



## War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – January 6th to 12th, 2025

*Updated January 12th, 2025*

### Overview

For the week of January 6th to 12th, 2025, 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 more than 28 woreda/city administrations across 9 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These zones included the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones. Developments were also recorded in Abe-Dongoro Woreda of Horo Guduru Wollega Zone in Oromia Region and in Addis-Ababa city.

- Events were recorded in over 3 urban administrations across 2 zonal

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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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administrations. These urban administrations included Kobo, Woldia, and Debre-Birhan cities in the North Wollo and North Shewa Zones.

- Civilian casualties were recorded in 10 woreda/city administrations across 8 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Gidan, Mekdela, Berehet, Baso-Liben, Shebel-Berenta, Dangila, South Achefer, Dera, Fogera and East Dembiya Woredas in the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones. A case of sexual violence was also recorded in Dangila Woreda.
- Widespread arrests were reported in 3 woreda/city administrations in 2 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These include Dangila, Chilga and East Dembiya Woredas in the Awi and Central Gonder Zones. Arrests were also recorded in Addis-Ababa city.
- In Abe-Dongoro Woreda of Horo Guduru Wollega Zone (Oromia Region) the *Oromia Special Forces* (OSF) carried out a deadly attack on Amhara civilians which resulted in several casualties.

## **North Wollo Zone**

### **Gidan Woreda**

- On December 31st, regime soldiers carried out an extrajudicial killing of a young man (civilian) in Muja town.
  - Regime forces were reportedly demanding money from local residents to cover their alcohol expenses, forcibly extorting money from civilians.
  - When the victim, Mengesha Ayalew, a dancer with the Woreda Culture and Tourism Office’s dance group and father of two children, refused to comply with the demands, regime forces forcibly took him out of the town. While in

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their custody he was brutally killed with a cutting tool and his body was left outside the town.

- Woreda cadres reportedly warned the victim’s family not to expose the incident to the media.

### **Wadla Woreda**

- On the afternoon of January 9th, farmers’ crop piles were set on fire and destroyed.
  - Over 154 farmers’ crop piles were destroyed in 11 kebeles of Wadla Woreda.
  - The fire resulted in the destruction of 4,560 quintals of grain.
  - The identity of those responsible for the fire remains unknown. The Amhara Fano in Wollo has accused the regime of being responsible for the incident.
  - However, several analysts have raised concerns that the regime might be using propaganda to create tensions between the Fano forces and the local population.

### **Habru Woreda**

- On January 10th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo ambushed regime forces in Habru Woreda.
  - The ambush took place in the Humo area of the 5th Kebele, carried out by the Amhara Fano in Wollo’s Baleshiritu Division, under the leadership of Fano Indris Gudlie.
  - The ambush led to significant casualties, including both deaths and injuries among the regime forces.

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## **Woldia City**

- Between the nights of January 9th and 10th, several bomb attacks occurred in Woldia city, administrative center of North Wollo Zone.
  - The attacks targeted the residences of security forces.
  - On the night of January 9th, a bomb attack targeted the residence of Commander Abera, head of the city administration police command, located near Ayisema, close to St. Michael's Church. The extent of casualties from this attack remains unknown.
  - A second bomb attack occurred on January 9th, at the residence of Inspector Ayalew, head of the city police office's criminal investigation division, in Gomata.
  - Inspector Ayalew was reportedly injured in the attack. After police arrived at the scene, a second bomb was detonated, injuring over five police officers, who were subsequently hospitalized.
  - On January 10th, at around 9 am, a third bomb attack struck the residence of Commander Deribew, deputy commander of the city administration militia, located behind Jayika School in the Gonder-Ber area.
  - It was reported that Commander Deribew previously served as the commander of the 2nd Police Station before assuming his current position.
  - No group has claimed responsibility for these attacks.

## **Raya-Kobo Woreda**

- On January 11th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo East Amhara Corps Two's Zobel-Amba Division, carried out two significant offensives in the strategically important areas of Zobel, Tero-Ber and Keyu-Gariya.

