



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – July 29th to August 4th, 2024

Updated August 5th, 2024

Overview

For the week of July 29th to August 4th, 2024, fighting between *Amhara Fano freedom fighters* (Fano) and *Prosperity Party regime joint forces* (regime joint forces) has continued in various parts of Amhara Region in Ethiopia.¹ Summary updates are provided below.

- Regime forces have continued targeted attacks against unarmed civilians including killings, sexual violence, physical beatings, abductions and detentions. Among the victims are men, women, children, seniors, and medical professionals. Large-scale civilian massacres in north-western Amhara Region has left scores killed and displaced from their homes.
- Fano forces have carried out offensive operations in various major cities including in Bahir-Dar, Gonder, Woldia and Debre-Birhan cities and have extended to

¹The regime's joint forces include regular soldiers of the *Ethiopian National Defense Force* (ENDF), riot-dispersal forces, and state militias.

surrounding areas. Fighting between Fano forces and regime forces have been recorded in the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, North Gojjam, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones.

- Regime officials announced curfew and transportation restrictions in Bahir-Dar city but Fano forces have continued operations in the city.
- Intense fighting has pressured the regime to mobilize soldiers stationed in western Oromia Region and by the *Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam* (GERD) in Benishangul-Gumuz Region. In addition, hundreds of members of the *Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF) Samri kill squad were deployed from Sudan.
- Tigray Region forces have continued occupation of Raya-Alamata Woreda (North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region) despite opposition from residents.
- Regime military leadership informed residents of Welkait-Tegede-Setit-Humera Zone they had not received orders to relocate any *internally displaced persons* (IDPs).
- On August 3rd, *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) militants killed and abducted Amhara civilians in Fiche town (North Shewa Zone, Oromia Region).

North Wollo Zone

Raya-Alamata Woreda

- Tigray Region (TPLF) forces have begun carrying out administrative work in Raya Alamata towns against the will of residents in Raya who have opposed their moves. Hospitals are also forced to bring facilities and medicines from Mekelle, restrictions have been imposed on transfer of supplies from Amhara region and other areas to signify that the Raya area belongs to Tigray.

Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On August 2nd, Fano forces carried out a surprise attack on regime forces at a checkpoint located near the entrance of Waja town from Raya-Kobo Woreda. In the attack several regime soldiers were killed including high-ranking officers.

Habru Woreda

- On July 31st, Fano forces took control of a town called Gafra-Arerti, near the Afar Region border. The control followed an attack by Fano fighters on regime allied forces encamped in the town.

Woldia City

- On the night of August 2nd, heavy fighting took place in the Piassa area of Woldia city.
- On August 3rd, Fano forces ambushed a regime convoy at a village called Doro-Gibir near Woldia city as soldiers were being transported from Woldia to Kobo. Dozens of regime soldiers were killed and injured in the attack. The vehicle was also destroyed in the attack.

Mekdela Woreda

- A large number of regime forces were deployed to control the Abay Gorge area interconnecting South Wollo, South Gonder and East Gojjam Zones. Mass deployment of soldiers led to intensified clashes with Fano forces.
- On July 27th, intense fighting between regime forces and Fano fighters took place in Debre-Zeit town and surrounding towns of Mekdela Woreda.
- On July 29th, regime forces took control of Koreb town after facing fierce resistance from Fano forces.

Dawint Woreda

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South Wollo Zone

Legambo Woreda

- On July 29th, regime soldiers encamped in Genete town attempted to expand control in rural areas of Abuara and Dihr but they faced strong resistance from Fano fighters and were forced to retreat back to the town. Due to fighting, the road from Dessie to Motta and Bahir-Dar was closed for the entire day.

Mehal-Sayint Woreda

- Fighting has taken place in Densa town after regime forces were reinforced in the area. On July 29th, fighting took place throughout the entire day. On August 3rd, after intense fighting from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., regime forces were forced to retreat to Amhara-Sayint Woreda.

Jama Woreda

- On July 31st, fighting was initiated by Fano forces against regime forces in Shil-Afaf Kebele. The fighting lasted from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with several

troops of the regime allied forces including ENDF, riot-dispersal forces and regime militias sustaining severe injuries. The Fano fighters managed to gain control of the area and push regime forces out of the area.

North Shewa Zone

- This week, conflict broke out in Berehet, Mida-Woremo, Merhabete, Ankober, Debre-Birhan and Asagirt Woredas.

