



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia - May 27 to June 2, 2024

Updated June 2, 2024

Overview

For the week of May 27th to June 2nd, 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.

- Reports indicate regime authorities are undertaking mass arrests and forced conscription of youth in the Gonder sub-region. Any youth or family members who object are subjected to killing or injury. A significant number of forced conscripts are minors under the age of 18 years of age.
- Widespread closures of healthcare and educational facilities have been reported with regime forces converting many schools into military camps, and arbitrarily arresting a large number of healthcare professionals under the pretext of supporting Fano.
- Between May 23rd and 30th, civilian vehicles have been immobilized, with only military vehicles seen moving throughout the Gojjam sub-region. Since June 1st,

vehicle movements have been restricted in South Gonder Zone by order of the Fano command.

- The *Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF) forces have attempted military offensives from UN refugee camps in Sudan into Welkait Tegede Setit Humera Zone. The TPLF in collusion with the Oromo Prosperity Party regime are spreading propaganda promoting demarcation of the zone under federal administration.
- Authorities are relocating *internally displaced persons* (IDPs) previously displaced to Debre-Birhan city to Oromia Region despite security concerns.

North Shewa Zone

Debre-Birhan City

- Since May 30th, there has been a new round of relocation of IDPs from Debre-Birhan city to Oromia Region. This marks the second phase of regime-led transportation efforts, with thousands of IDPs being ferried away in a convoy of at least 17 vehicles. The campaign of forced relocations in recent months has prompted concerns amidst reports of coercion, withholding of humanitarian aid, and attacks on IDPs after relocation to Oromia Region.¹

West Gojjam Zone

Quarit Woreda

- On May 27th, heavy fighting broke out in several areas of Quarit Woreda which have persisted to May 28th. Regime forces initiated fighting in an attempt to encircle and suppress Fano forces however, Fanos from neighboring areas bolstered the Fano fighters in the area, enabling them to take the upper hand position and

¹See reports from [AAA](#), [Al-Ain Amharic](#), [BBC Amharic](#), and [DW Amharic](#).

repel the regime's offensive. Despite significant casualties, Regime forces are intensifying their efforts to suppress Fano fighters by consistently dispatching reinforcement soldiers to rural areas in Quarit Woreda.

Machakel Woreda

- On the evening of May 26th, Fano forces withdrew from Amanuel town after inflicting significant casualties on regime forces and administrative officials.

Debre Markos

- On the evening of May 26th, there was a light and short-lived gunfire exchange in the outskirts of Debre Markos town.

Dembecha Woreda

- On May 28th, heavy fighting erupted in Yezeleka Kebele of Dembecha Woreda, instigated by regime forces advancing into Fano strongholds. The fighting commenced in the morning and extended into the evening, with regime forces sustaining heavy losses but persisting in deploying additional troops from Finote-Selam and Dembecha cities. Reports suggest that regime forces employed heavy artillery, potentially including BM rockets, in the battle area, with civilian casualties remaining unconfirmed.
- On May 30th, heavy fighting took place in the areas of Birwenz and Yezeleka. The fighting was initiated by regime forces around midday, where the skirmish inflicted further suffering on regime forces, extending the exchange of gunfire that had erupted between May 27th and 28th in the area. Reports indicated a determination on the part of the regime forces to assert control over the area, evidenced by the influx of reinforcements into the fray.

East Gojjam Zone

Shebel-Berenta Woreda

- On May 29th, intense fighting took place in Yedoha town, The fighting was initiated by the Fano fighters and reported to have started in the morning and continued for the whole day. Sources also confirm heavy artillery bombardment by the regime forces, compelling residents to remain indoors for safety. Reports also indicate that regime soldiers resorted to indiscriminate killings of civilians as reprisals for Fano's attacks.
- On May 29th, Fano forces launched an offensive operation on the encampment of regime forces in Yedoha town. In the aftermath there was a large number of dead bodies being ferried away in at least four vehicles. From the Fano side, at least four fatalities and two were wounded in the skirmish. Following the clash with Fano forces, regime forces initiated house-to-house searches, killing at least 16 civilians in reprisal for Fano's attack.

