



## War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – December 2nd to 8th, 2024

*Updated December 8th, 2024*

### Overview

For the week of December 2nd to 8th, 2024, fighting between *Amhara Fano freedom fighters* (Fano) and *Prosperity Party regime joint forces* (regime forces) has continued in various parts of Amhara Region in Ethiopia.<sup>1</sup>

- This week battle events and rights violations were recorded in 56 woreda/city administrations across 10 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These zones included the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder and West Gonder Zones. Events were also recorded in 6 woreda administrations across 3 zonal administrations in Oromia Region. These zones included the North Shewa, East Wollega, Horo Guduru Wollega Zones. Events were also recorded in Addis-Ababa city.

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

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- Battle events were recorded in over 6 urban administrations across 5 zonal administrations. These urban administrations included Kobo, Alamata, Dessie, Shewa-Robit, Debre-Markos and Gonder cities in the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam and Central Gonder Zones.
  - Civilian casualties were recorded in more than 13 woreda/city administrations across 8 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Lasta, Raya-Kobo, Hageremariam-Kessem, Shewa-Robit, Gozamin, Dega-Damot, Fagita-Lekoma, Bahir-Dar Zuriya, Libo-Kemkem, Estie, Andabet, Simada and Metemma Woredas in the North Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, South Gonder and West Gonder Zones. In addition, casualties were recorded in Dera Woreda of North Shewa Zone in Oromia Region.
  - Use of airstrikes and drones were recorded in 8 woreda/city administrations in 5 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Lasta, Hageremariam-Kessem, Mida-Woremo, Efratana-Gidim, Enemay, Gozamin, Dega-Damot and Fagita-Lekoma Woredas located in North Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam and Awi Zones.
  - Widespread arrests were reported in 12 woreda/city administrations across 7 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These include Dessie city, Shewa-Robit, Basona-Werana, Minjar-Shenkora, Antsokiyana-Gemza, Dejen, Bahir-Dar Zuriya, Dera, Simada, Ibbat, West Belessa and Tach Armachiho Woredas in the South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder and West Gonder Zones. In addition, mass forced conscription has been reported in various areas of Amhara and Oromia Regions targeting civilians including minors and elderly persons.
  - A violent state-led campaign targeting Amhara communities in various parts of Oromia Region has continued this week. The campaign undertaken under pretense

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of disarmament was related to widespread abuses against civilians (including women and children) including extrajudicial killings, sexual and gender-based violence, torture, hostage-taking, property loss and forced displacement. Human rights abuses related to this campaign were recorded in 5 woreda administrations across 2 zonal administrations in Oromia Region. These include Gida-Ayana, Abe-Dongoro, Kiremu, Amuru and Jardega-Jarte Woredas in the East Wollega and Horo Guduru Wollega Zones.

- This week, a splinter group from the *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) led by Jaal Sagni Nagassa was reportedly pardoned and allowed to reintegrate into society in Addis-Ababa city. The OLA militants (Oromo ethno-nationalist militias) reportedly opened fire in various neighborhoods of Addis-Ababa city leading to the death of at least one civilian and injured others near the British Embassy and Megenagna area.

## **North Wollo Zone**

### **Update from the Amhara Fano in Wollo**

- On December 2nd, the Amhara Fano in Wollo announced the formal establishment of two military corps:
  - *East Amhara Corps One*: Comprising the Hawjano Division, Asaminew Division, and Yegiranaw-Baleshiritu Division.
  - *East Amhara Corps Two*: Comprising the Zobel-Amba Division, Kalakorma Division, Tatek Division, and the Dibi and Workie-Baleshiritu Brigade.
  - Leadership appointments for each core were also announced.
  - Amhara Fano in Wollo disclosed that these corps have been operational for a long time, having participated in multiple military engagements.

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## **Lasta Woreda**

- On the night of December 3rd, a drone attack targeted a residential area in Bilbala town, killing 3 civilians, including an 80-year-old monk, and leaving several others injured.<sup>2</sup>
  - This marks the third drone strike committed at night since December 2nd.
  - The ongoing conflict has led to the closure of over 45 hotels in Lalibela, leaving more than 225 tour guides unemployed and facing economic hardship.
  - Ongoing use of artillery in Lasta, site of the Lalibela rock-hewn churches, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, has raised concerns over risks to this religious heritage site.

## **Angot Woreda**

- On December 2nd, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Asaminew Division Biset Major launched a planned offensive in Ahun-Tegegn town. The attack resulted in the surrender of two members of regime forces. Additionally, one regime combatant was killed during the operation.

## **Raya-Kobo Woreda**

- On December 5th, regime forces escalated artillery shelling across Raya-Kobo Woreda, with heavy bombardment reported near Tekulesh, specifically in the Etse-Beles area.
  - In response, the Amhara Fano in Wollo Zobel-Amba Brigade's 4th Battalion, launched a strategic ambush on regime forces in Tekulesh town. Intense clashes have also been reported involving the Amhara Fano in Wollo's

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<sup>2</sup>See December 5, 2024 [article](#) from VOA Amharic (English translation [here](#)).

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Asaminew, Zobel-Amba, and Hawjano Divisions, engaging the regime on multiple fronts.

- Additionally, continuous artillery fire from Woldia city and Gobiye town targeted Kalim and surrounding areas, including Asgeday-Ber, and Derba-Mariam, a location known for multiple regime force surrenders.
  - Civilians in these areas are enduring severe shelling, leading to significant disruptions and danger. It has resulted in numerous civilian casualties, widespread destruction of residential properties, and the loss of livestock. However, precise casualty figures remain unverified due to the intensity and fluidity of the situation.
  - Notably, regime forces have re-entered Kalim, reclaiming control after several months of control by Fano forces.
- On December 6th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo continued their ambush operations against regime forces. Under the leadership of Fano Zewdu Dargie, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Kalakorima Division ambushed regime forces at Robit town, a strategic location connecting Addis-Ababa, Woldia, and Kobo cities.

### **Habru Woreda**

- On December 6th, managers from Tsedey Bank, Abay Bank, and Amhara Bank were reportedly abducted by unknown forces in Srinqa town. It is believed they were taken to a regime military camp.

### **Raya-Alamata Woreda**

- On December 8th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Hawjano Division ambushed regime forces in Waja town. Regime forces were reportedly preparing to conduct a forced

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public meeting. The indiscriminate firing of weapons by regime forces resulted in the injury of an elderly woman in the town.

## **South Wollo Zone**

### **Ambassel Woreda**

- On December 1st, fierce battles occurred in Marye, Tere, and Gishen-Megenteya.
  - It has been reported that the Amhara Fano Wollo Command took control of Marye town on December 1st.
  - However, regime forces launched an offensive on December 2nd, with heavy artillery support, including mortars, to regain control of Marye and the Teleyayen area.
  - This attack caused significant damage to residential properties and livestock, with numerous cattle killed in the offensive.
- As of December 3rd, artillery shelling persists, with sounds reaching as far as Dessie, disrupting civilian life. Fierce battles between the Amhara Fano Wollo Command and regime forces continue across multiple areas in Ambassel Woreda.
- On December 6th, regime forces continued artillery shelling into the Ambassel Mountains. The exact number of casualties remains unconfirmed.

### **Delanta Woreda**

- As of December 3rd, regime continues indiscriminate artillery shelling from Tsehay-Mewcha, targeting Tere, Teleyayen, and other areas in the Ambassel Mountains.

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### **Mekdela Woreda**

- On December 4th, active conflict was reported near Shoga, particularly around Kahinatu-Semaye Church. Several former regime soldiers defected and joined Fano forces in the area.

