



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – December 16th to 22nd, 2024

Updated December 22nd, 2024

Overview

For the week of December 16th to 22nd, 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.¹

- This week battle events and rights violations were recorded in 52 woreda/city administrations across 12 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These zones included the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, Bahir-Dar city, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder, West Gonder and North Gonder Zones. Developments were also recorded in Addis-Ababa city, and Wollega sub-region, East Shewa and East Arsi Zones of Oromia Region.
- Events were recorded in over 10 urban administrations across 7 zonal administrations. These urban administrations included Kobo, Woldia, Alamata,

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

Dessie, Debre-Birhan, Shewa-Robit, Debre-Markos, Bahir-Dar, Debre-Tabor, Gonder cities in the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, Bahir-Dar city, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones.

- Civilian casualties were recorded in 13 woreda/city administrations across 6 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Woldia, Gidan, Amhara-Sayint, Wogdi, Kewet, Menz-Mam-Midir, Merhabete, Moretina-Jiru, Baso-Liben, Jabi-Tehnan, Sekela, Dembecha and East Dembiya Woredas in the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam and Central Gonder Zones.
- Widespread arrests were reported in 4 woreda administrations in 2 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These include Kelela, Simada, Lay-Gayint and Ibnat Woredas of South Wollo and South Gonder Zones.
- Regime forces coerced residents to attend rallies in Simada Woreda and Debre-Tabor city of South Gonder Zone. In various woredas of North Shewa Zone, residents held demonstrations in support of Fano forces.

North Wollo Zone

- On December 21st, the Amhara Fano in Wollo issued a press statement addressing the grave humanitarian crisis in Bugna Woreda, urging for international humanitarian support.²
 - The statement highlighted the worsening emergency and looming famine risks in Bete-Amhara due to the escalating siege and blockade imposed by the regime.
 - Fano forces pledged to cooperate with international partners, ensuring the safety of humanitarian workers and facilitating the passage of relief efforts.

²See December 22nd, 2024 [statement](#) from the Amhara Fano in Wollo.

Demonstrations Planned

- The regime has scheduled demonstrations across various parts of the Amhara Region on December 18th, including in North Shewa, South Wollo, and North Wollo Zones.
- Reports indicate that the regime is coercing civilians into attending these demonstrations, with threats of punishment for non-compliance. Regime cadres are reportedly conducting door-to-door operations targeting suspected Fano sympathizers.

Wadla Woreda

- Between December 16th and 17th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Asaminew Division launched a surprise attack against regime militias in Hamusit town. Multiple regime militia members were killed and injured in the attack.
- On December 18th, fierce fighting broke out in Gashena town, a strategically important area. The regime forced vehicle drivers to participate in forced demonstrations. The battle disrupted the demonstration organized by the regime in the town.

Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On the afternoon of December 17th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Zobel-Amba Division, launched a successful attack against regime forces in Menjelo, a strategic location on the road connecting Addis-Ababa, Woldia and Kobo cities. The attack escalated into conventional warfare, inflicting heavy damage on regime forces.
- On December 17th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Hawjano Division ambushed regime forces in Bewa, causing significant casualties among regime forces.

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- On December 18th, intense battles occurred in Gobiye and Menjelo, along the main road connecting Woldia and Kobo.
 - On the night of December 21st, an armed clash took place between Amhara Fano in Wollo and regime forces in Walka-Mender. The exact casualties from this clash remain unconfirmed.

Woldia City

- Repeated bomb explosions occurred in the Woldia city administration, administrative center of North Wollo Zone, between the night of December 17th and the morning of December 18th.
 - The explosions were carried out by unidentified forces in areas such as Gonder-Ber, Piazza, Mugad, and other locations, resulting in casualties among regime forces.
 - On December 18th, regime forces attempted to organize a forced demonstration in Woldia city. Despite threatening individuals receiving humanitarian aid from the regime to participate in the demonstration, the effort was unsuccessful. Most people remained in their homes, and transportation services were unavailable.
 - Besides this, fighting broke out between the Amhara Fano in Wollo and regime forces in Mechare, Stadium, Wudmen, and surrounding areas. Several regime forces were killed and injured in the clashes.
 - The bomb explosions appeared to target the coordinators of the forced demonstration and regime forces, resulting in additional casualties.
- Civil servants have been threatened by the regime for not attending the forced demonstration scheduled for December 18th.

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- On the morning of December 19th, fierce fighting erupted in Woldia and surrounding areas, with heavy weapons being used in locations such as Sadium, Jeneto-Ber, and other areas.
 - Civilians have been impacted by bomb explosions on December 18th, in Woldia City. There are suspicions that regime forces may be responsible for preparing the bomb explosions.

Habru Woreda

- On December 18th, conflict spread to Mersa town, located along the road connecting Dessie and Woldia cities. Gunfire was heard early in the morning.

Bugna Woreda

- Several media outlets and human rights activists are urging humanitarian organizations to address the drought and food shortage in Bugna Woreda.
 - For instance, BBC Amharic reported that over 10,000 people, including children under five years old, have been affected by the ongoing drought and food scarcity.³
 - The situation has become increasingly severe, with the potential for devastating consequences, especially for children.
 - Victims in the area have called on humanitarian organizations and human rights advocates to intervene and save the lives of their children.
 - However, the regime has failed to fulfill its responsibility of ensuring the distribution of essential food aid to those in need.

³See December 17, 2024 [report](#) from BBC Amharic (English translation [here](#)).

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- The regime has also been preventing humanitarian organizations from assisting the victims, citing that the area is controlled by Fano fighters and that aid would be diverted to their forces.

