



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – July 1st to 7th, 2024

Updated July 8th, 2024

Overview

For the week of July 1st to 7th, 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 with several incidents reported in Oromia Region. Other armed groups implicated in violations include the *Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF), *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA), *Oromia Region Special Forces* (OSF).

- This week, two high-ranking military generals and former Amhara Special Forces commanders including Brigadier-General Tefera Mamo and Brigadier-General Tezera Nigussie joined Fano.
- Prosperity Party regime members have established *peace committees* to compel the Fano to surrender.
- Regime forces' indiscriminate shelling has killed dozens of unarmed civilians in parts of Central Gonder including women, priests and monks.

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- Widespread displacement has been reported in Abergele Woreda (Wag Hemra Zone) as a result of TPLF-affiliated militants harassing and extorting residents.
 - In Raya-Alamata Woreda, residents have called for removal of TPLF militants amidst widespread abuses.
 - In East Telemt, West Telemt and Mai-Temri Woredas, reports continue of widespread summary executions, arrests, and mass looting by TPLF militants against native Amhara residents of Telemt. At least 715 TPLF soldiers (not native to the region) have infiltrated the region under the guise of resettling *internally displaced persons* (IDPs). Additionally, former TPLF officials have also infiltrated into the area, indicating a concerted effort to restore the old Tigrayan administration in the area.
 - On July 3rd, OLA militants abducted more than 100 Amhara civilians for ransom near Goha-Tsion town in Gebre-Guracha Woreda (North Shewa Zone, Oromia Region). The abduction victims were predominantly travelers from Amhara Region to Addis Ababa city.
 - In North Shewa, East Wollega and Horo-Guduru-Wollega Zones (Oromia Region), OLA militants and OSF militants have continued attacks against Amhara residents.

North Wollo Zone

Raya Alamata Woreda

- Tensions are still high in Raya Alamata as more heavily armed TPLF militias are incoming to the areas and youth and residents have stiffly opposed their presence. Angered by the reoccupation of Raya, young men and former security members are joining Fano in significant numbers. Large numbers of new recruits including those from invaded areas have completed their training in Raya Kobo Woreda on July 4th.

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- According to Ethio-News, TPLF militias in Waja have been assembled around the airport. The residents are calling on Federal forces to have them removed from schools. The ENDF commanders told residents that TPLF militias would be removed from Raya areas after July 7th. However, the TPLF forces said that they will begin public administrative work and takeover public institutions after this time.¹ As of July 6th, TPLF militias are still encamped at public schools in Alamata. Mass arrests and harassment is underway in Alamata targeting ethnic Amhara youth under the direction of Commander Abraham of the Federal Police. Arrests were carried out under pretense of organizing peaceful protests. The arrested victims have been identified as: (1) a teacher named Esubalew Amare, (2) Abera Ayalew, (3) Yohannes Eyayu, (4) Yirga Derbew, (5) Arbse Hiluf, and (6) Habtam Molla. Federal forces stationed in Alamata town passed a decree on July 3rd, that restricts several activities including: (1) movement with firearms within the town with exception of federal forces, (2) movement by bajaj after 6:00 p.m., (3) peaceful demonstration and assembly, (4) and any service and movement after 8:00 p.m. Due to these restrictions, a planned peaceful demonstration on July 7th, demanding withdrawal of TPLF forces has been cancelled. BBC Amharic has also confirmed the declaration of these restrictions.² These restrictions directly infringe on fundamental human rights including freedom of movement, assembly and peaceful demonstration. These rights can only be restricted under a State of Emergency declared by a competent body for a legitimate cause.

Habru Woreda

- Following regime forces retaking control of Wurgessa town in mid-June 2024, located along the Addis Ababa-Dessie-Bahir Dar A2 highway, Fano regained control of the town at the end of the month. During their stay in the town, the

¹See July 4, 2024 Ethio-News [report](#)

²See July 4, 2024 BBC Amharic [report](#)

regime forces had committed heinous crimes including the extrajudicial killing of civilian farmers who had no involvement in the fighting. The regime continued shelling the town and other highland areas to push back Fano forces out of the town. On June 29th, the regime opened fighting in Girana town located in Habru Woreda and Wuchale town simultaneously in an attempt to re-control the area. On July 1st, a sudden attack on moving regime convoys was carried out by Fano fighters in a village called Sirinka.

