



## War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – September 16th to 22nd, 2024

*Updated September 25th, 2024*

### Overview

For the week of September 9th to 22nd, 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, battles and human rights violations were recorded across 41 woreda/city administrations across 14 zonal administrations and 2 regions including in North Wollo (5), South Wollo (3), North Shewa (7), East Gojjam (6), West Gojjam (3), Awi (3), North Gojjam (2), South Gonder (2), Central Gonder (4), West Gonder (1), North Gonder (2), Welkait-Tegede-Setit Humera (1), Addis-Ababa city (1) and Horo Guduru Wollega Zone (1). One battle took place in Horo Guduru Wollega Zone of Oromia Region which involved an offensive by regime forces against local

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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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Amhara communities.

- This week, battles took place in over 6 urban administrations across 4 zonal administrations including in Woldia, Kobo, Shewa-Robit, Debre-Birhan, Debre-Markos and Gonder cities in North Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam and Central Gonder Zones. Joint operations by the two major Fano command structures in the Gonder sub-region have increased efficiency of offensive operations particularly in Central, North and West Gonder Zones.
- Regime forces intensified attacks against civilians especially following military losses to Fano fighters. Civilian casualties or property loss were recorded in over 11 woreda/city administrations across 8 zonal administrations including Raya-Alamata, Minjarena-Shenkora, Enbese-Sar-Midir, Dangila, Debre-Markos, Debre-Tabor, Fogera, Gonder City, Metemma, Debark and Dabat Woredas in North Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, Awi, South Gonder, Central Gonder, West Gonder and North Gonder Zones.
- Targeted arrests of civilians were recorded in 4 woreda/city administrations across 4 zonal administrations including Raya-Alamata, Shewa-Robit, Fagita-Lekoma and Gonder city Woredas in North Wollo, North Shewa, Awi and Central Gonder Zones.
- On September 16th, *Oromo Liberation Army (OLA)* militants from the Oromia Special Zone (Amhara Region) carried out attacks on Amhara civilians in the area of Efratana-Gidim Woreda (North Shewa Zone). The OLA militants were believed to have been armed by regime officials.
- On September 18th, the Raya Wollo Amhara Identity Committee released a statement denouncing human rights violations by federal and Tigray Region Forces in occupied areas of Raya, suppression of Amhara identity and persecution of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who were displaced from their homes.

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- Between September 21st and 22nd, joint Fano forces carried out operations in Tegede Woreda (Welkai-Tegede-Setit Humera Zone, Amhara Region) and took control of several areas, dissolving the regime administration, defeating regime forces and capturing their equipment.
  - Between September 21st and 22nd, regime forces carried out an attack on Amhara residents of Abe-Dongoro Woreda in Horo Guduru Wollega Zone (Oromia Region). Their attack was met with a response from local armed volunteer fighters but regime forces' used heavy artillery which overwhelmed the fighters.
  - Across Amhara Region, outside of larger cities like Dessie, Woldia, and Debre-Birhan, millions of students have not yet begun their education for the 2017 EC academic year. Numerous schools have even been occupied by regime forces and are being used as military camps.
  - This week, house demolitions in various parts of Addis-Ababa City were followed by mass arrests. Critics also stated these demolitions were ethnic-based.

## **North Wollo Zone**

### **Raya-Kobo Woreda**

- On September 15th, reports indicated that an armed clash took place near Gara-Lencha. The conflict was brief, and the extent of casualties remains unknown.
- On the night of September 20th, a brief armed clash occurred in Robit. However, the number of casualties remains unknown.

### **Lasta Woreda**

- On September 12th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Lasta Asaminew Core established a new military unit known as the *Eshet Legion*. This unit operates in the birthplace

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of the late Brigadier General Asaminew Tsige who is regarded by many as a political figure of prophetic importance for the Amhara people. The Eshet Legion was officially structured with leadership in place, modeled after modern military standards, in the presence of senior military officials.

### **Raya-Alamata Woreda**

- Intimidation and arbitrary arrests have continued across several areas in Raya-Alamata.
  - The regime forces, who have maintained a visible presence in various parts of Raya-Alamata, have also continued engaging in day-to-day intimidation and verbal abuse of residents, often using trivial reasons, such as questioning why people are looking at them.
  - On September 18th, a farmer was beaten by regime forces in Timuga town at around 11 am while carrying food for his animals. He was crossing from his farmland to his home, passing near an elementary school. The regime forces became agitated, accusing him of approaching their camp and repeatedly beat him particular on his leg.
  - On the same day, another civilian was assaulted by regime forces in Timuga, accused of crossing their line of control.
- On September 18th, the Raya Wollo Amhara Identity and Border Committee released a statement addressing multiple issues, including calling for the withdrawal of TPLF armed forces, who had entered the area under the guise of IDPs. The statement also condemned the illegitimate interference in religious matters in the Raya and Ofla areas, where identity questions remain unresolved. It called for greater attention to human rights violations and the identity concerns of residents in the Raya and Ofla communities by relevant stakeholders.

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- Arbitrary arrests and intimidation of Amhara identity returnees from Kobo.
    - On September 21st, regime forces arrested an IDP named Assefa, who had returned from Kobo to Timuga at 3 pm. The man, who was previously a Prosperity Party member before the arrival of TPLF forces, had fled to Kobo. Following the regime’s call for IDPs to return home, he came back, only to be arrested shortly after his return.
    - Sources suspect that members of the Raya Democratic Party, a group promoting the interests of extremist Oromo elites and denying the Amhara identity of the local population, provided false information to regime forces, accused the man of supporting Fano forces. The arrest was carried out using three Bajaj vehicles.
  - Regime forces continue to prevent the local population from carrying traditional sticks (dula), a significant cultural symbol in the area, as they enter Alamata. This restriction infringes upon the people’s identity and their right to use traditional instruments.

### **Woldia City**

- A brief armed clash was reported near Jeneto-Ber on the night of September 21st, accompanied by the sound of explosions in the town.
- On September 22nd, two cannon blasts were heard during the night.

### **Wadla Woreda**

- An armed clash occurred between Gashena and Lasta in the areas known as Buluko and Giragn Amba, with casualties yet to be confirmed.

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## **South Wollo Zone**

### **Jama Woreda**

- On September 17th, an armed clash took place in Kebele 14, specifically in the Zerkami area.
  - During this incident, militia groups, acting as auxiliary security forces for the regime, arbitrarily detained more than 10 daily laborers from Kebele 14.
  - The militia forcefully took the laborers, who were working on farmland, and compelled them to line up barefoot. The detained individuals were then made to walk under duress from the farmland to the detention site.

### **Ambassel Woreda**

- On September 16th, Fano fighters successfully defended against an offensive by regime forces. They repelled the attack and retained control of the Ambassel Mountains, forcing the regime forces to retreat.

### **Borena Woreda**

- An attack was carried out on the local regime militia commander's residence, resulting in one death and an injury at his residence in Mekane-Selam.
- Following this, regime forces targeted farmers' homes and properties using equipment such as mortars and light machine guns, with actions continuing on September 22nd.

## **North Shewa Zone**

- On September 18th, Brigadier General Tefera Mamo, the former commander of the Amhara Region Special Forces who joined the Fano over two months ago, delivered

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a speech to the Amhara Fano Shewa Command's Kesem Division Nebelbal Brigade.<sup>23</sup> Brig. Gen. Mamo criticized the regime's misleading rhetoric about peace negotiations. He emphasized the rapid development of the Amhara Fano resistance and its growing strength over the past year, urging the Amhara people to prioritize their survival over the regime's false propaganda about peace talks.

### **Efratana-Gidim Woreda**

- On September 16th, there was an attempted incursion by OLA militants into the Senbete area.
  - However, cadres from the Oromo Special Zone (Amhara Region) informed the group that the Fano forces were posing a challenge even to regime forces, advising against further confrontation. As a result, the planned conflict did not proceed.
- On September 21st, OLA militants from the Oromia Special Zone killed 3 Amhara farmers in Senbete. Tensions in the area remain high.
  - Sources have reported the regime's informal support of military equipment to the OLA and its allied forces, leading to intimidation and oppression of the Amhara community in Ataye.

### **Shewa-Robit City**

- This week regime forces arrested over 30 elders in Shewa-Robit, including the father of Fano Meketaw Mamo, commander of the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command.