Debre-Birhan and Ankober Woredas

- Between July 30th and 31st, fighting broke out between Fano forces and regime forces in the area spanning Debre-Birhan city to Ankober Woreda. The fighting was initiated by regime forces aiming to disperse Fano fighters based in Ankober following the capture of Commander Arbegna Aseged Mekonnen earlier this month. However, Fano fighters successfully pushed back regime forces and defended their positions. As a result of the fighting, the road connecting Addis-Ababa, Debre-Birhan, and Dessie has been closed for almost two days.
- Fighting also took place between Fano forces and regime forces in a place called Mitak within the Debre-Birhan city administration.

Mida-Woremo Woreda

- Between August 2nd and 3rd, fighting took place between Fano forces and regime forces in Mida-Woremo Woreda. The fighting was initiated by regime forces who sought to control Rema town, administrative center of the woreda. Rema town has been under effective control of Fano fighters over the last year. According to sources from Rema town, regime forces mobilized soldiers and riot dispersal forces from Alem-Ketema town in Merhabete Woreda.

Asagirt Woreda

- Between August 3rd and 4th, fighting took place between Fano forces and regime forces in Asagirt. After two days of intense fighting, the Fano were able to enter Asagirt town on August 4th.

West Gojjam Zone

Bure-Zuriya Woreda

- On July 29th, Fano fighters ambushed regime soldiers patrolling the Windigi mountain area. Reports indicate that a short-lived exchange followed the sudden attack, resulting in heavy casualties among regime soldiers. There are also reports of two regime intelligence security personnel being captured by Fano fighters inside Bure town.

Quarit Woreda

- On July 30th, intense fighting took place in three areas in Quarit Woreda. According to sources, regime soldiers mobilized from Gebeze-Mariam town and Jiga town to Genet-Abo town for a logistic exchange. Around midday, Fano fighters ambushed regime soldiers in an area called Atse-Wiha, located between Jiga and Genet-Abo. In effect, Fano fighters killed at least 6 regime soldiers, and captured more than 10 firearms. The Fanos' surprise attack led to prolonged gunfire, resulting in casualties. Similarly, Fano fighters confronted regime soldiers returning from Genet-Abo to Gebeze-Mariam town. This confrontation lasted a long time, resulting in casualties on both sides, with two confirmed deaths reported from the Fano side. The number of killed and injured on the regime's side was described as numerous. Due to the confrontation involving heavy weaponry, almost all residents of Genet-Abo town were compelled to take refuge in remote and jungle areas. A civilian traveling from

Jiga to Quarit was reportedly shot and killed by regime soldiers. In addition, Fano fighters also carried out a sudden attack against regime soldiers inside Gebeze-Mariam town. Reports indicate that unknown number of soldiers were killed by the attack.

- After a heavy defeat in the middle of the week, regime soldiers completely withdrew from Quarit Woreda as of today. Over 15 convoys carrying regime soldiers and military equipment were seen leaving the woreda. Sources reported that the regime forces looted government and private properties, including banks, health stations, and clinics. They also took private vehicles found parked in Genet-Abo town. Following the regime's withdrawal, Fano entered Gebeze-Mariam town, the administrative center of Quarit Woreda.

Dega-Damot Woreda

- As of August 2nd, there are rumors that regime forces stationed in Dega-Damot Woreda plan to withdraw in the next few days. In another development, Amhara Fano in Gojjam graduated commando forces trained over the last few months, as evidenced by videos circulating on various social media outlets.

North Gojjam Zone

Bahir-Dar-Zuriya Woreda

- On July 30th, heavy fighting occurred in the Qimbaba area near Bahir-Dar city. The regime forces launched the fighting to suppress the Fano fighters entrenched there. Reports indicate that regime soldiers suffered human casualties, with sources noting that wounded soldiers were transported by ambulance to Felege-Giyon Hospital in Bahir-Dar city.

South Mecha Woreda

- On July 28th, Fano fighters carried out a surprise attack against the regime troops mobilized from Merawi to Wetet-Abay in search of Fano fighters. More than ten of the regime troops reportedly killed in this attack.

North Achefer Woreda

- On July 28th, Fano fighters carried out surprise attack on regime troops mobilized from Dangila, Durbete and Merawi to Liben town of North Achefer Woreda. It was reported that Fano fighters inflicted significant casualties against the regime troops.

East Gojjam Zone

Debre-Markos City

- On the night of July 28th, Fano fighters launched gunfire inside Debre-Markos. However no casualties have been reported so far.
- Over the last two days, there were frequent exchanges of gunfire in Debre-Markos city. On the night of August 1st, Fano fighters launched an attack, though the outcome is unknown. There was also gunfire at midday on August 2nd. On August 3rd, Fano fighters opened gunfire early in the morning in the Endegem area of Debre-Markos city, reportedly abducting three soldiers during the operation.