Enemay Woreda

- On May 29th, intense fighting took place in Enemay Woreda. Fano forces carried out an offensive on Bichena town in coordination with the operation in Yedoha. The Fano forces targeted encampments of regime militias and policemen within the town, leaving over 20 militias and policemen dead or wounded.
- Reports indicate that Fano forces successfully captured the woreda militia office and seized the militia leader.

South Gonder Zone

- In South Gonder Zone, fighting between joint regime forces and Fano forces has caused closures of schools, healthcare facilities, and ambulances. In addition, regime forces have carried out extrajudicial killings and arbitrary arrests of civilians including healthcare professionals.
 - Out of 988 primary schools in the zone, 933 of these schools remain closed, with most being occupied as military camps by regime forces.
 - Out of 67 high schools in the zone, 61 are currently being used as military camps by regime forces. Only six high schools remain operational, all of which are located in Debre-Tabor city.
 - Out of 94 healthcare facilities or clinics in the zone, 83 of them have suspended operations due to the ongoing conflict. Seven out of ten hospitals in the zone are not providing health services to the public.
 - Out of 404 health extension centers, 305 are no longer providing essential services due to ongoing conflict and lack of healthcare professionals in these centers, as the professionals are not being paid with their monthly salaries by regime forces for false allegations of providing health care services for Fano forces in the zone.
 - Additionally, although the zone has 86 ambulances designated for transporting pregnant women during labor and critical patients, the majority of these vehicles have been repurposed for military use, including transporting regime soldiers, ammunition, and the families of Prosperity Party officials seeking to evade capture by Fano forces. However, the lack of ambulance services in South Gonder Zone has resulted in the deaths of 286 mothers and 257 newborn babies due to lack of timely medical attention.

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- One particularly incident occurred in Wegeda town of Simada Woreda, where a pregnant woman named Tiringo Molla died while being transported in a bajaj (motorized rickshaw). Despite being in labor and visible to regime soldiers at a command post, Tiringo was denied passage to a nearby health center due to a curfew prohibiting bajaj's from operating after 11 pm in the evening. Even after the mayor of Wegeda town and the commander of the regime soldiers, Shaleqa Goytom, were informed of Tiringo's condition and pleaded to allow her passage to a health facility, they refused. As a result, Tiringo suffered severe bleeding and ultimately died due to lack of medical treatment.
 - Out of 105 private healthcare institutions in the zone, 34 have been forcibly closed by regime authorities and regime military forces. These institutions were accused of providing medical treatment to injured Fano members.
 - Furthermore, over 34 healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and health officers, have been detained by regime forces in South Gonder Zone alone. These individuals were accused of treating Fano members or supplying them with medical supplies.
 - Members of riot dispersal forces deployed in various locations have reportedly abandoned their military posts. On May 30, 2024, over 30 riot dispersal forces deserted their positions, taking their military equipment with them. It is believed that they have joined the Fano forces active in the zone.
 - Following an order from the Amhara Fano in Gonder Command on June 1st, all major roads leading to Debre-Tabor and various regions within South Gonder Zone have been effectively blocked. Despite repeated attempts by regime forces to reopen these roads, Fano forces have maintained their blockade, preventing the movement of military supplies.
 - On June 2nd, regime soldiers descended upon Debre-Tabor city bus station.

They proceeded to assault, detain, and arrest drivers, vehicle owners, assistants, and even transport authority representatives in an attempt to coerce them into resuming transportation services. The regime soldiers demanded explanations for the suspension of operations, despite the drivers' pleas that there was no official protection against potential attacks. However, their pleas fell on deaf ears, and the soldiers resorted to merciless beatings, accusing the drivers of collaborating with Fano forces.