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<sup>2</sup>See September 18, 2024 [news report](#) from Roha TV (English transcript/captions available [here](#)).

<sup>3</sup>See July 11, 2024 [update](#) from Amhara war updates (original video from Ethio-251).

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- These individuals were detained primarily because their sons are suspected Fano members.
  - On the night of September 18th, another 10 elders were arrested.
  - Sources indicated that regime forces are particularly targeting the fathers of those Fano members who are considered influential in the struggle, making them more vulnerable to arrest.
- On September 21st, a former regime security officer was killed by unknown assailants in Kebele 03. According to sources, the victim, who had transitioned to working as a bajaj (three-wheeled vehicle) driver in the city, was targeted and killed at 2 pm by unidentified forces.

#### **Mida-Woremo Woreda**

- On September 20th, following intense fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces, regime forces withdrew from Rema, leaving the area under Fano's control. Rema has been the site of repeated clashes, with ongoing violence reported multiple times in recent months.

#### **Merhabete Woreda**

- The Fano fighters conducted a guerrilla attack against regime forces at Jema River, resulting in 6 deaths and additional injuries. The regime forces were en route from Merhabete to Ensaro.

#### **Minjarena-Shenkora Woreda**

- On September 20th, regime forces conducted a drone strike against civilians in an area called Agira. This indiscriminate attack resulted in the death of Kefelegne Demissie and injured five others.



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- On September 20th, a bombing in Kombolcha Kebele, around Wogidi, resulted in one fatality and four injuries.
    - While some sources described the incident as a drone strike, others referred to it as a rocket attack. The killed victims was identified as: (1) Temeselew Asegidew, and the injured victims were identified as: (2) Wube Yeshitila, (3) Tadesse Ketema, (4) Birhanu Befikadu, and (5) Shimeles Aklile.

### **Kewot Woreda**

- On September 21st, a fierce armed clash occurred in Worike Kebele between regime forces and the Fano fighters, sparked by a planned attack from the regime. The Fano forces were able defeat the regime forces in this battle.

### **Debre-Birhan City**

- On the night of September 20th, regime forces abducted a man named Solomon Gebre Hanna from his home in Kebele 06 and subsequently killed him. His family members were detained for over 48 hours and faced intimidation.

### **East Gojjam Zone**

- The Amhara Fano forces in Gojjam have continued to conduct activities aimed at preparing for future military operations. This includes public discussions, evaluations among Fano leaders, and training focused on politics and military skills. Notably, Fano leaders held public discussions in the Baso Liben, Quarit, and Achefer areas, attended by high-ranking Fano leaders. Furthermore, Amhara Fano in Gojjam announced the completion of military training for Commando Forces in the Debre Elias and Dembecha areas, along with a leadership reshuffle for the Belay Zeleke regiment following in-depth discussions with brigade and regiment leaders.

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

- On the night of September 15th, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime officials, both civil and military, gathered at the Misraq Hotel. Reports indicate that several security and administrative officials, along with their escorts, were killed, while others were captured by Fano fighters.
- In the afternoon of September 19th, intense fighting broke out in the vicinity of Merto-Lemariam town.
  - Sources indicate that Fano fighters launched the attack in an effort to seize control of the town. Forewarned, regime forces confronted the Fano fighters before they reached Merto-Lemariam, leading to significant exchanges of gunfire in the Segno-Gebeya and Gumt areas. Both sides incurred casualties, with numerous fatalities among regime forces; two Fano fighters were reportedly killed.
  - Fighting that began on September 19th continued into the early morning of September 20th, resuming until midday. In terms of civilian casualties, reports indicate that two farmers were killed, although details surrounding the incident remain unclear.
- In the early morning of September 20th, fighting took place in the same areas, continuing until midday. Fighting intensified as of September 21st in the Merto-Lemariam neighborhood, as regime forces persisted in deploying reinforcements and utilizing heavy weaponry. Fighting continued until the evening of September 21st, with persistent use of heavy artillery. Both sides incurred casualties, with numerous fatalities among regime forces. Confirmed reports indicate that 2 Fano fighters were killed and 2 more injured over three days of fighting. Sources report seeing killed and injured soldiers being frequently

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transported to Merto-Lemariam. The Fano fighters claimed to have inflicted significant casualties on regime forces, stating they completely suppressed the regime force that entered the area. Amhara Fano in Gojjam asserted in its statement that Fano fighters killed 211 regime soldiers and injured another 52, including 3 military leaders killed and one more injured over three days of fighting in the Merto-Lemariam area.

### **Debre-Markos City**

- On September 17th, gunfire erupted in Debre-Markos, specifically in the Abima area of Kebele 3, during midday. Details about the exchange of fire and resulting casualties remain unclear.
- On September 20th, regime soldiers extrajudicially executed 2 civilians (brothers) in Debre-Markos city.
  - The victims, Melkamu Aniley and his younger brother Melese, who was a teenager under 15-years-old, were originally from Libanos in Gozamin Woreda. The soldiers apprehended them in the Kidane-Mihret area before killing them. Their bodies were sent to Libanos for burial on September 20th.
- On the night of September 21st, heavy gunfire was reported in Debre-Markos city. While details remain unclear, sources suggest that the skirmish may have been initiated by Fano fighters. As the confrontation was conducted in the late-night, details of the fighting and its outcome are unconfirmed.

### **Sinan Woreda**

- On September 19th, heavy fighting occurred in the Yeted area and at the entry of Rebu-Gebeya town.

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- Following these incidents, regime soldiers mobilized from Debre-Markos in search of Fano fighters in the area. Fano fighters engaged with regime soldiers in Yeted and Rebu-Gebeya, reportedly inflicting significant losses and forcing them to retreat to Debre-Markos.
  - In addition to the aforementioned areas, fighting has also been reported in Quchi town, Fendika, and Qimbaba areas, with outcomes still being investigated. Bomb explosions were also reported in areas such as Amber and Quyi towns, though no casualties have been reported at this time.

### **Machakel Woreda**

- On September 21st, Fano fighters ambushed regime military vehicles traveling from Dembecha toward Ammanuel in the Embole area. Reports indicate that three vehicles were destroyed in the ambush, resulting in heavy confrontations and casualties among regime soldiers. Fano fighters claimed the burning of an FSR vehicle carrying regime soldiers, with several wounded troops reportedly transported to Dembecha town.

### **Enemay Woreda**

- On September 22nd, gunfire erupted in the Yetmen area between Fano fighters and regime soldiers. The Fano fighters, reportedly mobilized for an attack on regime forces, found themselves unexpectedly surrounded by another unit of regime soldiers arriving from the Zebch direction. Despite heavy weapon fire from the regime, the Fano fighters attempted to retreat and successfully reached a jungle area where they entrenched themselves and returned fire, forcing the regime soldiers to pull back and ending the skirmish for the time being.

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## **Baso-Liben Woreda**

- On September 22nd, Fano fighters ambushed regime convoys in the Yebirna area. Reports indicate that Fano fighters detonated explosives, resulting in the destruction of one military convoy. The ambush led to a confrontation, as additional regime soldiers pursued the convoy from a nearby position. Given the numerical disadvantage, the Fano fighters executed a tactical retreat to minimize casualties.

## **West Gojjam Zone**

### **Bure-Zuriya Woreda**

- Fighting erupted on September 16th in the vicinity of Bure. Regime soldiers mobilized from their base in Bure town initiated an attack against Fano fighters in the Sentom area. Despite the regime force temporarily gaining a foothold, Fano fighters mounted a staunch resistance and engaged in prolonged combat, ultimately pushing regime forces back. According to reports, Fano fighters inflicted significant casualties on the regime, with only one fighter killed and one injured on their side. The regime soldiers were ultimately forced to withdraw to Bure town.
- On September 19th, Fano fighters launched a significant offensive against regime soldiers stationed in the Quchi area.
  - Following intense exchanges of gunfire, the Fano forces succeeded in driving regime soldiers out of the town, forcing them to retreat to Bure town. Reports indicate that as of September 20th, Fano fighters have maintained control over Quchi.
  - Additionally, on September 20th, Fano fighters executed a surprise attack on regime military vehicles on the outskirts of Bure town, resulting in the burning of a convoy.

