola, Lage, Wofa, Kudad, and Jib-Washi areas, urging them to exercise extreme caution and take necessary precautions. He stressed the critical importance of community preparedness, emphasizing the need for vigilance against the risks of flooding and other potential natural disasters associated with the heavy rains.
  - Tesfaye highlighted the urgent need for humanitarian aid to be provided to the displaced families, who are facing a dire situation in the aftermath of the devastating landslide.



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## **North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)**

### **Dera Woreda**

- This week, joint attacks by regime forces and OLA militants were carried out targeting Amhara residents in Tuti Kebele.

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## 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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