### **Dessie City**

- As of December 6th, forced conscription escalated in South Wollo Zone. Over the past three days, more than 300 civilians have been forcibly conscripted in Dessie, the administrative center of South Wollo Zone.

### **Borena Woreda**

- On December 8th, the Amhara Fano Wollo Command ambushed regime forces around Mekane-Selam town. The ambush led to the capture of significant military supplies by Fano forces and forced the retreat of regime militias, resulting in casualties, including deaths and injuries.

### **North Shewa Zone**

- On December 2nd, regime forces intensified forced military conscription efforts, including of minors (children under the age of 18), in various woredas of North Shewa Zone. This practice has been reported in Asagirt, Basona Werana, and Ankober Woredas.
- The regime's mass forced military conscription of daily laborers is severely affecting farmers' ability to harvest their crops across several parts of North Shewa Zone.
  - In particular, areas known for their significant agricultural output, such as Minjar-Shenkora, Siyadebr-Wayu, and other woredas, are facing considerable

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challenges.

- These regions typically attract large numbers of daily laborers during the harvest season. However, this year, laborers who traditionally migrate from areas like Debre-Birhan, Nazareth, and other surrounding towns are notably absent due to the regime’s aggressive conscription efforts.
- This situation highlights the regime’s dual assault on Amhara farmers and the broader population. On one front, it wages war against civilians through mass detentions and forced conscriptions. On the other, it disrupts agricultural activities by depriving farmers of the labor necessary to collect their crops, thereby exacerbating the region’s economic and food security crisis.

#### **Update from the Amhara Fano Shewa Command**

- On December 2nd, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command Negodguad Division’s Gatew Brigade graduated a new batch of trainees. Senior military leaders delivered motivational speeches, congratulating the graduates and urging them to remain committed to the Amhara cause, their method of struggle, and their collective destiny.

#### **Update from the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command**

- On December 7th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command issued a statement calling for unity among Fano factions.
  - Fano forces stated that although they have successfully disrupted the regime’s infrastructure in the region, they are facing challenges in maintaining unity.
  - The statement urged the Amhara Fano Shewa Command leadership and members to overcome their differences and unite with them.
  - It called for all Fano members in Shewa to join and work together.



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- The statement also highlighted the regime’s ongoing forced conscriptions of Amhara youths, as well as private and civil servants, to join Fano forces for training and struggle.
  - It appealed to Amhara intellectuals and the diaspora to support the movement and collaborate with respect.
  - The statement called on all media outlets to lead the struggle in a unified manner with constructive ideas, avoiding internal divisions.
  - Amhara individuals within the regime’s structure, including militias and riot dispersal forces were encouraged to join the popular struggle of the Fano.

### **Hageremariam-Kessem Woreda**

- On December 1st, a drone strike targeted Akrmmit Primary School in Akrmmit Kebele, causing significant civilian casualties and infrastructure damage. Among the civilians killed were Efreem Tadesse and Tsegaw Awetegn. One civilian was injured, and the primary school was severely damaged.

### **Mida-Woremo Woreda**

- The regime has begun conducting drone strikes at night, a shift from previous daytime attacks.
- On the night of December 2nd, two drone strikes occurred in the Biraba area of Rema around 7:30 pm, resulting in the deaths of 11 people. Two victims were identified as Abeje Atnafu and Dirib Behailu.

### **Shewa-Robit City**

- On December 3rd, regime forces arrested over 30 daily laborers which sources suspect is related to forced military conscription.

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- On December 4th, Fano fighters launched a surprise offensive against regime forces in Shewa-Robit, a strategic city connecting Addis-Ababa, Debre-Birhan, and Dessie cities.
    - The Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command initiated the attack from four directions, targeting regime camps in Inritu, Kela, Zuti, Maremiya-Bet, the police station area, and other locations.
    - After prolonged fighting, Fano forces captured the riot dispersal camp in Kebele 01. Many regime soldiers surrendered, and significant military equipment was seized.
    - The offensive resulted in severe casualties in Zuti camp, halting transportation and services along the route connecting Addis-Ababa, Debre-Birhan and Dessie cities, with no movement of people or goods in Shewa-Robit.
    - On the evening of December 4th, sources reported that the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command entered Shewa-Robit.
    - Regime forces responded with an indiscriminate artillery assault on civilian areas, resulting in the tragic death of several residents, including a three-month-old infant whose mother was receiving hospital treatment at the time. In Kebele 01, 5 others sustained injuries. Meanwhile, in Kebele 03 and Zuti, more than 5 civilians were wounded in the attack
    - This operation enabled Fano forces to secure vital logistical supplies.
    - Additionally, over 130 civilians who had been forcefully detained for military conscription were freed by the Fano forces.
    - Heavy artillery fire was heard around Shewa-Robit the following day on December 5th.
  - On December 6th, regime forces detained Deresse Ashine, manager of the

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Ethiopian Electric Power in the Debre-Birhan district of Shewa-Robit city.

- Two days prior, the regime had instructed Deresse to travel to both urban and rural areas to levy taxes in sectors unrelated to his role in electricity affairs.
- He refused, citing that his responsibilities were strictly related to electricity.
- On December 6th, following his refusal regime forces forcibly took him into custody from his office.

### **Efratana-Gidim Woreda**

- On the night of December 2nd, regime forces conducted a drone strike in Kara-Legoma near Ataye town, marking a continuation of nighttime drone strikes.
  - No human casualties were reported.
  - On the same day, a fierce battle between the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command and regime forces occurred in Ataye and Kara-Koriye.

### **Berehet Woreda**

- On December 4th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command's Kessem Division ambushed regime forces in Debre-Tsige Kebele. The ambush targeted regime forces traveling from Metiteh-Bila to exchange logistics from other regime forces that come from Arerti town of Minjar-Shenkora Woreda, resulting in significant casualties.

### **Mojana-Wadera Woreda**

- On December 4th, regime forces launched artillery strikes from the mountains near Tsadkan-Mariam into surrounding areas. The number of casualties has not yet been confirmed.

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### **Antsokiyana-Gemza Woreda**

- On December 4th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command and Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command conducted a successful joint attack against regime forces in Antsokiya.
  - The offensive was initiated in response to attempts by regime forces to enforce forced military conscription and mass detentions of civilians.
  - As a result, regime forces were compelled to abandon both the conscription effort and the mass detentions.

### **Minjar-Shenkora Woreda**

- On December 6th, members of the Amhara Fano Shewa Command's Nebilbal Brigade ambushed regime forces in Arerti town. Fano forces captured two regime militias. In response, regime forces initiated a mass house-to-house arrest campaign, which intensified after 7 pm on the same day.

### **Menz-Mam-Midir Woreda**

- On December 6th, intense fighting broke out in several kebeles of Menz-Mam-Midir Woreda between the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command and regime forces. Fano forces launched an offensive from four directions: Wogere, Megenteya, Mofer-Wuha, and Dengezie. Fano forces succeeded in entering Molale town.
- On December 6th, Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command launched an offensive attack against regime forces near Molale town, resulting in heavy casualties.
  - Many regime forces, including a militia commander, were killed. Additionally, one machine gun and other military equipment were surrendered to Fano forces.

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- Reportedly from the Fano side, 4 were killed and 6 were injured.

### **Basona-Werana Woreda**

- On December 6th, intense fighting occurred between the Amhara Fano Shewa Command and regime forces. In retaliation, regime forces conducted mass arrests, potentially as part of a forced conscription campaign.

## **East Gojjam Zone**

### **Machakel Woreda**

- On December 2nd, fighting broke out in the Embole area.
  - The conflict began when regime soldiers mobilized from Dembecha and Debre-Elias Woreda for logistical support. These forces were tasked with delivering supplies to recently deployed troops in Debre-Elias Woreda.
  - However, they encountered a surprise attack from Fano fighters in the Embole area. This ambush led to a significant confrontation; the regime forces eventually managed to advance after reinforcements arrived.
  - The number of casualties resulting from this exchange of gunfire remains unknown.