Bibugn Woreda

- On July 28th, there was fighting in Woyn-Wiha town of Bibugn Woreda. Fano fighters launched the attack entering into the regime's encampment. It was reported that Fano inflicted significant harm. Sources also reported that there was fighting around Digo-Tsiyon, administrative center of Bibugn Woreda. The details are yet to be identified.

Gozamin Woreda

- On August 3rd, there was a short-lived exchange of fire in the Fendiqa area. Regime soldiers, transported from Debre-Markos by civil truck vehicles, launched gunfire against Fano fighters at checkpoints. The regime soldiers reportedly killed two Fano members before returning to Debre-Markos after the brief confrontation.

Goncha-Siso-Enese Woreda

- On August 3rd, regime forces killed at least seven civilians in Chemo Kebele. The incident took place after Fano unexpectedly entered Chemo, where regime soldiers were encamped. The Fano fighters launched gunfire at around 6:00 p.m. in the evening, which led to casualties among regime soldiers. The fighting was short-lived, reportedly stopping within an hour. Following the confrontation with the Fano, the regime soldiers engaged in indiscriminate killing of unarmed civilians.

Bahir-Dar City

- The regime announced curfew and transportation restrictions in Bahir-Dar city since July 28th. The restriction includes the complete movement of motor-cycles, and time restrictions on taxi and bajaj services.
- On August 3rd, reports indicate that there was an exchange of gunfire in Bahir-Dar city. The fighting was initiated by Fano fighters around the Abay-Mado area. While the exact outcome remains unknown, Fano fighters claimed they inflicted significant harm on regime soldiers.

South Gonder Zone

- Intense fighting broke out across multiple locations this week. There was a particularly intense war which broke out starting from August 1st and lasting three

days which led to the Fano fighters gaining significant ground, pushing back regime forces and liberating key towns and strategic points. The Fano seized control of vital towns along the main road connecting Bahir-Dar to Gonder, including Nefas-Mewcha, Kimir-Dingaye, Gasay, and Debre-Tabor. These strategic victories have allowed them to launch further offensives against regime forces. Similarly, Fano forces have taken control of towns in the region, including Zenzelima, Hamusit, and Addis-Zemen.

- As of August 3rd, the Fano secured control of Ibnat town, Addis-Zemen town, and Wereta town for half a day. The Fano neutralized the regime forces stationed in Wereta. The Fano fighters were able to liberate Hamusit town, Tach-Gayint Woreda, Lay-Gayint Woreda, and Kimir-Dingay town. This string of victories inflicted significant losses on the regime's forces, with the 92nd Army Division alone suffering hundreds of casualties.

Fogera Woreda

- On July 28th, the Rib River overflowed its banks causing widespread devastation in Fogera Woreda. The floodwaters engulfed numerous kebeles situated near the river, displacing countless residents. Despite the severity of the disaster and the annual occurrence of flooding in the area, the regime failed to provide any meaningful aid or assistance to the displaced individuals leaving those affected by the flood to cope with the devastation on their own.
- As of August 3rd, conflict in the region continues to escalate, with fierce battles raging across multiple locations. In Fogera Woreda, intense fighting broke out in Wereta town since morning and lasting eight hours, involving Fano fighters and regime forces. Both sides suffered casualties, with the regime forces resorting to heavy weaponry and deliberately targeting bajaj drivers, resulting in their deaths.

The Fano, displaying tactical prowess, outmaneuvered the regime's attempts to encircle them, trapping the regime forces and inflicting heavy casualties.

Estie Woreda

- On July 28th, a sudden barrage of gunfire in Mekane-Eyesus town resulted in the deaths of members of riot dispersal forces. This incident sparked a retaliatory response from the regime's military forces, who turned their violence towards unarmed civilians. At least 3 farmers were killed in this attack, and heavy artillery was indiscriminately fired upon residential areas, endangering the lives of innocent people.
- In response to these atrocities, Fano fighters issued a stern warning to the 92nd army division, which had been deployed to Estie Woreda. They demanded an end to the indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas, emphasizing the repeated targeting of innocent people. The Fano fighters' warning highlighted the escalating conflict and the urgent need for the regime forces to cease their attacks against civilians.
- On July 30th, fighting took place across the Andabet (West Estie), East Estie, and Guna areas. The conflict, marked by intense fighting and significant casualties, underscored the escalating nature of the struggle for control.
- The fighting in Andabet, specifically in the Genetemaryam and Arota villages, was particularly brutal. The engagement began at 1:30 am and continued until 8:30 pm, highlighting the extended nature of the conflict. The regime forces, attempting to encircle the Fano strongholds, found themselves outmaneuvered and encircled, suffering substantial military losses. Sources confirmed the discovery of at least 6 dead regime soldiers.
- As the regime forces retreated to Arota town, they were ambushed by the Fano while traveling in a Casony vehicle. This attack resulted in the deaths of at least 13

regime soldiers, with over 22 others sustaining serious injuries. Enraged by their repeated setbacks, the regime forces, in a fit of vindictive rage, targeted civilians and infrastructure. They destroyed property belonging to a Chinese construction company and brutally murdered 3 unarmed civilians.