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- The first offensive (in Tero-Ber) targeted an armored vehicle carrying regime forces and their logistics. The Fano successfully destroyed the vehicle and killed all regime soldiers which were inside.
  - The second offensive took place in Arekuati, Keyu-Gariya, where regime forces suffered heavy casualties, with numerous soldiers either dead or wounded.
  - The Fano forces also captured a significant amount of military equipment in these battles.

## **South Wollo Zone**

### **Kelela Woreda**

- On January 5th, a fierce battle occurred between regime forces and the Amhara Fano Wollo Command in the Bakesina and Cherchera areas.
  - The fighting lasted for half a day.
  - The Fano forces seized over 12 military arms, and four riot dispersal forces surrendered.
  - A battle also took place along the Mereko River, causing casualties on both sides.
- On January 6th, active fighting continued in Deger for the third consecutive day.
  - Supporting regime unit traveling from Jama-Degolo to Deger was ambushed by Fano forces.
  - A similar attack was carried out against regime forces stationed in a camp at Wugaya Mountain.

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- Most of these clashes began as a result of offensive actions initiated by the joint offensive by the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command and the Amhara Fano Wollo Command against regime forces in various areas.
  - On January 6th, the Amhara Fano Wollo Command carried out an ambush on regime forces in Shafi. The attack targeted regime camps and resulted in severe casualties: 7 regime forces were killed, 20 were injured, and four riot dispersal forces surrendered to the Fano forces.

### **Mekdela Woreda**

- On January 8th, the Amhara Fano in West Wollo Amhara-Sayint-Mekdela Division of the Sheikh Hussein Jibril Brigade, ambushed regime riot dispersal forces, resulting in significant casualties.
  - The ambush took place in Disim, along the route from Masha to Korieb targeting regime soldiers which were on a Sinotruk vehicle.
  - A significant number of regime forces were either killed or injured in the attack.
- On January 6th, regime forces killed a civilian named Ahmed (father's name unidentified) near Menhariya, while he was traveling from Korieb to Masha. Ahmed had been on his way to receive assistance under the "safety net" program when he was killed.
- Since the night of January 10th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo Western Wollo Corps Amhara-Sayint-Mekdela Division's Sheikh Hussein Jibril Brigade, launched an offensive against regime forces and successfully took control of Debrezeyit town.

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## **North Shewa Zone**

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

- On January 6th, a brief clash occurred in Molale between the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command's Atse Menelik Division, and regime militias.
  - This armed confrontation in the Arsema area resulted in casualties among regime militias, with 7 injured. 3 militia members were captured by Fano forces.
  - One regime militia member was killed by Fano forces after continuing to attack.
  - In retaliation, regime forces seized an ox that had been prepared by residents in Arsema for the Christmas holiday, accusing the residents of providing information to Fano forces.

### **Debre-Birhan City**

- On January 6th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command ambushed regime forces in the Debre-Birhan city area.
  - Fano forces ambushed regime forces in Kebele 8 who were patrolling the area.
  - Fano forces captured 6 regime soldiers including 1 riot dispersal member and 5 regime militias.
- On the night of January 9th, Fano forces ambushed regime forces in Debre-Birhan city, administrative center of North Shewa Zone, located 129-km from Addis-Ababa city.
  - The ambush took place in the Emiye Menelik sub-city, carried out by the Amhara Fano Shewa Command's Negodguad Division.

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- The attack caused significant casualties among federal police officers and members of the riot dispersal forces.
  - Several security personnel were captured by Fano forces.

### **Berehet Woreda**

- On January 6th, regime forces committed an extrajudicial killing of a civilian in Meteh-Bila town, administrative center of Berehet Woreda.
  - The victim, Gelelo Amare, was killed by regime forces around 12:45 am at a grocery store in Kebele 01.
  - He was accused of carrying out espionage for Fano forces.
  - However, sources suggest the victim had no known political involvement.

