



## War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia - June 10th to 16th, 2024

*Updated June 16th, 2024*

### Overview

For the week of June 10th to 16th, 2024, fighting between *Amhara Fano freedom fighters* (Fano) and *Prosperity Party regime joint forces* (regime forces) has continued in various parts of Amhara Region while regime forces have continues identity-based attacks against civilians in Oromia Region in Ethiopia. Some notable developments are summarized as follows.

- Joint regime forces [Regime riot dispersal forces, militias and to a lesser extent regular soldiers from the *Ethiopian National Defense Force* (ENDF)] continue to see mass defections and low morale among their ranks including regular army forces, riot dispersal forces and militias.
- Regime forces have continued extrajudicial killings, property looting, mass arrests/abductions and collective punishment tactics against residents under pretext

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of supporting Fano forces. In West Armachiho (West Gonder Zone), political figures and medical doctors are among the victims of the mass detentions.

- Sudanese refugees in Metemma (West Gonder Zone) report facing neglect and withholding of humanitarian assistance from local authorities.
- Forces from the *Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF) have been carrying out various abuses against residents in Raya Alamata Woreda (North Wollo Zone) which remains under TPLF occupation. Abuses include extrajudicial killings and abductions which recently prompted peaceful demonstrations calling for removal of TPLF forces.
- TPLF forces attempted another military aggression against residents in Telemt Woreda. The TPLF has also been equipping internally displaced residents in preparation for an anticipated invasion of the Welkait Tegede Setit Humera Zone.
- Regime forces have intensified an attack against Amhara farmers in Abe-Dongoro Woreda and surrounding areas of Horo Guduru Wollega Zone (Oromia Region) under pretext of disarming local farmers.
- Farmers in Efratana-Gidim Woreda (North Shewa Zone) report facing attacks from regime militias and *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) militants crossing over from the neighboring Oromo Special Zone (Amhara Region) which has prevented them from harvesting.

## **North Wollo Zone**

### **Raya-Alamata Woreda**

- Tigray forces who have been in the town since the end of May 2024 are adding more forces. The newly incoming Tigray forces are more organized and heavily armed. An eyewitness said that he saw tanks, ZU-23s and military convoys moving

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to Alamata city from the direction of Tigray Proper. On the opposite, ENDF was trying to withdraw its small force encamped there. After the town's youth opposed and closed the road demanding either to give them the weapons or stay in Alamata, it preferred to stay back at its camp. Reports indicate the number of stationed ENDF soldiers are few compared to Tigray forces because the regime allocated its full force in Amhara Region. The Tigray are engaging in extrajudicial killings, forced displacement and abduction of residents and youth in the town and throughout the Raya area. Following the killing of a young man named Yared Melkamu on June 8th, residents of Alamata town took to the streets in large numbers the next day (June 9th) demonstrating against abuses by Tigray forces and calling for their withdrawal from Raya.<sup>1</sup> The late Yared was a worker of Ethiopian Electric Service and was gunned down by the Tigray forces while he was working on an electric pole. In opposition to the people's demands, more Tigray forces are being deployed to Raya and the abuses against residents are intensifying rather than slowing. Tensions remain high in the town as more Tigray forces are being deployed and intensifying their abuses against the residents. At least four other people were injured and dozens have been abducted and taken to Tigray Proper. Among the victims of the abductions is Alamata city Sport and Youth Affairs office head Abduselam. Students of at least three schools including Midregenet, Misrak and Tadagiwa Ethiopia were unable to take grade 8 national examination because the schools were being used as camps by the TPLF forces. There were also attempts to disrupt examination proceedings in other schools. Some schools were able to successfully complete these examinations under protection from local youth.

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<sup>1</sup>See June 10, 2024 article from [DW Amharic](#)

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### **Raya-Kobo Woreda**

- In the last couple of days since June 6th, fighting between Fano forces and regime forces has taken place in Menjelo Kebele and Robit town of Raya Kobo Woreda. The fighting continues and is expanding towards Kobo town. Tensions have been rising in the town since June 11th when Fano began encircling it apparently to launch an attack on regime forces.

### **Habru Woreda**

- Since June 10th, intense fighting assisted by heavy artillery from the regime's side has taken place in areas bordering Habru Woreda (North Wollo) and Ambassel Woreda (South Wollo areas). The fighting has taken place in a large number of areas including Robit, Wurgessa and Libso areas of Habru Woreda. All these areas are located along the A2 highway that connects Woldia and Dessie towns. The fighting engagement also covers Robit and Golbo Kebeles and Wuchale city from Ambassel Woreda. The fighting engagement was initiated by the regime to push Fano out of Wurgessa town (Habru Woreda) which the Fano had control of for a prolonged period of time. After two days of fighting, Fano secured control of Wuchale town and defended its control of Wurgessa. As of June 12th fighting has paused but is expected to resume as the regime deploys more forces from both Hayk and Mersa directions towards Ambassel and Habru which are under Fano control. The regime has also continued shelling the areas under Fano control, despite no active fighting. The regime's military forces include infantry and mechanized battalions largely from the ENDF Eastern Command supplemented by the riot dispersal forces.