- The night of July 30th witnessed another decisive Fano victory, as they ambushed a regime force convoy moving from Andabet-Estie towards Bahir-Dar city. The ambush took place at Muqada village at around 10:00 am, inflicting further heavy losses on the regime forces. This string of successful engagements demonstrated the Fano's growing strength and the regime's waning control. The violence unleashed upon innocent civilians, however, highlighted the regime's desperate tactics and the consequences of this escalating conflict.
- Nigussu Werqe, a 17-year-old boy and resident of Mekane-Eyesus town, was brutally sodomized by members of the regime's forces. The young victim, who resided in Kebele 2 of the town was taken to a medical center.
- In the early hours of August 2nd, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on a large hall in Mekane-Eyesus town, where a significant number of regime militia forces were stationed. The attack involved a series of bomb blasts, followed by the use of RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades) to further damage the building. This coordinated assault resulted in heavy casualties among the militia forces.

Lay-Gayint and Tach-Gayint Woredas

- Security and intelligence personnel acting under orders of Colonel Juar forcibly dragged Judge Endale from his residence in Nefas-Mewcha town. He was subjected to a prolonged period of detention, during which he endured severe and brutal physical beatings. The exact location of his detention remains unknown. After this horrific ordeal, Judge Endale was found abandoned near the Nefas-Mewcha police

station, his body bearing the visible marks of the torture he had suffered. The cruelty inflicted upon him was further compounded by the use of nettle leaves to gag his mouth. These leaves, known for their potent stinging power, caused intense burning and pain to his tongue. This act of barbarity highlights the callous disregard for human dignity displayed by the security forces.

- On August 2nd, intense fighting erupted across the eastern areas of Guna, marking a significant escalation in the conflict. Battles raged from Kimir-Dingaye town in the south, all the way north to the Tach-Gayint Woreda administrative center, Arb-Gebeya.
- In Lay-Gayint Woreda, fierce fighting occurred on the outskirts of Nefas-Mewcha town. Meanwhile, in Tach-Gayint, the battle for Arb-Gebeya escalated, with regime forces indiscriminately firing ZU-23 guns. The Fano launched a four-pronged offensive, attacking Arb-Gebeya from four directions: Mashilut, Gebeta-Dingay, Awnda, and Chewoch-Anba. The regime forces suffered heavy casualties in these engagements.
- In Kimir-Dingaye, the fighting was so intense that it blocked the main road connecting Debre-Tabor city to Nefas-Mewcha. By the afternoon, however, the Fano had achieved a decisive victory, regaining complete control of Tach-Gayint Woreda. The regime forces were forced to retreat from Arb-Gebeya to Debre-Tabor, abandoning their dead and wounded comrades.
- The Fano's success continued in Lay-Gayint Woreda, where they reoccupied the entire district. They are now conducting mopping-up operations, targeting any remaining regime forces using military tactics to isolate and eliminate them.
- This significant shift in momentum indicates a potential turning point in the conflict, with the Fano gaining ground and pushing back the regime forces.

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- Following a decisive two-day offensive launched on August 2nd, Fano forces successfully liberated Lay-Gayint and Tach-Gayint Woredas.
 - Memhir Simegnew Mebratu, a renowned educator in Tach-Gayint Woreda, lost his life while fighting for the freedom of the Amhara people. He was a beloved figure in the community, having dedicated his life to education and service. Memhir Simegnew taught in Tach-Gayint Woreda from 1979 to 2015 EC, playing a pivotal role in establishing the first school in the district and even establishing a special needs department for visually-impaired students, using his own funds to support the initiative. Known for his generosity, Memhir Simegnew often distributed his entire salary to those in need and was actively involved in political movements, including the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and the National Movement of Amhara (NaMA). He joined the Fano movement with unwavering commitment and served as a valuable advisor for 13 months, even while battling health challenges. His dedication to the cause led him to the frontlines where he bravely fought against regime forces on August 2nd, ultimately sacrificing his life. This battle resulted in heavy casualties for regime forces, with over 70 soldiers and militia members killed. The Fano, while celebrating their victory, mourned the loss of two fighters.