Raya-Alamata Woreda

- In Raya-Alamata, students have been prohibited from attending school due to ongoing political and military tensions.
 - Between December 16th and 17th, students were registered and prepared to resume their education. However, the regime’s military command post issued an order that effectively halted their attendance.
 - Sources suggest that this decision was influenced by both *Tigray People’s Liberation Front* (TPLF) soldiers and regime military commanders in the area.
 - TPLF soldiers reportedly attempted to impose the use of Tigrigna as the language of instruction in schools. However, students resisted this policy, advocating instead for education in their mother tongue, Amharic. This struggle has further contributed to the disruption of education in the area.

Gidan Woreda

- On December 20th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo successfully repelled an offensive by the regime’s military in the Beklo-Manekiya area.
 - The regime forces initiated an assault to seize control of Beklo-Manekiya, a strategically important location, at approximately 2 pm. The battle intensified and continued until around 5 pm.
 - Despite the regime’s efforts, the Amhara Fano in Wollo East Amhara Cops 2 Zobel-Amba Division, and the 6th Battalion unit, successfully defended the area and thwarted the regime’s offensive.

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- As a result, regime forces suffered significant casualties, with several killed and wounded. Unable to hold their position, they were forced to retreat.
 - Unfortunately, the regime’s indiscriminate artillery bombardment caused civilian casualties, including the death of a child in Beklo-Manekiya.
 - On December 21st, regime forces continued their artillery shelling in the area, further endangering civilian lives.
 - As of December 21st, the number of civilian casualties in Gidan Woreda has increased to three. After facing heavy resistance from the Amhara Fano in Wollo, regime forces killed three civilians as they retreated from the area.

South Wollo Zone

Amhara-Sayint Woreda

- Since December 15th, an intense battle unfolded between the Amhara Fano in Wollo Western Wollo Corps, Amhara-Sayint-Mekdela Division’s Tabor-Terara Brigade, and regime forces spanning from Asheгна to Shola.
 - The operation was undertaken under a broader campaign called “*Shaleqa Sayed Alemiye*”.
 - Fano forces inflicted severe casualties on regime forces.
 - However, regime forces retaliated, killing 5 civilians. The death toll among civilians may rise.
- Between December 16th and 18th, heavy fighting erupted between the Amhara Fano in Wollo, Western Wollo Corps, Amhara-Sayint-Mekdela Division and regime forces. This fighting led to casualties, particularly in areas such as Tedibabe-Mariam.

Kelela Woreda

- Between December 14th and 15th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo Western Wollo Corps Nigus Mikael Division's Beto Brigade, carried out multiple guerrilla attacks against joint regime forces, including militias, riot dispersal, and ENDF, especially in Endaye.
 - In the course of these battles, it is reported that over 34 regime forces were killed or injured.
 - In retaliation, regime forces abducted 2 farmers who were engaged in agricultural activities (collecting crops) on their farmland.
- Farmers have accused the regime of misusing their images for false purposes.
 - According to the farmers, during a meeting with the regime about soil fertilizer, their pictures were taken without their consent.
 - The regime subsequently reported that over 154 members of “*extremist groups*” had surrendered in response to the regime's call for peace.
 - The farmers discovered this news when they returned home after the meeting, and they have since accused the regime of fabricating the report to mislead the public.

Wogdi Woreda

- Since December 13th, fierce fighting has continued in multiple areas of Wogdi Woreda, particularly in Gorenji, where regime forces have used heavy artillery.⁴
 - Regime forces killed one farmer who was working in his field and prevented his family from holding a funeral.

⁴See December 17, 2024 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

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- Regime forces killed 7 family members, including women and children, who had come to pay respects.
 - The casualty count has risen to 14 over the past four days.

Dessie City

- On December 18th, the regime conducted a forced demonstration in the Dessie city administration.
 - Tragically, health professionals were forced to abandon their duties at local hospitals to join the demonstration, endangering patients as hospitals suffered shortages of medical staff.
 - Reports indicate that the regime attempted to force children under the age of 18 to participate in the demonstration.
 - Those who refused to join the demonstration faced severe measures from the regime, including the revocation of certificates, particularly affecting private health centers.
 - In addition, multiple bomb explosions occurred in various parts of Dessie city between the night of December 17th and the morning of December 18th, including areas such as Robit, Dewuy-Meda, and around the residence of the mayor of the city administration.

North Shewa Zone

Statement from the Amhara Fano Shewa Command (December 16th, 2024)

- On December 16th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command issued an urgent statement, announcing the closure of all roads in the Shewa sub-region from December 17th to 19th. The closure is intended to facilitate military and political operations. Fano forces called on the local population to comply with the order.

Demonstrations and Clashes

- On December 18th, demonstrations in support of Fano fighters and against regime forces took place in various parts of North Shewa Zone, including Tarma-Ber, Kewet, and Ankober Woredas, which are under the control of Fano forces.
 - During these demonstrations, messages condemning the regime were voiced, including “*Abiy Ahmed is a black Hitler*”, condemning regime soldiers for committing rape, and calls for the removal of regime forces from Amhara Region.
 - These demonstrations occurred as the regime attempted to organize forced demonstrations in various areas of the region.
- On December 19th, large-scale demonstrations in support of Fano fighters took place across several areas, primarily those under the control of the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command. Key locations for these demonstrations included Mojana-Wadera, Menz-Mam-Midir, and Menz-Lalo-Midir areas.

Kewet Woreda

- On December 16th, fierce fighting erupted in multiple parts of Kewet Woreda between the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command’s Rambo Division and regime forces.
 - The most intense clashes occurred in areas like Yelen town and Balchi.
 - The regime forces carried out indiscriminate artillery shelling from Shewa-Robit city administration into several areas, including Insirtu Mountain, resulting in civilian casualties. At least 2 civilians were killed in Balchi due to this artillery attack.