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## **Jabi-Tehnan Woreda**

- On September 18th, heavy clashes broke out in the Ayo area.
  - The conflict began when regime forces mobilized from Mankusa to suppress Fano fighters entrenched near the Bir-Sheleqo military camp. Fano fighters reportedly repelled the regime's attack, forcing them to retreat back to Mankusa. The fighting subsequently spread to Bir-Sheleqo and Mankusa town, where Fano fighters ambushed regime reinforcements, inflicting significant losses. The hostilities that began on September 18th continued into September 19th, as regime soldiers consolidated reinforcements from nearby bases and renewed their assault in Ayo. Reports indicate that Fano fighters once again repelled the attack, causing further casualties among regime soldiers.
  - On September 18th, Fano fighters also opened fire in Jiga town to disrupt a meeting attended by regime officials, resulting in forcing participants (regime officials) to scatter.

## **Dembecha Woreda**

- On the evening of September 18th, Fano fighters attacked regime soldiers stationed inside Dembecha town. The fighting began around 6 pm and lasted for approximately 2-3 hours, during which Fano fighters reportedly captured firearms.
- On September 20th, Fano fighters initiated a heavy offensive against regime soldiers stationed at the Mulualem Chigign (TVT) college on the outskirts of Dembecha town. The assault began early in the morning, inflicting substantial casualties on the regime forces. On the same day, Fano fighters claimed they carried out a sudden attack in the area located between Dembecha town and Yechereka, killing over 20 regime soldiers in the battle.

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- On September 21st, Fano fighters also entered Dembecha town, seemingly to disrupt the regime's force movement toward the battle that was occurring in the Embole area.

## **Awı Zone**

### **Jawı Woreda**

- On September 19th, Fano fighters carried out an attack in Fendika town. Reports suggest they successfully took control of the town, while regime soldiers were pushed back to the Guagusa area.

### **Dangıla Woreda**

- On September 21st, regime soldiers, specifically riot dispersal forces, brutally executed a young man in Dangıla town. The victim, who had come from Addis-Kidame (Fagıta-Lekoma Woreda) was shot dead after being apprehended and abused with a rope while he was fetching fuel from a station. This incident occurred in Kebele 5. A similar execution occurred just three days earlier in Dangıla, involving the killing of another young man who came from South Achefer Woreda.

### **Fagıta-Lekoma Woreda**

- Regime officials are reportedly abusing residents by imposing exorbitant taxes in Dangıla and Addis-Kidame towns. Numerous businesses and shops have closed, and shop owners have been arrested. In response, Fano fighters entered Addis-Kidame on the evening of September 20th, capturing officials responsible for the tax enforcement and abuse of residents. This led to brief exchanges of gunfire in the town.

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## **North Gojjam Zone**

### **North Mecha Woreda**

- On September 19th, intense fighting broke out in Merawi town and its surroundings, targeting regime soldiers at the woreda administrative building and China Camp. Fano fighters claimed success in their operations, stating they captured firearms and killed several soldiers before withdrawing from the town in the afternoon.

### **South Achefer Woreda**

- On September 22nd, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime military vehicles traveling from Durbeti to North Achefer Woreda, specifically in the Guber area. This attack involved a bomb explosion that destroyed a patrol vehicle. Additionally, reports emerged of regime soldiers killing 3 civilians in the Lalibela area, prompting strong retaliatory actions from Fano fighters. The Fano fighters claim to have inflicted significant casualties on the regime troops in the area. In addition to the aforementioned areas, fighting has also been reported in the Qimbaba area, with outcomes still being investigated.

## **South Gonder Zone**

- The regime is actively reinforcing its presence in South Gonder Zone, focusing on retaking areas where its forces have withdrawn. On September 20th, over 60 military vehicles carrying a large number of soldiers were observed traveling from Bahir-Dar city to Hamusit town in South Gonder Zone. This deployment, originating from Bahir-Dar city, signals a renewed offensive by the regime.

### **Debre-Tabor City**

- On September 16th, heavy weapon fire was heard throughout Debre-Tabor city.



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- While no active fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces was reported, the source of the heavy weapon fire remained a mystery, leaving residents in a state of fear and uncertainty.
  - The sudden detonations prompted a mass exodus of residents to their homes as a precautionary measure. The city’s usually bustling streets fell silent, with all transportation grinding to a halt. The cause of the shelling remained unclear, adding to the anxiety and confusion of city residents.
  - The city of Debre-Tabor and its surrounding areas are gripped by a wave of escalating gang-related violence, with robberies and hostage-taking becoming increasingly prevalent and brutal.
    - This criminal activity is occurring under the nose of regime forces, who maintain a strong presence in the city. The fact that these incidents are happening in areas where the regime is ostensibly in control raises questions about their effectiveness in maintaining law and order.
    - A chilling example of this unchecked violence is the case of an individual who was taken hostage in Debre-Tabor. The kidnappers demanded a ransom of 800,000 birr. The victim was killed while attempting to secure the ransom, highlighting the extreme danger and brutality of these criminal gangs.
    - The prevalence of these criminal activities in Debre-Tabor stands in stark contrast to the situation in woredas where regime forces have been demobilized and Fano fighters established military bases. In these areas, there have been no reported cases of hostage-taking or robbery, suggesting a direct correlation between the presence of regime forces and the escalation of criminal activity.
    - This correlation points to a disturbing reality, the regime’s presence in Debre-Tabor is not only failing to protect its citizens but may be inadvertently

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contributing to the rise of criminal gangs. The regime's control over the city has seemingly created a climate of impunity, allowing these criminal elements to operate with little fear of consequences.

- The Fano's capture of four individuals engaged in hostage-taking and robbery in Metemma Woreda on September 19th, offers a glimmer of hope. This action demonstrates the Fano's commitment to combating crime and ensuring the safety of civilians.
- On September 21st, the Amhara Fano in Gonder's Major General Wubante Abate Division, established a tight perimeter around the regime forces' entry and exit points at the Alem-Saga forest, located near Debre-Tabor.
  - This strategic move came as the regime attempted to bolster its presence in South Gonder by sending new reinforcements from Bahir-Dar city.
  - The early morning hours of September 21st saw a fierce confrontation. At approximately 3 am, regime forces, expecting easy passage through the forest, were ambushed by Fano forces. The ensuing battle resulted in heavy casualties and injuries among regime troops. The newly deployed reinforcements, caught off guard, were decisively defeated by Fano fighters in this well-known forested area.
  - Undeterred, the regime sent additional reinforcements to the area in a desperate bid to rescue their entrapped soldiers. However, these forces were also met with a sudden and devastating attack by the Fano, who continued to hold advantage and inflict further losses.

### **Fogera Woreda**

- The town of Wej witnessed fierce fighting on September 18th, between Fano fighters and regime forces.

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- At least 6 civilians were killed by regime forces during the fighting.
  - Among the victims were Amare Bayle, a teacher, and Mengaw Babu, a bajaj driver.
  - Mengaw Babu was detained by regime forces in Wej town and executed under the cover of night. His body was later discovered by his family, discarded on the street by regime forces.
  - While the exact number of casualties remains unclear, both Fano fighters and regime forces sustained heavy losses in the intense fighting.

## **Central Gonder Zone**

- The conflict in the Gonder sub-region continues to escalate, with reports of sporadic gunfire echoing from East Dembiya, West Dembiya, and Taqusa Woreda particularly around Delgi town. The ongoing unrest highlights the volatile nature of the region, with the Fano's advance posing a persistent threat to the regime's control.
  - Over the past two weeks, regime forces have been steadily forced to retreat from their positions in Gonder, relinquishing control of more than 20 woredas and township administrative centers. This retreat marks a significant shift in the balance of power, with the Fano effectively taking control of these areas. Notably, the regime was forced to abandon 13 woredas in South Gonder Zone alone, alongside other territories in Central, North, and West Gonder Zones, highlighting the Fano's sweeping territorial gains. This retreat represents a substantial blow to the regime's claim of dominance in the region, as they have been forced to abandon positions they had previously boasted of holding firmly.
  - In an attempt to regain lost ground and bolster their flagging defenses, the regime is reportedly deploying fresh reinforcement forces from Bahir-Dar to

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Gonder on September 17th. This move, however, faces significant challenges. The regime's ability to effectively transport troops and supplies has been severely hampered due to the Fano's control of key roads connecting Gonder city to surrounding areas. This strategic blockage forces the regime to rely heavily on air transport, utilizing helicopters to deliver provisions and ammunition to their forces across Gonder.