Simada Woreda

- The brutal fighting that engulfed Wegeda town on July 25th and 26th, left a trail of devastation and suffering in its wake. Civilians bore the brunt of the regime forces' indiscriminate attacks, their homes, businesses, and livelihoods destroyed.
- Among the victims were:
 - Awoke Kitaw: His ox, a vital tool for farming, was killed by a mortar shell, crippling his ability to provide for his family.

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- Fikre Agegn: He sustained critical injuries, leaving him with a bleak future and adding to the growing number of victims of the conflict.
 - Tsegaye Melku: His home was destroyed by the regime’s barrage of fire, leaving him and his family homeless and facing a desperate struggle to rebuild their lives.
 - Mulatu Yalew, Kasim Muhe, Mohamed Suriyan, and Moges Melku: These individuals lost their livelihoods when their clothing shops were destroyed by the regime’s attacks, leaving them jobless and facing financial ruin.
- The regime’s brutality extended beyond physical destruction, targeting those who sought to alleviate the suffering caused by their violence. The regime forces accused Wegeda Hospital medical workers of treating injured Fano members, subjecting them to mistreatment and detention.
 - Weretaw Molla, a medical professional at Wegeda Hospital, was detained for allegedly providing medical care to Fano fighters, highlighting the regime’s blatant disregard for humanitarian principles. In addition, numerous patients who had been admitted to the hospital, seeking treatment for injuries sustained during the fighting, were forcibly evacuated.

Dera Woreda

- On July 31st, a fierce battle erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces on the outskirts of Hamusit town, specifically in Shobli. The Fano launched a surprise attack against regime soldiers traveling in military trucks, inflicting heavy casualties. This engagement was part of a larger military deployment aimed at reinforcing the regime’s forces around Gonder city. A convoy of seven Casony trucks carrying soldiers was moving from Bahir-Dar towards Gonder, two of which were covered with canvas covers. The Fano’s ambush, however, disrupted this deployment.

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- On August 3rd, the fighting in Hamusit town was particularly intense, lasting from 3:30 am to 5:30 am, resulting in the deaths of at least 6 regime soldiers and the capture of 4 others. The regime forces also sustained losses in the outskirts of Hamusit town, specifically in Gumara and Nech-Afer villages.
 - The Fano's relentless pressure has forced the regime to retreat from several locations. On the night of August 3rd, regime forces stationed in Ambesame left the town following heavy losses inflicted by the Fano. Similarly, the military forces stationed in Hamusit evacuated their camp overnight.

Debre-Tabor City

- On August 3rd, Fano fighters launched a four-pronged offensive against regime forces stationed in Debre-Tabor city. The attack was a coordinated effort, targeting the city from multiple directions:
 - *Mahdere-Maryam towards Debre-Tabor*: This attack aimed at directly engaging the regime forces from the north.
 - *Gasay direction via Debre-Tabor University*: This attack targeted the university campus and sought to disrupt the regime's presence in the academic institution.
 - *Tsegur-Kidanemihret in the Gonder direction*: This attack focused on the Tsegur Kidanemihret neighborhood and aimed to control key strategic points in the city.
 - *Ayer-Marefiya or Ibnat direction*: This attack targeted the city from the west, seeking to encircle the regime forces.
- The fighting in the Tsegur-Kidanemihret neighborhood, also known as Melo, was particularly fierce. The Fano successfully took control of Kebele 4, a significant part

of the city, and destroyed the second police station. The Fano also released a large number of individuals who were detained at the station, potentially signaling a change in power dynamics in the area.

- In the attack on the university campus, the Fano forces managed to seize control of the militia forces' camp, inflicting heavy losses on the militia. The Fano's decisive actions demonstrated their strength and tactical skill, disrupting the regime's control of key locations in Debre-Tabor.
- The regime forces retaliated with heavy artillery fire, launching rockets and utilizing artillery batteries positioned on Eyesus Mountain to bombard Tsegur-Kidanemihret. While the regime's desperate attempts to maintain control involved indiscriminate attacks, the Fano's unrelenting pressure resulted in significant casualties, including the deaths and injuries of high-ranking military officers.
- This offensive marks a significant escalation in the conflict, with the Fano showing their ability to wage a coordinated and effective attack on a major city. The fighting in Debre-Tabor will likely continue, as the regime seeks to regain control of the city and maintain its authority in the region.
- Despite using rocket launchers and heavy artillery batteries positioned on Eyesus Mountain, regime forces suffered significant losses. Over 50 injured soldiers were admitted to Debre-Tabor Hospital, with 3 dying upon arrival and 12 critically injured in intensive care. The regime forces have been forced to collect their dead and wounded soldiers, their exact number unknown. Some Fano fighters were also reportedly killed in the fighting.
- The deaths of Fano members triggered residents of Debre-Tabor to halt all transportation in the city on August 4th to participate in their funeral ceremonies.