- The regime has dispatched forces to Kimir-Dingay town in Guna Begemidir Woreda to compel drivers to resume transportation services. However, Fano forces launched a counteroffensive in three strategic locations along the Debre-Tabor to Kimir-Dingay route, inflicting heavy casualties on regime troops. As a result, the road to Kimir-Dingay remains closed. Fano forces have effectively sealed off all major routes connecting Debre-Tabor to Nefas-Mewcha (Gayint), Weldiya town (North Wollo Zone), Estie, Bahir-Dar, Wereta, and Gonder city, effectively isolating the city.
- On June 1st, the regime dispatched forces to Arno-Gari, a strategic town situated between Addis-Zemen and Enfranz, near the renowned Tara Gedam Monastery and its vast forests. The objective of this deployment is to reopen the critical Gonder to Debre-Tabor to Bahir-Dar roads. Despite prolonged clashes with Fano forces on June 1st, regime forces failed to break through. On June 2nd, significant reinforcements arrived from Addis-Zemen and Gonder, equipped with heavy weaponry, to bolster the regime's presence in Arno since morning. The situation has remained tense as the fighting continues.
- The regime authorities had misjudged the capabilities of Fano forces, underestimating their ability to effectively block roads. However, starting at 4 am on June 1st, Fano forces demonstrated their prowess by successfully restricting the movement of regime forces. These road closures were

implemented in response to the deployment of over 60 military vehicles with heavy weaponry to Tach Gayint Woreda. The regime forces stationed in the woreda were forced to withdraw due to the blockade. However, as regime forces retreated from Tach Gayint Woreda towards Lay Gayint Woreda, they encountered a series of devastating car accidents. A heavy convoy vehicle plunged into a deep ravine in Kebele 3 or Werqu village, resulting in significant casualties. Many soldiers were killed, while others sustained severe injuries.

Debre-Tabor City

- In Debre-Tabor city, South Gonder Zone authorities in collaboration with regime military officials of the command post have been accused of falsifying ages and educational backgrounds of recently recruited 13-year-old children to make it appear that they meet the minimum requirements for military service. The authorities are reportedly adjusting the children's ages to 18 years old to evade public scrutiny and demonstrate that a sufficient number of qualified recruits are available.
 - This action by the South Gonder Zone authorities constitutes a war crime under the African Children's Charter, to which Ethiopia is a signatory, and violates the Geneva Conventions, which prohibit the recruitment of children under the age of 18 into armed forces.

Lay Gayint Woreda

- Eight high-ranking regime military officers were arrested. The officers had led regime forces in Tach Gayint Woreda particularly during intense fighting against Fano forces in Gedoda and Dera Woreda, including in Arb-Gebeya town. They are accused of failing to effectively command their troops which resulted in heavy

casualties and significant losses of military equipment, including heavy and small arms, to Fano forces. The officers' ranks range from sergeant to colonel.

Additionally, leaders of regime riot dispersal forces have also been apprehended on similar charges of mishandling their units.

- On May 27th, the Chief Commander of the military command post in Tach Gayint Woreda Colonel Juwar, summoned residents of Tach Gayint Woreda and harshly criticized them. He accused farmers and residents of collaborating with Fano forces to fight against regime forces. Col. Juwar threatened that if the people continued to resist, regime forces would be compelled to retaliate by carrying out mass killings, labeling them as enemies of the state. However, residents of Tach Gayint rebuked Juwar's threats, declaring that they would rather die fighting alongside Fano forces against the regime than witness the ongoing atrocities committed against the Amhara people by the joint regime forces.
- On May 30th, fighting was initiated by regime forces in retaliation for losses sustained by Fano forces in Tach Gayint Woreda over a week ago. In this fighting, the Fano forces defeated the regime forces and forced them to retreat. During their retreat, the regime forces killed a civilian named Wuletaw Gesit, a 61-year-old resident of Kebele 9.
- On May 29th, joint regime forces initiated an offensive against the Fano forces in Tach Gayint Woreda at 11:45 am in the morning following earlier preparations. Utilizing rocket launchers, ZU-23 cannons, and other armaments, this marks the second major offensive launched by regime forces in May, following a significant defeat suffered at the hands of Fano forces the previous week. The intense clash is unfolding in Gedoda Kebele, with the joint regime forces strategically attacking from five different directions towards Gedoda Kebele including: Simada Woreda, Sede-Muja Woreda, Meqdela (South Wollo Zone) and Arb-Gebeya town