- The regime's reliance on air transport highlights the critical challenges they face in sustaining their operations and holding onto their remaining positions. The Fano's control of key transportation routes significantly weakens the regime's logistics, creating a challenging environment for reinforcements and resupply. The combination of the Fano's gains and the regime's logistical vulnerabilities suggests that the conflict in Gonder is far from over and will likely continue to unfold with unpredictable consequences.
- The two Fano command structures in Gonder have joined forces to combat the regime. The Amhara Fano in Gonder and the Amhara Fano Gonder Command are engaging in fierce battles, encompassing a vast part of the Gonder sub-region.
  - Recent reports indicate that a significant offensive, spearheaded by these two Fano forces, has achieved remarkable successes. From northern to southern Gonder, and from the west to the central zones, these combined forces have been locked in a series of decisive battles.
  - Arbegna Solomon (Amhara Fano in Gonder) confirmed to ABC TV that Fano forces, advancing from Debarq to Gonder, have been consistently victorious. He highlighted that a substantial force has converged near Gonder, launching a powerful offensive against the regime. He further explained that the regime's forces are organized into nine brigades. He emphasized that the success is a result of unity, stating that *we are working together, so we don't need*

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*individual recognition. We have strategized with Habte and formed a joint army and commandos, working effectively together, revealing the key to their victories.*

- On September 18th, regime forces was engaged in a conflict. However, according to the Fano commander, the regime’s forces were routed and forced to retreat.
  - The Amhara Fano in Gonder’s Media and Public Relations Department reported that on the same day, a regime force, comprised of four urals (small military units) and two patrols, was moving from Maksegnit town towards Arebaya town (West Belessa Woreda). However, Fano fighters ambushed them at Denzaz, resulting in a significant defeat for the regime forces.
  - The department further revealed that the Amhara Fano in Gonder’s Dil-Ber Brigade, led by Captain Mule Worku, under the command of the Neburo squadron, executed a successful ambush with heavy weaponry. This attack resulted in the complete destruction of one ural unit of the regime forces and the forced retreat of their patrol, leading to a heavy toll in casualties, including a sniper armed with a light machine gun.
- On September 21st, a heightened sense of tension gripped the Central Gonder Zone as numerous fighter jets were observed flying at low altitudes over several key locations. These areas included Degoma, Belessa, Maksegnit, Ambo-Ber, Gagn-Ber, Dembiya, Guramba, and Robit town in Gonder-Zuriya, East Belessa, and East Dembiya Woredas. The planes’ low altitude flights were indicative of a military reconnaissance mission, raising concerns of imminent airstrikes against the Fano freedom fighters.
- The conflict in the Gonder region has intensified, with active fighting taking place across eleven locations in both Central Gonder and North Gonder Zones.

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- One key battleground extends from Gonder city in the Dembiya direction, reaching Qoladiba town. The Fano fighters have successfully seized control of Qoladiba town, prompting the regime forces stationed in Gonder city to retaliate with heavy artillery fire. They unleashed a barrage of rockets, ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, and general artillery, indiscriminately shelling Qoladiba town throughout the day. This bombardment continued until the evening hours.
  - Another fierce battle unfolded in Atat village, located near Gonder city, where the Fano fighters engaged in intense clashes with the regime forces. This conflict expanded to include Ayimba town, with fighting commencing in the afternoon.
  - Simultaneously, heavy fighting erupted in the area stretching from Tseda to Maksegnit, beginning in the afternoon as well. This conflict spread further, engulfing parts of Gonder city, specifically Gonder Megenteya and Ayra Azezo.

### **West Belessa Woreda**

- On September 16th, Fano fighters announced a significant victory, capturing a notorious group of robbers who had been terrorizing the woreda with hostage-taking and extortion. This success highlights the Fano's commitment to maintaining security and combating criminal activity in the region.
  - The captured robbers, known for their ruthless tactics and exorbitant ransom demands, were confirmed to have direct ties to high-ranking officials within the woreda. This revelation suggests a deeper level of corruption and collusion between local authorities and criminal elements, further undermining public trust and safety.
  - Each of the apprehended criminals was found in possession of 20 mobile

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phones, indicating their extensive network and potential involvement in communication and coordination for their criminal activities. They were also captured with their full military equipment, suggesting they were well-equipped and likely had access to training or resources that could have been obtained through their connection to the regime officials.

- Among the identified criminals are Abush, Moges, and Tamalew Dessie, all infamous in the woreda for their hostage-taking and extortion schemes. A significant number of unidentified robbers, also known for their criminal activities, were apprehended alongside them.
- The capture of this notorious gang, along with the exposure of their corrupt connections, is a significant victory for the Fano and a testament to their efforts to dismantle criminal networks and restore order in the woreda. However, it also raises serious concerns about the extent of corruption within local authorities and the need for a more comprehensive investigation into the network of officials involved.
- The Belessa area has been engulfed in intense fighting for two consecutive days, including September 19th. The clash pits Fano fighters against regime forces, highlighting a volatile situation with implications for the ongoing conflict in the region.
  - The fighting began on September 18th, with a seemingly unusual turn of events. The Fano fighters entered Arebaya town without encountering any resistance from regime forces. Despite being stationed in two separate locations within the town, regime forces remained inactive as the Fano entered, their presence seemingly unacknowledged. This four-hour period of non-engagement created a sense of bewilderment and uncertainty.
  - However, the calm was short-lived. After four hours of observing the Fano's

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presence, regime forces launched a counteroffensive against them. The ensuing engagement resulted in substantial casualties for regime forces, who were caught off guard and seemingly unprepared for the Fano's advance. The Fano fighters, emboldened by their initial success, pressed their attack, pushing towards regime military camps situated within Arebaya town.

- While regime forces suffered significant losses, the Fano fighters also sustained injuries during the intense fighting. The seemingly passive response by regime forces to the Fano's initial entry into multiple towns across Gonder this week presents a perplexing situation, ripe for analysis.
- There are two primary interpretations of this unusual dynamic:
  - \* *Strategic Retaliation*: The regime forces may be employing a strategy of deliberate inaction, allowing the Fano to enter towns, only to launch a devastating counterattack with heavy weaponry once the Fano are fully mobilized within the urban environment. This tactic, if true, would be a calculated attempt to inflict heavy losses on the Fano by exploiting their perceived vulnerability within urban spaces.
  - \* *De-escalation or Defeat*: Alternatively, the regime forces may be exhibiting signs of exhaustion or a shift in strategy, choosing to defend their positions rather than engage in full-scale offensives against the Fano. The regime's reluctance to meet the Fano's advances head-on could indicate a weakening resolve, potentially reflecting their inability to effectively counter the Fano's momentum.
- Regardless of the regime's true motivations, the unfolding events in Belessa underscore the volatile nature of the conflict in Gonder. The outcome of this battle, and the strategic decisions made by both sides, will have significant implications for the broader conflict and the future of the region.



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- Intense fighting erupted on September 19th, resulting in heavy casualties on both sides. The Fano fighters inflicted significant losses on regime forces, with at least 18 confirmed dead. In the same engagement, 3 Fano fighters fell in battle. Tragically, the fighting also claimed the lives of at least 6 civilians, highlighting the devastating impact on civilians.

## **Gonder City**

- Faced with escalating conflict and the growing threat of the Fano fighters, the highest-ranking regime officials in Gonder city have issued a dire order, mobilizing their forces to prepare for a full-scale defense of the city. The urgency of this directive stems from the fierce fighting taking place in both the Central Gonder and North Gonder Zones, where the Fano have been making significant advances.
  - The regime officials acknowledge, with growing alarm, the real possibility of the Fano capturing Gonder city in the near future. They recognize that the Fano’s momentum and success in other areas pose a serious threat to their control over the city.
  - In response, a mobilization order has been issued for all regime security forces in the city, including the regular police, militia, and peacekeeping forces. These forces have been instructed to abandon any rest periods and be prepared to defend Gonder city against the Fano advance.
  - The top city officials, including those from the Zobil, Fasil, Maraki, Azezo, and Tseda sub-cities, have been convening meetings to discuss the escalating situation and strategize their defense. This collective effort emphasizes the high level of concern among the regime leadership.
  - The decision has been made to allow farmers from Lay Armachiho Woreda to join the fight against the Fano. These farmers will be given ammunition and

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deployed to bolster the regime's defenses. This move highlights the regime's desperation to bolster their forces, even resorting to enlisting civilians for the battle.