### **Basona-Werana Woreda**

- On January 11th, a fierce battle took place in Amagult Kebele, located near Debre-Birhan city.
  - The regime forces attempted to launch an attack on Fano forces, moving troops from Debre-Birhan and Deneba.
  - The Amhara Fano in Shewa (formerly the Amhara Fano Shewa Command), supported by three battalions of the Negodguad Division, launched a strong defensive counterattack.
  - The battle resulted in significant casualties for the regime, including deaths and injuries, forcing remaining regime forces to retreat back to Debre-Birhan city.



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## **East Gojjam Zone**

### **Goncha-Siso-Enese Woreda**

- On January 6th, fighting erupted in Chemo Kebele.
  - The conflict was initiated by Fano fighters who unexpectedly entered the area where regime forces were encamped.
  - Reports indicate that the fighting occurred in two distinct rounds, one in the morning and another in the afternoon.
  - During these confrontations, Fano fighters inflicted casualties on the security personnel guarding the regime military camp.

### **Enarj-Enawga Woreda**

- On the night of January 7th, Fano fighters from the Soma Brigade, part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Belay Zeleke Division, launched a surprise attack on a regime encampment located in the Debre Werk neighborhood. Sources report that this operation took place in Dejagama Kebele, Safeqda village, where Fano fighters utilized explosive devices to execute their assault. The Fano claimed to have killed 5 regime soldiers and wounded 4 others during the operation.

### **Bibugn Woreda**

- On January 11th, tension escalated in Bibugn Woreda primarily triggered by the mobilization of regime forces towards the Waber area. Despite the heightened tension, reports indicated that no gunfire erupted during the day; however, sources speculate that fighting could begin either later that night or on the following day.

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### **Baso-Liben Woreda**

- On January 11th, regime soldiers mobilized forces from Yejube with the intent to encircle and suppress Fano fighters.
  - Forewarned about this mobilization, Fano fighters vacated Kork town and took up positions at a strategic location.
  - Despite the regime soldiers unleashing heavy firepower, they were unable to locate the Fano fighters, who notably did not return fire.
  - However, the regime forces did open fire on two civilians traveling by motorcycle, resulting in one death while the other managed to escape.

### **Shebel-Berenta Woreda**

- On January 11th, a farmer in Semaydur Kebele engaged regime soldiers (militias) operating in the area.
  - According to reports, the farmer opened fire, killing 4 militias before being fatally shot.
  - Additionally, there have been reports of civilian casualties and livestock theft, with details still pending investigation.

### **West Gojjam Zone**

#### **Jabi-Tehnan Woreda**

- On the night of January 9th, reports emerged of heavy gunfire in the outskirts of Finote-Selam city.
  - Reports indicate that the gunfire originated from the Firn area, where regime soldiers were encamped.

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- While the precise cause of the gunfire remains unclear, sources suggest it may have been a mutual exchange of fire among the regime soldiers themselves.

### **Bure-Zuriya Woreda**

- On January 9th, Fano fighters launched an offensive in the Gubiti area, located in the Bure town neighborhood.
  - This operation was executed by the Shindi-Wenberima and Dejach Asebo Brigades, both of which are part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Atikem Division.
  - The offensive specifically targeted regime soldiers stationed in Gubiti, and reports indicate that Fano fighters inflicted casualties on regime forces, compelling them to abandon their camp in the area.
  - The following day, January 10th, intense fighting erupted in Derequa Kebele of Bure neighborhood. This confrontation was initiated when regime forces mobilized from Bure town in an effort to suppress Fano fighters entrenched in their strongholds.
  - The regime reportedly deployed a significant number of troops and utilized heavy weaponry during the clashes in the Derequa area. The fighting persisted until the evening, but the exact number of casualties remains unreported.