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- On December 17th, regime forces were encircled by the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command in the Yelen-Goddguada Sihan-Mikael area.
 - Despite strong resistance, regime forces were able to retreat with heavy cover from artillery.
 - 5 civilians have been confirmed dead due to the ongoing fighting.
 - The regime’s artillery shelling has caused significant destruction, particularly damaging farmers’ crops.
 - Regime forces have also launched indiscriminate artillery attacks in Yelen, Balchi, Marye, and Insirtu mountains.

 - On December 22nd, regime forces launched indiscriminate artillery shelling on Rasa, an area near Shewa-Robit city.
 - The artillery shelling is suspected to have caused significant civilian casualties and property damage, however, the exact toll remains unconfirmed at this time.
 - The Rasa area is known as the origin of the late Eshete Moges and his son Yitagesu Eshete, who were killed during the invasion of Amhara Region by TPLF.

Basona-Werana Woreda

- On December 16th, intense fighting broke out between Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command and regime forces in the Ataklt Abo area, near Debre-Birhan city. The fighting occurred between 7 and 8 pm. Following a strong counterattack by Fano forces, the regime was forced to retreat to Debre-Birhan city.

Ankober Woreda

- On December 17th, active fighting spread across vast areas of Shewa, including Ankober, with key confrontations occurring in Dibat and Bedele Kebeles.
 - The war began when regime forces attempted to reopen roads closed by the Amhara Fano Shewa Command.
 - Fano forces launched a powerful counteroffensive, forcing regime forces to retreat to Debre-Birhan city.

Menz-Mam-Midir Woreda

- On December 16th, a fierce battle erupted between regime forces and the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command in Molale, near Megenteya, and along the Bash road. Regime artillery attacks have destroyed crops and caused civilian casualties. The exact number of civilian fatalities remains unconfirmed.
- On December 17th, the regime carried out extrajudicial killings in several kebeles of Menz-Mam-Midir Woreda.
 - In Angawa Kebele, regime forces captured Ato Girma Bashaheder, a father of children and mill owner; Ato Birara Tagel, a veterinarian; and another civilian, an agricultural extension officer. The victims were then taken to Molale town, where they were forced to transfer money to the regime military commander through banks.
 - Later, they were transported to Mofar-Wuha, where they were brutally executed and left for dead. The regime claimed the individuals were providing logistical support to Fano forces.
- On December 22nd, at around 10 am, a fierce battle occurred between the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command and regime forces in Retmet Kebele. During this

clash, crops belonging to a local named Ato Bisrat (father's name unknown) were destroyed by regime forces.

Merhabete Woreda

- On the night of December 17th, repeated bomb explosions and attacks targeted regime forces' camps in Alem-Ketema town, carried out by members of the Amhara Fano Shewa Command.
- On the night of December 21st, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command's Nadew Division ambushed the regime forces' camps in Alem-Ketema, the center of Merhabete Woreda.
 - The offensive targeted the regime forces' strongholds at the vocational and technical college and surrounding areas.
 - Casualties from this attack included: 10 regime forces killed, 5 injured, and two which surrendered. On the Fano side, 1 fighter was killed and 3 were injured.
 - The vocational and technical college suffered significant damage.
 - In addition, 1 civilian was killed during the clash.

Debre-Birhan City

- On the night of December 17th, a bomb explosion occurred in Kebele 3 of Atse Menelik sub-city, targeting regime police and militia members who were coordinating a forced demonstration. This attack was attributed to members of the Amhara Fano Shewa Command.

Shewa-Robit City

- From the night of December 18th to 19th, gunfire was heard in Shewa-Robit city. Casualty reports remain unconfirmed at this time.

Moretina-Jiru Woreda

- On December 19th, intense fighting erupted between the Amhara Fano Shewa Command's Negodguad Division and regime forces in Jihur.
 - The regime forces, having moved from Enewari town, launched an attack aimed at taking control of Jihur.
 - However, a joint defense by Fano forces successfully repelled the regime forces and prevented their advance into Jihur.
 - In retaliation for the defeat, regime forces carried out extrajudicial killings of two local farmers and set fire to their crops, further exacerbating the suffering of the civilian population.

Antsokiyana-Gemza Woreda

- On December 22nd, a fierce battle broke out between the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command and regime forces around 1 pm in Majete town.
 - The conflict started as regime forces attempted to enter Majete town.
 - Despite the attempt to advance, regime forces were forced to retreat due to strong resistance and counter-offensive from the Fano forces.

East Gojjam Zone

- Over the past two days, regime forces have intensified efforts to intimidate residents across numerous towns and cities within Gojjam sub-region.

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- They are orchestrating demonstrations designed to depict regime soldiers as symbols of peace while simultaneously condemning Fano fighters, labeling them as anti-peace militants.
 - Accounts from various communities reveal that regime command posts have resorted to a range of coercive tactics to enforce participation in these events.
 - Among these measures, soldiers have issued warnings to public servants, stating that those who fail to join the demonstrations would be denied salary payment.

Enbese-Sar-Midir Woreda

- On the afternoon of December 16th, intense gunfire erupted in the Merto-Lemariam town neighborhood.
 - Sources indicate that the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Samuel Aweke Division's Abay-Sheleqo Brigade initiated the fighting by attacking regime soldiers in the Dibo area.
 - The fighting was reportedly fierce, resulting in numerous casualties among regime forces.
 - Reports suggest that regime soldiers were compelled to withdraw from at least four forts and retreated to Merto-Lemariam by evening. Fano fighters pursued them, continuing the clash at the entrance of Merto-Lemariam town.
 - Fano claims indicate that several regime soldiers were killed or wounded, with 8 soldiers captured along with heavy machine guns and small arms.

Debre-Elias Woreda

- On December 16th, intense fighting erupted in the neighborhoods of Elias town, marking a continued escalation in the area.