South Wollo Zone

Jama Woreda

- On July 3rd, regime forces killed 4 civilians during fighting with Fano fighters. Following deployment of a significant number of regime troops in various parts of the woreda, these forces immediately initiated fighting. Regime troops encamped in Degolo town marched to Shil-Afaf (16) Kebele in the woreda to launch an attack on Fano who controlled the kebele. After intense fighting for the whole night, regime forces were forced to retreat back to Degolo town around the evening. During the fighting two civilians were killed by regime troops. One of the victims was identified as a 58-year-old mother of seven children named Yektie Shinkutie who was shot and killed by a regime soldier. The soldier was standing just outside of her house while active fighting was underway and he shouted to “open the door”. When she complied and opened the door, he instantly shot her in the chest. She was referred to Dessie for medical treatment but was unable to survive and died the following day on July 4th. The second victim was deliberately struck by a heavy artillery shell while he was plowing his land in a place called Garda in the same kebele. Similar fighting has also taken place in Zerkami Kebele. In the evening, another Fano unit marched to Key Afer (3) Kebele of the Woreda, where allied forces of the regime including ENDF, militia and police were encamped. After

encircling the camp, Fano fighters opened fire on the regime forces at around 7:30 p.m. Then fighting took place around the camp that resulted in the death of two civilians as well as injury and death from the regime troops' side. In between this fighting two youths were extra-judicially killed by regime forces being accused of being Fano fighters. The names of the killed victims are Dereje Teklemariam and Tena Tsegaye.

Wag-Hemra Zone

Abergele Woreda

- According to a report from DW Amharic, IDPs displaced from various parts of Abergele Woreda and sheltered in the woreda center Niruak town are in a dire humanitarian situation.³ The IDPs accused militants of the TPLF-affiliated *Agaw Democratic Movement* (ADM) from returning to their homes. They told DW Amharic those who returned were forcibly displaced again by ADM militants forced them to work for them and pay money. One of the IDPs told DW Amharic *“the community has been displaced to Niruak after being forced to work for them (ADM), facing fines and beatings. No one is providing aid. A person is prohibited from working and forced to work for their (ADM) members. If anyone fails to comply with their orders, he would be forced to pay a 5,000 birr fine. Due to this, more people continue to be displaced.”* The IDPs also raised the issue of lack of humanitarian aid.

³See July 3rd, 2024 DW Amharic [report](#)

North Shewa Zone

Merhabete Woreda

- Fighting in Merhabete was conducted between July 1st to 2nd, between the Fano forces and joint regime forces. The fighting covered large parts of the woreda with Fano forces taking the upper hand, and successfully defending their positions. The regime forces who aimed to retake areas under Fano control, were forced to retreat to Alem-Ketema Town.

Kewot Woreda

- On July 3rd, regime forces killed and injured civilians in Shewa-Robit town. Prior to the attack, there was a light exchange of fire between Fano forces and regime forces outside Shewa-Robit town. After resumption of fighting the regime forces retreated to the town and began to attack civilians. As a result, they injured six civilians and killed one in the absence of conflict around Yetenayet Juice House in Kebele 1. The killed civilian was identified as Nuru (last name unknown), and one of the injured victims was identified as a woman named Wogeyehu Degu.

Minjar-Shenkora Woreda

- On July 7th, there was intense fighting between regime forces and Fano. The fighting was initiated by regime forces aiming to control areas under Fano forces' control but regime forces were forced to retreat to their base in Balchi Town.

West Gojjam Zone

Dembecha Woreda

- On June 30th, fighting broke out in Delgo Kebele. Fano fighters launched an attack inside Dembecha town, likely to disrupt the regime force deployment to the battle

area. The skirmish within Dembecha town was brief and reportedly caused no casualties. However, the sudden attack by Fano in Delgo Kebele resulted in significant casualties among regime troops. Reliable sources confirmed the deaths of three police commanders, Inspector Atirsaw, Metoaleqa Belay and Arega Animut, during this confrontation.

Finote-Selam Woreda

- On July 1st, Fano fighters launched an offensive against regime troops encamped in Finote-Selam and areas in the vicinity. The attack began in the morning as Fano fighters advanced from three directions, including the Shembequma and Firn areas. The regime troops used heavy artillery in defense, and Fano fighters similarly targeted the regime's encampments. Heavy rainfall temporarily halted fighting inside the city, but skirmishes continued in nearby areas like Gewecha until the afternoon. Concurrently, Fano fighters engaged regime troops in Mankusa (Jabi-Tehnan Woreda), and Bure, where they aimed to prevent regime reinforcements in Finote-Selam. The fighting in Bure town lasted until midday. The exact outcomes of these battles remain unclear, but reports indicate significant disruption, with many activities halted and residents staying indoors due to ongoing tensions and the expectation of further conflict.
- On July 6th, there was a brief confrontation in Menz Kebele. While Fano fighters were moving in the area to suppress bandits and robbers posing as Fano fighters, the regime soldiers launched an attack against this Fano group. The Fano fighters countered, leading to significant casualties among the regime soldiers.

Dega-Damot Woreda

- On July 3rd, intense fighting erupted in Damot-Tsion and Aynamba Kebeles. The regime forces mobilized from Feres Bet and entered Damot-Tsion Kebele at night to

suppress Fano fighters. However, forewarned about this attack, the Fano fighters launched a counteroffensive against the regime forces. Fano fighters successfully repelled the regime's attack, chasing the soldiers up to Aynamba Kebele. Heavy confrontation in Aynamba resulted in significant losses for the regime soldiers, including the confirmed deaths of two militias, a father and son.

