



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – September 2nd to 8th, 2024

Updated September 8th, 2024

Overview

For the week of September 2nd to 8th, 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, regime forces suffered some of the heaviest military casualties since the beginning of the war with estimated casualties exceeding 1,300 in East Dembiya Woreda and complete capitulation of the ENDF 48th Division in Raya-Kobo Woreda.
- Fighting and military operations has intensified in and around several urban areas in the region including Kobo, Woldia, Shewa-Robit, Bahir-Dar, Gonder.

¹Regime forces are primarily comprised of regular army members of the *Ethiopian National Defense Force* (ENDF), regional riot dispersal forces, regional militias and regional police forces. However other groups have also fought alongside the regime.

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- Fighting in various towns in Metemma Woreda (West Gonder Zone) including Metemma-Yohannes, Genda-Wiha and Kokit have disrupted regime control of the Ethiopian-Sudan border.
 - Following intense fighting last week, Fano forces secured control of several districts in South Gonder Zone setting up local administrations through democratic elections.
 - Regime forces intensified attacks against civilians especially following military losses to Fano fighters. Civilian casualties or property loss were recorded in over 15 woreda/city administrations including Raya-Kobo, Woldia city, Borena, Mojana-Wodera, Efratana-Gidim, Enarj-Enawga, Awabel, Dejen, Dega-Damot, Tach Gayint, Lay Gayint, Gonder city, East Dembiya, Metemma and West Armachiho.
 - Mass abductions for ransom and murders in Gonder have prompted civil unrest. Noteworthy was the killing of a 2-year-old child named Nolawit Zegeye following the child's abduction (despite payment of the ransom) triggered protests. In response, regime forces opened fire on residents killing and injuring dozens of civilians. In the aftermath of the civil unrest, the regional authority released a statement admitting involvement of officials in criminality throughout the city.
 - Profiling and arrests of civilians were reported in Addis Ababa, Gobiye, Sela-Dingay, and Fered-Wiha.
 - In response to increased criminal activity sponsored by regime officials, Fano have increased law enforcement measures to apprehend criminals, particularly those involved in violent abductions for ransom.

North Wollo Zone

Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On September 5th, a day-long battle took place in Robit between Fano fighters and regime forces. The conflict erupted following an attempt by regime forces to penetrate areas controlled by Fano.
 - As regime forces tried to advance through the Selassie Church, Fano forces quickly launched a defensive counterattack, leading to sustained fighting throughout the day.
 - In 045 Kebele, specifically around Dibi and nearby areas, regime security forces moved in from Kobo town and established positions. In the morning, they launched heavy artillery strikes on the mountainous region around Zobel.
 - As a result, a significant number of people from Dibi were displaced, fleeing to the surrounding bushes and mountainous areas. They are currently facing a severe humanitarian crisis and are living under dire conditions.
 - The regime is continuing its efforts to invade the broader Raya-Kobo area, deploying its forces in and around Zobel.
 - More than nine checkpoints from Woldia to Kobo have been established by the regime as it transports additional forces to Kobo city and nearby locations.
- On August 6th, active fighting was reported in areas surrounding Kobo city. The regime deployed its forces and launched offensives in multiple areas across Raya-Kobo Woreda including Hormat, Chore, Mendefera, and Karaila. Fierce battles also occurred in Gobiye town, particularly in areas like Alula-Mekabir and Gobiye-Ber.
 - Despite the regime’s full-scale offensive, Fano forces mounted a defense using guerrilla warfare tactics in most areas.

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- Regime forces arbitrarily killed 3 civilians, while 2 others were killed by unidentified assailants in Gobiye town. Subsequently, regime forces conducted mass arrests of numerous youths and detained them near Alula-Mekabir, where a regime military camp is located.
 - Starting from the night of August 5th, regime forces continued attacks against Fano fighters in Dibi and extended their offensive towards Gatira.
 - The local population remains under severe intimidation, fearing indiscriminate attacks by regime forces. Farmers are unable to access their farmlands due to safety concerns.
- On September 6th, an arbitrary military offensive by regime forces caused significant human and material casualties across the woreda.
 - In Gobiye town, the number of casualties has increased, with 5 people killed and 6 more injured. Sources reported that regime forces carried out retaliatory actions against farmers in the area. There were casualties on both sides, with a higher number of deaths among regime forces.
 - In a location called Gatira (in the eastern part of Kobo), an artillery attack by regime forces injured an elderly woman named Mewagiya Fentaw, who is now in critical condition at the hospital.
 - In Kalim, 7 civilians, including a 13-year-old child, were killed, and numerous casualties occurred on both sides of the conflict.
 - In Robit, around Woremigna-Sefer, a young man suspected of being a Fano member was killed by regime forces. His death was described as brutal, with his body reportedly mutilated.
 - In Addisu-Sefer, near Aradum, 3 civilians were injured due to clashes between Fano forces and regime forces' attacks.