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## **South Wollo Zone**

### **Borena Woreda**

- On June 9th, Fano forces carried out a surprise attack on regime forces who were traveling from Mekaneselam town to Abay Valley in a place called Meneyu-Mariam, located just outside of the town. Four convoys of regime troops were all either killed or injured in the attack. Following this incident, the regime forces have began mass arrests and harassment targeting residents of Mekaneselam town in reprisal.

## **North Shewa Zone**

- This week, among the areas that saw fresh conflicts were Midaworemo and Merhabete Woredas. In both woredas, regime forces initiated the fighting with the motive to disperse Fano forces in the areas. However, the Fano forces managed to maintain their positions. Fano have utilized hit-and-run tactics in various parts of North Shewa Zone.
- Many schools, clinics, and hospitals in the zone are being used as military bases by regime forces. As a result, students are out of school, and patients are unable to receive medication from nearby medical centers.
- Reports from Shewa-Robit town (Kewot Woreda) indicate that the regime arrested a nine-year-old boy named Yeabsera Aycheluhem, a resident of Areso-Amba Keble, and detained him for over 50 days. Yeabesera was arrested after he told soldiers that he was not interested in going to school but instead planned to join the Fano when he grew up. This statement angered the regime forces, leading to his arrest at the Shewa-Robit town prison.
- Sources from Efratana-Gidim Woreda reported that farmers are unable to plow their

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lands. The sole reason these farmers are not harvesting is the continuous attacks by local regime militias and OLA militants crossing over from the Oromo Special Zone. The farmers fear that this summer season will pass before they can plow their farms.

### **Mida-Merjna Woreda**

- Between June 8th and 9th, fierce fighting broke out between Fano and joint regime forces in Mida-Merjna Woreda. In the fighting, the regime forces initially gained the upper hand and managed to enter Rema town however the Fano organized themselves and retook a counter-offensive, retaking Rema town.

### **Merhabete Woreda**

- As of June 10th, following defeat to Fano forces, regime forces were forced to retreat to Alem-Ketema town.

### **Minjar-Shenkora Woreda**

- On June 10th Fano forces attacked a military vehicle transporting soldiers in Minjar-Shenkora Woreda. As a result of this attack, regime forces lost most of the soldiers who were travelling in three vehicles. There was a short-lived exchange of fire between Fano and regime forces after the surprise attack.

## **West Gojjam Zone**

### **Sekela Woreda**

- Heavy fighting erupted on the night of June 9th in the Agut area of Sekela Woreda, initiated by regime forces which mobilized from multiple directions to encircle and suppress Fano forces entrenched in the area. Reports indicate that Fano forces,

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successfully defended against the regime forces, inflicting significant losses. The regime continues to mobilize reinforcements from neighboring bases. Civilian casualties remain unconfirmed.

- On June 10th, there was light gunfire exchange in the suburbs of Gish-Abay town, administrative center of Sekela Woreda. Regime forces were unable to locate the Fano however the deaths of 2 young civilians was confirmed in the incident.

### **Quarit Woreda**

- On June 14th, heavy fighting erupted in an area called Taliya. Reports indicated that the fighting was initiated by regime forces mobilized from Quarit and Sekela. Fano fighters successfully defended against the regime's aggression.
- On June 16th, regime soldiers from Jiga and Gebeze-Mariam raided Genet-Abo town. However, they immediately withdrew as they did not locate Fano fighters. The entry of regime forces also disturbed members of the public gathered in the market.

### **Dega-Damot Woreda**

- Amidst the ongoing armed conflict, there are reports of Amhara Fano in Gojjam actively working to strengthen their structural integrity and leadership within the Gojjam sub-region. An illustrative event took place on June 9th. According to Ashara media, the Tefera Damte Regiment initiated a significant development within the Dega-Damot Brigade.<sup>2</sup> This led to pivotal decisions within the brigade's executive leadership, including the appointment of new personnel to fill previously vacant positions. During this event, notable figures such as the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Deputy Chairman and Army Commander Shaleqa Zinabu were present, overseeing the proceedings. The following decisions were also passed:

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<sup>2</sup>See June 11, 2024 report from [Ashara Media](#)

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- The endorsement of guidelines and by-laws for the Dega-Damot Brigade, garnering majority support through a vote.
  - Allocation of roles and responsibilities to both the executive committee members and the brigade’s management team.
  - A decision to honor fallen comrades by dedicating battalions and military formations within the brigade to them. For instance, “Battalion 3” in the Dega-Damot Brigade was unanimously renamed “Tadu Ateneh Battalion” in tribute to a revered martyr.
- On June 14th, fighting erupted in three areas of Dega-Damot Woreda. Regime forces initiated the conflict, targeting rural kebeles where Fano forces hold strong positions. Forewarned about the operation, the Fano engaged the regime soldiers in Aynamba Kebele and Wogem-Giyorgis, causing significant damages. Reports also indicate that Fano entered Feres-Bet town and attacked the regime’s encampment. Civilian casualties have not yet been reported.