(administrative center of Tach Gayint Woreda). Newly trained regime commando forces have been deployed in this operation by the regime, with infantry forces spearheading the assault from Sefayt-Qola village. As the regime forces continue to deploy BM rockets and ZU-23 cannons targeting Gedoda, the conflict escalates further into Cherer-Ber Kebele especially in the afternoon. The ongoing combat has made it challenging to ascertain human and material losses accurately. However, reports have emerged from Sefayt-Qola village indicating the tragic death of a farmer named Wuletaw Gesit at the hands of regular regime forces in the afternoon, accusing him of aiding Fano forces during the fierce fighting. Colonel Juwar, the commander of the military command post in Tach Gayint Woreda, has been offered a special reward by higher-ranking regime officials for executing Kefyalew Dessie, the leading figure of the Fano forces in Tach Gayint Woreda in this fierce military campaign. The authorities in South Gonder Zone are under the belief that if Kefyalew Dessie and his Fano forces are defeated in Tach Gayint, it would become easier to attack other Fano forces active in the zone. In relation to the military campaign, more than 45 civilians have been detained in Arb Gebeya town under allegation that they are the supporters of Fano and are providing information to Fano forces. Because the police station is unable to put these detainees, a large number of civilians have been arrested in the military camps in the town.

- As of May 30th, intense fighting between Fano forces and joint regime forces entered its second consecutive day of fighting. Initial fighting held on May 29th at Efrata Kebele in the Midaqit Mountains proved highly contentious. The regime's regular forces, aided by regime militia units, launched a coordinated assault on Fano forces from Simada Woreda. The joint regime forces possessed a formidable arsenal, including rocket launchers, ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, heavy machine guns, and mortars. Despite facing superior firepower of regime forces, Fano forces eliminated at least seven regular army personnel and two militiamen, capturing six

additional militiamen and seized over 14 heavy weapons and small arms. The bodies of the regular army soldiers were promptly retrieved, but the deceased militias were left unattended, sparking resentment within their ranks due to perceived unequal treatment. This disparity in treatment has caused significant resentment among the militia forces, as they perceive themselves as fighting and dying for the same regime as the regular army, yet not receiving the same level of respect or care. As a result, the bodies of the fallen militias has remained uncollected and unattended on the slopes of Midaqit Mountain, a stark reminder of this inequality. As of May 30th, the bodies of the fallen militias remained on the slopes of Midaqit Mountain. The fighting spread to multiple locations, including Cherer-Ber, Lida, and Sefayt-Qola, with the joint regime forces employing heavy weaponry such as mortars, ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, rocket launchers, and 14 heavy machine guns. The regime forces' primary objective in these frontlines was to destroy the heavy machine guns that had been captured by the Fano forces in a previous heavy military engagement. The Fano forces also ambushed a convoy of 11 military vehicles returning from a campaign in Gedoda to Tach Gayint at Diyo village. The ambush resulted in the complete destruction of a dozer that was clearing the road for the military forces. On the following morning, additional reinforcements have been deployed from Simada Wereda to bolster the regime forces in Tach Gayint Woreda.