Libo-Kemkem Woreda

- On August 3rd the Fano launched an offensive in Addis-Zemen town from the direction of Ibbat. The battle for Addis-Zemen also raged for 12 hours, with the Fano capturing key locations like Tewodros Square, Menehariay, Medhanialem, and Geter-Wereda villages.

Ibbat Woreda

- Fighting in Ibbat town took place on August 3rd lasting 12 hours from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. The regime forces suffered heavy losses, especially among the militia units. The Fano captured the Ibbat police station and seized all weapons stored in the armory.

Central Gonder Zone

- Intense clashes erupted on July 31st, between Fano fighters and regime forces across multiple locations in Central Gonder Zone. The fighting was particularly fierce in East Dembiya and West Dembiya Woredas.
- In East Dembiya, the conflict extended from Guramba and Dembiya-Robit to Qoladiba town, where the Fano ultimately gained control after prolonged fighting. In West Dembiya, Fano forces successfully entered Chuahit, the woreda administrative center, and launched a heavy attack on the Semercha military camp, a large base housing regular army, riot police, and militia units.
- The fighting also spread to Gonder city, particularly in Azezo where intense clashes erupted along the Dimaza River, supported by heavy weaponry from both sides. Further fighting occurred in Tseda sub-city, with a particularly fierce battle at the Megech reservoir river resulting in significant casualties among regime forces.

Despite attempts by the regime to encircle the Fano, they were instead outmaneuvered and suffered heavy losses.

- The regime responded with heavy artillery which is called General artillery fire, causing damage to a church and a school. The fighting stretched from Aba-Samuel to the Dashen beer factory, lasting into the evening. In the eastern part of the city, along the Angereb River, clashes continued until 3:30 pm.
- The July 31st, fighting resulted in hundreds of soldiers killed and injured. The violence was extreme, with civilians being targeted by the regime forces. Heavy weaponry was used on both sides, including ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, general artillery, heavy machineguns, and mortars particularly by regime forces. The fierce fighting forced the majority of the residents of Guramba, Achera, and Dablo Kebeles to flee their homes. Following their departure, the Fano withdrew from Guramba and surrounding villages, intending to mitigate attacks on civilians by regime forces. However, emboldened with the departure of the Fano fighters from Guramba Kebele, the regime conducted a massacre against civilians and they killed an 84-year-old elderly man in Guramba. They were engaged in targeting elderly individuals who were unable to escape by fleeing with their families. Over seven heavy military trucks were used to transport the bodies of the fallen regime soldiers, highlighting the significant losses suffered by the regime. Experienced military commanders, including at least four officers, were also killed in the July 31st fighting.
- In fighting in Megech, Fano forces captured over 30 regular soldiers. On August 1st, fighting also spread to Belessa and Wogera Woredas. In Chilga Woreda, Fano fighters ambushed a regime patrol near Aykel town, burning the patrol vehicle and killing the majority of the soldiers on board. The remaining soldiers sustained critical injuries.

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- The ongoing conflict in Central Gonder has resulted in extensive civilian casualties. Reliable sources confirm that at least 80 civilians have been killed by regime allied forces in a series of massacres across Abba-Libanos, Guramba, Arba-Medhanialem, and Robit. The victims were primarily elderly individuals, people with mental disabilities, and those who were unable to flee the conflict zone, making them easy targets for the regime's retaliatory actions. The regime forces, seeking vengeance for their heavy losses inflicted by Fano fighters, have specifically targeted these vulnerable populations.
 - In Robit town alone, 15 unarmed civilians were killed, including two individuals with mental disabilities. Moreover, over 70 houses and shops in Robit town were looted by the regime forces, with militia units specifically targeting personal belongings such as sickles, necklaces, and jewelry.
 - The fighting in this region involves multiple groups:
 - *Samri Killing Squad*: A group of over 700 fighters, repatriated from Sudan, trained extensively in Sereba-Chilga by the regime, and deployed to East and West Dembiya. Their presence was confirmed by captured Samri members.
 - *Newly Deployed Forces from Wollega (western Oromia Region)*: Members of the 13th Army Division, specifically trained in anti-guerilla warfare against the Fano at the Bir-Sheleko military training center.
 - *Forces from the GERD*: Military personnel deployed to guard the GERD in Benishangul-Gumuz have been redeployed to combat the Fano.
 - *Regional State Forces*: A combination of riot dispersal forces, state militia, and regular police.
 - The intensity of the fighting is evident in the ongoing clashes around Dembiya-Robit, where Fano fighters have regained control after intense battles with

the regime's forces. The use of heavy weapons, like ZU-23 guns, in the outskirts of Qoladiba town further emphasizes the brutality of the conflict.