### **Debre-Elias Woreda**

- Between December 2nd and 4th, regime forces pressured residents, including both public and private workers, to resume their work despite escalating tensions between Fano fighters and regime forces in Elias town.
  - Eyewitness accounts reveal that intimidation tactics are being employed to compel compliance, with officials threatening unspecified consequences for

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those who do not return to work between December 3rd and 4th, amid ongoing clashes. This has fostered an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty, prompting many community members to weigh the risks of potential violence.

- In light of these pressures, some residents are reportedly fleeing to rural areas to escape anticipated violence and actions by regime soldiers. This coercion appears to be part of a broader propaganda campaign by the regime, which seeks to project an image of restored normalcy amidst escalating conflict.

### **Dejen Woreda**

- Since late November reports indicate that former militia members in various kebeles of Dejen Woreda are facing significant pressure to join regime forces in their fight against Fano fighters.
  - Accounts from kebeles such as Sheshengo, Qoncher, and Zemetin describe a disturbing pattern of intimidation, where individuals are coerced into military service under the threat of execution.
  - Several militia members, including elderly individuals who refused to comply, have already been detained by regime soldiers. Among those reported detained are Ato Abiwot Amare, Ato Mosiye (last name unknown), and Ato Addisu Temesgen.

### **Baso-Liben Woreda**

- On December 4th, gunfire exchanges took place in two distinct locations.
  - The first incident occurred in the Michig area, where regime soldiers launched a surprise attack on Fano fighters stationed at a checkpoint. Reports indicate that 2 Fano fighters were killed in the exchange, while the number of casualties on the regime side remains unconfirmed.

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- The second incident unfolded in the Dendegeb area, where regime forces sought to seize substantial crops believed to belong to Fano families. In response, Fano fighters confronted the regime troops, resulting in a fierce gunfight that ultimately forced the regime soldiers to retreat without achieving their objectives. Sources indicated numerous casualties among the regime troops, while one confirmed fatality was reported from the Fano side.

### **Gozamin Woreda**

- On December 4th, regime forces executed a drone strike on a moving truck in an area known as Mayi. The strike reportedly targeted 6 civilians inside the vehicle, resulting in a range of injuries from light to severe.

### **Debre-Markos City**

- On December 5th, an explosion occurred near the FM International Hotel, triggered by unknown assailants.
  - Eyewitnesses reported hearing the blast and observing residents fleeing the vicinity.
  - Subsequently, regime soldiers apprehended an individual believed to be a member of the regime's intelligence services while attempting to escape the scene. Reasonable speculation indicate that the bombing may have been orchestrated by regime forces themselves.
  - Consequently, between three to five individuals in the area sustained injuries from the explosion, including a bajaj driver and several street beggars.

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## **Goncha-Siso-Enese and Enbese-Sar-Midir Woredas**

- On December 4th and 5th, intense gunfire erupted in the Debre-Genet area, initiated when regime soldiers mobilized to quell Fano fighters in this area of Goncha-Siso-Enese Woreda.
  - On December 3rd, the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Samuel Aweke Division's Arenzaw-Goncha Brigade launched a counteroffensive, compelling the regime troops to retreat with minimal resistance.
  - On December 5th, the regime attempted to re-engage Fano fighters, leading to heavy firearm exchanges. The Fano fighters mounted a robust counteroffensive, ultimately forcing regime soldiers to retreat towards Ginde-Weyn town after sustaining casualties.
  - Sources confirmed 5 casualties among the regime troops, with no reports of casualties from the Fano side.
- On December 7th, fighting broke out in numerous kebeles across Goncha-Siso-Enese and Enbese-Sar-Midir Woredas.
  - The clashes were reportedly initiated by the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Samuel Aweke Division's Arenzaw-Goncha and Abay-Sheleqo Brigades, with the intention of advancing toward Merto-Lemariam town.
  - Accounts indicate that battles occurred in the Gembore area of Goncha-Siso-Enese Woreda, as well as in the Derji and Shola areas of Enbese-Sar-Midir Woreda.
  - Fano fighters asserted that they inflicted significant casualties on regime soldiers during these confrontations; however, efforts to advance toward Merto-Lemariam were thwarted by relentless heavy artillery fire from the regime.



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### **Sedie Woreda**

- On December 6th, heavy fighting erupted in the neighborhoods of Sedie town, primarily driven by Fano fighters targeting the regime's encampment. This confrontation was a response to the regime's prior attempts to suppress Fano fighters in Kernewari Kebele. Reports indicate that the fighting persisted until evening, with further details about the incident yet to be investigated.

### **Bibugn Woreda**

- On December 6th and 7th, intense confrontations erupted in Bibugn Woreda.
  - The regime forces initiated their aggressive push from Digo-Tsiyon, directing their movements towards Waber town.
  - The Amhara Fano in Gojjam 2nd (Tefera Damtie) Division's Mezgebu Walelign Brigade, mounted a fierce defense in the Almi area. This resistance halted the regime's advance towards Waber.
  - Despite the initial setback, fighting persisted into December 7th, when regime soldiers making renewed attack in an attempt to penetrate towards the Waber area.
  - The outcome of these two days of clashes, along with the extent of casualties sustained on both sides, remains unconfirmed.

### **Debay-Telatgin Woreda**

- On December 7th, a fierce exchange of gunfire erupted in the Gerems area.
  - Reports indicate that the conflict was instigated when Fano fighters launched a coordinated offensive against regime soldiers who had recently been deployed to the area.

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- Sources reported that the Debay-Choke Fano Brigade inflicted heavy casualties on regime forces, forcing them to retreat from the Gerems area.
  - In an interconnected series of attacks, the Aab-Kostir Fano Brigade, conducted offensives in the Yekebehana and Weyra areas of Enemay Woreda. Initial reports indicate that these skirmishes also resulted in further casualties among regime forces.
  - In addition to above incidents, confrontations have been reported across other woredas of East Gojjam Zone, including Enbese-Sar-Midir, Enarj-Enawga, and Goncha-Siso-Enese Woredas, as of December 7th, with details of these engagements still under investigation.

### **Enarj-Enawga Woreda**

- On the night of December 6th, regime soldiers mobilized from Ginde-Weyn town toward Felege-Birhan town, launching a surprise attack on a Fano encampment.
  - This assault occurred while the Soma Fano Brigade were asleep, leaving them vulnerable. Although the security guard stationed at the Fanos' camp confronted the invading soldiers, it resulted in the immediate death of 4 of the security guards of the Fano members.
  - According to reports, the remaining Fano members inside the camp managed to escape amid the gunfire exchange. Meanwhile, the casualties inflicted on the regime soldiers during this encounter remain unreported from sources.
  - However, a spokesperson for the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Belay Zeleke Division claimed that they had inflicted over 25 fatalities and injured another 15 among the regime forces.

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## **Enemay Woreda**

- Between December 6th and 7th, intense fighting erupted in various kebeles of Enemay Woreda.
  - Key areas affected by the clashes included Bichena town and Yekebehana, Mengisto and Weyra Kebeles.
  - The violence began as regime forces mobilized from nearby bases in an attempt to extend their control over Fano strongholds in rural kebeles.
  - On December 7th, the Aba-Kostir Fano Brigade launched a counteroffensive in the Weyra and Bichena areas. Fano fighters claimed to have driven the regime soldiers out of Weyra Kebele and inflicted numerous casualties on them.
  - Additionally, Fano fighters reported capturing multiple firearms, ammunition, and non-military equipment being utilized by the regime soldiers. At one point, they entered Bichena town to conduct surprise attacks, resulting in the deaths of an unspecified number of regime soldiers.
  - In retaliation, on December 7th, regime forces carried out two successive drone strikes in Nabra Kebele, killing 5 people and injuring 3 others.