- During the fourth day of fighting, the regime deployed an arsenal of heavy weaponry, including BM rocket launchers and heavy artillery, in a desperate attempt to quell the Fano resistance. Reinforcements were mobilized to Endwa, Gedoda, Segerge, Fenta-Qusquam, Agat, and Efrata, bolstering the regime's military presence in the area. The ferocity of the fighting has escalated dramatically, with the regime employing advanced and destructive weaponry. Tensions remain high as the conflict intensifies, threatening to engulf the region in further turmoil. In a tragic turn of events on May 30th, regime forces carried out a senseless attack on civilians

in Gedoda Kebele, resulting in the deaths of seven innocent lives. The victims including four women, were accused of aiding Fano forces by providing information about regime troop movements. The regime forces have engaged in widespread looting of livestock in lowland villages including cattle, sheep, goats, and oxen used for farming which have been seized and slaughtered by the joint regime forces. The regime forces had justified their actions by claiming that the farmers supported the Fano and are therefore deserving of punishment. This blatant theft and destruction left many families without a means of subsistence, exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation in the region. Since May 30th a further escalation of repression, regime forces have conducted a wave of arbitrary arrests of civilian youths in Arb-Gebeya town. The detentions have been carried out with extreme violence and intimidation, instilling fear and uncertainty among the population.

- On May 31st, fierce fighting erupted between Fano forces and joint regime forces in Efrata Kebele. The regime forces deployed a significant number of forces armed with modern heavy weaponry, encircling the Fano forces in seven different directions. However, the tides turned when Fano forces launched a diversionary attack in Kimir-Dingay town, to assist their embattled forces in Tach Gayint. The highly equipped regime forces, fearing a complete blockade of their supply lines and reinforcements, were forced to disperse, allowing the Fano forces to break the siege.

Estie Woreda

- On May 31st, regime forces in Shemit village were dismantling their heavy machine guns. Three valiant members of the Estie Densa Fano brigade seized some of the heavy machine guns. In the wake of this military triumph, the Fano forces have strategically blocked major transportation routes in the region. The roads connecting Debre-Tabor city to Kimir Dingay and Nefas-Mewcha, Kimir-Dingay to Welela Bahir Simada, Debre-Tabor to Gasay Este Simada, and Debre-Tabor to

Bahir-Dar city have all been rendered impassable in the afternoon hours. This blockade is a direct response to the regime forces' deployment of significant weaponry and troops in Tach Gayint Woreda.

Guna Begemidir Woreda

- On May 27th, a significant number of regime riot dispersal force forces deserted their posts in Kimir-Dingay town. It is reported that many of these individuals have joined Fano forces, while others have returned to their home villages with their military equipment.
- On May 30th, a meeting of Prosperity Party political cadres was held in Kimir-Dingay town to discuss the ongoing military campaign against the Fano forces. However, the meeting was disrupted by the Fano forces, forcing it to adjourn prematurely.
- On May 31st, Fano forces executed a successful ambush on a convoy of regime forces traveling from Debre-Tabor city to Tach Gayint Woreda. The ambush took place between Gasay and Kimir-Dingay towns, resulting in the destruction of a military pickup truck and the confirmed deaths of at least six regime soldiers.

Sede-Muja Woreda

- On May 27th, regime forces killed 65-year-old Workie Demissie in Robit town. The late Workie was blind but objected to the abduction of his son prior to his killing, Afterwards, the regime forces abducted his son and took him to an unknown location. This practice is being carried out in many parts of the region, and state media later propagated that these forcefully recruited youths voluntarily joined the military.

Dera Woreda

- As of May 28th, over four days of intense fighting Fano forces inflicted heavy casualties on joint regime forces with over 150 confirmed killed. The clashes took place in Arb-Gebeya, Licha, Gelawdiwos, Sahna, Gind-Atemem, Jib-Asra-Maryam, and Qechin-Meda. Regime forces had established camps in these areas, believing them to be strategic corridors used by Fano forces. However, Fano forces launched a sustained and fierce offensive, forcing regime troops to abandon their positions.