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On July 7th, regime soldiers killed one civilian and injured five more in Jiga town. This incident occurred around 9 am in the Dega-Damot-Ber area. Reports indicate that the regime soldiers shot these civilians while they were on the street, with no military activity taking place. The severity of the injuries sustained by the five injured victims were reportedly critical.

North Gojjam Zone

Bahir-Dar Zuriya Woreda

- On June 30th there was a light exchange of gunfire in the Andasa Kebele neighborhood in Bahir-Dar area. Regime forces initiated the conflict by encircling a Fano camp under the cover of night and launching an attack on sleeping Fano members. This assault reportedly resulted in casualties among the Fano fighters and nearby civilian farmers. In a separate incident, the Tanaw Mebreq Brigade of the Fano claimed to have targeted a regime Antonov with heavy artillery on June 30th. This report was also corroborated by Ethio-News which cited airforce sources who confirmed the Antonov sustained damage while transporting soldiers and war equipment, though it managed to land safely.

North Mecha Woreda

- Between June 30th and July 1st, over 20 riot dispersal police and state militias defected to the Fano. Similar reports of defections were heard in Yilmana-Densa Woreda.

East Gojjam Zone

Bibugn Woreda

- On July 2nd, intense fighting took place in Waber town. During the previous week, regime forces stationed in Waber had left the area to mobilize for another mission in Dega-Damot. Following their withdrawal, Fano fighters entered and took control of Waber. On July 2nd, a regime unit from nearby bases encircled Waber under the cover of night. Unaware of their encirclement, Fano fighters were ambushed early in the morning. Once aware, they launched a counteroffensive, with some breaking the encirclement and attacking the regime troops. Reinforcements from neighboring areas helped Fano gain the upper hand. The battle lasted until evening when regime troops withdrew to avoid re-encirclement. Reports indicate significant losses on the regime side however regime troops reportedly shot indiscriminately, resulting in civilian casualties, with four confirmed deaths and several injuries.

Enarj-Enawga Woreda

- On July 5th, regime soldiers mobilized to Shifere Kebele from their base in Debre-Work town. Upon entering the kebele in the afternoon, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack, leading to a confrontation that lasted over an hour. The confrontation resulted in heavy losses for the regime soldiers, which stopped following the Fano withdrawal from the area, with no reported casualties among Fano fighters and civilians.

Central Gonder Zone

- During intense fighting on July 6th, regime forces killed over 26 civilians in various parts of Central Gonder (Amhara Region, Ethiopia). In Guramba Kebele, a 90-year-old monk with her children and a priest were tragically killed by mortar fire while they were in their house to avoid the gunfire. In Qoladiba town and Tseda sub-city, regime forces, under the false pretense that civilians were providing information to the Fano or supporting their movement, dragged people from their homes and executed them as a form of reprisal measure. In East Dembiya Woreda, it has been confirmed that the following civilians were killed by regime forces: 80-year-old Gebeye Melese, 38-year-old Amsalu Mekuanint, 36-year-old Andarge Ayele, 63-year-old Takele Dires, 68-year-old Adane Menkir, 45-year-old priest Qesis Buruk Tefera, 61-year-old engineer Molla Ambaw, and three brothers identified as 39-year-old Addisu Sisay, 33-year-old Muluken Sisay and 30-year-old Qoyachew Sisay.
- The Fano fighters suffered minimal losses compared to regime forces, with three combatants killed and four sustaining injuries. However, regime forces sustained unprecedented human and material losses. Uncollected bodies of regime soldiers were visible in multiple locations where fighting took place on July 7th. In Chuahit, Qulqual-Ber, and Guramba, regime forces were routed, abandoning their fortifications. In the evening, regime forces were deployed from the Azezo Central Military Command to collect bodies of their dead.

Gonder City

- The arrival of military forces in Gonder continued on July 1st, with numerous civilian aircraft landing at the Gonder Atse Tewodros Airport in Azezo sub-city, carrying a large contingent of soldiers. This follows the deployment of troops on

June 30th, which included both civilian and military aircraft.

- As of July 2nd, the regime has continued to deploy military forces to Gonder using civilian aircrafts to transport troops from Addis Ababa city. These soldiers are being deployed to Metemma and Wogera Woredas, areas where the regime has faced significant challenge by Fano forces.
- On the night of July 2nd, a series of intense gunshots echoed through Tseda sub-city of Gonder city, specifically around the Tseda police station. The extent of casualties caused by this exchange of fire remains unknown.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On June 30th, heavy artillery fire was directed from Maksegnit (administrative center of Gonder-Zuriya Woreda) towards Enfranz and surrounding areas. Although the shelling was intense, it caused no reported damage and the Fano did not retaliate with heavy weapons.
- On July 1st, fierce fighting erupted in two separate locations within Qulqual-Ber, involving Fano and the joint regime forces. This engagement followed a surprise ambush by the Fano on a moving regime force. The battle lasted for three hours and involved the use of heavy machine guns and mortars by both sides, with the fighting occurring primarily around 3-km outside of Maksegnit.
- On July 2nd, a fierce battle erupted at Qulqual-Ber between Fano and joint regime forces resulting in heavy casualties on both sides. This fighting was specifically centered around the control of checkpoints established by both parties along the route between Gonder city and Addis-Zemen town.
- Intense fighting erupted on July 6th, in various locations within the woreda extending the conflict beyond the Dembiya area. Historical sites in Gonder-Zuriya,