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- This fighting was reportedly initiated by mobilization of regime forces towards the Guay area, as they attempted to suppress Fano fighters entrenched in their strongholds.
 - Forewarned of this planned offensive, Fano fighters from the Qeste-Damena Brigade carried out a well-coordinated ambush in the Yeqegat and Gofchema areas, located on the roadways leading to Guay Kebele.
 - The ambush resulted in a fierce exchange of gunfire that lasted several hours. Reports indicate that both sides suffered casualties, with particularly heavy losses inflicted on regime forces. Ultimately, the Fano counteroffensive forced regime forces to retreat back into Elias town on the morning of December 17th, preventing them from reaching the Guay area as initially intended.
 - In a separate development within Elias town, public services and business operations partially resumed on December 17th.
 - * This resurgence followed a prolonged period of intimidation inflicted by regime forces, who had threatened local residents with suspension of salary payments and other punitive measures should they fail to comply with regime directives.
 - * In light of these threats, residents reluctantly returned to work.
 - * Furthermore, the command post announced that formal educational activities would soon recommence, portraying a gradual return to normalcy amid ongoing tensions.
 - On December 18th, intense fighting erupted in rural areas, including Yeqegat and Guay-Megenteya, close to Fano positions.
 - After experiencing casualties in earlier attempts, regime forces continued to push into the Guay area.

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- Reports suggest that regime soldiers moved into the area overnight to stifle information flow to Fano fighters.
 - Throughout the day, Fano fighters engaged regime forces, and sporadic gunfire was reported near Elias town, likely intended to disrupt reinforcements.
 - The casualties from the confrontation on both sides remain unconfirmed.
 - On December 20th, intense fighting erupted in Yesaser Abo Kebele and Elias town, as regime forces moved from Elias to assert control over rural areas.
 - The Amhara Fano in Gojjam Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Division’s Qeste-Damena Brigade engaged in heavy combat with regime soldiers for approximately four hours, utilizing heavy weaponry.
 - Following this, overnight gunfire exchanges in the Welasma area were reported, but casualty details remain unknown.

Debre-Markos City

- On the night of December 16th, Fano fighters infiltrated Debre-Markos city, mounting a targeted attack on the head of the communication office for East Gojjam Zone.
 - This coordinated assault took place at the residence of an individual identified as Ato Nibret, who narrowly escaped what could have been a fatal attack.
 - Reports indicate that part of his home was significantly damaged during the assault, but he managed to evade capture and potential death.
- In Debre-Markos city, no explosions or gunfire were reported. Regime officials resorted to deception and intimidation tactics to gather residents for the demonstration, threatening public servants and safety net beneficiaries with

payment halts. Those coerced to attend the demonstration expressed fear and a desire to avoid visibility to cameras.

Baso-Liben Woreda

- On December 20th, regime forces mobilized from Yejube toward Kork.
 - As regime soldiers advanced and reached the Yeshibech area, they encountered resistance from Fano combatants, albeit with minimal initial forces.
 - A brief exchange of gunfire ensued, resulting in casualties on both sides. Reports confirm that two Fano fighters were killed and at least two others sustained injuries during the encounter. In contrast, the casualties on the regime's side were described as numerous, with sources observing the transport of both deceased and wounded soldiers via a military vehicle.
 - Despite suffering significant losses, regime forces managed to gain entry into Kork Kebele. However, upon their arrival, they found no presence of Fano fighters, who had evidently been forewarned of the impending attack and promptly withdrew from the area.
 - Ultimately, the regime soldiers reportedly retreated back to Yejube town, however during their retreat they killed two civilians (young men) identified as Shifferaw Kerea and Yalew Tagele, both from Dendegeb Kebele.

Bibugn Woreda

- On December 20th, regime soldiers initiated a movement from Digo-Tsiyon town toward Waber as part of their campaign to suppress Fano fighters in the area. The Mezgebu Walelegn Fano Brigade engaged in intense confrontations, preventing the advances of regime forces toward Waber. Tensions continued to escalate in the area,

as the regime remains resolute in its objective to establish control over the Waber area.

West Gojjam Zone

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On December 16th, heavy fighting occurred in the Geray-Hamusit and Firn areas, near Finote-Selam city.
 - The fighting began when regime forces mobilized overnight to suppress Fano fighters in their strongholds.
 - Forewarned of this operation, Fano fighters ambushed regime troops in the Geray-Megenteya area, launching a surprise attack.
 - The Fano groups involved included the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Atikem Division's Arenzaw-Damot and Geremew-Wendawek Brigades.
 - The unexpected assault led to heavy casualties among the mobilized soldiers and resulted in intense gunfire for an extended period. As regime forces began to retreat toward Finote-Selam city, Fano fighters pursued them to the Firn area, continuing their assault and further inflicting casualties.
- In Jiga town, a demonstration was abruptly dispersed when Fano fighters opened fire.
 - No demonstrations occurred in Mankusa and Finote-Selam, while in Finote-Selam city, Fano carried out bombings and mortar shelling aimed at regime encampments and meetings with regime personnel.

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- This resulted in the dispersal of the meeting, and casualties included a female regime agent and a police officer. Explosions near Biakel School shocked students and parents, likely disrupting education in the coming days.
 - Reports indicate no demonstrators appeared in nearby towns such as Bure and Dembecha.
 - On December 19th, regime forces assembled residents, particularly teachers and students, in an effort to compel them to participate in a demonstration condemning the Fano fighters.
 - In response, Fano factions, including the Arenzaw Damot and Geremew Wendawek Brigades, launched three mortar shells targeting the regime’s encampment and the meeting location.
 - The regime retaliated with heavy weaponry directed at the area from which the Fano fighters had withdrawn. This exchange of fire caused the gathering to disperse rapidly.
 - Reports indicate that the gunfire resulted in injuries to at least one civilian, the deaths of farm animals, and damage to property.
 - In a similar incident, planned demonstrations in Dembecha town were disrupted due to gunfire from Fano fighters.