Central Gonder Zone

- On May 28th and 29th, there was fierce fighting between Fano forces and joint regime forces in Dembiya and Alefa Woredas.
- On May 28th, Fano forces carried out an attack on a military vehicle carrying regime soldiers in Dembiya Woreda traveling from Azezo military camp to Chilga and Takussa Woredas. A significant number of regime soldiers were killed or injured.
- The regime has continued forced conscriptions of Amhara youth and transporting them to military training camps. On May 28th, at least 42 vehicles carrying forced conscripts were seen traveling to Bersheleko military training camp from Central Gonder Zone. Many of the youths who are forcefully recruited are daily laborers, street children, and religious students mainly from churches.
- On May 31st, numerous military convoys carrying soldiers and heavy weaponry were transported from Bahir-Dar to Gonder. Between 12:40 pm and 4:00 pm in the morning, over 34 military vehicles concealed with tarps were observed moving towards Gonder.
- On May 31st, Fano forces apprehended individuals posing as Fano forces and engaging in robbery in areas bordering South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones.

These impostors were captured in Tara-Gedam, Birbira, Geregera, and Agid-Qirigna.

Gonder City

- On May 27th, a first-year student from Gonder University was fatally shot at 11:30 am in the morning while he was going to Kidane-Mihret Church near the university. The incident occurred in the area of the hill covered with trees. The killed student is from Jawi. Initial reports suggest that the student may have been targeted in a robbery attempt.
- On May 31st, high-ranking military officers convened a meeting in Azezo military central command to assess the ongoing campaign against Fano forces in Central, West, North, and South Gonder Zones. They acknowledged the ineffectiveness of guerrilla warfare and direct frontline confrontations, as Fano forces had proven adept at seizing military equipment and adapting to these tactics. To address this, they devised a new strategy encompassing the following:
 - Enhanced Firepower: Deploy heavy weaponry that can cover vast areas, minimizing reliance on small arms. The focus of combat operations would shift towards artillery barrages, followed by infantry advances.
 - Drone and Air Strikes: Utilize drones and airstrikes to target entrenched Fano positions, particularly before they disperse.
 - Covert Intelligence: Infiltrate Fano ranks with intelligence personnel to gather information on key leaders and eliminate them swiftly.
 - Urban Warfare: Move the conflict into towns and cities, where Fano forces would be more vulnerable to heavy weapons fire. Rural operations would be phased out.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On May 27th, Fano forces apprehended over 15 individuals engaged in robbery under the guise of Fano affiliation in Enfranz town. The robbers were illegally seizing land belonging to Muslim communities in Sendib, Firq, and other villages within the Enfranz administration. During interrogations, the apprehended robbers confessed to being organized by Prosperity Party officials to incite religious conflict by targeting Muslim minority communities. They revealed that their group consisted of 25 members, with 10 still at large. They admitted to working under the direction of Ato Ermyas to portray Fano forces as Islamophobic in the woreda. Notably, several of the apprehended robbers were former high-ranking civil and military officials in the area, including Adnew, Ashenafi Adane, and Yealemeshet Getahun, the former head of the woreda militia equipment and assignment authority in Maksegnit town. As a result of the arrests, the Muslim communities whose lands were seized illegally are now being restored to their rightful properties.
- On May 27th, intense fighting erupted between Fano forces and regime joint forces along the border areas of Gonder Zuriya and Belessa Woredas. The clashes took place in Merdo, Degoma, Amba-Shara, and Yimana, with Fano forces launching a coordinated attack from four directions towards Degoma town, which serves as a command center for regime forces. Regime forces responded with heavy weaponry, including ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, mortars, heavy machine guns, and rocket launchers. The fighting was extremely fierce and casualties are expected to be significant, although the exact number is currently unknown due to the ongoing nature of the conflict.