including Denqez and Weynadega, witnessed fierce clashes between regime forces and Fano fighters. A large contingent of regime forces has been deployed to Denqez since the morning, while Maksegnit town and surrounding villages have become battlegrounds. The fighting has also escalated to Tseda sub-city in Gonder city and the surrounding villages. The regime has deployed tanks and heavy weaponry, including ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, in the Qoladiba area. These weapons have been used indiscriminately against residential areas, tragically resulting in the deaths of Dashen Beer factory workers in Guramba when a ZU-23 shell struck their office at Dashen-Bira village. Despite facing superior firepower, the Fano successfully infiltrated Qoladiba town, achieving a decisive victory over regime forces. The fighting has expanded to Denqez and Dinzaz Kebeles in Gonder-Zuriya, with ongoing clashes reported at the time of this report. The Fano have also targeted military camps in Tseda sub-city and nearby villages, inflicting heavy casualties especially on regime forces stationed at a camp near the Megech River. The Fano have advanced into Tseda sub-city, leading to fierce fighting both within the city and in surrounding areas. The conflict has also reached Minzro town, where the Fano have destroyed numerous military vehicles. Degola Kebele has also seen fierce fighting. The regime has suffered unprecedented losses and casualties in these battles. The main road connecting Gonder to Debre-Tabor and Bahir-Dar has been closed due to the ongoing fighting.

- On July 6th, fierce clashes erupted across multiple locations in the woreda, pitting the Fano against regime forces. The fighting began around 11:00 am local time in Guramba, where regime forces, believing the Fano were stationed in the Guramba School, launched a three-pronged offensive. The conflict spread rapidly, engulfing five woredas and numerous rural kebeles including East Dembiya, West Dembiya, Chuahit, Qoladiba, Gonder-Zuriya, Belessa, Dinzaz, Denqez, Minzro, Megech, Tseda, and areas from Maksegnit town to Tara Monastery and the outskirts of

Addis-Zemen town. In Tseda sub-city, a police commander and several officers were killed by Fano fighters.

West Belessa Woreda

- On July 1st, Fano forces carried out a coordinated ambush at three locations near Abraham-Gedel, targeting moving regime forces. The surprise attack resulted in heavy casualties for the regime, including the deaths of 17 regime combatants including the riot dispersal force commander, the Woreda militia secretariat authority, and over 15 militia members. Additionally, the Fano captured more than 12 members of the riot dispersal forces and regular army. A military vehicle was driven off a steep ravine during the ambush, killing all the soldiers on board. In retaliation, the regime launched 107-mm mortars on local civilians, killing four farmers. This escalation of violence has created an extremely tense atmosphere in the area. Furthermore, in Goshkua Kebele of the same woreda, regime forces killed numerous civilians. They have also destroyed residential homes claiming they belonged to Fano members, burning all belongings, including harvested grain and crops. They looted farming seeds and forcibly seized food from local farmers, including Aqnaw Gebre, Gebre Ferede, and Eshete Gebre, despite these individuals having no connection to the Fano forces.

Wogera Woreda

- On the night of July 3rd, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime forces stationed in Gedebiye town. The ensuing battle, which raged from 3 pm to 6 pm at night local time, resulted in the deaths of at least 10 regime soldiers.
- On July 5th, Fano fighters launched a series of surprise attacks against regime forces in multiple locations within the woreda. A regime convoy traveling from Amba-Giyorgis town towards Kinfaz-Begela town was ambushed at Bira village,

resulting in significant losses on the regime side. In an attempt to reinforce the besieged soldiers at Bira and facilitate their evacuation, the regime deployed additional troops from the town of Silare in Kinfaz-Begela Woreda. However, these reinforcement forces were also ambushed by the Fano at Anchi-Senbet village, resulting in further heavy casualties. All military vehicles were destroyed, and numerous soldiers were killed or injured.

- On July 6th, Fano fighters announced that they have apprehended the individuals responsible for the recent looting of the Choge Monastery. The Fano have demanded and secured the return of all stolen property and livestock belonging to the monastery.