Dega-Damot Woreda

- On December 20th, regime forces launched an operation from Motta towards Arefa-Medhanialem, aiming to suppress Fano fighters. The Dega-Damot Fano Brigade mounted a fierce defense against the advancing soldiers. Their determined resistance ultimately resulted in repelling the regime’s assault, forcing them to retreat back to Motta. The exact number of casualties resulting from this engagement remains unconfirmed.

Sekela Woreda

- On December 20th, regime forces convened a meeting in Gishabay town, employing coercive tactics to compel local residents to conform to purportedly normal activities within the town. However, the Giwon Fano Brigade, having received intelligence regarding the regime's gathering, executed a sudden and strategic incursion into the town, opening gunfire. This sudden assault effectively disrupted the ongoing meeting, dispersing attendees.
- On December 21st, the regime attempted to hold a demonstration in Gishabay town to condemn Fano fighters.
 - However, the Giwon Fano Brigade disrupted the gathering by infiltrating the town and opening fire.
 - In retaliation, regime forces reportedly employed heavy artillery against the Fano fighters.
 - The Fano fighters withdrew after successfully thwarting the demonstration, which had gathered under intimidation.
 - According to the Giwon Brigade's spokesperson, two civilians were killed including Yibeltal Mehari (killed by mortar shelling) and Muluaem Getinet (executed) and another victim was wounded.

Dembecha Woreda

- In a separate development in Dembecha town, planned demonstrations for December 19th were disrupted due to gunfire from Fano fighters.
- On December 21st, fighting occurred in the Yechereka area, which connects Dembecha with Jabi-Tehnan Woreda.

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- Regime soldiers from Jiga and Dembecha initiated mobilization toward Yechereka, where Fano fighters mounted a counter-offensive.
 - Reports indicate that regime soldiers eventually entered Yechereka, during which they committed acts of violence and property destruction, including the alleged destruction of a health station and the killing of a 65-year-old woman.

Awii Zone

Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda

- On the afternoon of December 16th, a brief exchange of light gunfire occurred in Tilili town.
 - The conflict began abruptly when Fano fighters, specifically those from the Zengena Brigade, launched an attack in the area.
 - The primary objective of this attack appeared to be dispersing a regime meeting that was underway, attended by local officials.
 - The exact outcomes and the extent of casualties from this skirmish remained unconfirmed.

Banja-Shikudad Woreda

- In Injibara, gathered demonstrators were quickly dispersed when Fano fighters opened fire from the outskirts. Similar incidents occurred in Lumame town of Awabel Woreda and Bichena town of Enemay Woreda. Despite intimidation, demonstrations were held in some towns across Gojjam sub-region, including Dejen, Debre-Werk, Sedei, Ginde-Weyn, and Merawi, without any gunfire or disruption.

Dangila Woreda

- On December 21st, Fano fighters ambushed regime soldiers traveling from Dangila towards Addis-Kidam near Gumdiri. Casualty figures from this attack are unspecified, but the Bitwedded Mengesha Jember Fano Brigade claimed to have killed at least 15 regime soldiers and wounded 8 other soldiers.

Fagita-Lekoma Woreda

- On December 21st, Fano fighters, specifically from the Ephrem Atinafu Brigade, conducted an ambush on regime forces en route from Addis-Kidam to Dangila in Ashewa-Medhanialem. Casualty information is still unverified, though Fano fighters assert significant impact on regime forces.

Bahir-Dar City

- In Gojjam sub-region, several towns and cities experienced various incidents linked to a regime-orchestrated demonstration.
 - Several cities held planned demonstrations, many of which were marred by bomb explosions and subsequent casualties.
 - Bahir-Dar was particularly affected, with multiple bomb explosions reported from late night on December 17th to the 18th.
 - Locations include Ephrata, Mecod, Stadium, and regional administration buildings. Notably, a regime-affiliated individual was killed by unknown assailants while urging residents to join the demonstration.
 - Sources indicate that the demonstration was characterized by fear, primarily involving regime employees and safety net beneficiaries, who faced threats of payment cessation.

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- Fano fighters claimed responsibility for the bombings targeting regime security personnel and affiliates who employed intimidation tactics to compel residents to participate.

North Gojjam Zone

North Mecha Woreda

- On December 15th, a brief exchange of gunfire occurred in Wetet-Abay (Pikolo) Kebele.
 - That day, regime security and administrative officials held a meeting with regime militias to plan an operation against Fano fighters.
 - Forewarned about the meeting, the Amhara Fano in Gojjam First Division's Colonel Tadesse Muluneh Brigade, infiltrated the town and opened fire near the meeting location, causing immediate panic and the swift dispersal of attendees.
 - Although no casualties have been confirmed, Fano fighters managed to disrupt the meeting.

South Gonder Zone

Sede-Muja Woreda

- Under the cover of darkness on December 15th, a column of regime forces attempted to advance towards known Fano strongholds.
 - However, this movement was compromised when intelligence regarding the operation was leaked to the Fano.
 - Anticipating the regime's approach, the Fano deployed a carefully selected group of fighters to strategically positioned ambush points.

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- As the unsuspecting regime forces—primarily a contingent of militia guiding the main force—entered the kill zone, the Fano launched a swift and devastating attack. This well-executed ambush resulted in the near-total elimination of the regime forces deployed to that area.