East Dembiya Woreda

- On May 28th, regime forces and militias attempted to attack Fano positions in Seqelt Kebele near Ayimba town. Regime forces arrived in a convoy consisting of one Sinotruk truck, two ISUZU trucks, and a patrol vehicle carrying numerous soldiers from Azezo military command in Gonder city. However, Fano forces ambushed the convoy. All of the regime soldiers and militias were killed, except for eight injured soldiers who were captured by Fano forces. The vehicles were also reportedly destroyed in the ambush.
- On May 28th, Fano forces launched a surprise ambush on government forces near Dalecha Rufael, approximately 7-km from Azezo military camp in Gonder city. The ambush targeted a military convoy carrying over 40 soldiers who were en route to Ayimba. The attack resulted in the destruction of the convoy and the deaths of all the regime forces on board. Fano forces also seized over 18 weapons from the fallen soldiers.
- Since May 27th, intense fighting has continued in Degoma town as Fano forces attempt to seize control of the military central command. Heavy casualties have been reported since fighting began. However, due to the ongoing nature of the conflict, precise figures for human losses remain unknown.
- On the night of May 30th, regime militias and regular military forces of the regime engaged in an exchange of gunfire. The conflict originated when a significant number of militiamen expressed their desire to return to their farms and cease fighting alongside their children. Consequently, the militia forces began to abandon their military posts. The regular military forces responded by forcibly rounding up the militiamen and confining them to a secure location to prevent their defection. Upon realizing that they were under house arrest, the militiamen demanded their release from the military leader. The military leader threatened severe consequences

if they abandoned their service to the regime. In response, the militia forces opened fire on the soldiers, resulting in the immediate deaths of seven. This incident has led to heightened tensions and could potentially escalate into a larger conflict. The leaders of both the militia forces and the regular army have attempted to conceal the incident and prevent its disclosure to the public. Additionally, on the night of May 30, 2024, a civilian who was a Muslim follower was killed by regular military forces in Qoladiba town. The victim was accused of violating the curfew. He was buried today in the Muslim graveyard in a large procession.

East Belessa Woreda

- As of June 2nd, fighting between Fano forces and regime forces has entered the second consecutive day in the areas of Taymen, Tebariya, Arba-Tseguwar, Bahala (Guhala), and Agew-Midir. On June 1st, Fano forces successfully liberated the administrative center town of the woreda, delivering a major blow to the regime's presence in the region however, regime forces deployed heavy weapons.

Alefa Woreda

- On May 28th, there was a fierce fighting between Fano forces and joint regime forces at Sanqa-Ber Kebele which lasted for a short period of time. The fighting was initiated as 7 military vehicles full of regime soldiers were traveling to Sanqa-Ber. This information was leaked to Fano forces and the Fano carried out an ambush against the military vehicles. Three of the military vehicles were destroyed and the military forces in the vehicles were killed and the majority of them were critically injured.

Kinfaz-Begela Woreda

- On May 29th, Fano forces attacked a militia camp killing at least 15 regime militias, and leaving dozens more injured.
- On May 31st, Fano forces emerged victorious after a fierce battle against joint regime forces, taking control of Silare, administrative center of Kinfaz-Begela Woreda. The Fano forces fought valiantly to regain control of the town, driving out members of the Prosperity Party and political cadres who fled alongside the defeated regime forces. As of June 1st, residents of Silare have enjoyed relative peace, after enduring oppressive occupation of regime forces.

North Gonder Zone

- On May 27th, a significant deployment of military vehicles, personnel, and munitions was observed moving from Shire towards Telemt and Welkait Tegede Setit Humera Zone. This mobilization coincides with reports of TPLF plans to launch an offensive against Telemt on May 28th, aiming to reclaim it as part of the Tigray Region and commemorate their victory over the FDRE military government. The TPLF's actions are believed to be emboldened by perceived inaction or tacit approval from the federal authority regarding their encroachment on Amhara territories. This has provided an impetus for the TPLF to launch attacks in these areas.

Wogera Woreda

- Tensions between Fano forces and joint regime forces have escalated, raising concerns of imminent clashes. This follows intense fighting in other parts of North Gonder. Fano forces have reportedly seized a significant number of firearms from regime forces, particularly in Werqe-Demo and Arba Arat-Telba. This has further

fueled tensions and raised the likelihood of further confrontation.

- On May 30th and 31st, fierce fighting took place between Fano and joint regime forces in Bera-Eyesus Kebele of Wogera Woreda. The fighting was initiated by regime forces in order to pull back Fano forces from Amba-Giyorgios town and the surrounding areas. However, the Fano forces were able to maintain their position by defeating the regime forces.