East Dembiya Woreda

- On July 6th, intense fighting erupted across multiple locations in the Dembiya area, involving Fano forces and joint regime forces. The clashes are concentrated in Guramba, Nedede, Anqara, Aroge-Megech, Terara villages, and several areas near Qoladiba town. The fighting began earlier today and continues. A large contingent of regime forces, supported by armored vehicles, has been deployed from the Azezo central military command to Dembiya. The battle in Guramba is particularly fierce, with regime forces unleashing indiscriminate heavy artillery fire on the kebele.
- On July 6th, Fano achieved a decisive victory, capturing a police commander after entering Qoladiba town. The Fano also attacked a military camp in Megech, resulting in heavy casualties and the destruction of military equipment and vehicles. In Minzro, regime forces' vehicles were burned. The fighting continued towards Maksegnit, Belessa, and Degoma. Clashes also took place in Qulqual-Ber, Arno, and Tara Monastery, lasting for a short period. The Fano inflicted heavy casualties on regime forces, killing over 250 soldiers, including five high-ranking regular

military commanders, across various battle zones. Hospitals in Central Gonder Zone were overwhelmed with injured regime soldiers, with many being transferred to Wereta town Hospital due to a lack of space in Central Gonder. In Qoladiba town alone, Fano captured an entire military unit (“ganta”), consisting of 30 soldiers.

South Gonder Zone

- On July 5th, regime forces attempted to encircle Fano strongholds in the Guna Mountains from three different directions: Zabara-Aginba, Ata-Maryam, and Chinfaz. This offensive was met with fierce resistance from the Fano fighters, who decisively repelled regime forces, inflicting heavy casualties. The Fano destroyed two heavy weapons belonging to the regime and killed numerous soldiers, with many more sustaining critical injuries. The regime forces had deployed from Debre-Tabor city and Kimir-Dingaye town to the Guna Mountains, where the Fano have established a strong defensive presence.

Dera Woreda

- On June 30th, a prolonged and intense battle erupted near Ambesame town between Fano and regime forces. On the night of the same day, Dera Woreda Peace and Security Officer and Militia Secretariat Authority Desalegn Bele defected to the Fano, bringing with him 15 militia members. Desalegn, known for his expertise in heavy weapons and his leadership in the fight against the TPLF invasion, became disillusioned by the regime’s brutality against civilians, particularly the targeting of youth and mothers in the woreda. He joined the Fano after witnessing the regime’s inhumane treatment of innocent civilians. Despite this defection, the regime has continued its violent actions against the local population in the woreda.

Guna-Begemidir Woreda

- On the night of June 30th, a bloody clash erupted within the police station in Kimir-Dingaye town, pitting regime forces against each other. This internal conflict resulted in the deaths of over 17 soldiers, including members of the riot dispersal forces, militia, and regular army. While the exact cause of the fighting remains unclear, sources speculate that it stemmed from the massacre of youths on the same day and the subsequent surprise attack by Guadalem Melese, who killed several perpetrators and escaped to join the Fano. Following this internal conflict, a significant number of riot dispersal forces defected from the regime and joined the Fano operating in the woreda.

Estie Woreda

- On July 1st, Fano fighters ambushed a regime convoy traveling from Mekane-Eyesus town to Debre-Tabor city at Lwaye Kebele. The attack resulted in the deaths of at least five regime soldiers and numerous injuries of regime soldiers. In response to the repeated ambushes by the Fano on regime forces stationed at Kebele 3 in Mekane-Eyesus town, the regime issued an indefinite ban on all bajaj's and wheeled motorbikes within the town.
- On the night of July 3rd, intense gunfire erupted in Mekane-Eyesus town throughout the night. The extent of casualties caused by the exchange of fire remains unknown.
- On July 5, regime forces killed a young man named Fisseha Mengistu after dragging him from detainment. He had been held for weeks by regime forces. Fisseha was shot multiple times, sparking widespread outrage in the woreda.
- On July 6th, a significant number of regime forces, including over 35 members of the militia and riot dispersal units, defected. Of these, 29 joined Fano fighters in the area, signifying a growing shift in allegiance within the armed forces.

Debre-Tabor City

- On June 29th, a barrage of gunfire erupted at Debre-Tabor prison, creating an opportunity for numerous prisoners to escape by scaling the fence. Following this incident, prison guards have been placed under house arrest by the regime, accused of collaborating with the escapees and assisting prisoners in joining Fano.

Farta Woreda

- On the night of July 2nd, over 20 members of the riot dispersal forces defected to the Fano after engaging in gunfire within their ranks in Kimir-Dingaye and Gassay towns. This defections resulted in the deaths of at least four members of the regular army and militia, killed in the firefight with the former riot dispersal force members.

Ibnat Woreda

- The regime has been using heavily armed military forces, equipped with heavy machineguns and mortars, to escort regime militia members while they farm in rural areas of Ibnat Woreda.
- On July 3rd, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime forces assisting a militia member with farming in Gela-Metatebiya. This unexpected assault resulted in heavy casualties for the regime forces, who were forced to flee, abandoning their farming oxen in the field without unfastening them from the yoke. The Fano seized heavy weapons and small arms from the retreating soldiers. The attack triggered a two-hour exchange of fire in the area.