Simada Woreda

- On December 18th, regime forces in Simada Woreda detained numerous individuals who refused to participate in a regime-mandated demonstration against Fano fighters.
 - Among those arrested was Simada Woreda’s chief prosecutor Misge. He reportedly challenged Prosperity Party cadres, asserting the independence and impartiality required of his office, and therefore his refusal to participate in the forced demonstration.
 - Simultaneously, Fano fighters advanced toward Wegeda town, administrative center of Simada Woreda, encircling it.
 - To enforce participation in the demonstration, the regime ordered all members of the local Edirs (mutual aid associations) to attend under threat of a 1000 birr fine per member, per Edir.
 - The actions of the regime demonstrate a pattern of intimidation and coercion to suppress dissent and control the narrative surrounding the Fano.
- On December 22nd, the Amhara Fano Gonder Command Guna Division’s Simada-Hagere-Bizan Brigade, successfully ambushed regime militia forces.
 - The ambush occurred in a location known as Beqilo-Mewreja within the Kusa district of Simada Woreda.

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- This engagement resulted in a confirmed total of 3 regime militia members killed and 7 wounded.
 - Despite the regime’s claims that the Hagere-Bizan Brigade had been dispersed, the Fano fighters in Kusa demonstrated their continued activity and resolve with this ambush.
 - Furthermore, it is noteworthy that a previous ambush held on December 12th, resulted in the death of a regime battalion leader, demonstrating the brigade’s ongoing effectiveness and courage.

Debre-Tabor City

- On December 18th, in Debre-Tabor city, regime political cadres forcibly diverted women returning from church services, compelling their participation in a demonstration against Fano fighters.
 - These women, who had shown no prior interest in attending, were compelled to join the demonstration while still wearing their church attire.
 - The regime’s actions highlight a concerted effort to manipulate public perception and create a false narrative of widespread civilian opposition to the Fano.
 - To further this deception, all military personnel in the Gonder sub-region were ordered to participate in the demonstration, removing their uniforms and donning civilian clothing while carrying anti-Fano placards.
 - This orchestrated display aimed to fabricate a demonstration of popular support for the regime while masking the true extent of its coercive tactics.
- On the night of December 18th, a bomb detonated near the Debre-Tabor city customs bureau.

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- This explosion resulted in injuries to one man. The perpetrator(s) of this bombing remains unidentified, and the motive for the attack is currently unclear. Investigations are presumably underway to determine the identity of those responsible and the circumstances surrounding the incident.
 - The location of the blast, in close proximity to a regime building, raises concerns about potential security implications and the targeting of the customs bureau itself.
 - Further details regarding the extent of the man’s injuries and the ongoing investigation are awaited.
- On December 19th, Mekuanint Zewdu, a resident of Werqe-Tsion Kebele (approximately 2-km from Debre-Tabor), engaged in a lone stand off against regime forces.
 - Suspecting Mekuanint’s affiliation with Fano fighters, regime forces surrounded his home in the evening. Aware of the encirclement, Mekuanint ensured his family’s safety by sending them away before engaging the soldiers in a firefight.
 - Mekuanint reportedly killed 9 soldiers and critically wounded 5 others. Unable to subdue him, regime forces requested reinforcements.
 - Anticipating the arrival of additional troops and facing dwindling ammunition, Mekuanint took his own life with his final bullet.
 - Despite attempts by militia forces to prevent a proper burial, residents of Werqe-Tsion Kebele held a dignified funeral for Mekuanint on December 20th, honoring him with traditional songs for fallen warriors.
 - Mekuanint’s story has transformed him into a symbol of resistance against the regime in the region.

Lay-Gayint Woreda

- On December 18th, Fano fighters launched a three-pronged attack on Nefas-Mewcha, administrative center of Lay-Gayint Woreda.
 - The surprise assault targeted a regime-organized demonstration denouncing the Fano, immediately dispersing the assembled crowd with a barrage of gunfire.
 - Fierce fighting ensued on three fronts:
 - * *Checheho-Medhanialem*: A Fano offensive against regime forces stationed in Menafesha village forced regime militias and riot police to abandon their camp and flee into the town.
 - * *Mekuabiya village*: Heavy weapons, including ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, were employed in this intense engagement, resulting in significant casualties among the regime’s joint forces.
 - In addition to this, Under the guise of targeting Fano sympathizers, regime militia engaged in widespread looting of civilian property.
 - * Priest Walelign’s mill house was ransacked, with the grinding machine and a substantial sum of cash stolen. This was justified under the false pretense that Walelign’s children were affiliated with the Fano.
 - * Similarly, in Gobgob town, police forces looted the local branch of Tsedey Bank, seizing all the available cash after detaining the security personnel. The police rationalized this act by claiming it was retribution for the Fano’s alleged past robberies.
 - Further exacerbating the situation, riot police and militia in Welela-Bahir established unauthorized checkpoints outside designated areas, extorting money from travelers. The regime’s authorization to confiscate and

redistribute the property of suspected Fano supporters fueled rampant and indiscriminate looting by these forces.

Ibnat Woreda

- Intense fighting between regime forces and the Fano continued through the night of December 17th into the early morning hours of December 18th in Ibnat town, marked by a significant exchange of gunfire.
 - In the aftermath of this fighting, regime militia conducted house-to-house searches, attempting to forcibly compel residents to participate in a regime-organized demonstration.
 - However, residents of Ibnat showed considerable reluctance to heed the regime’s call, indicating a clear lack of support for the regime’s actions.
- Residents of Ibnat Woreda have reportedly faced widespread intimidation and harassment from regime affiliates in the area.
 - The abuses have been linked to regime officials in the area including the head of the Ibnat Woreda administrative secretariat, Chale, and the Prosperity Party secretariat authority, Agegn.
 - Chale and Agegn have been implicated in arbitrary detentions of wealthy community members, who have been detained under accusations of supporting Fano fighters. Working in collaboration with military officers in the woreda, Chale and Agegn have been allegedly demanding substantial ransoms for the release of those detained.
 - Separately, on December 18th, while the military was involved in a forced demonstration, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on a nearby military camp. This attack resulted in the seizure of a significant quantity of machine gun ammunition.