### **Sekela Woreda**

- During the night of January 11th, Fano fighters executed an ambush targeting regime forces traveling from Gishabay to Tilili.
  - Reports indicate that the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Zengena Brigade conducted the attack in the Gundil area.

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- While exact casualty numbers remain unconfirmed, Fano fighters assert they inflicted significant losses on regime soldiers, prompting their retreat.

## **Awı Zone**

### **Dangila Woreda**

- On January 6th, Fano fighters launched a significant offensive in Gisa Kebele.
  - This operation was reportedly executed by the combined forces of the Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Jembere and Ephrem Atnafu Brigades, which are part of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam’s Gojjam-Agew-Midir Division.
  - The primary target of this offensive was regime forces, particularly those composed of state militias, riot dispersal soldiers, and local cadres stationed in Gisa Kebele.
  - The attack was characterized by its suddenness, beginning with the elimination of security guards at the camp using silent weapons. Following this initial strike, the Fano escalated their assault with bomb explosions, leading to significant chaos among regime soldiers, many of whom were killed, surrendered, or retreated. Fano fighters claimed to have captured at least seven local cadres, including the woreda administrator, and reports indicate that they seized over 100 firearms during the operation.
  - In the aftermath of the Fano attack, regime soldiers retaliated by hunting down and detaining civilians in Dangila town who they accused of being family members of Fano fighters. So far, sources have reported the abduction of at least 3 individuals related to three Fano members. It is believed that regime forces are using these family members as hostages to negotiate the release of their captured soldiers.

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- On January 8th, regime soldiers raped a young woman in the Dangila neighborhood, where regime soldiers perpetrated an act of sexual violence against a woman.
    - Reports indicate that the victim, a woman in her twenties, was walking from the Wasta-Giyorgis area to Dangila town to purchase goods when she was confronted by the soldiers.
    - She was raped by a soldier in the presence of several other soldiers.
    - The victim witnessed hearing the soldiers speaking a language other than Amharic. She also added that the soldiers covered her mouth to prevent shouting during the rape.
    - Out of respect for her privacy and safety, sources have chosen not to disclose her name. In the aftermath of this event, the victim sought guidance from a religious leader regarding her next steps.
  - In a separate development, regime forces have intensified their campaign of abduction targeting alleged family members of Fano fighters.
    - This crackdown followed a significant offensive by the Fano on January 6th, which resulted in considerable casualties among militia members, riot dispersal polices and local officials.
    - The victims of these abductions include women, children, and the elderly.
  - New information has emerged concerning the status of individuals previously detained and held in Dangila concentration camp.
    - As of January 4th, nearly 300 people who were unlawfully detained from various woredas since last September 2024 were reportedly released.
    - However, according to information from those released, over 1,000 individuals remain imprisoned in the concentration camp, enduring severe conditions without access to legal recourse.

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- Among those still detained are women with newborn infants, persons with disabilities, and pregnant women, all of whom are particularly vulnerable.
  - On January 11th, Fano fighters reportedly executed 4 regime cadres who had been captured during recent skirmishes.
    - Among those killed was Ato Getinet Marelegn, the woreda administrator, who was apprehended during an exchange of fire in Gisa Kebele the previous Monday.
    - The Fano fighters claimed responsibility for the killings, justifying their actions by accusing the regime cadres of orchestrating drone attacks and playing a significant role in multiple massacres of civilians in Dangila Woreda in recent months.
    - The Awi Zone communications office issued a statement of condolence, portraying the executed cadres as innocent victims.<sup>2</sup>
  - On January 12th, regime soldiers and affiliates killed 2 civilians in Dangila town.
    - The civilians were executed under accusation of being family members of Fano fighters.
    - In a separate incident the same day, a brief exchange of gunfire occurred in Dangila town when Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime soldiers in the evening. The skirmish lasted no more than 30 minutes and ceased when Fano fighters withdrew in response to the mobilization of heavy weaponry by the regime.

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<sup>2</sup>See January 11th, 2025 [statement](#) from the Awi Zone communications office.