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- On September 7th, a fierce battle broke out in strategically significant area of Zobel. Similarly, heavy fighting occurred in Kalim, but the exact number of casualties remains unknown.
 - Continuous fierce fighting occurred between Fano fighters and regime forces took place from September 6th to 8th. The Fano forces achieved a significant victory, inflicting numerous casualties on regime forces, capturing many of them, and seizing a large amount of military equipment.
 - Sources report that an entire battalion of regime forces called the 48th ENDF Division was completely destroyed; some members were killed, while others surrendered to the Fano forces, who then captured all of their armaments. This victory has reportedly created tension among regime political and security leaders in North Wollo Zone, particularly in Woldia city.
 - On September 8th, regime forces deployed a large number of troops to Kalim and returned with fallen soldiers from the previous day's fighting. The local population in Kalim has been displaced from the area due to fear of indiscriminate attacks and military offensives by the regime forces.
 - On September 8th, in the Mendefera area, located in the eastern part of Kobo, regime forces ordered the local population to leave the area. According to sources, this may be due to suspicions that the population is sympathetic to Fano fighters and could support them in future clashes.

Woldia City

- On August 6th, intense clashes continued between Fano fighters and regime forces around Woldia, particularly in areas like Jeneto-Ber and Tikur-Wiha. As a result, one young civilian was killed near Tikur-Wiha, although full human and material casualties may be higher.

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- On September 6th, 2 civilians were killed due to an arbitrary attack by regime forces near a place called Jeneto-Ber. Both a child and a man were killed. The regime forces reportedly prevented the families from recovering the bodies, and the man's body remained on the main road until September 7th.
 - On September 7th, there was intense fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces near Woldia University, lasting for a brief period.

South Wollo Zone

Dessie City

- On September 5th, IDPs affected by the recent earthquake in Dessie continue to suffer from a lack of humanitarian assistance. The IDPs have reported being forced to leave their temporary shelters in schools as the academic year begins.

Mehal-Sayint Woreda

- On August 5th, Fano forces launched an offensive under the slogan *Operation Fano Yitagisu Aregaw* (a reference to the recently deceased Fano commander in the area) near an area called Met. This offensive inflicted heavy casualties on regime militias, and Fano forces captured 11 regime militias along with their weapons.

Borena Woreda

- On August 5th, Fano forces conducted a swift attack on the regime's camp located at Borena Sayint Secondary School in Mekane-Selam and resulted in an unknown number of casualties on regime forces. In retaliation, regime forces launched indiscriminate heavy artillery strikes on civilian residences and farmland, destroying at least four residential houses and causing significant damage to farmland and crops.

Legambo Woreda

- On September 6th, a fierce battle erupted between regime forces and Fano forces. Near Genete, in a place called Woger, regime forces attempted to regain control of the town, which is currently under the control of Fano forces.
 - Between Abet-Wiha and Kelela, near Korke, numerous human casualties occurred, including the deaths of 6 regime forces, while 7 were captured by Fano fighters.
 - Around Genete, the Warja Health Centre was struck by regime forces' weaponry, forcing health officers to leave. The local administration ordered health professionals to close the health center, alleging it had treated Fano injuries and would remain closed until they "*cleansed*" the area of Fano forces. Consequently, the local population is suffering severely from various diseases, including malaria.

Wogdi Woreda

- On September 7th, a fierce battle took place around Worenji, Shemane-Kebir, and Abiye-Gurba, involving the use of ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns. During the conflict, regime forces reportedly killed a mentally-ill man named Mustefa and a woman under the pretext that she was providing food to Fano fighters.
 - In Abiye-Gurba, numerous merchants were robbed, and properties were looted by regime forces.
 - In Worenji, 4 regime security forces were captured by Fano forces, and a significant amount of military equipment was seized.