Guna-Begemidir Woreda

- On December 18th, regime militia forces attempted to use a captured man—allegedly a Fano member—as a propaganda tool during a planned, forced demonstration.
 - Their intention was to showcase the man’s supposed surrender as evidence of the Fano’s weakening resolve.
 - However, the plan was thwarted when Fano fighters ambushed militia forces before they reached the demonstration site. This ambush was followed by a swift and coordinated offensive against regime forces stationed in Kimir-Dingaye town.
 - The ensuing intense gunfire effectively aborted the regime’s forced demonstration, resulting in a significant clash between the two opposing forces.
 - The outcome of this engagement and the fate of the captured militia men remain unclear, pending further reporting.

Andabet Woreda

- On the evening of December 20th, Fano fighters successfully ambushed a contingent of regime forces in the Shola-Muqada Kebele.
 - The ambush, which commenced at approximately 7 pm local time in the afternoon, inflicted significant casualties on regime forces.
 - Over 25 members of the joint forces, including militia personnel, were either killed or sustained critical injuries.
 - Following the ambush, the severely weakened regime forces were forced to retreat to Jaragedu town, carrying their dead and wounded.

Farta Woreda

- On December 20th, the Nega Tegegn Fano Division took retaliatory action against regime militia forces in Chirqos-Sefera village, Beqlo-Maneqiya Kebele.
 - The militia had engaged in what the Fano described as a heinous war crime—the slaughter of farmers’ oxen—alleging that the farmers were sympathizers with the Fano.
 - In response to this act, the Fano immediately launched an attack, killing the militia members responsible for the killings of the livestock.

Central Gonder Zone

Wegera Woreda

- On December 15th, Fano fighters executed a coordinated surprise attack on a regime military camp situated in Wegera town.
 - The camp primarily housed regime militia forces, who suffered significant casualties during the assault.
 - While precise casualty figures are unavailable, the Fano inflicted heavy losses among the militia.
 - In addition to the substantial loss of life, the Fano also successfully seized a large quantity of weapons from the camp, further weakening the regime’s military capacity in the region.

Gonder City

- On December 18th, the regime orchestrated a forced demonstration against Fano fighters in Gonder city.

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- Prosperity Party cadres, armed with lists of civil servants, members of various associations and businesses, and recipients of safety net programs, actively sought to ensure maximum attendance.
 - The regime cadres stationed themselves at major intersections throughout the city, registering participants and non-participants alike.
 - All forms of transportation were effectively commandeered; cadres went door-to-door, registering individuals and forcibly compelling their participation in the demonstration.
 - The coercion led to the presence of many elderly women and safety-net recipients at Piassa square, the location of the forced demonstration.
 - Despite orders for bajaj drivers to participate, the severe gasoline shortage in Gonder city, with fuel lines stretching up to four kilometers, prevented many from attending.
 - Cadres threatened non-compliant drivers with severe repercussions, including the potential revocation of their driving licenses.

West Dembiya Woreda

- On December 18th, in Chuahit town, regime political cadres attempted to compel students to participate in a demonstration denouncing the Fano movement.
 - However, the students’ response defied expectations. Instead of adhering to the prescribed narrative, they openly voiced their support for Fano, asserting that the Fano’s struggle was for the survival of the Amhara people, a fight initiated in response to the regime’s mass killings and displacement of Amharas.
 - The students chanted slogans demanding an end to the regime’s politicization of education and student life.

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- Their support for the Fano was further demonstrated through songs praising the Fano’s military prowess and expressing anticipation for their arrival, culminating in the powerful declaration, “*we are all Amhara, we are all Fano!*”
 - The regime’s attempt to control the narrative ultimately backfired; faced with this unexpected display of pro-Fano sentiment, regime forces dispersed the demonstration and forced the students to leave.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On December 18th, intense fighting erupted near Angereb Prison between Fano fighters and regime forces.
 - The Fano launched a surprise offensive, aiming to liberate detainees and seize control of the prison.
 - The battle, which extended to Defecha-Kidanemihret and Fenter, involved heavy weaponry; regime forces employed ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, while the Fano used machine guns and mortars.
 - Simultaneously, another fierce engagement took place in Minzro on the same day, resulting in significant regime casualties; at least 50 regime soldiers were killed or critically wounded. The Fano seized numerous small arms and heavy weapons in Minzro. The Fano suffered 1 fatality and 6 injuries.
- On December 19th, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime forces in Minzro.
 - The attack led to a three-hour battle between Fano and regime forces in the Minzro area.

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- In the fight, over 15 regime soldiers were killed and 13 sustained critical injuries. While on the Fano side, two fighters were killed during the engagement. Fano fighters reportedly seized twelve small arms and heavy weapons.
 - Further intense fighting occurred simultaneously in Dembiya, Seraba, and Guramba, although casualty figures for these engagements remain unavailable at this time.
 - Additional clashes took place on the evening of December 19th in Bahir-Ginb, escalating the overall conflict and highlighting continued intense fighting in multiple locations.

East Dembiya Woreda

- Intense fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces raged in Robit town, beginning on December 17th and continuing into December 18th. While precise casualty figures for both sides remain difficult to obtain, the conflict tragically resulted in the deaths of 2 civilians: a farmer and a fourteen-year-old boy, both victims of regime forces.

Taqusa Woreda

- On December 20th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Delgi, administrative center of Taqusa Woreda.
 - The conflict began early in the morning, with Fano forces launching a four-pronged offensive against regime positions within the town.
 - Overwhelmed by the Fano's offensive, regime forces—including both military personnel and militia and political cadres retreated from Delgi, leaving the town under Fano control.