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## **North Gojjam Zone**

### **South Achefer Woreda**

- On January 10th, fighting broke out in the border area connecting South Achefer to North Mecha Woreda.
  - The conflict was initiated by regime forces mobilizing from Dilamo towards Gug Kebele, aiming to suppress Fano fighters.
  - According to sources, regime forces launched a sudden attack that was met with fierce resistance from Fano fighters of the Bitwedded Ayalew Brigade, who managed to repel the assault.
  - Reports from the Fano side suggest that they inflicted casualties on regime soldiers, forcing them to retreat. Additionally, it has been reported that regime soldiers engaged in abuses and looting of civilian properties in the aftermath of this confrontation.

## **South Gonder Zone**

### **The sudden withdrawal of the regime forces from their temporary military camps**

- On the night of January 8th, a significant and largely unexplained withdrawal of regime forces occurred from their provisional military camps across various locations.
  - The precise reasons for this retreat remain unclear; however, it is widely speculated that it stems from the regime's failure to achieve its objectives in the 90-day military campaign aimed at eliminating Fano fighters and re-establishing control over their strongholds.
  - This strategic withdrawal saw the abandonment of several key temporary bases. For instance, regime forces vacated the Arbaya-Belessa military camp

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in Arbaya, relocating to Degoma town. Similarly, forces stationed at Arno, a site that had served as a temporary military camp for six months, moved to Addis-Zemen town. In Dega-Melza, troops quietly abandoned their camp under the cover of darkness, retreating to Ibnat town.

- Furthermore, regime forces that had occupied a military camp in Aja town relocated to Kimir-Dingay town.
- In Tach-Gayint Woreda, regime forces stationed in Agat, a location they had held for 14 days, also withdrew during the night.
- Despite this widespread retreat, the regime appeared to be attempting to consolidate its power in certain rural areas. For example, today, troops stationed in Mekane-Eyesus were deployed into the rural areas of Estie Woreda, with the apparent objective of attacking Fano fighters.

### **Guna-Begemidir Woreda**

- On January 8th, a series of intense clashes erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces across multiple locations within Guna-Begemidir Woreda.
  - These engagements, initiated by the Fano, targeted regime forces stationed in Kimir-Dingay town, Gasay town, Wiha-Midir, and Sali. The fighting began early in the morning, at around 11:30 am local time.
  - Fano fighters, operating in disguise, infiltrated Kimir-Dingay town and launched a coordinated and unexpected assault on regime forces. This initial attack quickly escalated, expanding the conflict's reach to a wide area stretching from Debre-Tabor city to Nefas-Mewcha town.
  - The fighting unfolded across four main fronts: Kimir-Dingay, Gasay, Wiha-Midir, and Sali.



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- In Kimir-Dingay town, Fano forces launched a two-pronged offensive, targeting two key military camps. These camps faced relentless attacks, resulting in a considerable number of casualties for regime forces, including over 17 soldiers who surrendered on a single front alone. While the precise number of regime forces killed or critically wounded remains unconfirmed, it was noted to be substantial. A regime *Shambel* unit was completely decimated in the Kimir-Dingay fighting during the morning hours. By the early afternoon, Fano fighters had gained control of much of the town.
  - The second front was established in Gasay town, which is situated near Debre-Tabor city. A third front emerged in Wiha-Midir, located between Kimir-Dingay town and Nefas-Mewcha town. This battle in Wiha-Midir was a direct result of the regime's deployment of reinforcement forces from Nefas-Mewcha and Gobgob towns, intended to assist their embattled troops in Kimir-Dingay. In response, the Fano launched a surprise attack against these newly arrived reinforcements in Wiha-Midir, effectively disrupting the movement of regime forces towards Kimir-Dingay. The fourth and final front was located in Sali.
  - Throughout these engagements, regime forces suffered significant losses across all fronts. Notably, the 303rd Corps, 64th Division of the regime forces were effectively annihilated during fierce fighting on January 8th in a decisive battle. The Fano forces which were a combination of the Ras Guna Fano Brigade, the General Nega Tegegne Division, and the Anbesaw-Gayint Fano Division had engaged this corps and decisively defeated them.
  - The regime corps had entered the area with 500 soldiers, yet only 50 managed to escape the engagement. In that engagement, the surviving soldiers of the Prosperity Party's forces were left to scavenge their bodies at Kimir-Dingay town. The Ras Guna Brigade not only decimated the attacking force, but also