- The overall tone of the regime's actions reveals a deep sense of worry and a growing sense of urgency. They are clearly concerned about the Fano's ability to take Gonder city and the potential consequences of losing control of such a strategically important area. The regime's mobilization efforts reflect their determination to hold onto Gonder, even if it means resorting to desperate measures and sacrificing lives.
- On September 17th, starting at 11 am local time, Fano fighters launched a coordinated attack on Gonder city, targeting regime forces stationed throughout the city. The assault involved more than six Fano divisions, heavily armed with various heavy weapons. This meticulously planned operation, executed by two Fano commands in Gonder, aimed to seize control of the city.
  - Early in the morning, Fano fighters penetrated key areas within Gonder, including Ayra-Azezo, villages near Fasil Campus, Genfo-Quch, Abune-Hara, Amanuel, Hamle 5, and Qoshe-Sefer. In response, regime forces stationed at Maraki Campus (University of Gonder) and the Azezo Central Military Command Camp retaliated with heavy artillery fire, including ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, rocket launchers, mortars, and heavy machineguns, indiscriminately targeting various parts of the city.
  - The fiercest fighting occurred in the Azezo direction, particularly at Atat, Loza-Maryam, and near the outskirts of Ayimba town. These clashes involved intense direct confrontations using kalashnikov rifles, heavy machineguns, and snipers. The Fano forces employed strategic tactics that overwhelmed the regime forces, inflicting significant losses.

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- The heavy shelling by regime forces, unprecedented in its intensity since the war began, continued unabated. The tremors from the shelling caused extensive damage to homes in Azezo homes. Children were particularly distressed, with many crying inconsolably despite their parents' attempts to comfort them.
  - Despite the heavy bombardment, the Fano fighters managed to secure complete control of Ayra, 18 Kebele, Shewa-Dabo, Genfo-Quch, Amanuel, and Qoshe-Sefer.
  - The fighting escalated later in the afternoon, extending to the heart of Gonder, specifically Maraki (where the University of Gonder is located), Samuna-Ber, Tit-Medamecha, and Lideta. Tragically, heavy weapons fire in Tit-Medamecha killed 3 civilians who were inside their homes.
  - Across Gonder, the day's violence resulted in at least 18 civilian casualties. In Azezo's Atat village, 7 civilians were killed by heavy weapons shelling early in the morning. Five died immediately, while two others succumbed to their injuries after being taken to the hospital.
  - In addition to civilian losses, over 74 militia forces were captured by Fano fighters in areas like Tseda, Maksegnit, Maraki, and Ayra. Furthermore, clashes between regime riot dispersal forces and regular troops near the Shinta River, stemming from disagreements about military operations against the Fano, resulted in the deaths of numerous riot dispersal personnel.
  - The Fano fighters also captured 7 high-ranking officials of the Prosperity Party who had traveled from Gonder-Zuriya Woreda to Gonder city. In Qebzit village, a woman and her son were killed by regime shelling and subsequent arson.
  - The Fano forces achieved a complete victory over the riot dispersal forces

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stationed near St. Gabriel's Church in Amanuel. They also inflicted heavy losses on the riot dispersal forces and militia forces stationed at Desalegn School. The intense shelling, particularly by ZU-23 guns, caused widespread damage to civilian residences, though the exact number of destroyed homes is still unknown due to the ongoing bombardment. The relentless shelling has taken a heavy toll on Gonder, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. Sources confirmed that at least 40 homes have been destroyed by the bombardment, a stark reminder of the devastating impact of the conflict on civilian life.

- The indiscriminate nature of the shelling, particularly the use of ZU-23 guns, has tragically claimed the lives of an unspecified number of civilians, with Ayra and Qoshe-Sefer bearing the brunt of this brutality. This tragedy echoes last year's September 2023 conflict, where over 59 civilians were killed in the same villages by similar heavy weapons shelling during fierce fighting between the Fano fighters and the regime forces.
  - Adding to the city's vulnerability, the regime has strategically positioned heavy artillery and ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns in locations like Jakaranda Hotel, Zobl-Amba, and Goha Hotel. These positions, strategically located on mountainous terrain, provide the regime with a commanding vantage point, allowing them to inflict widespread damage on the city. The regime's deployment of these weapons in such locations raises serious concerns about their intent to inflict significant damage on the city.
  - This deliberate targeting of civilian areas and the regime's willingness to deploy powerful weapons in strategic locations highlight the severity of the conflict and the grave threat it poses to the safety and well-being of the city's residents.
- The Fano fighters continued their offensive on September 16th, achieving significant

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gains against regime forces. Following fierce fighting, they successfully drove out the regime from Tseda sub-city and Maksegnit town, the administrative center of Gonder-Zuriya Woreda. This victory marked a significant shift in the balance of power, with the Fano solidifying their control over these strategic locations.

- Building on their successes in Tseda and Maksegnit, Fano forces advanced towards Azezo, further pushing back regime forces and expanding their territorial control.
- The escalating conflict has had a ripple effect on the region, disrupting vital transportation links. Following the intense fighting, Atse Tewodros Airport, serving Gonder, has suspended all flights to and from Addis Ababa, severely impacting the city’s connectivity and potentially hindering humanitarian efforts.
- Adding to the complexity of the situation, a deep rift has emerged within the regime’s joint forces, fueled by disagreements regarding military operations and command structures. This internal strife has resulted in violent clashes between regular army units and riot dispersal forces, leading to casualties among the latter.
- The root of the conflict lies in a proposal put forth by the regular army to limit their role to providing heavy weapons support and conducting special operations. The infantry fighting, according to the proposal, should be solely undertaken by riot dispersal forces and militia. This proposal, however, met with strong resistance from the riot dispersal forces, who felt they were being used as expendable pawns, positioned to absorb the brunt of the fighting while the regular army remained at a distance. They argued that they should not be treated as bullet appeasement, demanding that the regular army actively participate in front-line combat alongside them, not just providing distant fire

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support.

- The fierce fighting that erupted on September 17th, between Fano fighters and regime forces in Gonder city, cast a tragic shadow over Abinet School, leaving a trail of devastation among its students. The school, nestled in the heart of Gonder, became a casualty zone as regime forces unleashed heavy weapon fire upon the city, turning the sanctuary of learning into a battleground.
  - The relentless shelling claimed the lives of several students, including Sirak and Meaza Sisay, both of whom were students of Aquaquam at the Amanuel and Bezawit-Mariam churches, respectively. The young lives of these students, vibrant with dreams and potential, were tragically cut short, leaving a void that will be felt deeply by their families, friends, and the entire school community.
  - Beyond the confirmed deaths, many students were injured. Zerubabel Kassahun and Daniel Debash, both studying Aquaquam at Amanuel, were struck by the barrage, sustaining severe and moderate injuries, respectively. Solomon Gebayaw, also studying Aquaquam from Bezawit-Mariam, is currently fighting for his life in a hospital, the severity of his injuries a constant reminder of the violence that engulfed their city.
  - An unidentified student of Qine at Abera-Kidus-Giyorgis Church, was injured in a separate incident. Far from the churches, he was begging for food, a traditional practice among Abinet students, when he was caught in the crossfire. His injuries, alongside those of the other students, underscore the indiscriminate nature of the violence and the vulnerability of civilians caught in the crosshairs of the conflict.
  - Adding to the tragedy, a group of students from Bezawit-Mariam were accused of harboring weapons and subjected to beatings and arrests by regime forces.

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While some have been released, the ordeal highlights the fear and uncertainty gripping the city.