### **Jabi-Tehnan Woreda**

- On June 13th, heavy fighting occurred in Maksegnit. The conflict was initiated by regime forces mobilized from Finote-Selam and Jiga towns, aiming to suppress entrenched Fano fighters. Fano forces from neighboring woredas joined the battle. It is reported that the regime suffered significant losses.

### **Finote-Selam Woreda**

- On the afternoon of June 10th, skirmishes broke out on the outskirts of Finote-Selam city, initiated by Fano fighters in the area known as Firn. Sources report the sound of heavy gunfire reaching Finote-Selam city until evening, with casualties among fighting parties and civilians remaining unconfirmed.



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## **East Gojjam Zone**

### **Gozamin Woreda**

- Between June 11th-12th, fierce fighting continued in Gozamin Woreda. On June 11th, regime troops mobilized forces from Lumame and Amber bases towards Yebokla small town to encircle and suppress the Fano forces. Reports indicate the use of heavy artillery, which were heard from neighboring woredas. Fano reportedly faced heavy resistance, but the exact outcome is unclear. Fighting has continued through to June 12th, with regime troops deploying reinforcement forces from nearby areas. Reports indicate human rights violations, including the massacre of numerous civilians through shooting and arbitrary shelling, though exact figures are unknown. Fighting continued until June 13th, with regime troops deploying reinforcements from nearby areas. The Fano reportedly caused heavy casualties, include killings, injuries, and capture of regime soldiers. Some reports also indicate that Fano forces captured heavy artillery. Reports also indicate human rights violations, including the massacre of numerous civilians through shooting and arbitrary shelling.

### **Enemay Woreda**

- On June 11th, Fano forces launched a surprise attack in Mengisto, targeting regime soldiers moving from Bichena to Debre-Work. A gunfire exchange took place following the sudden attack, with no casualties reported among the regime forces, but one Fano fighter and one civilian were killed by artillery shelling.
- On June 13th, intense fighting occurred in Dima-Giyorgis, initiated by regime forces late at night against entrenched Fano fighters. Forewarned, the Fano launched a counteroffensive, resulting in a heavy gunfire exchange lasting until 2 pm. At least seven regime soldiers were killed, with no reported casualties among the Fano. The

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regime forces were unable to retrieve their dead and were unable to leave the area until reinforcements arrived to break the encirclement. A civilian was reportedly killed by the artillery shelling.

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

- On the morning of June 14th, regime soldiers killed at least seven civilians in an area called Keranyo, near Motta town. The victims were digging a grave for an elderly person in the area. The regime forces passing through this area found the victims and shot them dead, claiming they were preparing fortifications for Fano fighters.

### **Baso-Liben Woreda**

- Reports indicate that on June 14th, Fano forces captured the woreda police command. In response, the regime conducted drone surveillance in Kork Kebele.

### **North Gojjam Zone**

- On June 11th, Fano forces launched heavy gunfire on a regime unit which attempted to cross to South Gonder Zone through Arib-Gebeya. It was reported that the regime suffered heavy military losses in the engagement.

### **North Mecha Woreda**

- On June 13th, following a sudden attack by Fano fighters, regime soldiers killed at least three civilians in Merawi town, including a teenage girl. Additionally, sources reported that regime soldiers killed another young man in the Rim area as they advanced from Merawi to Gerchech town. On June 16th, Fano forces carried out a surprise attack in the Wetet-Abay area, killing and wounding some regime soldiers. Following the sudden attack, regime forces went door-to-door, killing more than 13 civilians.

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## **Bahir-Dar Zuriya Woreda**

- On June 12th, fighting took place in Zanzelima and Tis-Abay areas in areas surrounding Bahir-Dar city. Media reports indicate Fano forces killed more than ten regime soldiers, particularly regime militias and riot dispersal forces. Reports also mention the capture of firearms by Fano.