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- successfully killed or captured a significant portion of the unit, including a captain.
- Also, 7 ENDF soldiers, 2 police officers, and several militia members surrendered to the Fano. The Fano fighters had also captured 4 heavy machine guns and 97 kalashnikov rifles.
  - Further, the 303rd Corps, 64th Division, led by Colonel Assega, was routed, with Colonel Assega himself abandoning his sniper rifle and fleeing after his troops were overwhelmed. Despite desperately seeking reinforcements, Colonel Assega’s attempts to secure additional support were thwarted, and a battalion from Debre-Tabor was also attacked by the Fano.
- On January 9th, in the aftermath of the intense fighting in Kimir-Dingay town on the preceding day, the defeated regime forces began a campaign of terror against the town’s residents.
    - Accusing the civilians of complicity with Fano fighters, regime forces berated them for remaining silent while the town was attacked, asserting that this demonstrated the residents’ collaboration with the Fano.
    - Fueled by their heavy losses and anger, the regime forces issued threats to the community, warning of an imminent drone and heavy weapons strike on Kimir-Dingay, and demanding the immediate evacuation of all residents. The regime forces specifically blamed the residents for failing to provide advance warning of the Fano fighters’ offensive.
    - As a direct result of these threats, a significant number of Kimir-Dingay’s residents fled the town, seeking refuge in various rural kebeles.
    - In a related development, regime forces also abandoned their military camps on the outskirts of Kimir-Dingay, and began establishing a new base in Arga-Medhanialem Kebele, located further away from the town.

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- This suggests a shift in their strategy towards the community, rather than a strategic advantage over Fano forces.

### **Lay-Gayint Woreda**

- On January 6th, regime political cadres deployed elderly individuals to compel Fano fighters to surrender in Lay-Gayint Woreda.
  - These individuals, selected specifically for their age and perceived community influence, were dispatched to engage with Fano fighters who had previously been civil servants before joining the movement.
  - Their mission was to entice these Fano members to abandon the armed struggle by offering financial rewards and the payment of their previously unpaid salaries.
  - The elderly envoys presented the Fano fighters with a tempting offer, promising that if they returned and ceased their resistance, they would not only receive all their salary arrears, but would also be granted positions of power within their respective woreda administrations, along with other benefits as a reward for abandoning the fight against the Prosperity Party.
  - However, the Fano vehemently rejected their offer. They rebuked the elderly messengers, branding them as opportunists, and made it unequivocally clear that their decision to take up arms was not driven by a desire for financial gain or personal advancement.
  - They stated that their salary was never a problem when they served the regime, and they were not fighting for their salaries. Rather, they asserted that they had joined the Fano movement due to the fundamental, existential threats posed by the regime to the Amhara people.

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- The Fano fighters emphasized that they were not engaged in a struggle for power, but rather for the very survival and integrity of the Amhara people as a distinct and unified group.
  - The messengers, thoroughly humiliated by this emphatic rejection, were forced to return to the regime empty-handed.
  - In a contrasting display of solidarity, on January 10th, 28 regime soldiers stationed in Gobgob town, recognizing the injustices of the regime, defected to the Fano, bringing with them all their military equipment, further emboldening their forces.
- On January 8th, Fano fighters conducted a successful ambush against a regime convoy traveling in Sali-Megenteya.
    - The attack resulted in the deaths of 2 military officers and 7 other soldiers. An additional 6 soldiers sustained injuries in this ambush.
    - The seven lower-ranking soldiers were buried in a mass grave, while the bodies of the two officers were transported away in military vehicles for what is assumed to be a dignified burial.
    - Although their specific ranks were not confirmed, the first officer was noted to have been carrying a hand-held radio communication device, and the second officer was identified by a stick typically carried by colonels at the time of his death, suggesting high ranking officers were killed in this ambush.