- The city of Gonder was plunged into conflict on September 17th, as fierce fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces. The fighting on September 17th was indiscriminate in nature and regime forces left no house in Genfo-Quch village unscathed.
  - It appears regime forces were well-prepared for the Fano's entry into Gonder. Information regarding the planned attack on September 17th had reached them, allowing them to strategically occupy key positions throughout the city. They fortified strategic locations, deploying snipers and commandos in high-rise buildings, creating an effective defense.
  - In Genfo-Quch alone, 27 Fano fighters lost their lives.
  - Despite an initial success in breaching the regime's heavily fortified outpost in Amanuel village, a mountainous area that should have been defended with heavy weapons, the Fano fighters' subsequent advance into the city was disorganized. They were able to eliminate many riot control forces and regular soldiers but lacked a coordinated strategy once they entered the urban landscape. The regime forces, anticipating this lack of cohesion, deployed a staggering seven tanks specifically against Genfo-Quch, highlighting the vulnerability of Fano fighters once they were separated from their initial strongpoints.
- The conflict in the Gonder sub-region continues to escalate, with heavy casualties reported on both sides. The fighting, which has been particularly intense in Gonder, Debark, and Dabat towns, has resulted in a significant loss of life, highlighting the brutality of the ongoing conflict.

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- On September 17th, Fano fighters inflicted heavy losses on regime forces, killing over 115 military personnel, including high-ranking officers. In Maksegnit town alone, 3 high-ranking officials from the Prosperity Party, along with 5 regular police officers and 5 riot dispersal forces were killed by the Fano. This demonstrates the Fano’s ability to penetrate and disrupt the regime’s security apparatus.
  - The scale of the regime’s losses in Gonder is a stark reminder of the Fano’s increasing military strength and effectiveness. Fano Habte Wolde, commander of the Amhara Fano Gonder Command, announced that they are holding a substantial number of captured regime soldiers and require humanitarian assistance from international organizations to provide for their basic needs.
  - Amidst this intense fighting, the city of Gonder remains on high alert. On September 19th, city officials assessed that the Fano fighters still maintain a strong presence around the city and are capable of launching a major offensive attack. As a result, they issued a resolution urging the peacekeeping forces to be prepared for a potential attack, recognizing the Fano’s strategic positioning around the city.
  - Despite the Fano’s sustained pressure, the Gonder city officials asserted that the regime forces successfully defended the city from the recent Fano assault. However, the Fano countered this claim, stating that they had not suffered the number of casualties reported by the regime, emphasizing that they did not experience such a significant loss of life or even serious injuries.
  - The Fano further accused the regime forces of targeting civilians, with 71 reported fatalities and injuries in villages across the region. The regime forces’ indiscriminate use of heavy weaponry resulted in casualties in Atat, Loza-Maryam, Azezo, Amanuel, Genfo-Quch, Shewa-Dabo, and Tit-Medamecha. The Fano highlighted the tragic death of a 13-year-old boy in



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Atat village and the deaths of 14 civilians killed immediately by shelling, with 8 of the 71 victims being religious students.

- On September 18th, a surprise attack by Fano fighters targeted regime forces stationed in Azezo-Megenteya. The attack resulted in significant casualties among regime soldiers, with many killed and others fleeing. The Fano fighters, having successfully executed their planned military operation, withdrew from the area.
  - In response, the regime deployed additional reinforcements to Azezo-Megenteya. Upon arrival, they unleashed a barrage of gunfire on the civilian population, tragically killing 9 young people.
  - Among the victims was Million Asfaw Gebeye, a graduate of Bulehora University on July 2024. He had a brother with military ranking of lieutenant in the regime's military forces. Despite his pleas for mercy, citing his poverty and the fact that his brother is serving in the regular army, he was shot repeatedly in the head.
  - The bodies of the nine youths were left on the street as a reprisal measure by regime forces.

### **Tach Armachiho Woreda**

- Military generals stationed in Tach Armachiho Woreda have been implicated in a human trafficking operation involving individuals from Jijiga (Somali Region) seeking passage to Libya via Sudan.
  - These high-ranking officers are reportedly accepting payments from these individuals in exchange for facilitating their illegal crossing of the Ethiopia-Sudan border. Furthermore, evidence suggests these generals are also engaged in illicit arms trading activities within the woreda.

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- In addition to this, on September 20th, Fano continues its remarkable string of victories, demonstrating unwavering determination and tactical prowess.
  - The Amhara Fano in Gonder’s Ras Amora Brigade, under the command of Arbegna Zenebe Gela, executed a decisive ambush at Museamba, a strategic location within the woreda. This daring operation, which involved deploying heavy weaponry at 3 am, resulted in significant casualties for the regime’s defense and counter-insurgency forces. The Fano fighters inflicted numerous injuries, captured over 20 weapons, and forced the regime’s forces to retreat in disarray.

### **Gonder-Zuriya Woreda**

- The night of September 20th, was marked by a decisive clash between regime forces and the Amhara Fano in Gonder.
  - A large convoy of regime troops, loaded onto multiple trucks, was making its way from Bahir-Dar towards Gonder. However, their journey was cut short by the swift and determined action of the Amhara Fano in Gonder’s Dil-Ber Brigade led by Arbegna Libarg.
  - At 11 pm, the Fano launched a fast attack on the unsuspecting regime convoy in Qulqual-Ber. The intensity and precision of the attack overwhelmed regime forces, resulting in the deaths of over 40 regime soldiers and the destruction of four trucks and a patrol vehicle. The severity of the casualties overwhelmed the medical facilities in Maksegnit and Gonder, as hospitals struggled to cope with the influx of wounded soldiers.
  - This decisive victory by the Dil-Ber Brigade demonstrates the effectiveness of the Fano in challenging the regime’s military might and serves as a testament to their unwavering resolve in defending their communities.

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- This heightened military activity followed a significant ambush by the Fano on September 20th, at Qulqual-Ber.
    - The regime forces, traveling from Bahir-Dar to Gonder in a convoy of over 80 military vehicles packed with soldiers and ammunition, were caught off guard by the Fano's ambush.
    - The ensuing battle raged for four hours in the steep and treacherous terrain of Qulqual-Ber. The regime sustained heavy casualties, while the Fano reported only three minor injuries.
    - The regime's aggressive aerial surveillance and troop movements underscored their efforts to regain control of the region following the Fano's successful ambush. However, the Fano's continued resistance demonstrates their determination to defend their communities.
  - On September 21st, the Fano apprehended four individuals who had robbed the Tseda Health Science College and Pharmacy. This robbery, involving masked individuals, was carried out under the auspices of a larger criminal network allegedly linked to high-ranking officials in Gonder-Zuriya Woreda.

## **West Gonder Zone**

### **Metemma Woreda**

- The conflict in West Gonder Zone has escalated dramatically, with intense fighting erupting across multiple locations. On September 19th, a significant event occurred in Metemma-Yohannes town when 35 regular soldiers, armed with heavy weapons, defected to Fano. This defection, a significant blow to the regime's forces, appears to have triggered the current escalation in fighting.

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- Fearing further desertions, the regime launched an offensive in Metemma Woreda on September 20th, attempting to regain control and prevent further defections. This offensive has been met with fierce resistance from the Fano fighters, who have launched counter-offensives in Dil-Ber, Kumer and Aftit Kebele.
    - The fighting in Kumer, particularly near St. Arsema Church, has been characterized by close-quarters combat with kalashnikov rifles, while the Fano have successfully destroyed a ZU-23 anti-aircraft gun and two military urals using explosives.
    - Meanwhile, the regime has responded with heavy artillery fire on Dil-Ber town, tragically killing 4 civilians.
  - Beyond Metemma Woreda, the Fano continue their relentless campaign to liberate West Gonder from the regime's forces on September 20th, focusing on the areas of Genda-Wiha and Metemma-Yohannes.
    - A joint operation by the Amhara Fano resulted in a significant victory against regime's forces near Genda-Wiha, where a regime force was ambushed and 5 urals were destroyed.
    - The Fano also advanced beyond Metemma-Yohannes, securing a strategic location near Gedlabate and defeating a heavily armed regime force led by red beret forces. This victory reinforces the Fano's growing strength and the regime's waning control.

## **North Gonder Zone**

- While the North Gonder Zone in Gonder has generally been less volatile than other regions, a notable exception has been the Dabat Woreda, where the Fano fighters have repeatedly engaged in fierce clashes with the regime forces. This pattern of

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conflict, however, has shifted dramatically today, September 16th, as intense fighting has erupted across multiple Woredas in the North Gonder Zone.