North Shewa Zone

Mojana-Wedera Woreda

- On September 5th, regime forces conducted a campaign of intimidation and harassment under the guise of house-to-house inspections in areas such as Sela-Dingay and Tafit. Residents were targeted based on allegations of supporting Fano forces and possession of weapons.
- On September 8th, an armed clash occurred between Fano fighters and regime forces in Sela-Dingay, near Begoch-Gat.
 - The regime forces have been reported to intimidate, harass, and arbitrarily arrest civilians. They also engaged in violent actions, including the extrajudicial killing of a young man named Gashaw Gebremeskel. He was killed near Sela-Dingay in Begoch-Gat after being accused of having a father affiliated with Fano fighters.
 - Additionally, regime forces arbitrarily arrested over 7 youths under the pretext that they were providing logistical, informational, and other support to Fano forces.

Shewa-Robit City

- On August 5th, a bomb explosion at the city police station, attributed to Fano forces, resulted in significant casualties, injuring one male and one female police officer. On the nights of August 5th and 6th, sources reported hearing sounds of gunfire.
- During the night of September 7th to 8th, residents of Shewa-Robit city reported hearing gunfire. However, they were unable to determine the cause of the gunfire or its consequences.

Efratana-Gidim Woreda

- On August 5th, the regime's security forces killed several civilians.
 - In Fered-Wiha, a farmer returning home from his farmland was shot in the head by regime forces under the pretext of being a Fano member, despite only carrying spikes for his children. His body was also withheld from his family, preventing them from conducting a burial.
 - Similarly, the regime's forces arbitrarily killed two young men in Fered-Wiha and two others in a nearby area called Alala. The killings were justified by the regime's suspicion that the young men were Fano members, a pretext under which many youths have been arbitrarily killed and arrested.
- On August 6th, harassment by OLA forces and their allies continued in Ataye and the surrounding areas. They invaded Ataye Mazoriya (01 Kebele) in Efratana-Gidim Woreda, posted signs in Afaan Oromo declaring the area part of the Oromo Special Zone, and displayed their flag.
- On September 7th, around 20 regime security forces defected to Fano fighters in Ataye, bringing all their military equipment with them. The local population warmly welcomed these forces upon their arrival. Meanwhile, regime forces have restricted free movement of residents in Ataye, enforcing checkpoints and limiting access in the area.

East Gojjam Zone

- The Amhara Fano in Gojjam has been actively engaged in discussions across various areas. These discussions are focused on evaluating leadership challenges and strategizing solutions for existing problems. Recently, the Fano announced meetings held in Baso-Liben and Achefer, attended by Fano commanders. It was

reported that structural and leadership adjustments were made, providing direction and resources for future military operations.

Enarj-Enawga Woreda

- On August 31st, gunfire exchange erupted in the Shifere area as regime forces mobilized from Debre-Work town to suppress Fano fighters and surrounding villages. Forewarned about this mobilization, Fano fighters executed a bomb attack that resulted in casualties among regime troops. Reports indicate that Fano fighters successfully repelled the regime's assault, forcing them to retreat to Debre-Work town. However, confirmed reports also indicate that regime troops killed a civilian during the confrontation with Fano fighters.

Awabel Woreda

- On September 2nd, heavy fighting broke out in the Lega area of Awabel Woreda, where Fano fighters launched an early morning attack against stationed regime soldiers. Reports indicate that Fano fighters inflicted casualties on regime troops, compelling them to retreat to Lumame town. Civilian casualties from this confrontation have not yet been confirmed.
- Fighting that began on September 2nd in the Lega area continued into September 3rd to 4th, expanding to new locations, including Tid-Mariam and Lumame.
 - Following a setback in Lega, regime forces are making concerted efforts to regain control in these areas. Reinforcements from Lumame mobilized to support regime troops in Lega and Tid-Mariam, targeting Fano strongholds. Reports indicate that Fano fighters successfully repelled a regime raid, inflicting casualties on the soldiers. Additionally, Fano forces launched an attack on Lumame town, disrupting the movement of regime troops towards

Lega and Tid-Mariam.