Simada Woreda

- On the night of July 3rd, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on joint regime forces stationed in the Wegeda town police station, utilizing explosives in addition

to gunfire. The attack resulted in significant human and material losses for the regime forces. Zelalem Mengiste, a notorious Kebele chairman in Wegeda known for actively identifying family members of Fano and supporters to the regime, was apprehended by the Fano. Zelalem had been instrumental in directing regime forces to commit atrocities against civilians, including killings and arbitrary detentions, under the guise of targeting Fano families or supporters. In retaliation for the surprise attack, the regime launched heavy artillery fire on Kosh village since the morning of July 4th. A heavy artillery shell landed in a residential area caused significant damage to multiple homes.

Fogera Woreda

- On July 3rd, a fierce battle raged between regime forces and Fano fighters in Hod-Gebeya village. The fighting, which began at 4:00 am continued until 10:30 pm local time, resulting in the deaths of seven members of riot dispersal forces and militias, with over 22 others sustaining serious injuries. The regime forces also committed extrajudicial killings of two civilians during the conflict.

Lay-Gayint Woreda

- The *Amhara Prosperity Party* (APP) leadership has announced the formation of peace committees at various levels from the regional level down to the kebele (local) level. In response to this initiative, the regime has established a 60-member peace committee in Nefas-Mewcha town, drawing its members primarily from the APP. This committee is tasked with engaging with family members of Fano fighters and facilitating reconciliation. This shift in strategy by the regime appears to be a move away from their previous stance of advocating for political negotiations with the Fano in a third country with neutral facilitators.

Tach-Gayint Woreda

- The Commander-in-Chief of the Fano Gebriye army division Kefyalew Dessie announced that they are holding a significant number of regime soldiers, who are being treated humanely. Most of these soldiers were captured during intense fighting with regime forces, particularly in Gedoda Kebele. Fano Kefyalew Dessie also revealed that many soldiers have willingly joined the Fano forces. He urged remaining soldiers to cease fighting for a regime that shows no regard for human life and to instead turn their weapons against the regime and join the Fano movement.

West Gonder Zone

West and Tach Armachiho Woreda

- Intense fighting has raged for four consecutive days between Fano and joint regime forces, escalating across multiple locations, including in Sanke, Gichew, Fendiqa, Zemene-Berha, Mogese, Ayer-Marefiya, and Chilga. Over 73 militia members have defected from the regime and joined the Fano, while those remaining have suffered significant casualties. The Fano has captured numerous regime soldiers, including military radio operators, along with their equipment. The Fano also seized a large cache of heavy weapons and small arms.

North Gonder Zone

- North Gonder Zone officials have made the decision to distribute seized weapons, previously held as an exhibit by the police, to the zone's militia and regular police forces. These weapons were confiscated from private gun owners and those involved in illegal arms trading. This move signifies a critical shortage of weapons within the regime's military apparatus, likely due to the ongoing war against the Fano fighters.
- On July 5th, Brigadier-General Tezera Nigussie, a high-ranking military officer,

defected to Fano fighters operating in north-western Amhara Region. This is the second major defection of a high-ranking military officer to the Fano movement within a week, following the defection of Brigadier-General Tefera Mamo.⁴ A joint statement from the Fano and General Tezera Nigussie is expected to be released to the public. Brigadier-General Tezera Nigussie previously served as the commander-in-chief of the Amhara Special Forces and assistant commissioner of the Amhara regional state.

East Telemt, West Telemt and Mai-Temri Woredas

- Following the entry of armed TPLF forces into the woreda, the mayor's secretariat office, administration bureaus, and peace and security bureaus were secured by regime security forces. This action came after police officers, the mayor, and administrative staff refused to hand over the keys to the regime's military forces. Meanwhile, in Telemt on July 1st, a wave of robberies occurred, targeting private homes and clinics following the arrival of TPLF forces in the area.
- Under the guise of repatriating IDPs to Telemt Woreda, TPLF militants have infiltrated the region. These soldiers, hailed from the Yitsina, Qey-Kokeb, and Wedena-Setit army divisions. They have already deployed significant weaponry, including heavy weapons and small arms, within Telemt, even openly transporting them with the regime's knowledge. The TPLF militants fortified themselves in schools, clinics, and public institutions, immediately engaging in the looting and slaughter of livestock belonging to the indigenous Telemt Amhara community who rely on animal husbandry. They also looted closed shops and homes of displaced Amhara residents. As a result over 3,800 women, children, and elderly persons have fled East Telemt, West Telemt, and Mai-Temri to Adarkay, Dib-Bahir, Zerima, and Debark towns, facing a dire humanitarian crisis with limited aid. The TPLF has issued identity cards printed in Mekelle to residents regardless of ethnicity, in a

blatant attempt to assimilate the Amhara population as Tigrayan. These IDs label Telemt as part of the Northwest Tigray Zone, prohibiting travel within the woreda without possessing this ID. Two young men transporting passengers in bajaj's to Adarkay town were publicly executed under pretext of not having the new ID. The TPLF's actions have led to widespread fear and displacement. A member of the Telemt Amhara Identity Restoration Committee named Mebrat Addis was recently attacked by TPLF-mobilized returnees, sustaining injuries.