Gonder City

- Enumar, a hotelier in Azezo sub-city, was tragically murdered by regime militia forces under false accusations. They alleged that she had played music in her hotel that expressed support for the Fano. The attack was brutal, with Enumar being shot multiple times. She was rushed to Gonder Referral Hospital for treatment, but despite efforts of medical professionals, she succumbed to her injuries on July 28th.
- Since the evening of July 31st, fierce fighting has been ongoing between the Fano fighters and regime forces in Gonder city from three different directions. In the western part of the city, battles took place from Gonder Atse Tewodros Airport to the Azezo Central military command. The fighting has been occurring very close to the main central command, within a 50-meter radius, and involves the use of heavy weapons. In the eastern part of the city, the fighting extended from the Angereb reservoir river to Defecha-Kidanemihret village. These battles are a continuation of fighting that started in East and West Dembiya Woreda, where regime forces were pushed back by Fano fighters.

Alefa-Takusa Woreda

- On July 28th, a fierce battle erupted in Shawra, specifically at the exit towards Quara. The fighting was intense, resulting in significant casualties for the regime forces. Numerous injured soldiers were transported to Shawra hospital, a grim testament to the severity of the conflict. The battle underscores the ongoing struggle in the region and the heavy toll it continues to take on those involved.
- On July 31st, fierce fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in

Delgi town, specifically in two locations: Mekonta Vocational and Technical School and Gibera Secondary High School. The clashes lasted for half a day, leaving a trail of destruction and fear.

- In the aftermath of the fighting, regime forces, under the false pretense of the civilians being strong supporters of the Fano and providing them with information, targeted and killed innocent individuals. These acts of violence, carried out in the name of security, were a stark violation of human rights and a cruel reminder of the brutality that characterized the conflict.
- This incident serves as a chilling reminder of the devastating consequences of the ongoing conflict in Alefa-Takusa Woreda, where innocent lives are caught in the crossfire of a brutal war.
- On August 2nd, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in three separate locations within Alefa, continuing a pattern of conflict that has persisted since the morning. These locations were Abede-Maryam Kebele, Shawra-Tara-Mikael, and Shawra town, at the exit way to Qwara Woreda. This ongoing clash highlights the widespread nature of the conflict and the persistent tension in the region.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On July 30th, Andinet Zemene, the young son of Zemene Mihret, was transferred from Azezo Central Military Command to Maksegnit Police Station, six days after being taken hostage by regime forces. The child's abduction was orchestrated in collaboration with high-ranking regional state officials, with the sole purpose of coercing Zemene Mihret into surrendering to the regime.
- The transfer of Andinet to the Maksegnit police station was prompted by mounting public pressure on Gonder-Zuriya Woreda officials. Repeated allegations had

surfaced, accusing these officials of being complicit with the regime and military forces in the abduction of children as a means of pressuring their fathers fighting on the front lines. The public scrutiny and shame surrounding these allegations forced officials to exert pressure on the military commanders, leading to Andinet's transfer. During his time under captivity by the generals, Andinet was subjected to a relentless campaign of psychological manipulation and trauma. He was repeatedly fed false and inflammatory narratives about his father, portraying him as a "cruel monster" who killed and drank the blood of his victims. These lies were intended to poison Andinet's perception of his father and undermine his reputation. The 13-year-old boy, a victim of the regime's ruthless tactics, continues to be held captive.

- On the night of August 1st, gunfire broke out in a small border town called Arno-Gari, situated between Central Gonder and South Gonder Zones. Tragically, numerous farmers were killed by regime forces during this exchange of fire.

East Belessa Woreda

- On July 30th, Fano fighters announced that they had captured six regime militias. These militiamen were dispatched with the intention of stealing cattle from local communities and falsely attributing the thefts to Fano fighters to tarnish their reputation. The six individuals were caught along with the stolen cattle, which were taken from locals.
- On July 31st, a fierce battle erupted in East Belessa Woreda, specifically in Chuarqa village, between Fano fighters and regime forces. The Fano emerged victorious, inflicting heavy casualties on the regime forces and destroying a military truck.
- The fighting was sparked by a preemptive strike launched by the Fano. Intelligence had reached them that the regime forces were planning to ambush the Fano while

they were engaged in a ceremony marking the establishment of a new Fano brigade in the woreda. Anticipating the attack, the Fano launched a surprise counteroffensive, catching the regime forces off guard and dealing them a significant blow.

- The success of the Fano in this battle highlights their strategic thinking and ability to swiftly respond to threats. It also underlines the resilience and fighting spirit of the Fano in their struggle against the regime.