### **Fogera Woreda**

- On January 9th, an engineer was killed by unknown assailants near Rib-Gebriel Kebele (close to Addis-Zemen town).
  - The victim, a prominent engineer named Habtamu Adugna had been

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overseeing the construction of the lower Rib irrigation project stretching from Fogera to Dera Woreda.

- Habtamu, also an employee of the renowned Abay Construction Company, was traveling to the Rib River to release water for farmers in Fogera who are reliant on the irrigation system when he was ambushed. The assailants specifically targeted Habtamu, ordering him out of his vehicle before killing him. There are rumors circulating that his assassination was orchestrated by regime political cadres who intentionally deployed robbers with the aim of inciting the residents of Fogera Woreda against Fano fighters by associating them with the violence.
- Moreover, three other members of the irrigation project team were taken hostage and subsequently released after the payment of a ransom for each individual.

### **Dera Woreda**

- On January 9th, regime forces summarily executed 5 civilians in Ambesame town, administrative center of Dera Woreda.
  - These extrajudicial killings were presented by regime forces as a reprisal for the assassination of a high-ranking military commander and official.
  - This lieutenant was ambushed and killed by members of the Tana Gelawdewos Fano while he was having drinks with prostitutes in a hotel in Ambesame town.
  - Among the five civilians killed by regime forces were two women, highlighting the brutal and indiscriminate nature of their retaliation.
  - Furthermore, amidst this unrest, regime forces stationed in Arb-Gebeya (Dera Woreda) and Licha began evacuating their military camps and relocating to

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Debre-Tabor city. This further underscores the instability. Conversely, in Estie Woreda, regime forces have been deployed to Shenbeqowoch, which is causing high tension in the region, creating an environment ripe for further conflict with Fano fighters.

## **Central Gonder Zone**

### **Chilga Woreda**

- The situation at the Seraba military camp represents a severe breach of legal and human rights.
  - Over 2,000 individuals are being held illegally, having been detained for almost four months without ever being brought before a court of law.
  - These detainees were apprehended across the Gonder sub-region on suspicion of supporting the Fano movement.
  - To address this crisis, regional public prosecutors were dispatched to the military camp to investigate the cases. Their findings revealed the arbitrary nature of these detentions, as they identified only 61 cases warranting further investigation.
  - Accordingly, they ordered police forces to unconditionally release the vast majority of these illegally detained persons.
  - However, in a clear demonstration of impunity, police forces refused to comply with this legal directive, claiming that the release of detainees requires “political authorization”, not the order of public prosecutors.

### **East Dembiya Woreda**

- Regime forces, particularly militias and regular military units have intensified attacks and abuses against civilians along the Azezo to Ayimba town corridor.

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- On January 10th, regime forces killed 2 civilians (brothers) in an area between Atat village of the Gonder city and Ayimba town. These brothers had no known affiliation with the Fano fighters and were threshing their crops in their fields when they were murdered.
  - Widespread beatings of civilians in Ayimba town have resulted in the complete evacuation of the town by its residents.
  - Furthermore, many residents of Ayimba remain illegally detained in the Senbet-Ber military camp, some for almost five months, without any access to due process or legal representation. Even family members attempting to visit these detainees have been unjustly imprisoned, further compounding the injustice.
  - Regime forces have perpetrated sexual violence against detained young girls and women who they have accused of being family members of Fano fighters. The victims, ranging in age between 9 and 12 years of age, have been detained in detention centers in Gonder-Zuriya and East Dembiya Woredas.
  - On January 10th, a fierce two-hour battle took place in Guramba Kebele, particularly in Dalko village, between Fano fighters and regime forces.
    - This clash resulted in significant losses for the regime, with more than 15 soldiers killed or critically wounded.
    - On the Fano side, there was 1 fatality and 4 physical injuries.
    - The regime forces, outmatched, were forced to retreat from Guramba, requiring reinforcements from Qoladiba town, including heavy weapon support, to cover their escape from encirclement by Fano fighters.
    - Guramba Kebele, a strategically important area, is now under the control of Fano fighters.