- On July 2nd, widespread anger erupted in Telemt against the TPLF forces, who had been deployed under the guise of repatriating IDPs. The local community, having established a committee to verify genuine IDPs, discovered that the TPLF was infiltrating the region with well-trained militants disguised as IDPs. This was evident when three buses carrying IDPs arrived with 34 heavily armed militants, none of whom were from Telemt. The TPLF threatened to forcibly enter the area with full military force if the community did not accept these militants alongside the IDPs. In response to the TPLF's intimidation tactics and the growing unrest, the Telemt community temporarily banned the return of IDPs until the TPLF militants are removed. This decision was prompted by several factors, including the TPLF's blatant infiltration with armed forces, the attempted assassination of Mebrat Addis in East Telemt, looting of clinics in Telemt and homes of displaced residents following the deployment of the TPLF militants with verified IDPs during the war between the TPLF and the regime. All administrative offices in Telemt have been closed. The Telemt Amhara Identity Restoration Committee has declared that the TPLF forces must evacuate the area before any verified IDPs are allowed to return. It is understood that the TPLF forces deployed to Telemt are the infamous *Kibrit* kill squad.
- On July 6th, Vice-Commander of the 501 Corps Colonel Dereje held a gathering in

Dima town in East Telemt Woreda. However, he deliberately excluded representatives from the local community, instead bringing together individuals with close ties to the TPLF. He then presented recently arrived TPLF militants, claiming they were natives of Telemt and were equipped before the war in the northern part of the country. The assembled TPLF supporters, in a coordinated effort, corroborated this claim. This gathering exposed a pattern that high-ranking military officials in Telemt have cultivated close relationships with the TPLF including accepting financial incentives to allow the entry of TPLF armed militants into the woreda avoiding scrutiny from locals. Moreover, the militants presented at the gathering were identified as former TPLF officials, holding positions of authority within the Tigrayan administration prior to the war. Among them are former leader of the Telemt Youth League Addisalem Assefa, former woreda speaker Negashu Merso, former Vice-Commander of the Militia Secretariat Office Asmamaw Teshale, former official in the Secretariat Office for Women's Affairs Dinqayew Tafere, former Popular Organization and Political Participation Secretariat Office official Ashebir Tamene. During the meeting these individuals openly admitted to entering Telemt fully armed, under the pretense of protecting repatriated internally displaced persons. This blatant manipulation suggests a calculated effort by the regime to reestablish the former Tigrayan administration in Telemt under the guise of returning displaced persons, thereby jeopardizing the security of the native Telemt (Amhara) population.

- Under the guise of returning IDPs from the northern war with TPLF, former high-ranking TPLF officials notorious for their brutal persecution of residents in Telemt have re-entered the region. These officials, who held positions of power for decades under the old Tigrayan administration were infamous for widespread human rights violations against the indigenous population, arrived fully armed on July 6th, with explicit approval of regime forces. Several of the TPLF officials were

identified as Shewit Chekole, Aregawi Gebrehiwot, Mengesha Zenebe and Tazeze Gebreselassie. Their presence signals an attempt to re-establish the old Tigrayan administration in Telemt. This infiltration is not isolated as on June 29th alone, over 391 TPLF fighters, who are not native to Telemt, entered the region disguised as IDPs, under the pretext of providing protection with their military equipment. On July 3rd, an additional 250 fully armed TPLF members entered, all equipped with full military gear. Furthermore, over 16 high-level TPLF civil and military officials have also infiltrated the area, using the cover of returning IDPs. Reports reveal that over 715 TPLF militants, non-native to the region, have entered Telemt. Currently, two full TPLF army divisions are stationed in Dima town of East Telemt. While 9,542 individuals have arrived claiming to be repatriated IDPs a large number of these individuals are suspected to be TPLF militants disguised as civilians.

North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)

Gebre-Guracha Woreda

- On July 3rd, OLA militants killed dozens and abducted more than 100 ethnic Amhara travelers near Goha-Tsion town.⁴⁵ This is the second attack in a week in which OLA fighters targeted ethnic Amhara travelers. Most of the travelers were heading to Addis Ababa city from the Amhara Region by public bus and other vehicles. This is the second attack this week in which OLA militants targeted and kidnapped travelers. The majority of the travelers were Debark University students heading to Addis Ababa city from the Amhara Region by public bus. The OLA are demanding ransoms ranging from 500,000 to 700,000 birr for the release of the hostages. The whereabouts of the abducted travelers remain unknown until now.