East and West Dembiya Woredas

- On July 31st, intense fighting broke out between Fano fighters and regime forces in Central Gonder Zone, specifically at three locations. The battles in East and West Dembiya Woredas were particularly fierce, resulting in significant casualties among regime soldiers. In East Dembiya Woreda, fighting began at 12:30 am local time in the early morning at Guramba Kebele. The regime forces deployed armored military vehicles, heavy machineguns, and mortars. Reinforcement forces were sent from the Azezo Central Military Command to Guramba. Due to intense fighting, many residents of Guramba were displaced from their homes.
- The majority of the soldiers deployed in Dembiya were Tigrayan. The regime reinforced their forces in Gonder by air, deploying special commandos and troops via Gonder Atse Tewodrose Airport using three large Antonov planes on July 31st. On August 1st, more than 10 flights have been made to Gonder transporting special commando forces deployed to Gonder city.
- On August 1st, the fighting shifted to Dembiya, with intense battles at Debre-Birhan Kebele (traditionally known as Aroge-Megech) and continuing clashes in Guramba Kebele. In East Dembiya, fighting continued for a second day in Achera, Aroge-Megech, and Robit.

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- In West Dembiya Woreda, Fano fighters launched a surprise and devastating attack on regime forces near Chuahit town early in the morning. They targeted a military camp in Semercha, inflicting heavy casualties on the stationed regime forces. After the attack, the surviving soldiers scattered to Fez-Meda village. Following this, the Fano fighters infiltrated Chuahit town in significant numbers. They were seen in Mesgid and Menehariya villages, which are in the interior part of the town. By the afternoon, Fano fighters had left the town. The regime forces, who had been deployed from Gorgora to assist their comrades in Chuahit town, were repelled by the Fano fighters in Abreja village and retreated back to Gorgora.
 - The afternoon of August 2nd witnessed fierce fighting that resulted in heavy losses on the regime forces. The Fano fighters inflicted significant casualties, killing a large number of regime soldiers and leaving many more critically injured. Adding to the regime's losses, over 35 soldiers were captured by the Fano.
 - The ongoing conflict between the Fano fighters and regime forces has escalated dramatically, with the regime suffering significant losses during the intense fighting on August 2nd and 3rd.
 - The scale of the regime's casualties is evident in the sight of six heavy military trucks transporting dead and injured soldiers to Gonder city on the afternoon of August 3rd alone. Adding to the losses, over 45 soldiers were captured by the Fano, along with their military equipment.
 - The regime's brutality has reached horrifying levels, with confirmed reports of war crimes committed in Robit town. Over 90 civilians were massacred, with regime forces specifically targeting the elderly. The regime forces also committed acts of sexual violence against numerous women in the town.
 - The extent of the regime's atrocities is deeply disturbing, highlighting their

disregard for human life and their willingness to commit heinous acts against civilians. The situation calls for urgent action to hold the perpetrators accountable for these crimes and protect civilians caught in the crossfire.

Wogera Woreda

- On August 3rd, intense fighting erupted near Amba-Giyorgis town, specifically in Werqedemo Kebele. The Fano fighters engaged the regime forces in a fierce battle, resulting in a decisive victory for the Fano.
- The Fano captured a significant number of regime soldiers and the fighting also led to the destruction of a regime military convoy, resulting in the deaths of numerous soldiers on board.

Welkait-Tegede-Setit-Humera Zone

- On July 29th, General Workneh Gudeta, the regime's military commander in Humera, convened a meeting with the residents of the Welkait area. He attempted to quell growing anxieties about the potential for forced repatriation of IDPs from Tigray into the region. General Gudeta assured residents that they had not received orders to relocate IDPs to Welkait, claiming that their orders only extended to Telemt and Raya-Alamata. He urged them to cease preparations for any resistance, stating that their defensive measures were perceived as a threat.
- One woman, emboldened by the general's pretentious statement, raised a crucial question: "*If you are ordered to repatriate IDPs to Welkait in the future, what will you do after we dismantle our preparations?*" General Gudeta, seemingly seeking to calm the situation, responded that if such an order were received, they would hold a conversation with residents before taking any action and that they would not act unilaterally. However, despite these assurances, a significant number of military

trucks, loaded with heavy weaponry, were observed traveling from Gonder city towards Welkait on July 29th. This movement of military equipment contradicted the general's claims and raised serious concerns about the regime's true intentions, casting doubt on the sincerity of their assurances and raising fears that forced repatriation might be imminent.

North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)

Fiche Town

- On August 3rd, two people were killed and dozens of travelers were abducted by OLA militants near Fiche town. The victims were traveling from Bahir-Dar to Addis-Ababa. This marks the third round of abductions targeting ethnic Amhara travelers within the last month.

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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