## **West Gojjam Zone**

### **Dembecha Woreda**

- On December 2nd, there was a brief exchange of light gunfire within Dembecha town. Sources suggest that the gunfire was initiated by Fano fighters attempting to disrupt the regime's recent efforts to compel residents to resume public services. The fighting ceased quickly, with no reported casualties.

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## Dega-Damot Woreda

- On December 5th, regime forces initiated a major offensive in Dega-Damot Woreda which continued into December 6th.
  - Reports indicate that the assault was launched from two directions, with mobilizations from Dembecha town and Weyn-Wiha. The offensive was marked by intense firefights, heavy weaponry, and air strikes. Fano fighters demonstrated fierce resistance, coordinating closely with local populations to bolster their defense.
  - Fighting was particularly concentrated in the Dingayber and Addisalem areas, where suspected drone strikes occurred in the Addisalem area. Although explosions were clearly heard, it remains difficult to ascertain the precise means of the strikes—whether from drones, helicopters, or BM rockets.
  - Regime forces initiated a full-scale offensive aimed at advancing their control over the area, employing an extensive array of weaponry at their disposal, including BM rockets, drones, and air support.
  - On December 5th, a drone strike was carried out by regime forces. This strike, which targeted a moving vehicle in the Addis-Alem area, resulted in the deaths of at least 4 farmers.
  - Additionally, the regime launched helicopter and jet attacks, although initial reports indicate that these assaults did not result in any casualties.
  - On December 6th, as regime forces advanced closer to Feres-Bet town, they conducted another air strike, targeting an area of jungle in Berek, which also reportedly resulted in no casualties.
  - By the afternoon of December 6th, regime forces entered Feres-Bet town, the central hub of Dega-Damot Woreda. The extent of casualties on both sides over the two days of fighting remains unconfirmed.

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## **Jabi-Tehnan Woreda**

- On December 6th, regime forces mobilized from areas of Jiga and Finote-Selam, aiming to advance into Quarit Woreda.
  - Reports suggest that the deployed soldiers took temporary positions in the Maksegnit and Zindib areas, preparing to initiate their advance towards Quarit overnight or in the coming days. During this troop movement, regime forces encountered light confrontations with Fano fighters in the Zindib and Maksegnit regions; however, the extent of casualties resulting from these skirmishes has yet to be confirmed.
- On December 6th, the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Atikem Division's Arenzaw-Damot and Bure-Damot Brigades, reportedly launched a strong assault on the Birsheleqo Military Training Camp using heavy weaponry. Initial reports indicate that an unspecified number of new recruits were killed, injured, or managed to escape during the attack. Further details regarding this incident are still in progress.

## **Quarit Woreda**

- As of December 6th, the regime's attempts to penetrate and establish control over Quarit Woreda continued. A full-scale offensive was launched by regime forces from both Jiga and Adet directions, leading to intense shelling of the Biradama areas with heavy artillery. Despite these efforts into the evening hours of December 6th, regime forces failed to penetrate into the woreda.
- On December 7th, regime forces continued their aggressive advancement into Quarit Woreda.

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- However, contrary to expectations, they encountered minimal resistance from Fano fighters.
  - According to sources, wary of potential ambushes and sudden attacks from Fano groups, regime soldiers opted to travel to Quarit on foot.
  - On this day, regime forces entered the small town of Genet-Abo, and there are speculations that they may soon proceed to Gebeze-Mariam, the central hub of Quarit Woreda, in the coming days.
  - In a notable development, the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Atikem Division's Geremew Wendawek Brigade, has reportedly mobilized from Quarit toward Finote-Selam city.
  - This movement suggests that they are preparing to launch an offensive in the coming days, aimed at disrupting the regime's operational plans while positioning themselves strategically for incoming confrontations.
- On December 8th, regime soldiers which entered the Genet-Abo and Biradama areas the previous day (December 7th), reportedly withdrew from these locations in the late afternoon.
    - On December 8th, Fano fighters from the Geremew-Wendawek Brigade mobilized from Quarit and launched an offensive in the Finote-Selam neighborhood.
    - In response, regime soldiers unleashed persistent heavy artillery barrages. Speculations arise that the regime's withdrawal from Quarit Woreda might be connected to the Fano fighters' unexpected operations.
    - During their occupation, reports indicate that regime soldiers committed various abuses and engaged in property destruction, including the deliberate damage of equipment, such as tables and chairs at a hotel in Genet-Abo town.

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Additional destruction has been reported, but further details remain to be verified.

### **Sekela Woreda**

- On December 6th, regime soldiers mobilized from the Tilili and Adet directions, with intentions to advance into Sekela Woreda.
  - According to sources, these mobilized forces encountered fierce resistance in the Ashifa and Gundil areas
  - Reports reveal that combined efforts from Fano brigades from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Gojjam-Agew-Midir Division inflicted significant casualties on the regime's soldiers.
  - Tensions remain extremely high in the area as regime forces continue their attempts to advance, supported by heavy artillery fire and reinforcements from nearby camps.
- On December 7th, regime forces advanced into Sekela Woreda. Throughout their incursion, they encountered minimal resistance from Fano fighters, allowing for a relatively unobstructed movement through the area.

### **Awi Zone**

#### **Fagita-Lekoma Woreda**

- As of December 3rd, the regime's campaign to take control of Fagita Kebele continued.
  - On this day, regime soldiers mobilized from Addis-Kidam and Injibara towns in an effort to advance into Fagita Kebele. The troops from Addis-Kidam

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faced intense resistance in Dimama Kebele, resulting in fierce clashes where Fano fighters reportedly gained the upper hand.

- According to Fano sources, they inflicted numerous casualties to regime forces, forcing them to retreat back to Addis-Kidam. Similarly, Fano fighters mounted strong resistance against troops departing from Injibara, resulting in their retreat to Injibara town.
- On December 7th, regime soldiers executed a drone strike in Fagita Kebele, resulting in the deaths of 2 civilians (teenagers) who were reportedly guarding their cattle at the time of the attack. The strike also led to the deaths of two cattle.

### **Jawi Woreda**

- On December 4th, regime forces mobilized from Fendika town toward Jahimala.
  - Anticipating the planned operation, the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Jawi Division strategically positioned themselves to maintain an advantage.
  - As the regime advanced toward Jahimala, Fano fighters executed successful ambushes at two separate locations, compelling regime troops to retreat to their main base in Fendika. Reports indicated casualties among regime soldiers, with specific figure remain unconfirmed.
  - The following day, December 5th, the Jawi Fano Division completed military training and they celebrated the graduation of their commando forces.

### **North Gojjam Zone**

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

- On December 2nd, regime soldiers entered Handasa Kebele—an area that had long been under Fano control.



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- Upon their arrival, reports surfaced detailing numerous abuses perpetrated by the regime soldiers, including killings, physical assaults, unlawful arrests, and forced disarmament.
  - Sources indicated that the soldiers entered residential homes, coercing farmers to surrender firearms. Those unable to comply faced immediate beatings and detention.
  - During this tumultuous day, 1 civilian was brutally killed, and several others were detained.
  - Among the identified detained victims were three individuals:
    1. Tadele Geremew
    2. Yitayal Yidersal
    3. Chilotaw Mersha

### **North Mecha Woreda**

- In the late hours of December 7th, regime soldiers shot 2 civilians, a father and his son, in Merawi town.
  - This incident occurred around 10 pm as the victims were returning home after working in a barbershop.
  - The father, who was identified as Welalaw (last name undisclosed), died instantly from his injuries, while his six-year-old son sustained critical injuries and is currently receiving medical treatment.
  - Ato Welalaw, estimated to be in his 40s, was laid to rest on December 8th at the cemetery of St. Mary’s Church in Merawi.