- Regime soldiers that entered Lega area reportedly retreated back to Lumame on September 3rd, while those stationed in Tid-Mariam were encircled by Fano fighters and were unable to withdraw for that day. Fighting continued on September 4th, as regime troops attempted to break free from the encirclement. Despite suffering further casualties, some regime forces managed to retreat and return to Lumame town. Currently, Fano fighters gained partial control of Lumame, while regime troops are confined to limited areas.

Gozamin Woreda

- On September 1st, Fano fighters killed the son of a militia member in Gozamin Woreda, who was allegedly spying for and collaborating with regime soldiers. In retaliation, regime forces mobilized troops from Debre-Markos on September 2nd, opening fire in the Qebi area of Gozamin Woreda. The fighting continued into the afternoon, although the extent of casualties remains unknown. Regime soldiers eventually withdrew and returned to Debre-Markos.

On September 7th, Fano fighters ambushed regime convoys traveling from Dejen to Debre-Markos city. The attack occurred around 8 a.m. in the area known as Yejube Megentiya. According to sources, two convoys carrying regime soldiers and logistics were instantly destroyed in the ambush. A second regime military force, reportedly pursuing the convoys with heavy weaponry from a short distance, arrived at the ambush site. The Fano fighters engaged in a prolonged confrontation until midday, ultimately repelling the regime forces with minimal casualties on the Fano side.

Enemay Woreda

- On September 3rd, intense fighting erupted in the Debet area of Enemay Woreda. Regime forces initiated gunfire and deployed a heavy contingent to suppress entrenched Fano fighters. Attempting a surprise encirclement early in the morning, regime troops faced significant resistance and suffered casualties, ultimately forcing them to retreat with three vehicles carrying dead soldiers.

Bibugn Woreda

- On September 2nd, light gunfire exchanges occurred in the Waber area, triggered by regime troops mobilizing to repair a damaged water line. Fano fighters initiated the gunfire but the regime continued their work under heavy fire. While the water line was repaired, sources report that Fano fighters destroyed it soon after the regime troops left the area.

Dejen Woreda

- On September 6th, fierce fighting occurred in Gubiya town. Fano fighters mobilized to the area where regime soldiers were stationed at a school and launched a heavy offensive early in the morning. The fighting continued until near evening, with reports confirming that Fano fighters completely neutralized regime soldiers at the camp, resulting in the capture of numerous firearms, including heavy weaponry.
 - As reinforcements from Yetnora arrived with heavy artillery, Fano fighters retreated to rural areas. It is reported that three Fano fighters lost their lives, while the casualties among regime soldiers are described as numerous.
 - On the same day, Fano fighters also entered Dejen town, opening fire on regime soldiers. The attack in Dejen town seems to have effectively prevented any potential regime military movement towards the ongoing battle in Gubiya.

In retaliation to the Fano attack, regime soldiers reportedly killed civilians, including women and children, who had been previously abducted under the pretext of familial ties to a particular Fano member in the area.

Machakel Woreda

- On September 7th, Fano fighters ambushed regime forces traveling from Dembecha to Debre-Markos. The attack, which took place in the Ambule area, led to heavy fighting. Reports indicate that Fano fighters inflicted casualties on the regime soldiers, forcing them to retreat to Dembecha, where they had departed.

West Gojjam Zone

Dega-Damot Woreda

- Following heavy gunfire exchanges last week, which resulted in significant military and civilian casualties, Fano fighters, particularly the Dega-Damot brigade, have imposed a three-day movement restriction in the woreda. The Fano leader announced that the restrictions apply to all forms of movement, including commercial activity and transportation, effective September 4th. The exact reasons for this restriction remain unclear, although some sources speculate it may pertain to a planned military operation targeting Feres-Bet town, where large regime forces are currently stationed.

Awı Zone

Fagta-Lekoma Woreda

- On September 3rd, Fano fighters engaged regime troops mobilizing from Dangila to Addis-Kidam town. When Fano fighters opened fire, the regime halted their advance and retreated to Dangila. No casualties have been reported from this incident.