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## **Gonder-Zuriya Woreda**

- On the night of January 10th, Fano fighters launched a series of offensive attacks on regime militia camps in Tseda and various locations in southern Tseda.
  - In addition to this, on January 10th, regime forces began a campaign of indiscriminate shelling with ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns on residential areas and farmlands surrounding Maksegnit town, including Zergaj and Mehalge Kebeles.
  - This indiscriminate shelling directly targeted farmers' homes and their harvested crops ready for threshing.

## **Addis-Ababa City**

- Ato Tadios Tantu, an elderly historian and journalist who has been imprisoned for over two years, continues to suffer from severe health issues without access to adequate medical care.
  - Recently, the regime moved him from Kality, where he was receiving some medical treatment, to Aba Samuel.
  - Tadios has now been returned to Kality. Despite his critical condition, which requires assistance to move or even stand, he has received no support.
  - Furthermore, he has been denied medical treatment at the clinic that had previously promised to provide care at Tikur Anbessa Hospital.
  - His family has reached out to human rights organizations, urging them to pressure the regime to provide Tadios with necessary medical treatment, as his life is at risk without it.
- On January 9th, the *House of Peoples' Representatives* (HOPR), under the control



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of the OPP regime, passed a bill permitting the government to recover unclaimed wealth.

- The Speaker of the Parliament explained that the bill proposes the creation of a comprehensive asset recovery and management system, which would allow for the seizure, freezing, confiscation, or management of assets and funds obtained through crime.
  - The bill aims to recover assets acquired through crime, corruption, and other illicit means. It also includes provisions holding individuals legally accountable for the return of government and public property dating back up to 10 years.
  - The bill has faced criticism from some Parliament members and others, who argue that it is politically motivated and targets specific individuals or groups.
  - Critics have called for the bill not to be used as a political tool or weapon.
- Reports have emerged regarding potential mass arrests of civilians under the pretext of the upcoming Epiphany celebration, set for January 19th.
    - It is reported that organizations selling green, yellow, and red flags, jewelry vendors, youth gathering in recreational areas, and others may be subject to arrests after 9 pm, even before the celebration takes place.
    - Concerns have been raised that, rather than allowing citizens to freely celebrate the holiday, the regime may use the occasion as an opportunity to target Amhara youth, particularly with potential mass arrests.
    - This situation has led to growing frustration among the population, as it is seen as a violation of religious freedoms.

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

### **Abe-Dongoro Woreda**

- On January 10th, the OSF conducted an attack on Amhara civilian residents of Arusi Kebele.
  - Sources indicate that the OSF justified their actions by claiming it was in response to the abduction of four ethnic Oromo drivers approximately five kilometers away from Arusi Kebele.
  - Despite the abduction being carried out by unknown gunmen, the OSF soldiers entered Arusi Kebele, predominantly inhabited by Amharas, and launched indiscriminate attacks on civilians.
  - At least 2 civilians were killed, and several others were severely beaten and wounded under the false accusation that the Amharas were responsible for the abduction.
  - The whereabouts of 5 additional civilians remain unknown, raising concerns about whether they were killed or displaced.
  - The bodies of the deceased were reportedly laid to rest in a nearby Muslim graveyard.
  - Furthermore, the OSF soldiers wounded several civilians, including two from whom they confiscated firearms.

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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.

- Contact us via Email: [info@amharaamerica.org](mailto:info@amharaamerica.org)
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