- The epicenter of this latest battle has become the town of Debark, the administrative center of the zone. The Fano fighters launched a well-coordinated offensive against the regime forces stationed in the town, targeting them from four different directions. The fighting commenced at 11 am local time, escalating rapidly into a fierce struggle.
- The intensity of the fighting was particularly pronounced in key locations within Debark town: Debark Hospital, College Meda, and Dega-Mereb villages. The Fano forces, having begun their assault at 11 am, at 2:30 am, ultimately achieved victory, pushing back the regime forces and gaining control of the town.
- Multiple Fano divisions participated in the offensive. In Dega-Mereb, the China Fano army division, Menilik Brigade, and Nahusenay Shaleqa led the assault. Meanwhile, in the direction of the police station and Debark University, the Gondere-Begashaw and Atsewochu Fano army divisions engaged in intense battles.
- The regime forces, facing overwhelming pressure, retreated to Gotit, a mountainous village strategically located outside Debark. From their position, they retaliated with heavy artillery, ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, heavy machineguns, and mortars, firing indiscriminately into different areas of Debark town.
- Despite this counteroffensive, the Fano fighters managed to secure control of the majority of Debark town. The regime forces are now confined to the police station and the town’s detention center, effectively surrounded by the Fano fighters.

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- The strategic importance of Debark, coupled with the Fano’s decisive victory, suggests a significant shift in the power dynamics within the North Gonder Zone. The regime’s hold on this region appears to be weakening, while the Fano fighters are demonstrating a growing capacity for coordinated offensives and strategic control.
  - The conflict in the North Gonder Zone has intensified, extending beyond Debark town to encompass a 75-km stretch of territory reaching Amba-Giyorgis town. The Fano fighters have successfully taken control of several towns along this strategic route, including Amba-Giyorgis, Gedebiye, Dabat, and Dara. These towns lie on the main road connecting Gonder to Debark, making their capture a significant victory for the Fano.
  - The regime forces, facing mounting pressure, have resorted to heavy artillery bombardments, repeatedly targeting Debark town’s detention center. These attacks have resulted in significant casualties among the militia and regular police forces stationed there. A series of heavy weapon blasts have also been observed near the Tsehay Zeleqe Hotel, highlighting the intensity of the fighting in the area.
  - In a desperate attempt to regain control, the regime forces deployed a significant number of helicopters on September 15th. These helicopters, landing repeatedly in the area between Dabat and Debark, disembarked red bonnet commando forces, heavily armed and ready for battle. Notably, these helicopters were spotted landing in Minqara village, located within the Debark and Dabat town territories, in the afternoon of September 15th. They dropped heavy weapons and additional commando forces, further escalating the conflict.
  - This intensified military operation by the regime forces, coupled with the arrival of reinforcements, likely triggered the fierce fighting that erupted on

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September 16th.

- Since September 15th, the main road connecting Gonder to Debarq has been impassable due to the ongoing conflict. The fighting has further expanded to Dabat town, beginning at 7:30 pm on September 15th. The conflict initially began in Dara town, a strategically important location previously serving as a military depot for the regime forces.
  - The expansion of the fighting into Dabat town, coupled with the regime’s desperate attempts to reinforce their positions, underscores the intensity of the conflict and the stakes involved. The Fano fighters, having achieved significant gains, have now regained control of the Dabat town since in the evening. The Fano’s operation, spearheaded by Commander Baye Kenaw, has been particularly successful in Dabat town. Utilizing a coordinated operation with the Ras Dejen and Zeray Brigades, the Fano have secured the town and are now actively rooting out remaining regime elements.
  - The operation in Dabat has been remarkably successful, resulting in the complete dismantling of the woreda’s and the town administration’s security apparatus. This has freed numerous innocent citizens and political prisoners, who were held captive in local prisons. The Fano have liberated these individuals by dismantling the prisons and freeing them from their unjust confinement.
  - The Fano’s control of Dabat town is now complete, with the Amhara Fano in Gonder’s Ras Dejen Brigade, led by Commander Aragaw Endale, and Zeray Brigade, led by Commander Engineer Beyene Alemaw, securing the city. The regime’s forces have been confined to a defensive camp on the outskirts of the town, which is now under siege by the Fano.
- The fighting between the Fano fighters and regime forces continued on September

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16th (entering the second day) spanning the areas from Gonder to Qoladiba, and from Qoladiba to Gorgora.

- On September 16th, the conflict expanded to Sankisa, located near Gorgora in West Dembiya Woreda.
- Adding to the intensity of the conflict, fierce fighting also erupted in Delgi town in the afternoon, further highlighting the widespread nature of the clashes in the Gonder region.
- The regime forces' indiscriminate shelling of Qoladiba town and the expansion of fighting to multiple locations in Gonder city demonstrate the escalating nature of the conflict. The Fano fighters, having achieved significant gains in controlling key locations, are fighting bravely, resulting in a complex and volatile situation in the region.

### **Debark Woreda**

- On September 16th, intense fighting erupted in Debark town between Fano fighters and regime forces. The Fano, executing a well-planned military operation, infiltrated the town and carried out their objectives. By evening, they had withdrawn from some villages within Debark, though their presence remained in other areas.
  - Following the Fano's withdrawal, regime forces extrajudicially killed 19 unarmed civilians within Debark town. These innocent civilians, who had no connection to the Fano, became victims of the regime's retaliatory measures, a common practice after encounters with the Fano.
  - The victims were brutally murdered at the exits of Zerima and Boza villages, with nine losing their lives in these locations. A single family suffered the devastating loss of six members, their homes invaded and the victims slain



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within their own walls. The remaining civilians were killed in villages near Meteorology, Quch-Meda, Awtobis-Tera, and Makbel Hotel.

- Sources are diligently gathering the identities of the victims, indicating that the number of casualties may surpass 19. The regime forces, despite their brutal actions, remain confined to their military camps within Debark, including the detention center, police station, and Gotit Mountain. Meanwhile, the Fano fighters continue to operate actively in other parts of the town, demonstrating their ongoing presence and resilience.
- The fierce fighting on September 16th resulted in heavy casualties for the regime forces. In a particularly brutal encounter at Melata-Dingay village, a regime force deployment was completely decimated by the Fano, with no survivors escaping the relentless gunfire. This engagement highlighted the Fano's unwavering determination and effectiveness in combat.
- While two Fano fighters were killed, the conflict has led to a significant defection of militia forces to the Fano side. These defections are a testament to the growing disillusionment with the regime's brutal tactics and a testament to the Fano's ability to attract support from those seeking a different path.
- On September 16th, riot dispersal forces were killed by regime forces for refusing to engage in direct confrontation with the Fano. In this instance, the regular army's role was limited to providing heavy weapons support to the riot dispersal forces, highlighting a pattern of internal friction and division within the regime's ranks.
- The ongoing conflict between Fano fighters and regime forces in North Gonder has escalated in recent days, resulting in heavy casualties on both sides. The fighting has been particularly fierce this week, with the loss of life extending beyond the military ranks to include innocent civilians caught in the crossfire.

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- The Fano have inflicted significant damage on the regime forces, capturing over 100 regular soldiers. Confirmations of casualties include over 45 regime soldiers killed in Debark town and 80 killed in Arbatensa Kebele. The Fano's success in these engagements is further evidenced by their seizure of substantial weaponry, including two heavy machineguns, six light machineguns, numerous small arms, and over 18,000 rounds of ammunition.
  - The fighting has also targeted high-ranking officials within the regime. Two vice-officers responsible for peace and security in North Gonder were confirmed killed. This signifies a growing vulnerability of the regime's leadership and a potential shift in the balance of power.
  - Despite their successes, the Fano also sustained significant losses. Many Fano fighters perished during reckless military ventures, often undertaken without orders from their commanders. Other casualties resulted from ill-advised engagements in areas where they lacked proper guidance and support.
  - The regime, however, has not been shy in targeting civilians. Indiscriminate shelling with heavy weapons has resulted in the deaths of over 48 civilians, underscoring the regime's brutality and disregard for human life.
  - The conflict's impact extends beyond casualties. A notable event occurred on September 19th, when the woreda regular police forces arms and heavy weapons depot officer in Adarkay Woreda defected to the Fano, bringing two light machine guns and several comrades with him. This defection further signifies the growing disillusionment with the regime and a potential shift in allegiances.
  - On September 20th, regime forces bombarded Dabat town with heavy weaponry, including mortars, heavy machine guns, and artillery, in a relentless attempt to regain control. This escalation highlights the regime's desperation

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and willingness to inflict harm on civilians to achieve their objectives.