## **Awi Zone**

- On June 10th, heavy fighting occurred in Tilili town, where Fano forces launched an offensive by infiltrating the town and attacking the regime's encampment. While the outcome remains undisclosed, reports suggest that Fano eventually withdrew after executing a successful operation.
- On June 10th, heavy fighting occurred in areas of Agut and Ashifa, the entry points towards Sekela Woreda. Regime forces mobilized from Bure and Tilili bases with the intention to encircle Fano forces. Reports indicate that the regime later withdrew after inflicting significant harm on civilians. Particularly in Ashifa Kebele of Guagusa Shikudad Woreda, regime troops massacred several civilians, including priests and women. Reports also indicate abduction of several civilians and looting of residents' properties. According to Ethio-News, 6 civilians were killed in Ashifa Kebele, while the Amhara Broadcasting Center (ABC TV) reported up to 13 civilian deaths. Sources confirmed civilian casualties, but the details were not verified.

## **Central Gonder Zone**

- As of June 16th, intense fighting has been raging across multiple locations in Central Gonder Zone, including Belessa to Azezo, Denkez to Wegera, Ambo-Ber to Ayimba, and Minzro to Qulqual Ber. The regime has deployed three army divisions, a significant number of riot dispersal forces, and militia members to these war

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fronts. They have also mobilized heavily mechanized military forces and armored vehicles to support these operations.

### **Gonder city**

- On June 9th, at 1 pm, two individuals affiliated with regime riot dispersal forces were reportedly killed by unidentified assailants. One of these individuals was involved in confiscating and tearing apart images of Fano Nahusenay Andargie during a memorial event held at his parents' residence in Gonder city. This individual had forcibly removed the images from attendees, expressing anger towards Nahusenay for the late Fano member's actions in Addis Ababa city.<sup>3</sup>
- On June 12th, an exchange of gunfire erupted in Biliko village, lasting for approximately an hour from the morning onwards.
- Gonder University Hospital employees have reported that they have not received night allowances or duty payments for treating patients during the night for the past six months. Despite the hospital being overwhelmed with treatment of injured soldiers fighting for the regime, these healthcare workers are being denied their usual compensation. This situation highlights the regime's prioritization of military spending over essential public services, even in crucial institutions like universities.
- Gonder city is currently experiencing a severe shortage of clean and safe drinking water, with residents having to wait at least a month to receive water from their taps. Many residents have resorted to using water from wells, which can be contaminated and pose health risks, especially for children. Some are even using rainwater for drinking purposes. Bajaj and taxi drivers are forced to travel long distances to fetch water for their families. Tragically, one individual died in a bajaj accident on June 11th, while searching for water. Despite this crisis, city authorities continue to invite

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<sup>3</sup>See April 13, 2024 joint [press briefing](#) from Amhara Fano leaders.

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officials from other regions to showcase infrastructure development projects, including the Megech reservoir project on the Angereb river, which is not currently providing water to city residents. Even hospitals in Gonder city are facing acute water shortages, hindering their ability to provide essential medical services and assist in childbirth.

- Since the afternoon of June 15th, there has been repeated gunfire near the ENDF North-West Central Command camp situated in Azezo. The gunfire has continued into the evening. The cause of the repeated gunfire and potential damages are currently unclear.
- On June 15th, an unidentified official of the regime's security and intelligence bureau was killed at his home in Azezo sub-city.
- On June 15th, Fano captured a large number of regime militia forces in Azezo sub-city. Following this, repeated gunfire erupted around the North-West ENDF Central Command camp in Azezo. On the same day, Fano forces infiltrated Gonder city, launching surprise attacks on Hamle 5, the municipality, and various police stations. They successfully seized a significant cache of weapons. These attacks have sparked security concerns in Gonder city, and regime forces spent the entire day of June 16th patrolling and searching the city with heightened anxiety.

### **Gonder-Zuriya Woreda**

- On June 15th, intense fighting erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Ayimba and Denkez towns, beginning in the afternoon. While accurate casualty figures remain difficult to obtain, numerous ambulance vehicles are transporting injured soldiers from the conflict zone to hospitals as of June 16th. The fierce fighting on June 15th was initiated by regime forces, who deployed heavy weaponry to Ayimba and Denkez towns based on intelligence that Fano forces were planning

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to infiltrate Gonder city from two directions.

- On June 16th, the regime mobilized significant troops and heavy weaponry, including armored vehicles, from the Gonder Azezo central command to Denkez and Ayimba towns.
- On June 16th, Fano forces launched a surprise attack on two military vehicles carrying soldiers in Minzro-Teklehaymanot, resulting in significant casualties. Both vehicles were destroyed with one being completely obliterated leaving no survivors, while the other was destroyed with most regime soldiers killed and the remaining critically injured. Following the attack, fighting erupted in Minzro-Teklehaymanot and continued into the evening.