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## South Gonder Zone

### Estie Woreda

- As of December 2nd, intense fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces continued in Estie Woreda, expanding to multiple locations including Andabet, Mekane-Eyesus town, Gena-Memcha, and Sholekt Kebele.
  - This conflict, which initially began on December 1st and lasted 13 hours, represents a significant escalation in the ongoing struggle for control of Andabet Woreda. Regime forces launched an offensive to reclaim the area, but Fano fighters executed an effective encirclement, significantly hindering the regime forces' advance.
  - Further complicating the regime forces' offensive, a military convoy traveling from Gayint via Simada Woreda toward Estie was ambushed by Fano forces at Agona Kebele. This ambush resulted in the complete destruction of one military vehicle, loaded with soldiers, and inflicted significant casualties, with at least 18 soldiers killed or critically wounded. Following the ambush, intense close-quarters combat ensued in Agona Kebele, lasting several hours.
  - The Fano's offensive actions continued on December 2nd with an early morning assault on a regime militia camp located in Mekane-Eyesus town. Employing RPGs, the Fano launched a surprise attack, inflicting substantial casualties upon the regime militias.
- On December 2nd, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces across multiple locations within Estie Woreda, including Mekane-Eyesus town, Sholekt, Gena-Memcha, and Shembeqowoch Kebeles.
  - Despite suffering significant casualties, regime forces managed to seize control of Andabet town after a three-month period of Fano control. This recapture,

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however, was immediately followed by a wave of human rights abuses against the civilian population.

- The regime forces engaged in widespread arbitrary detentions of civilians, falsely accusing them of being members of Fano fighters. This pattern of intimidation and violence against the civilian population in the aftermath of the military victory underscores the broader humanitarian crisis.
- On December 3rd, regime forces killed 2 civilians in Andabet town. These civilians were killed following the order to deliver their arms to the regime. Militia forces also destroyed many houses in the town under allegation that the houses are owned by Fano fighters.
- On December 6th, Fano fighters executed a successful ambush against a contingent of regime forces traveling between Debre-Tabor and Kimir-Dingay, near the town of Gasay.
  - The attack, launched in the early morning hours, caught the regime troops by surprise. The ambush resulted in numerous casualties among the regime soldiers, with a significant number killed and many others sustaining critical injuries.
  - Following the initial ambush, intense close-quarters combat ensued, lasting for several hours. An eyewitness account corroborated the scene, reporting at least 6 uncollected bodies from the regime's side left lying on the ground.
  - The extent of the regime forces' losses remain unconfirmed but eyewitness testimony suggests significant damage inflicted upon the contingent.
- On December 7th, Fano fighters launched a successful ambush against a regime military convoy traveling from Mekane-Eyesus town towards Qoma-Fasiledes.

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- This surprise attack inflicted heavy casualties on regime forces and later escalated into intense close-quarters combat, lasting several hours, across four separate locations: Saga, Tsiwon, Sholekt, and Gena-Memcha Kebeles. The fighting resulted in further significant losses for regime forces, including the destruction of a military truck carrying regime troops in an explosive detonation.
  - Separately, another regime convoy traveling near Gasay town was ambushed by Fano forces resulting in the complete destruction of their military truck, and the regime soldiers, including their commander, suffered numerous fatalities and critical injuries.

### **Ibnat Woreda**

- On December 1st, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and the regime forces in Dega-Melza town.
  - During the conflict, regime forces, specifically militia units, engaged in widespread looting of public and private property. Dega-Melza Health Center was targeted, with all medical equipment and medications stolen. The militia claimed this looting was to treat injured Fano fighters, a justification that lacks credibility and points to blatant disregard for civilian needs.
  - This looting extended beyond public institutions. Farmers in Qualisa and China villages suffered the theft of livestock and personal belongings at the hands of regime forces.
  - Furthermore, numerous farmers were detained during a regime-led disarmament operation, ostensibly targeting legally armed farmers. This operation demonstrated a pattern of harassment and intimidation against the civilian population.

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- Adding to the severity of these actions, numerous women were severely beaten under accusations of providing food and shelter to Fano fighters.
  - On December 3rd, a major clash erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Wergaja Kebele, a village located approximately 24 km from Ibnat town.
    - The fighting was intense, resulting in casualties for regime forces. At least 7 soldiers were confirmed killed, and a large, unspecified number suffered injuries ranging from minor to critical in severity.
    - The regime forces' objective was to reinstate the regime's administration in Wergaja Kebele, having brought officials from the Prosperity Party, including agricultural and health workers, as well as kebele administrators.
    - However, they encountered fierce resistance from Fano fighters, forcing a retreat back to Ibnat town. The regime officials intended for reinstatement were forced to withdraw along with the retreating troops.
  - On December 5th, a significant number of regime soldiers deployed to rural areas within Ibnat Woreda defected to the Fano bringing with them their full military equipment.
    - This mass desertion caused considerable alarm among high-ranking military officers. A particularly noteworthy incident involved 40 regime soldiers who, while on a mission to Qualisa, abandoned their posts and joined Fano forces in the region.
    - From Qualisa, this group, which included a captain, subsequently relocated to Belessa and integrated with Fano forces operating there. Their defection included three heavy weapons and over 31 kalashnikov rifles.
    - The regime's attempts to locate and apprehend the deserters by sealing off all checkpoints proved unsuccessful, highlighting the scale of the defections and

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the growing instability within the regime's forces.

- On the night of December 6th, four regime soldiers stationed in Ibnat town defected to the Fano, bringing with them their full military equipment.
  - This incident followed a broader trend; within just two days, a total of 44 soldiers, armed with military equipment and heavy weaponry, had abandoned their posts in Ibnat Woreda and joined the Fano.
  - This mass defection is occurring against a backdrop of severe restrictions imposed by regime forces. For nearly two months, the main roads connecting Ibnat to Belessa, Mena-Mequetewa, Debre-Tabor, and Addis-Zemen have been blockaded, effectively cutting off Ibnat's residents from the rest of the region.
  - Consequently, residents are facing severe hardship, unable to communicate with family members, conduct business, or access essential medical services in referral hospitals outside the woreda.
  - In addition to this, on December 7th the town of Qualisa came under the full control of Fano forces. After fifteen days of sustained conflict, including both guerilla warfare and conventional engagements, regime forces finally became overwhelmed.
  - Beginning at 8 pm during the night of November 28th, a swift and decisive surprise attack by the Fano left the regime forces in disarray, with casualties strewn along the retreat route.
  - Forced to retreat in defeat, the remnants of the army fled to Ibnat town during the night.
  - The Amhara Fano in Gonder's Zoz Amba Nigus Special Force, managed to defeat the regime forces. During their brief occupation, regime forces engaged in widespread atrocities, including looting, burning of farmers' crops, and

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mass arrests and beatings of those suspected of supporting the Fano.

Ultimately, unable to maintain their foothold, regime forces were defeated and withdrew from Qualisa.