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- The regime sustained significant casualties, with over 22 soldiers captured and a substantial number of militia members killed or captured by the Fano. Among the casualties was the woreda’s police commander who was killed in the fighting.
 - The extent of the regime’s losses remains unclear.
 - The intense fighting that began in Delgi town on December 20th continued into December 21st.
 - The Fano fighters’ offensive proved highly effective, driving regime forces out of Delgi after inflicting heavy casualties among the joint regime forces (military and militia).
 - However, after securing Delgi on the evening of December 20th, the Fano fighters withdrew, allowing regime forces to re-occupy their military camps.
 - Fighting resumed on December 21st in Asen Kebele, a location outside Delgi town. As the conflict continues, precise casualty figures remain unavailable.

West Gonder Zone

Metemma Woreda

- On December 20th, a significant defection occurred in Lemlem Kebele, Shinfa, when 29 regime soldiers, including their captain, joined the Fano fighters.
 - These soldiers brought with them a substantial amount of military equipment, including a heavy machine gun, numerous small arms, ammunition, and a military vehicle. This defection represents a significant blow to the regime’s military capabilities in the area.

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- In response to this loss, a high-ranking regime military officer has ordered a widespread search operation, deploying numerous troops to establish checkpoints and apprehend the defecting soldiers.
 - The regime’s search effort underscores the significance of this defection and the concern over the potential loss of additional personnel and equipment.
 - On December 22nd, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Shinfa, with the most severe clashes concentrated in Bedela Kebele.
 - The battles were particularly fierce in the areas of Shashge-Mewcha and Qozera-Mewcha, commencing early in the morning.
 - This conflict followed another night of intense fighting on December 21st, which extended from Kokit town to Shimelegara, beginning at 8 pm local time and continuing until the clashes in Bedela Kebele the next morning.

North Gonder Zone

Debark Woreda

- On December 18th, Prosperity Party cadres in Debark town compelled young children, aged between eight and ten, to participate in a regime-organized demonstration against Fano fighters. These children were forced to carry placards expressing anti-Fano sentiments.
- Students at Debark University engaged in a two-day protest on December 18th and 19th.
 - The protests stemmed from a combination of factors: the implementation of a controversial, nationwide food menu mandated by the Ministry of Education, and the regime’s forced demonstrations against Fano fighters.

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- The students openly criticized the regime’s actions, publicly condemning the alleged mass killings of Amhara people by regime forces.
 - In response, riot dispersal and militia forces were deployed to the university campus, where they opened fire on the protesting students.
 - The students’ calls for help from the Fano fighters further enraged security forces, leading to a more intense and targeted crackdown.
 - The violence resulted in 1 student fatality, 9 critically injured students (currently receiving treatment at Gonder University Referral Hospital), and the mass detention of 48 students on December 20th.
 - Fearing further reprisals, a significant number of Debarq University students have since left the campus. The situation remains tense, with the students effectively dispersed and the university campus largely deserted due to fear of ongoing regime crackdowns.
- Intense fighting erupted on December 20th, between Fano fighters and regime forces near Weqin, with the fiercest clashes centered in Qeha village.
 - The engagement proved particularly devastating for the regime forces, resulting in the deaths of 16 individuals identified as “*peacekeepers*” and the seizure of over 18 small arms by the Fano.
 - The fighting, which took place near the Weqin mountains, continued throughout the day, concluding in the evening.

Addis-Ababa City

- On December 16th, witnesses were presented in the case file of Dr. Wondwossen Assefa at the Lideta High Court.
 - A total of five witnesses testified against the three defendants.

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- The hearing process is set to continue until December 26th.
 - Between December 17th and 22nd, communication between prisoners and their families at the Kality Prison Center has been prohibited.
 - Prisoners have been transferred to the Aba-Samuel prison facility, located outside Addis-Ababa city.
 - Human rights advocates and family members are expressing grave concerns over the conditions at the new facility, which is known for its harsh climate and security risks.
 - There are fears for the safety and well-being of the prisoners, especially given the vulnerability of the area to human rights violations.

Wollega Sub-Region (Oromia Region)

Expansion of Amhara Fano Command

- On December 17th, the Amhara Fano established a command in the Wollega (Bizamo) sub-region, marking the first time their command structure has extended outside the Amhara Region.
 - The group emphasized its struggle in response to historical and ongoing genocide against the Amhara people in the Wollega sub-region over the past 450 years.
 - The Fano leadership condemned the massacres and forced displacements of Amharas in the area over the past six years. They called for support from fellow Amharas, especially those in IDP camps, to join their struggle.

East Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)

Nazreth City

- A recent meeting held in Nazreth (Adama) discussed agendas related to the Ethiopian National Dialogue.
 - The meeting included claims from the Oromo Region over ownership of several cities including Addis-Ababa, Harar, and Moyale. Harar (the capital of the Harari Regional State), Moyale (administered by both the Oromo and Somali Regions), and Addis-Ababa (the federal capital).
 - These claims made by Oromo politicians reflect the imbalanced nature of the National Dialogue Commission, which has been largely influenced by Oromo elites, threatening to impose their regional hegemony over other ethnic groups in Ethiopia.

East Arsi Zone (Oromia Region)

Sherka Woreda

- On December 14th, over 40 individuals were abducted in Galamo.
 - Among the victims were 8 farmers from Sango-Yaya Kebele who were working on their farms and Priest Tamene (head of the woreda parish).
 - Sources have reported that abductions in this area have become a frequent occurrence.
 - According to Ethio Focus News, over the past 20 days, over 1,400 civilians have been displaced, 150 killed in massacres, and 48 abducted.⁵ Among the victims are family members.

⁵See December 19, 2024 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

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- The massacres appear to have been ethnically and religiously motivated, targeting victims based on their Orthodox Christian faith and Amhara ethnic identity. Regime forces were reportedly encamped in nearby areas when the attacks took place.

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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