### **West Dembiya Woreda**

- On June 8th, Fano forces successfully infiltrated Chuahit town, launching a multi-pronged attack on regime forces from three different directions. The Fano forces maintained their presence in the town throughout the night before withdrawing in the morning. Notably there were no reported human or material casualties as a result of the operation.
- The Woreda administrator Wedaje Bante, is working with regime forces to detain numerous young people. These detentions are carried out under the pretense of the youth being Fano members or sympathizers of the Fano movement.
- On June 12th, regime forces extrajudicially killed three unarmed brothers from the same family in Kwame Kebele. The brothers were identified as 36-year-old Priest Getu Ayu, 33-year-old Taddie Ayu, and 30-year-old Tesfaye Ayu, who were detained by the forces before being murdered. Their bodies were later discovered discarded in the street. Their parents have been in a state of shock and grief after discovering their sons' deaths.

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## East Dembiya Woreda

- Between June 10th at 2:30 pm and the morning of June 11th at 11:30 am, Fano forces carried out a surprise attack targeting three military camps which resulted in significant human casualties among the regime forces in Qoladiba town. They included three military camps, two regular army camps and a riot dispersal force camp. All military supplies, including weapons in these military camps, were seized by the Fano during the operation. Following the Fano forces' departure after a successful military operation against the joint regime forces encamped in Qoladiba town, regime reinforcements arrived from the ENDF North West Central Military Command in Gonder-Azezo and have been indiscriminately firing ZU-23s and other heavy weapons towards the outskirts of Qoladiba since morning. The bodies of the fallen regime troops remain uncollected, and residents of the town have been ordered to stay indoors. As a result, Qoladiba has been under a deafening silence, broken only by the sporadic gunfire from regime forces.
- During the intense fighting on June 11th, regime forces indiscriminately fired heavy artillery in various directions in the outskirts of Qoladiba town. One such attack targeted a house in Genda-Wiha village in Deresge Kebele, where children were gathered to play. Three of Ato Melese Kebede's children were critically injured in the artillery strike. The victims included a 20-year-old, a 17-year-old, and a young child.
- The bodies of numerous young people, victims of regime forces, have been repeatedly found floating in Lake Tana. Among the victims was Adbar Adugna, a resident of Seraba-Debelo Kebele, whose body was found discolored due to prolonged immersion in the lake.

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### **Simenegnaw-Wogera Woreda**

- On June 16th, intense fighting erupted between Fano forces and regime forces near Amba-Giyorgis town, starting in the morning. After a fierce battle, the Fano forces emerged victorious, successfully entering Amb- Giyorgis. The regime forces suffered significant casualties in the fighting and were forced to abandon their military camp to the Fano.

### **West Gonder Zone**

#### **Qwara Woreda**

- On June 9th, intense fighting erupted between regime forces and Fano forces. The conflict, initially concentrated in Delego town, spread to Shinfa town. Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime forces stationed in Shinfa, targeting four different sectors of the town. From 9 pm onwards, the Fano forces successfully cleared the town of the regime forces, regaining control with high morale. They captured the police station and seized its weapons depot, acquiring a substantial amount of weaponry. Following the successful completion of their military operation in Shinfa, the Fano forces withdrew from the town on June 10th. Their departure was not prompted by military pressure from the regime forces, who subsequently entered Shinfa after the Fano forces' withdrawal.

#### **Metemma Woreda**

- Sudanese refugees residing in the Metemma camp have voiced concerns over the delayed distribution of humanitarian aid. They allege that they are only receiving approximately one-third of the aid allocated by humanitarian organizations each month by the aid coordinators. Furthermore, refugees in the Metemma Humer camp report ongoing attacks and mistreatment by regime-assigned militia forces tasked



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with guarding the camp, as well as robbers who are believed to have support from local authorities. In response to these grievances, the refugees plan to organize a peaceful demonstration to express their dissatisfaction with the aid coordinators, who include both Ethiopian and international personnel.

- Since June 14th, fierce fighting has been raging in Metemma town between Fano forces and regime forces. On June 15th, Fano forces successfully ambushed a convoy of regime troops at Addis-Alem Kebele. Two military vehicles were destroyed, resulting in the deaths of most soldiers on board and critical injuries to the survivors. Following the ambush, the regime sent reinforcements from Metemma town to Addis-Alem Kebele to recover the injured and deceased soldiers. However, the Fano forces, having anticipated this move, launched a second ambush at Wedi-Gemzo village, inflicting heavy casualties on regime forces.

### **West Armachiho Woreda**

- On June 11th, intense fighting erupted between Fano forces and joint regime forces in Meherish Kebele particularly in Zemen-Awra village, commencing at the middle of the night and continued until 5 am in the morning. The conflict resulted in significant casualties among regime militias, with ambulances frequently transporting the wounded from the battlefield to nearby hospitals. In addition to regime militia forces, regular regime military forces and riot dispersal forces have suffered significant casualties in the ongoing fighting. At least 13 regular army members have been confirmed killed, while 7 have sustained critical injuries. On the Fano side, two members have been critically injured and one has sustained a minor physical injury. The majority of regime forces' casualties occurred during a nighttime advance towards Fano positions, where they were met with heavy resistance.