North Gojjam Zone

Bahir-Dar Zuriya Woreda

- On September 2nd, confirmed reports indicate that the two employees of *Amhara Media Corporation* (AMECO), Anteneh Mengiste and Demisachew Fenta, to have released after detention for few days by Fano fighters.
- On September 5th, intense fighting broke out in the Andasa area, near Bahir-Dar city. It was reported that Fano fighters had gathered from various regions to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Degu-Belay battalion's establishment. The regime's soldiers, alerted to the event, mobilized from Bahir-Dar and Tis-Abay, surrounding Fano fighters from three directions. However, the Fano fighters successfully defended against the attack, breaking the encirclement and escaping. They asserted that they inflicted significant casualties on regime soldiers while sustaining minimal losses themselves.

North Mecha Woreda

- On September 7th, fighting took place in the Qotqotima area of North Mecha Woreda. The fighting was initiated by regime soldiers who mobilized from Merawi to Qotqotima in an attempt to suppress Fano fighters at a checkpoint. According to reports, retreating Fano forces successfully defended against the regime's attack, forcing them to return to Merawi. There was also a gunfire exchange in Merawi town, where regime soldiers arbitrarily shelled heavy weaponry.

South Gonder Zone

- Fano fighters successfully ambushed regime forces in Alem-Ber town on September 2nd. The ambush resulted in the death of a ZU-23 operator and numerous other regime soldiers.

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- The night of September 6th witnessed a widespread retreat by regime forces, with six entire woredas in South Gonder Zone falling under Fano control. Regime forces have withdrawn from Ibnat, Simada, Sede-Muja, Tach Gayint, and Estie Woredas. The town of Ambesame, previously held by the regime, also fell to the Fano.
 - Kefyalew Dessie, leader of the Gebriye Fano Division, announced that following the regime’s withdrawal, Fano are actively facilitating the establishment of a new public administration that will be directly elected by the people. The Fano will also be responsible for maintaining peace and security in these areas.
 - Despite their significant role in assisting regime forces, particularly in infantry fighting, regime militia forces were left behind as the regime retreated. They were not informed of the withdrawal, leaving them in a state of uncertainty and anxiety. However, Fano welcomed them with open arms, offering them a chance to abandon their allegiance to the regime.
 - The Prosperity Party officials in these woredas also fled with retreating regime forces. Some militia forces from Tach Gayint, Simada, and Sede-Muja Woredas followed suit, choosing to join the regime’s flight.
 - The Fano’s rapid advance and the regime’s hasty retreat have significantly altered the power dynamics in South Gonder. The Fano’s commitment to establishing a locally-elected administration and ensuring security signals a shift towards a more locally-controlled and autonomous future for these areas. The fate of the remaining militia forces and their future actions remain uncertain, but their sudden abandonment by the regime suggests growing instability and a weakening of the regime’s grip on the region.
 - Following the strategic withdrawal of regime forces from six woredas in South Gonder Zone on September 7th, Fano fighters swiftly moved to establish a

temporary, or ad hoc public administration system in liberated areas. To ensure peace and order, the Fano facilitated elections by local residents, who chose seven members to form a provisional command group for each woreda. These command groups were tasked with maintaining security, restoring public order, and ensuring the safety of the population.

- Recognizing the importance of a functioning civilian administration, the Fano facilitated a community-driven process for residents to elect individuals of high moral character and integrity to fill key civil administrative positions. This approach ensured that the newly established local government reflected the will of the people and fostered community ownership.
- The Fano command emphasized the protection of public institutions and individuals from ordinary crimes, demonstrating their commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of the residents. They deployed their forces across liberated woredas including Simada, Sede-Muja, Estie, Andabet, and Tach Gayint, to maintain order and prevent any potential security threats.
- The Fano’s arrival in these woredas was met with overwhelming support from residents, who welcomed their liberation from the regime’s control. However, a few concerns arose regarding the Fano’s celebratory gunfire. While meant as an expression of joy and relief, the prolonged rounds of ammunition fired caused some anxiety among residents, who feared that the fighting had resumed.

Tach Gayint Woreda

- On September 1st, Fano fighters carried out a successful ambush on regime forces who were escorting high-ranking officials from Tach Gayint Woreda to Lay Gayint at Shite village. This surprise attack resulted in significant casualties among regime

soldiers, with many killed and others injured.