- On December 8th, a major battle erupted in Ibnat Woreda following a three-pronged offensive by regime forces attempting to enter Mena-Mequetewa Woreda.
  - Fano fighters launched a swift counter-offensive, inflicting heavy casualties on advancing regime troops. The initial regime advance into Mena-Mequetewa was completely repelled, with soldiers eliminated completely. A second regime deployment also suffered a severe defeat at the hands of Fano forces. Facing heavy losses on all three fronts, regime forces were forced into a full retreat.
  - Adding to the conflict's complexity, the Ibnat Woreda administration used Red Cross ambulances to transport supplies and ammunition to beleaguered regime units. Further exploiting the humanitarian system, the woreda cabinet commandeered vehicles belonging to humanitarian aid organizations and repurposed them for military logistics.
  - The fighting intensified in Wuliha Kebele, resulting in substantial casualties among regime forces and forcing their retreat to Warira Kebele. A separate regime deployment near Guhala town (Belessa) was ambushed, sustaining heavy losses and retreating back towards Ibnat Woreda.

### **Andabet Woreda**

- On December 3rd, regime forces committed extrajudicial killings of 4 civilians in Andabet town.
  - These forces, entering Andabet with a newly appointed woreda administrator named Esubalew from Debre-Tabor city, were responsible for the deaths.

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- Esubalew, a former member of the woreda’s regular police force, is believed to have overseen these killings as a demonstration of his newly acquired authority.
  - Following this massacre, a wave of fear swept through Andabet, leading to the exodus of most of the town’s male population, who feared being targeted.

### **Simada Woreda**

- On December 5th, a Fano member reportedly visited his family in Tsedoye town prompting regime forces to carry out an attack.
  - After intelligence about the Fano member’s presence reached regime forces they attempted to encircle him.
  - Facing imminent capture, the Fano fighter detonated a bomb, killing 6 regime soldiers before escaping.
  - In retaliation for the loss of their comrades, the regime forces, enraged, summarily executed 3 civilians unrelated to the Fano, including a woman.
  - Furthermore, four families allegedly connected to the Fano fighter were detained by the regime.

### **Dera Woreda**

- A major battle erupted on December 6th around Arb-Gebaya town.
  - Fano fighters, employing a coordinated three-pronged assault, decisively defeated a significantly larger contingent of regime forces. The regime troops, described as a “beastly” force, were positioned in Arb-Gebaya, ostensibly for a 2:30 am public meeting orchestrated by a local administrator identified as a regime collaborator. This meeting provided the Fano with an opportunity to launch a surprise attack.



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- The Fano offensive involved the Ambesaw, Afer-Wahinat, and Tana Brigades, working in coordination. The battle, which lasted until 8:30 pm resulted in a substantial defeat for regime forces. Reports claim the Fano inflicted heavy casualties, eliminating at least three patrols of soldiers and rendering two more ineffective. This military victory reportedly disrupted the regime’s plans in the area and significantly lowered morale within their ranks.
  - However, despite this military success, the regime responded with increased brutality against the civilian population in the area, carrying out mass arrests, beatings, and torture.

### **Libo-Kemkem Woreda**

- Intense fighting erupted on December 7th, between Fano forces and regime troops in Arno and Tara-Gedam, places situated on the border between South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones.
  - Specifically, the ENDF 74th Army Division clashed with the Etege Tehaytu Fano Division and Mebrequ Fano Brigade in Qura-Gara in Tara-Gedam.
  - This offensive, launched under the cover of darkness, was a ten-month-long attempt by the regime to reclaim territory held by Fano. The ensuing battle resulted in significant casualties for regime forces; over 60 soldiers were killed, and many more sustained critical injuries, the precise number of which remains unknown.
  - A military patrol vehicle, equipped with a heavy machine gun, was destroyed after being struck by Fano forces and plunging into a ravine.
  - Regime forces killed 3 civilians including a bajaj driver, a farmer tending his onion field, and a four-year-old child. Adding to this, one Fano fighter, captured after running out of ammunition, was subsequently executed by

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- regime forces once he surrendered. Furthermore, regime forces deliberately targeted and destroyed ripe crops using mortar fire.
- Fighting in Arno town near Tara-Gedam resulted in heavy losses for regime forces.
    - \* Over 62 soldiers were killed and their bodies subsequently interred by local farmers in Arnogari; over 44 critically wounded regime soldiers were transported to Addis-Zemen Hospital for treatment; and 11 regime soldiers were captured.
    - \* In addition to the casualties, Fano forces seized a significant quantity of weaponry from regime forces, including over twenty-nine small arms and heavy weapons, along with a large amount of ammunition.
    - \* The fighting spanned several locations including Arnogari, Qulqual-Ber, Sendeba, and Tara Monastery.
    - \* While the Fano achieved a significant victory, six members of the Mebrequ Fano Brigade, led by Commando Yalow, were killed or injured.
  - The aftermath of this fierce battle resulted in the closure of the main road linking Gonder, Debre-Tabor, and Bahir-Dar cities.

### **Guna-Begemidir Woreda**

- On December 7th, a devastating ambush near Kimir-Dingaye resulting in significant casualties among the regime troops.
  - Eyewitness accounts confirmed a large number of soldiers were killed and many more wounded in the surprise attack.
  - The ambush took place at a location called Zebera, a short distance from Kimir-Dingaye town.

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- Eyewitnesses interviewed and reported that a large contingent of regime soldiers conducting a patrol in the area were targeted.
  - In addition to the numerous dead and wounded soldiers, eyewitnesses reported the complete destruction of a military patrol vehicle carrying rations.
  - The ambush, which occurred in the afternoon of December 8th, resulted in the injured soldiers being transported to Kimir-Dingaye town for medical treatment.

## **Central Gonder Zone**

### **East Dembiya Woreda**

- On December 1st, Guramba Kebele was subjected to repeated and indiscriminate shelling by regime forces using heavy artillery and ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns. This barrage of fire resulted in the complete destruction of four civilian homes and the burning of numerous personal belongings.
- On December 6th, a six-hour battle raged between Fano fighters and regime forces in Achera Kebele. The clash resulted in significant casualties among regime troops. At least 14 soldiers were confirmed dead, while an unknown but substantial number suffered varying degrees of injury, ranging from minor to critical in severity. The intensity of the fighting and the confirmed death toll indicate a substantial victory for Fano forces in this particular engagement.
- On December 7th, regime militia forces burned down ten civilian homes in Guramba Kebele. The destruction was carried out under the pretext that the homes belonged to families of Fano fighters (an apparent act of reprisal against civilians).

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## Gonder City

- On December 2nd, Colonel Abera Azanaw, a highly experienced anti-mining warfare specialist, defected to the Fano fighters.
  - Colonel Abera had been imprisoned by the regime for nearly a year following his detention in Gonder last year. His arrest, ordered by General Birhanu Bekele, stemmed from suspicions of his sympathy towards the Fano and accusations of preparing military documents outlining strategies for overthrowing the regime through armed conflict. He was held incommunicado for five months at the Azezo Central Military Command Camp, enduring harsh and inhumane conditions.
  - Upon his release, Colonel Abera immediately joined the Fano. His extensive expertise is considered invaluable; as a leading expert in anti-mining operations, Colonel Abera possesses unique skills honed through advanced training in seven different countries. Notably, he continued to serve in the Ethiopian anti-mining secretariat even while imprisoned. With a distinguished 33-year military career, his defection is expected to significantly bolster the morale and effectiveness of the Fano forces in their ongoing conflict with the regime.
- On December 2nd, Gebrehiwot Baye, the regime's peace enforcement coordinator, was assassinated in Shewa-Ber village, near Maralem School in Maraki sub-city.
  - The attack, carried out by unidentified assailants at approximately 4 pm at night local time, also critically injured several other peace enforcement members who were subsequently hospitalized.
  - Simultaneously, the home of the regime's militia forces coordinator was targeted in a bombing and subsequent gunfire attack in Ayer-Marefiya village.

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While the extent of casualties from this attack remains unknown, the house was completely destroyed.