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- On the night of June 11th, at least 9 regime riot dispersal forces defected from the regime from the West Armachiho riot dispersal military camp and joined the Fano forces. A policewoman has also reportedly defected to the Fano forces in the woreda. In response to these defections, woreda authorities have attempted to placate police, riot dispersal forces, and militia forces by offering various incentives, including large tracts of farmland. However, corruption and mismanagement are rampant among political cadres in the woreda. Civil servants have not received their monthly salaries, while cadres continue to draw salaries through fraudulent means. Urban and fertile farmland is being sold and allocated to the cadres' families.
  - It has been confirmed that regime forces apprehended three civil servants from the woreda and four medical doctors. Among those detained was prominent political figure Engida Wagnew, known for his involvement in the Andinet party and later the National Movement of Amhara. Others arrested include Setegn Simon, Aragaw, and Getachew. The medical doctors were accused of treating injured Fano members. All detainees are currently being held at the Abrehajira town police station.

## **North Gonder Zone**

- As of June 10th, residents of Debark town, Adarkay Woreda, and Telemt Woreda have been experiencing a six-day power outage. This disruption is attributed to the deliberate targeting of the main power transformer in Amba-Giyorgis town by regime military forces during recent fierce fighting with Fano forces in Dabat Woreda. As a result of the power outage, water supplies have also been affected, leaving residents without access to clean water.

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## **Dabat Woreda**

- On June 11th severe losses were inflicted on regime militia forces in Ajire Janora which have had a profound impact on the militia presence in the surrounding areas. The sight of the slain bodies of 62 militia members entering Dabat town alone has instilled fear and demoralization among their ranks. This heavy toll has sent shockwaves throughout the militia forces in the region, prompting a significant number of them to abandon their posts and desert the regime's forces. The defections have been driven by a loss of morale and a reluctance to engage in further confrontations with the Fano forces.

## **Telemt Woreda**

- Since the morning of June 10th, there has been heavy shelling and intermittent firing in Telemt Woreda.
- On June 11th, a group of TPLF forces attempted to infiltrate Telemt Woreda under the guise of internally displaced persons. While crossing the Tekezze River, they were intercepted by local militia forces. However, the regime's regular army intervened and prevented the militia from taking any action against the militants. Despite their suspicions, the militia refrained from acting, assuming the regular army would handle the situation. The TPLF militants, were heavily armed with heavy machineguns, light machineguns, and sniper rifles, claiming to be returning internally displaced persons. They had also presented a letter from the Tigray Regional Government to the woreda's military, requesting their welcome and escort. The regular army, claiming they had not been informed of the militants' arrival, promised to investigate the matter. However, the local militia were distrustful of the militants and opened fire on them. The TPLF militants, attempting to escape, were forced back into the Tekezze River, where 16 of them drowned. Following this

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incident, TPLF forces stationed in Ende-Aba-Guna rioted, accusing their leadership of misleading them. They claimed they were told that the people of Telemt and Welakit had agreed to accept them, but instead, they faced resistance from the local population, militia forces, and the regular army.

### **Welkait Tegede Setit Humera Zone**

- In Shire town, the TPLF has equipped internally displaced persons with one weapon for every 3-5 individuals under the pretext that they would be returned back to Welkait and Telemt this week. They are also equipping them with heavy weapons. They ordered the private weapon to be registered and prepared for war against the Amhara people.
- On June 12th, Welkait Tegede Setit Humera Zone authorities led by Colonel Demeke Zewdu laid the foundation stone for a memorial statue in Mai-Kadra town to commemorate the November 2020 Mai-Kadra massacre. Colonel Demeke also unveiled a banner for the project.

### **South Gonder Zone**

- As of June 12th, intense fighting erupted between Fano force and joint regime forces in five separate locations within South Gonder Zone. The conflict commenced at 11 am in the morning and is currently ongoing in Estie, Farta, Debre-Tabor, and towards Dera Woreda.
- The fighting has been particularly fierce in five directions towards Dera Woreda, with government forces initiating the attacks against Fano positions. The clashes span a vast area, stretching from Guna and Estie to Bahir-Dar city.
- The regime forces have launched offensives from multiple fronts:

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1. Along the Chis-Abay River route from Wenq-Eshet Gebriel to Aysed-Maryam, Tamre Abbo, and Wef Argif, a fierce battle occurred at Wef-Argif. The regime forces suffered significant losses due to the Fano forces' relentless attacks. To bolster their depleted ranks, the regime dispatched over 18 units with reinforcements from Bahir-Dar to Wef-Argif, Debre-Tabor, and Estie. However, Fano forces swiftly defeated the initial reinforcements. Subsequently, the regime forces based in Debre-Tabor and Bahir-Dar were mobilized toward Dera Woreda. The remaining regime forces in these cities now face an impending siege by the Fano.
  2. Andabet to Beqlo-Flega towards Dera Woreda: in this direction, following the movement of the regime forces from Andabet to Beqlo-Filega, the Fano successfully infiltrated into Andabet town and were able to attack the police station and the administrative bureau of the town.
  3. Estie town towards Ginde-Temem and Chama-Fej towards Der: in this direction especially in Chama-Margefiya, Beqlo-Flega and Sahna, there were many surprise attacks against regime forces ambushed by the Fano.
  4. Debre-Tabor city through Werqe Kebele towards Mahdere-Maryam town and Gena-Mechawecha towards Dera: in this fierce fighting being held in Gena-Mechawecha, there are severe human and material casualties. The regime forces are being seen using mortars. Two houses belonging to farmers have been destroyed with mortar bombardments. The Fano were able to destroy a mortar which was used by the regime forces.
  5. A fifth front has opened from Arb-Gebeya (Dera Woreda) towards Licha. In this direction, there were frequent ambushes against regime forces in Arb-Gebeya, Licha and Qechin-Meda and regime forces sustained heavy casualties in these surprise attack by the Fano.

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- Heavy fighting is reported in several locations, including Gena-Mechawecha village in Mahdere-Maryam, where regime forces are using heavy weapons. The regime forces are reportedly deploying armored vehicles in large numbers along the route from Dera to Arb-Gebeya. The conflict in South Gonder encompasses a vast area, stretching from Bahir-Dar to Hamusit, Ambesame to Arb-Gebeya, Debre-Tabor city to Guna, Gasay, Estie town, and Andabet. Additionally, fighting is ongoing from Chis-Abay to Gelawdiwos and towards Dera, as well as from Debre-Tabor city via Mahdere-Maryam to Dera. A skirmish has been reported near Agta village along the route from Bahir-Dar city to Hamusit via Zenzelima Kebele, while intense gunfire exchange is underway in Dera, particularly at Aba-Dima and Abune-Hara monasteries.
  - In a significant development, the regime militia coordinator and sniper gunner from Farta Woreda defected to Fano, bringing his sniper rifle with him.

## **Debre-Tabor City**

- Inspector Yalew, a police commander in Debre-Tabor city, has been conducting a sweeping crackdown on young people, leading regime forces to brutally beat them. He justified the actions by claiming the youths did not participate in guarding the city at night, creating a climate of fear and intimidation among residents.
- On June 14th, intense fighting erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Mahdere-Maryam. The clash involved heavy weaponry, including mortars and machine guns. Regime forces have been systematically looting residents of Mahdere-Maryam town. They seized property belonging to residents and transported it to Debre-Tabor city using heavy trucks. The regime claims that the entire population of Mahdere-Maryam supports the Fano, implying that the looting is a form of collective punishment. They further accuse local restaurants and hotels

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of providing food and beverages to the Fano. On the same day, regime forces suffered significant casualties in a surprise attack by Fano in Werqe Kebele, a district located within Mahdere-Maryam and just 2-km from Debre-Tabor city.

- On June 15th, over 17 members of regime riot dispersal forces have gone missing from their military posts, taking their military equipment with them. It is believed that they deserted the regime forces and joined the Fano.

### **Estie Woreda**

- In Estie Woreda, clashes are taking place in Jib-Asra-Maryam and Alemaya villages, which are situated in mountainous and rugged terrain. In the fighting held in Mekane-Eyesus town (Estie Woreda) which lasted for a long time particularly in Kebele 3, at least two policemen were confirmed killed in the fighting and four militiamen were critically injured.
- On June 12th, high-ranking authorities and political cadres of the South Gonder Zone and from different zonal and regional offices had a meeting on in Mekane-Eyesus town. However, there were repeated bomb blasts inside the meeting hall and outside the hall. Following these blasts, the meeting was adjourned, and did not last even 30 minutes.

### **Lay-Gayint Woreda**

- On June 8th, amidst intense fighting between regime forces and Fano forces in Santro-Meda village (Zagoch Kebele), a Fano member named Demoze Chanie displayed extraordinary heroism. Despite the loss of his brother, Wondwossen Chanie, during the battle, Demoze refused to abandon his fallen comrade. Smearing his hand with his brother's blood, he vowed to remain by his side. Demoze fought valiantly against the overwhelming enemy forces, taking down at least eight soldiers

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before exhausting his ammunition. Facing imminent capture, he chose to end his own life with a final bullet rather than surrender. Prior to joining the Fano, Demoze Chanie had served as a militia officer and weapons depot manager for the regime. His heroic sacrifice has become a poignant symbol of the unwavering determination and sacrifice exhibited by those fighting for freedom.