- The conflict in North Gonder is intensifying, with both sides sustaining heavy losses and escalating their tactics. The targeting of civilians and the regime’s ruthless bombardment of Dabat town demonstrate a clear disregard for human life. The situation remains volatile, with the potential for further escalation and a worsening humanitarian crisis.
- In Debark town, over 39 civilians were killed by regime forces. The regime forces conducted house-to-house searches, resulting in the deaths of 16 civilians while they were sitting in their homes.
  - Within two days, the regime’s actions resulted in the deaths and injuries of 170 unarmed civilians in Gonder, Dabat, and Debark towns, highlighting a deliberate pattern of targeting civilians. These acts of violence underscore the regime’s brutal tactics and disregard for human life.
  - The situation in Debark town is particularly troubling. On September 16th, 17 regime soldiers who were sheltering in churches during the fighting were disarmed and placed under the control of local residents of Debark town. This act of community mobilization reflects the deep anger and frustration felt by the local population against the regime’s actions.

### **Dabat Woreda**

- Intense fighting erupted in Dabat town on September 16th, between the Fano fighters and the regime forces. The Fano, displaying remarkable strength and tenacity, managed to regain control of the majority of the town, a position they maintained even on September 17th . The regime forces, having suffered significant losses in the fighting, have retreated to their military camps outside Dabat town, effectively relinquishing control of the town itself.

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- The regime’s current stance is one of defensive retreat, with a declaration that they will not fire on the Fano unless the Fano fighters approach their military camps. This defensive posture is likely a result of the heavy casualties they sustained during the fierce fighting on September 16th.
  - The Fano’s success in Dabat was marked by liberation of the town’s main detention center. Over 300 political prisoners, including those transferred from Gonder city to Dabat prison, were released. This action signaled a significant blow to the regime’s control and a victory for the Fano’s fight for justice and human rights.
  - The Fano fighters also seized a military depot belonging to the regime forces, acquiring a substantial amount of ammunition, small arms, and heavy weapons. Most of the prisoners released from Dabat prison were suspected Fano members who had not been brought to trial, and there were also riot dispersal forces detained for supporting the Fano movement. Despite this success, the Dabat Woreda Prosperity Party cadres remain confined to the regime’s military camp.
  - The fighting in Dabat was particularly intense around the detention center and the Dabat Woreda administration bureau. The Fano’s victory resulted in at least 30 casualties, with the majority being members of the riot dispersal forces.
  - Meanwhile, the Fano continued their advances, maintaining control of Gedebiye town. Further north, in Wegera Woreda, a brief but intense battle unfolded in Amba-Giyorgis town on the morning of September 17th. The Fano successfully liberated Amba-Giyorgis, the administrative center of Wegera Woreda, marking a significant territorial gain in the central Gonder Zone.
  - The regime forces, stationed at their military camp in Amba-Giyorgis, have

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largely withdrawn, with only a few remaining. Despite attempts to fire heavy weapons towards the town, they have been unable to effectively confront the Fano fighters, highlighting the Fano's growing strength and strategic advantage.

- The events in Dabat and Amba-Giyorgis demonstrate the ongoing momentum of the Fano's offensive, with the regime forces seemingly struggling to contain the tide of the resistance. The liberated prisoners and the captured military depot illustrate the Fano's success in weakening the regime's control and resources. However, the regime's presence in military camps outside Dabat and Amba-Giyorgis suggests that the conflict is far from over, with the potential for further clashes and unpredictable consequences.
- On September 20th, regime forces launched a heavy artillery barrage on Dabat town in a desperate attempt to regain control.
  - The indiscriminate shelling caused significant damage, including the complete destruction of the refugee affairs bureau.
  - The Hibret Bank, located in the basement of the building, was also damaged, and security personnel of the bank stationed there lost their lives.

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

### **Tegede Woreda**

- On September 21st, gunfire exchanges took place in Tegede Woreda, specifically in Qiraqir, the administrative center.
  - This intense exchange of fire marked a renewed clash between Fano fighters and regime forces.

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- In the midst of the fierce fighting, the Fano successfully captured the Tegede Woreda administrator, demonstrating their strategic prowess and control over the region. Following hours of intense combat, the Fano emerged victorious in Qiraqir, successfully driving out the regime forces. The town is now firmly under the control of Fano fighters, marking a significant shift in power dynamics within the Tegede Woreda.
  - The Fano’s campaign continued on September 22nd, with a decisive victory.
    - The Fano, spearheaded by the courageous fighters of the Zeraye and Gobie divisions under the command of Arbegna Beyene Alemaw, launched a coordinated operation to liberate Ketema-Nigus Woreda.
    - Their efforts resulted in a complete victory, with Fano successfully securing control of Ketema-Nigus. This liberation came at a significant cost to regime forces, who suffered heavy casualties. The Fano also captured 16 high-ranking officials of the woreda, including the chief administrator. A large number of weapons, ranging from small arms to heavy weaponry, were seized, further diminishing the regime’s military capabilities.

## **Addis-Ababa City**

- On September 16th, several media outlets reported that Amhara political prisoners in Kaliti expressed disappointment over false claims that they were engaged in political negotiations with the government.
  - They clarified that these reports were baseless and stated that no such negotiations were taking place with regime forces.
  - Furthermore, the prisoners urged media outlets to verify such sensitive information with credible sources. The failure to do so has caused harm to

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their struggle, as the dissemination of this false narrative has negatively impacted their cause.

- Growing opposition voices have been heard regarding the arbitrary demolition of houses in Addis-Ababa city. Many affected residents have expressed concerns over the ongoing demolitions, which are being carried out without proper planning, early warning, or sufficient compensation.
  - Several areas, including Piassa, Arat Kilo, and CMC, have already been targeted. While development efforts are not opposed in principle, the process has not adhered to international standards. In addition to the previous demolitions in several areas of Addis Ababa, currently, demolitions have about to begun in areas such as Ferensay Legasion, Shiro-Meda, and Kazanchis.
  - On September 18th, opposition party Balderas for True Democracy issued a statement urging residents of Addis Ababa to stand against the Prosperity Party’s continued house demolitions.<sup>4</sup> The party claimed that the regime’s actions, particularly the destruction of residential areas, are driven by hatred toward the Amhara people, aiming to alter the city’s demographics by displacing Amharas and establishing Oromo dominance. The statement also criticized the Oromo political elites in power, labeling them as opponents of the civilization and history of Addis Ababa.
- The regime has continued arresting civilians in connection with its ongoing demolitions and forced displacements in various parts of the city.
  - On September 18th, authorities reportedly detained author, artist, and scriptwriter Azeb Worku at the 3rd Police Station. Just days earlier, on September 14th, Azeb had publicly criticized the *Corridor Development*

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<sup>4</sup>See September 18th, 2024 [press statement](#) from Balderas for True Democracy Party.

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*Project* on her Facebook account, condemning its inhumane implementation, which has led to the displacement of residents without sufficient warning or compensation, disproportionately impacting vulnerable groups, including the elderly and children.

- Additionally, the regime has continued targeting ethnic Amharas for arrest, particularly in areas such as Ferensay, Addisu-Gebeya, Hanna-Mariyam, and Saris, with many detainees being taken to undisclosed locations.
- In the Kotebe area of Yeka sub-city, youths continue to be arbitrarily detained by the regime, particularly in grocery shops.

## **Horo Guduru Wollega Zone (Oromia Region)**

### **Abe-Dongoro Woreda**

- Between September 21st-22nd, regime forces launched a full ground offensive against Amhara residents in the Dalcho and Wubanchi areas of Abe-Dongoro Woreda.
  - Armed volunteer fighters confronted the offensive, inflicting significant casualties on regime forces. The regime reportedly deployed a large force, supported by heavy artillery. Although the volunteer fighters initially gained ground, the regime forces later destroyed one of their camps by using heavy artillery.
  - As the volunteer fighters attempted to defend their second camp, they were eventually surrounded by regime soldiers despite their fierce resistance. Many of the fighters managed to break through the encirclement, but the leader of the volunteer farmers' fighters and his escort were killed. The leader reportedly took his own life after realizing he was surrounded, while his escort was killed by regime forces.



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- Afterward, regime soldiers brought the body of the volunteer leader to Amhara residential areas, seemingly to instill fear among the local Amhara community.

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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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