- Separately, on November 28th, in Tseda sub-city, specifically in Maryam-Tensa village, Dr. Getachew (last name unknown) was extrajudicially killed by regime forces. He was shot five times at close range. The regime claimed Dr. Getachew was providing medical treatment to injured Fano fighters, justifying his murder and the killing of those he was treating. His body was transported to Addis-Ababa for burial.
- On December 5th, regime forces carried out mass forced conscription of young men in Gonder city, specifically targeting Azezo market.
  - Arriving in heavy military trucks, they swiftly sealed off the market, blocking all exits and entrances, particularly at the Gulit and Azezo-Adarash market centers, trapping numerous individuals inside.
  - The ensuing operation involved the forceful conscription of young men, who were herded onto the trucks and transported to military training centers. Despite the protests and shouts of outrage from the market’s residents, regime forces ignored all pleas and continued their operation.

### **West Belessa Woreda**

- On December 3rd, regime forces, specifically militia units, conducted a mass detention of approximately 40 unarmed civilians in Degoma town. The detainees consisted primarily of women, children, and elderly people, targeted due to their alleged familial connections to Fano fighters. Since their apprehension, these arbitrarily detained individuals have been denied access to food and water. The militia has explicitly informed them that their release is contingent upon the surrender of Fano forces to the regime.

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## **Alefa Woreda**

- On December 5th, regime forces launched a major offensive against Fano fighters, aiming to recapture key Fano strongholds.
  - The assault involved a three-pronged encirclement strategy, with troops advancing from Zabla, Tara, and Atsedemaryam towns. However, Fano forces launched a surprise counteroffensive, inflicting significant casualties on the advancing regime forces. This forced a retreat from Atsedemaryam, Zabla, and Tara, allowing the Fano to retake control of these strategic locations.
  - Heavy fighting continues in the rural kebeles of Tara-Mikael and Bikukar-Baleegziabher, situated near Shawra, administrative center of Alefa Woreda.

## **Gonder-Zuriya Woreda**

- On December 8th, a heavy weapons engagement took place between Fano fighters and regime forces near Ambo-Ber and Sorgultoich, specifically in Abay-Dur village.
  - Regime troops, deployed from Degoma, Denqez, and Ayimba, attempted to advance on these locations.
  - However, regime forces from Ayimba and Denqez were decisively defeated by Fano forces in Abay-Dur and Sorgultoich, suffering heavy casualties and being forced to retreat to their bases.
  - The intensity of the fighting and the use of heavy weaponry suggest a significant clash.

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## West Gonder Zone

### Metemma Woreda

- Intense fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces is underway as of December 2nd, across multiple locations along the Ethiopia-Sudan border region.
  - The clashes are concentrated in Mogese, Agam-Wiha, and Wedigemzo. In Wedigemzo, the conflict resulted in a confirmed 8 civilian deaths, including two young children, caused by indiscriminate mortar shelling by regime forces. These casualties highlight the devastating impact of the conflict on non-combatants.
  - Given the ongoing nature of the fighting, comprehensive information about the overall situation in this woreda remains limited.
  - Adding to the complexities of the conflict, a separate development involves the Qemant armed group operating in Metemma Woreda. This group has reportedly agreed to surrender to regime forces, falsely identifying themselves as part of the Fano movement. This action is viewed as a deliberate tactic by the regime, employed as part of a disinformation campaign to associate the Qemant group with Fano fighters and thereby falsely legitimize or exaggerate the extent of the regimes' success in suppressing the Fano.
- Intense fighting continues as of December 3rd, between Fano fighters and regime forces in the Agam-Wiha, Wedigemzo, and Mogese Kebeles.
  - While the fighting had subsided on the evening of December 2nd, hostilities have resumed this morning with increased intensity and ferocity, indicating a significant escalation of the conflict in the region.
  - On December 2nd, regime forces killed 5 civilians through indiscriminate mortar fire in Wedi-Ambeso Kebele. Among the victims was a 4-year-old

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child, a priest and three women.

- In addition to this, on December 3rd, a significant regime force heavily equipped with heavy weapons mobilized from Kokit town towards Wedi-Ambeso Kebele in the afternoon.
- On December 4th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Kresher Kebele, lasting from 9 pm to 2 pm local time on December 5th.
  - This conflict escalated significantly on December 5th, spreading to three separate locations: Dasgundo, Bibiko and Horjiro Kebeles, beginning at 11:30 am early in the morning.
  - The battle in Dasgundo involved the use of ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, heavy machine guns, and mortars.
  - In Horjiro, the fighting consisted primarily of close-quarters combat, with the regime forces receiving heavy weapons support. Despite this, the Fano, strategically positioned, successfully repelled the regime forces' advance.
  - During the fighting near Bibiko, the Fano inflicted heavy casualties on regime forces traveling from Genda-Wiha (administrative center of West Gonder Zone). They captured three military trucks, including a heavy truck and its trailer, which was subsequently destroyed. The Fano confirmed the deaths of at least 55 regime soldiers and seized over 57 small arms and heavy weapons, along with substantial ammunition. Seventeen soldiers surrendered to the Fano operating near Wedigemzo, escaping the intense fighting in Bibiko.
  - As of the report, fighting continued in Dasgundo, and another fierce battle was underway in Shimelegara Kebele. Multiple Fano Division from the two Fano commands in Gonder—including the Atanaw-Wassie Division, Gobie Division, Tadlo Division, Wendmamachoch Brigade, Azezo Division,



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Begemidir Division, Tekeze Division and Goytom-Rizqey Division —were engaged in these ongoing fierce fighting against the regime forces.

- On December 8th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces near Wedigemzo Kebele.
  - The battle, which lasted for several hours, involved regime forces using mortars and heavy machine guns. This indiscriminate shelling resulted in a widespread wildfire that consumed a large area of dry grassland, spreading to and destroying farmers’ sorghum fields and a significant portion of a nearby forest.
  - Simultaneously, Fano forces launched a surprise attack on a military camp in Metemma-Yohannes town, inflicting heavy casualties on stationed regime militia forces.
  - The combined effects of the fierce fighting and the resulting wildfire caused widespread destruction in the area.

### **Tach-Armachiho Woreda**

- On December 2nd, regime forces conducted mass arrests of numerous women and children in Abrahajira town, administrative center of Tach Armachiho Woreda.
  - This large-scale detention included particularly vulnerable individuals: women who had recently given birth, including one woman with a 45-day-old infant, and other mothers with young children as young as three years old.
  - These detainees were transported to the Seraba military camp in Chilga Woreda. The severity of the situation is further underscored by the fact that at least one severely-ill woman was transported on a stretcher, indicating a disregard for her health and well-being.

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- The mass detention of these women and children was explicitly attributed to their alleged familial connections to Fano fighters within Tach-Armachiho Woreda.

## **Addis-Ababa City**

- On December 3rd, Enat Party released a statement condemning forced disarmament in East Wollega Zone.<sup>3</sup>
  - The statement begins “*They have encircled and disarmed us, leaving us vulnerable. We now prepare for massacre.*”
  - On December 2nd, ENDF forces disarmed farmers in Andodo-Dicho and Dega-Jigi Kebeles from early morning until 9 am.
  - Farmers expressed to Enat Party that they had purchased their weapons by selling their cattle, with recognition from authorities, for self-defense.
  - The confiscated weapons have allegedly been redistributed to the Oromo community, leaving the Amhara population vulnerable to attacks from OLA militants.
- Regime security forces have intensified their crackdown on media outlets and journalists.
  - On November 26th, Gizaw Zergaw, owner of Asham TV, known for reporting human rights violations in the Amhara Region and other parts of the country, was taken hostage by regime forces.
  - The station’s manager, Getahun Nigatu, was forced to resign, and other journalists are reportedly preparing to quit under pressure from the regime.