West Gonder Zone

- On May 27th, numerous regime riot dispersal force members abandoned their positions in Metemma town. It is reported that many of these individuals have joined Fano forces, while others have returned to their home villages with their military equipment.
- A worker for the Medical Teams humanitarian aid organization was killed in West Gonder Zone while traveling in a vehicle.² Several other workers were injured in the attack. Medical Teams has stated that it does not believe the attack was specifically targeting its workers and that the incident is under investigation. Fano forces in Gonder alleged that regime militiamen killed a humanitarian worker near Gonder.³ They asserted that this act was intentional and aimed at discrediting the Fano forces by associating them with terrorist organizations and diverting attention from their freedom movement.

Welkait Tegede Setit Humera Zone

- On May 26th, TPLF forces based in UN refugee camps in Sudan launched an offensive on Nech-Afer and Shererina. However, they encountered resistance and

²Read the [statement](#) from Medical Teams International on the May 24th, 2024 killing of an aid worker.

³Read the [statement](#) from Amhara Fano in Gonder on May 26th, 2024 on the incident.

were forced to retreat. The fighting lasted for approximately three hours, but the exact number of casualties remains unknown.

- The TPLF had initially planned to reannex Welkait into the Tigray Regional State by the end of June, but their attempt to launch an offensive attack against Welkait via Shererina and Nech-Afer villages (near the Ethiopia-Sudan border) had failed. As a result, they are now engaged in propaganda, promoting “reconciliation” with Welkait natives to resolve the issue. On May 30th, a so-called reconciliation meeting took place at the Sheraton Addis Hotel in Addis Ababa. The representatives for Welkait were former high-ranking officials of the region during its time as part of the Tigray Region. These individuals include Ato Ferede Yeshiwendim, Mamaye Mihrete, and Jajaw Demoze. The TPLF authorities repeatedly attempted to infiltrate the zone under the guise of reconciliation, with the aim of establishing TPLF-led administration and reclaimed the zone as part of Tigray Region, but these efforts were unsuccessful.
 - Ato Ferede Yeshiwendim, originally from Welakit is married to a Tigrayan woman from Tembien. As the former zonal administrator, he was held accountable for human rights abuses against the indigenous Amhara residents of Welkait under TPLF rule.
 - Mamaye Mihrete, is not a native of Welkait but has apparent ties to Jan Amora and does not have family members who speak the Tigrayan language. He had a business in Dubai due to his strong connections with TPLF leaders.
 - Jajaw Demoze worked as the propaganda official in the zone during TPLF rule.
 - All three individuals fled to Sudan after being involved in facilitating the massacre in Mai-Kadra by the TPLF-affiliated Samri killing squad.
 - Following the Pretoria Deal between the Prosperity Party regime and the TPLF, they were called to come to Addis Ababa. They are being used by the

regime as a political strategy to disrupt the relationship between the current popularly supported zonal authorities and the people of Welkait. However, the reconciliation meeting between the Welkait Committee and the TPLF is not genuine; rather, it is a staged event intended to divert attention and convey to the Tigray people that the TPLF is seeking to peacefully resolve the situation in Welkait, as they are certain of their inability to invade the region. The TPLF has introduced a new strategy to assert that the people of Welkait are neither Amhara nor Tigrayan but rather Welkait, with the aim of disassociating the Amhara identity from the people. This tactic is intended to bring the zone under the control of the Federal Government or to diminish the strong relationship and identity of the Welkait people as an ancestral Amhara territory. Many individuals, dispatched by the TPLF to advocate for this ideology that disassociates Welkait from its Amhara and Tigrayan affiliations, have been apprehended by the current zonal authorities, recognizing it as a political agenda of the TPLF. Additionally, the TPLF is providing military training and equipment to internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Welkait, with the intention of facilitating an invasion under the guise of returning the IDPs to their homes.

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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**Amhara Association
of America**

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