- On the same day, another incident occurred in Arb-Gebeya town, where a militiaman was struck by a sudden barrage of gunfire from the Fano fighters. Following the attack, the injured militiaman was transported to Woldia Hospital for more advanced medical care. However, the vehicle carrying him was intercepted by Fano fighters in Dilb, and he was subsequently killed by them. The nurse who had been attending to him was released and managed to return safely to Arb-Gebeya.
- On September 3rd, tragedy struck the town of Gobgob, leaving behind a trail of grief and violence. Aynalem, a displaced woman from the Wollega (western Oromia Region), was killed by regime forces. She had already endured immense suffering, having lost her husband and children to the OLA, who were allegedly supported by regime officials at various levels. Driven by desperation, she fled to Gobgob seeking refuge with her relatives.
 - Her brief respite was brutally cut short. As she sought shelter inside her relative's home, regime forces stormed the premises and shot her dead. Six other civilians were injured in the shooting, and fourteen were severely beaten by regime forces. Among the victims was a six-year-old boy, who was also subjected to brutal physical abuse.
 - The regime forces attributed their actions to the residents of Gobgob being supporters of the Fano fighters. The violence erupted after the regime forces were ambushed by the Fano fighters while travelling from Sali town to Gobgob. They retreated to Nefas-Mewcha town before returning to Gobgob and unleashing their brutal attack. The regime forces further exacerbated the suffering by firing heavy artillery towards Qot mountain, destroying farmers' homes and causing widespread destruction.

Guna-Begemidir Woreda

- On September 3rd, Fano fighters executed a successful ambush against regime forces patrolling Kimir-Dingaye town. The attack resulted in the destruction of a military pickup truck and the elimination of the regime soldiers within. A Sino truck, following closely behind the pickup, carrying additional soldiers, was caught in the shockwave of the attack. Three soldiers aboard the Sino truck sustained injuries, likely from the impact of the explosion and the ensuing chaos.

Estie Woreda

- On the afternoon of September 6th, Fano fighters launched a fierce offensive against regime forces stationed in Mekane-Eyesus town, specifically targeting Kebele 3. The intense fighting resulted in complete withdrawal of regime forces from Estie Woreda.

Lay Gayint Woreda

- On September 6th, Fano fighters apprehended three members of the regime's riot dispersal forces while they were engaged in robbing drivers in Lay Gayint Woreda, specifically at Lay-Wiha Kebele. This incident serves as concrete evidence that regime forces are directly involved in the alarming trend of hostage-taking and looting against the public.
 - The captured individuals were identified as Abebe Mulat, Fasil Zewdu, and Marew Admase. They were caught red-handed by Fano while attempting to abduct two drivers and take them to a deserted area. The drivers were reportedly held hostage and demanded to pay a ransom of 500,000 birr each.
 - The Fano intervened, rescuing the two drivers from their captors and exposing the heinous activities of the regime forces. This incident underscores the

gravity of the situation in the region, where the regime’s security forces are not only failing to protect civilians but are actively participating in criminal activities, exploiting and terrorizing the very people they are supposed to serve.

Central Gonder Zone

- On September 1st, Fano forces under the command of Fano Minas issued an urgent statement emphasizing that they will take action if kidnappers robbing residents of Gonder city fail to surrender by September 5th. The statement followed public outcry over reported kidnappings and killings in Gonder city and surrounding areas. In their statement, they announced the formation of a task force to investigate and take action against those involved in banditry and kidnapping. They have declared that from now until September 5th, anyone involved in these crimes must surrender and failing to do so will result in law enforcement measures to apprehend the criminals.

Gonder city

- On the night of August 31st, a group of robbers targeted the residence of a wealthy individual in Hidase Kebele, located in Maraki sub-city.
 - They began their assault with a heavy barrage of gunfire directed at the house, demanding that the wealthy man—whose identity remains undisclosed—come outside. The wealthy man refused to comply and instead contacted his close relatives for assistance, as he felt trapped by the attackers.
 - Responding quickly, his relatives arrived at the scene and engaged the robbers with their own volley of gunfire. During this exchange, one of the relatives was injured and subsequently admitted to the hospital. As the gunfire continued, riot dispersal forces stationed near Dessalegn School were