⁴See July 5th, 2024 BBC Amharic [report](#)

⁵See July 8th, 2024 [statement](#) from U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia Ervin J. Massinga

Dera Woreda

- On July 3rd, OLA militants abducted more than 20 farmers from Kara-Abo and Kore Kebeles of Dera Woreda. The OLA ordered the farmers to pay 50,000 birr each to plow their farms. The farmers, who were losing the summer season, agreed to pay the amount in return for OLA militants to leave their lands. After paying the money, the farmers returned to their homes and lands from areas of displacement, believing that OLA militants would leave their villages. However, the OLA militants breached their trust and abducted all the farmers who had returned from displacement. Among those abducted farmers, AAA was able to verify the names of four victims: (1) Abaye Endazenew, (2) Cheber Ashebir, (3) Firew Ashebir, and (4) Ayele Tafesse.

East Wollega Zone (Oromia Region)

Sibu-Sire Woreda

- On July 2nd, OLA militants killed an Amhara resident identified as Ahmed Indris Yenus. The militants entered his residence, attempted to take him hostage, and shot him when he refused to be abducted. The killed victim was buried on July 3rd in the traditional Muslim graveyard in Sire town.

Horo Guduru Wollega Zone (Oromia Region)

Abe-Dongoro and Gida-Ayana Woredas

- In Abe-Dongoro Woreda, regime soldiers continued their aggressive campaign against Amhara residents under the guise of a disarmament initiative. Between June 30th and July 1st, regime forces attacked Mender 20 and Mender 21, forcibly confiscating legal weapons from 16 Amhara residents. The soldiers also committed physical abuses against many civilians, demanding they surrender firearms.

Additionally, two brothers, Alemu Balew and Getachew Balew, were arrested under the pretext that their family possessed firearms.

- On July 2nd, regime troops arrested a person named Kassa Beyene and looted over 600,000 birr from his residence. In a separate incident, regime forces arrested a physician named Dr. Getachew Sened in Anger-Gutin town (Gida-Ayana Woreda).
- Between July 4th and 5th, OSF and allied Oromo militias summarily executed at least seven Amhara civilians in Abe-Dongoro Woreda. According to sources, allied regime forces have continued ethnic-based attacks targeting Amhara residents under the pretext of disarmament operations. AAA's investigation revealed that seven Amharas were killed, and numerous other Amhara residents have been arbitrarily detained between July 4th-5th. On July 4th, OSF killed two individuals in a village called Edo Kusa. One of the killed victims was identified as Ahmed Idris. On July 5th, in Gulente Kebele, the perpetrators gathered seven residents and forcibly led them into the jungle where they executed five of them. Despite the perpetrators' automatic gunfire, two individuals managed to escape. The majority of the deceased victims and those who managed to escape were reportedly members of a single family. AAA's investigation further revealed that numerous residents have been arrested by joint regime forces. Among the victims are women and elderly individuals. One of the arrested victims was identified as Wondim Tesfa, whose detention has been confirmed by witnesses. The names of six killed victims were identified as follows: (1) Tesfaye Arega, (2) Ayenew Tesfaye, (3) Degu Derso, (4) Getachew Derso, (5) Damte Derso and (6) Ahmed Idris.
- Reports indicate that on July 5th and 6th, the OSF conducted mass arrests of Amharas in Tulu Gana town, including the elderly and pregnant women. There were also reports of attacks and abuse against the Amharas during this period in Tulu Gana surrounding Kebeles.

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- Between July 6th and 7th, OSF killed three Amhara civilians and arrested dozens of Amhara residents amidst ongoing attacks and abuses against Amhara residents in Tulugana town and surrounding villages of Abe-Dongoro Woreda (Horo Guduru Wollega Zone, Oromia Region, Ethiopia).
 - On July 6th, the OSF conducted operations in the area, resulting in the arrest of numerous civilians, including women and elderly residents. During these operations, the OSF carried out illegal searches, physical assaults, and looted properties belonging to Amhara residents. Among those illegally detained on July 6th were two respected individuals known for their roles in reconciling local disputes, identified as Ato Moche and Ato Yinager, both estimated to be in their 50s.
 - The following day, on July 7th, the OSF killed three Amhara civilians in a village called Chero, within Abe-Dongoro Woreda. The attack, reportedly carried out with a bomb explosion, resulted in the immediate deaths of Gashaye Yenealem, Yikal (last name unknown), and Qeyo (potentially a nickname).
 - On the same day (July 7th), the OSF arrested at least five more civilians, including elderly individuals and women, subjecting many to physical abuse during the arrest. Among the detained was Priest Tsegaye Worku, who was forcefully dragged from his church. Other detainees included Sheikh Nure Hassen, Mamo Tegegn, Kedija Umer (female), and Adinew Berihun. During these arrests, the OSF claimed the victims possessed firearms or were related to those who did. Despite the presence of the ENDF in nearby areas, no protection was offered to the Amhara residents; instead, the ENDF provided cover for the OSF's attacks and abuses against the Amhara residents.

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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