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<sup>3</sup>See December 3rd, 2024 [statement](#) from Enat Party.

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- Regime-affiliated media outlets are reporting on the reintegration of “splintered” OLA forces under Jaal Sagni Nagassa into society.
    - On December 4th, these forces reportedly met with Addis-Ababa city Mayor Adanech Abiebie.
    - However, the reintegration efforts faced widespread criticism from experts and observers:
      - \* The organization is still designated a terrorist organization by the FDRE *House of Peoples’ Representatives* (HOPR).
      - \* OLA leaders have denied the surrender narrative, accusing the regime of orchestrating a propaganda campaign. They assert that the group led by Jaal Sagni was expelled for disciplinary reasons and is being used by the regime for its own objectives.
      - \* Experts argue that these forces, accused of mass atrocities, rape, abduction, and forced displacement, are being shielded from accountability, with involvement from high-ranking officials like Oromia Region President Shimelis Abdissa.
      - \* Former officials, including Hangassa Ibrahim (member of the HOPR), Taye Dendea (former State Minister), and former Oromia Police Commissioner, have acknowledged that regional authorities played a role in orchestrating violence in Oromia jointly with some OLA militants.
  - On December 8th, gunfire was reported in various parts of Addis-Ababa city, leading to casualties.
    - A faction of the OLA, led by Jaal Sagni Nagassa, which had recently agreed to align with the regime, opened fire upon entering Addis-Ababa from Sheger city.

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- This gun fire killed a woman in Megegnagna and injured civilians near the British Embassy and Megegnagna.
  - The gunfire has instilled fear among city residents, causing significant stress.
  - This development has led to speculation that the regime may be using these forces to terrorize the city's population. Many analysts have expressed suspicion regarding the regime's alignment with these OLA forces, given their involvement in previous crimes against civilians.
  - The group is known for committing mass atrocities and crimes, including genocidal massacres, forced displacement (ethnic cleansing) and sexual violence.<sup>4</sup>

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

### **Dera Woreda**

- On December 2nd, it was reported that 4 civilians (farmers) were killed while working on their farmlands in Selilkula town.<sup>5</sup>
  - The victims have been identified as:
    1. Sagura Montisa
    2. Temesgen Awoke
    3. Dasew Alemu
    4. Dereje Yihunu
  - No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, and the motive remains unclear. This incident has caused significant fear and unrest in the local community, raising concerns over the safety of civilians in the area.

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<sup>4</sup>See March 21st, 2023 [legal analysis report](#) on Amhara Genocide in Oromia Region published by the Amhara Association of America (AAA).

<sup>5</sup>See December 2nd, 2024 [report](#) from Ethio News.

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## East Wollega Zone (Oromia Region)

- Reports of attacks against Amhara civilians have escalated in several zones and woredas of western Oromia Region following recent hate speech by Oromia Regional President Shimelis Abdisa has exacerbated tensions. His calls for disarming Amhara civilians have led to mass violence, reminiscent of previous atrocities.

## Gida-Ayana Woreda

- Since December 2nd, reports indicate that the disarmament of Amhara farmers has intensified across the Gida-Ayana Woreda, particularly in Andodo-Dicho Kebele under the leadership of Colonel Wolday Asfaw.<sup>6</sup>
  - On December 1st, seven farmers were taken to an unknown location under the pretext of disarmament, while many others were arbitrarily detained or forced to flee into the forest.
  - This practice is severely affecting farmers' livelihoods. The region is experiencing heavy rainfall, requiring farmers to harvest their crops urgently. However, the disarmament campaign is disrupting their work, leading to significant crop losses.
  - Forced disarmament has also intensified in Horo Guduru Wollega and North Shewa Zones of Oromia Region, exposing Amhara farmers to the threat of OLA attacks. For example, on the night of November 28th, OLA militants carried out a mass killing of civilians after forcibly disarming local farmers.
- Between December 2nd and 4th, regime forces allegedly detained, tortured, and drowned civilians who were tied at the hands.

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<sup>6</sup>See December 3rd, 2024 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

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- Mothers and children have been taken hostage, with widespread detentions reported.
  - In Gida-Ayana Woreda, particularly in Endode-Diche Kebele, numerous farmers were forcibly removed from their farmland on December 4th, with their whereabouts still unknown.
  - On December 6th, regime soldiers carried out illegal searches and disarmament operations targeting Amhara residents in Anger-Gutin town.
    - The operation commenced early in the morning after regime forces had surrounded Anger-Gutin overnight, preventing residents from fleeing.
    - During the course of their operation, regime soldiers committed numerous abuses, including physical assaults and destruction of property.

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

### **Abe-Dongoro Woreda**

- Between December 4th and 6th, regime soldiers engaged in widespread abuses, conducting arbitrary searches and seizing properties under the guise of disarmament operations.
  - According to sources, on December 4th, regime soldiers invaded the Chancha area, after surrounding the kebele to prevent residents from escaping.
  - They initiated door-to-door searches, forcibly confiscating over 100 firearms.
  - In instances where male individuals were found, regime soldiers employed abusive tactics and physical violence to coerce them into surrendering any firearms in their possession. For those who claimed not to possess weapons, regime forces compelled them to acquire firearms and submit them; failure to comply resulted in immediate arrest.

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- Additionally, some male individuals who were targeted had fled their homes in anticipation of the regime’s impending strike, seeking refuge in nearby jungles. For example, in the Gallisa area, civilians resisting disarmament were forced to flee.
  - In retaliation, regime soldiers detained family members—primarily women and children—as hostages to coerce these individuals into surrendering.
  - In Tulu-Gana Chanco, several farmers were detained, with others allegedly thrown into the Anger River.
  - Reports indicate that at least 50 to 100 civilians were apprehended simply for being relatives of individuals who evaded capture. Although some of the detained women and children were eventually released after firearms were surrendered, many others remained in custody.
  - On December 6th, Ethio Focus News reported that civilians forcibly held in regime camps including women and children had been facing severe abuses in Tulu-Gana Kebele, Chanco village, who are were being forcibly held in regime forces camps.<sup>7</sup>
    - \* Many women have been subjected to sexual violence, and over 100 Amhara families who sought refuge in nearby forests to escape military conscription and have been taken hostage. Among them at least 16 women have experienced gender-based violence.
    - \* Those who surrendered their military equipment were arrested, tortured, and some had their bodies burned while in custody.
    - \* In Shampu town and Abe-Dongoro Woreda, over 300 Amhara civilians were arrested, and 6 reportedly died from torture.
    - \* Civilians are urging human rights organizations to intervene.

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<sup>7</sup>See December 6th, 2024 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

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### **Kiremu Woreda**

- Between December 2nd and 4th, regime officials and military forces have been marking and listing the homes of ethnic Amharas in areas including Limo-Gelila, Abento, and Gutin. Many have fled to nearby forests, fearing further persecution.

### **Amuru Woreda**

- Between December 2nd and 4th, reports indicate civilians have faced forced disarmaments, which have been followed by attacks.

### **Jardega-Jarte Woreda**

- In recent days, regime forces have intensified forced disarmament of Amhara civilians in Jardega-Jarte Woreda.
  - Civilians who refused to surrender their weapons have been forcibly displaced, seeking refuge in nearby forests to avoid persecution.
  - In response, the regime has resorted to more extreme measures including detaining children and mothers as hostages to pressure farmers into relinquishing their arms. This tactic has further heightened tensions in the region, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis and deepening suffering of local communities.
  - Civilians are urgently calling on the international community and human rights organizations to address the ongoing persecution of Amhara civilians in the Oromia Region, particularly in the Wollega sub-region (western Oromia Region).



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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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