- In Lay Gayint Woreda, only workers in the courts are being paid their monthly salaries. But all the remaining civil servants are not being paid their monthly salary. Although a 10 million birr budget has been allocated to the woreda for the months of Ginbot (May 9 to June 7, 2024) and Sene (June 8 to July 7, 2024), civil servants have been told by woreda authorities that the allocated budget is only for militias and that the woreda is not ready to pay monthly salaries to civil servants.
- On June 12th, regime forces carried out an attack on a civilian transportation vehicle carrying numerous passengers near Necho-Meda village. The attack, which involved the use of heavy machine guns and mortars, resulted in the deaths of the driver, his assistant, and nine passengers, including a woman with a newborn infant. The regime forces, citing suspicions of Fano members being onboard, justified the attack, despite the presence of innocent civilians. However, there were no Fano members onboard.

### **Dera Woreda**

- On June 11th, a high-ranking security and intelligence official for South Gonder Zone was apprehended by Fano forces in Gumara Kebele. The official was taken into custody while returning from Bahir-Dar city to Debre-Tabor city.
- On June 13th, Fano forces successfully ambushed a regime convoy traveling from Arb-Gebeya towards Gelawdiwos town. The attack resulted in heavy casualties among regime soldiers. Following these significant losses, regime forces with many



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convoys heading towards Sahna were forced to retreat. On the same day, Fano forces ambushed regime forces near Licha town, targeting them at Gumara River. The attack resulted in the deaths of numerous soldiers and destruction of two military vehicles.

- On June 13th, fighting continued in Arb-Gebeya, Gelawdiwos, Polisa, and Sahna. Fano forces inflicted heavy casualties on regime forces in this direction. Sources confirm that at least 25 dead regime soldiers remain uncollected on the ground but there are an estimated hundreds of regime soldiers killed. In contrast, Fano forces suffered minimal casualties, recording 4 fatalities and 5 injuries.
- During fighting over the week in Dera Woreda, at least 47 regular regime soldiers, over 26 riot dispersal force members, and an unknown number of militia personnel defected from regime and joined the Fano.
- On June 16th, there was fierce fighting between Fano forces and regime forces in Sahna town since morning.

### **Guna-Begemidir Woreda**

- On June 13th, Fano forces executed a successful ambush on a regime convoy traveling near Zebara village, close to Kimir-Dingay town. The surprise attack resulted in the complete destruction of the military vehicle and heavy casualties among regime soldiers. Many were killed, while survivors sustained critical injuries.

### **Fogera Woreda**

- In Wereta town, regime forces detained town administration's workers, including the mayor, vice-mayor, and the militia secretariat administrator. The alleged reason for their detention is confiscating over 270 pistols which were kept in a firearms store, which they were accused of illegally selling for profits amongst themselves. It

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is suspected that they sold the pistols due to their belief that the regime's hold on power was weakening amidst strong resistance from the Fano fighters. The detained individuals are reportedly close relatives of South Gonder Zone administrator Tilahun Dejene. This situation highlights the deep-rooted familial power dynamics within the Amhara Regional State, where power seems to be concentrated within select families, excluding others.

### **Farta Woreda**

- Numerous militia members have been detained, accused of stealing bullets and selling them illegally. Additionally, a significant number of militia members in the woreda have defected from regime forces. While many of them have joined the Fano, others have returned to their home villages and resumed civilian life.

### **Horo Guduru Wollega Zone**

#### **Abe-Dongoro Woreda**

- On June 9th, in a separate development, sources confirmed the arrest of two civilians in Tulu-Gana town. The regime apprehended these individuals, accusing them of photographing the recent drone crash and disseminating the images to the media. The arrested individuals, identified as Nigatu Yitayih and Belete Dememew, were captured in Tulu-Gana town and later transferred to Tulu-Wayu town, the administrative center of Abe-Dongoro Woreda.
- Since the morning of June 10th, regime forces mobilized a large force to Wubanchi Kebele of Abe-Dongoro Woreda in an attempt to disarm Amhara farmers. Reports indicate that tensions heightened in the area following the regime's commencement of a campaign to disarm local farmers, with five residents reportedly surrendering their weapons thus far. Additionally, reports suggest the regime shot and killed two

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civilians.

- Since the afternoon of June 11th, tensions escalated into open gunfire exchanges between regime troops and residents defending themselves against the disarmament campaign. Though detail account remained unknown, credible reports indicate that regime forces persistently fired heavy artillery, causing harm to civilians and property. Sources confirm that the attack on Amhara residents is primarily led by the newly appointed Woreda administrator Ketema Wakuma.
- On June 14th a gunfire exchange took place resulting in ten civilians killed with numerous casualties on the military side.

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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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