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- dispatched to the location. Upon arriving, these forces discovered that the robbers were actually their own comrades from the Ayer-Tena military camp.
- When questioned about their motives and why they had not used radio communication to report their actions, the robbers were unable to provide a clear explanation. They claimed that they had information indicating that Fano forces had entered the town. Following this revelation, the robbers were detained and are now in custody.
 - This incident suggests a troubling connection between the hostage-taking activities in Gonder city and the regime forces, potentially with the support of high-ranking officials in the Gonder city administration.
- In a related incident on the same night, an individual in Geffo-Quch village at Kebele 18 had his legally registered pistol and kalashnikov rifle stolen by robbers. Upon reviewing surveillance footage, he identified the culprits as members of the riot dispersal forces stationed at Desalegn School. Although the forces eventually returned the kalashnikov, they denied taking the pistol, and the matter remains unresolved.
 - Escalating kidnappings in Gonder city has prompted civil demonstrations under the names “*bring back my city*” and “*I will not be silent about Gonder*”.
 - Numerous sources have reported daily abductions and murders, with ordinary civilians targeted. The scale of the crisis is staggering, with parents recounting how they are forced to pay exorbitant ransoms, often exceeding 2 million birr, to secure the release of their kidnapped children. The desperation of these parents is palpable, as they lament the systemic failure of regime authorities to provide protection: “*even when you seek help, government officials refuse to intervene, claiming they are part of the government. You won’t collect enough*”

money even if you stand at the church doors. Your only remaining option is to accept the death of your child.”

- One resident who spoke on condition of anonymity describes widespread grief and fear, *“the people are bitter. It’s unclear who is actually governing this city. Every day is a funeral, a lament. Fathers have become housewives, youth are forced into exile, and children live in constant fear and anxiety.”*
- In one incident which took place several days prior a Sunday school choir member at Kidist Lideta Church was brutally murdered along with their mother and maid.
- The fear is pervasive, impacting every aspect of life in Gonder. Another resident echoes the sentiment of hopelessness saying *“life in Gonder is no longer about working and earning a living. People are abducted every day, and those who can’t pay the ransom are killed.”* The resident cited one example in which a mother and her child were murdered in Kebele 16, after being abducted in the night and killed when they resisted. The city’s economy has also been crippled, as wealthy investors have fled to Addis Ababa, fearing for their safety.
- The kidnappings, once confined to the streets, have now become normalized from house-to-house. One resident describes a chilling incident from the previous day, *“a 4 or 5-year-old girl disappeared from her backyard while playing. Her whereabouts are still unknown.”*
- One anonymous official from the Gonder city administration attributes the kidnappings to Fano fighters and criminal individuals exploiting the current security breakdown. The official claims to have apprehended perpetrators and conducted investigations, all pointing to these individuals. However, they acknowledge the overwhelming scale of the crisis, stating that it has

overwhelmed local security forces in the past two months. Fano leaders have vehemently denied any involvement, accusing the regime of using the kidnappings as a means to discredit them. *“We condemn these actions. The government is kidnapping many people, and we have evidence to prove this”*, they asserted. They claim to be actively working to resolve the crisis.

- On September 2nd, peaceful demonstrations were held in response to the tragic killing of a 2-year-old girl named Nolawit Zegeye and turned violent when regime forces opened fire on the protesters.
 - Protesters called for justice and accountability. They chanted, *“either the law is upheld, or we will live in perpetual mourning, begging for protection.”*
 - In response to the peaceful demonstration, regime *anti-guerrilla* forces opened fire on the crowd.
 - One source recounts the horrific shootings of over 25 civilians and immediate deaths of 4. Regime forces prevented residents from retrieving the remains of their loved ones. The death toll from the incident later rose to 9, with 11 additional civilians seriously injured. Hospital sources confirmed that seven of the injured demonstrators succumbed to their injuries despite receiving medical treatment. The hospital reports treating a total of eleven injured individuals in addition to the dead civilians. This incident highlights the escalating violence against peaceful protesters and underscores the dire need for accountability and de-escalation in the region.
 - Later in the day, the city’s peace and security officer was arrested for alleged involvement in land grabbing and hostage-taking.
 - The killing of 2-year-old Nolawit has been widely seen as politically motivated, as regime forces accused of killing her had collected a 300,000 birr ransom.

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- On September 3rd, a youth movement dedicated to safeguarding Gonder city from hostage-taking was officially established. The movement, aptly named “*I am for myself, a soldier for me, my family, and my city – and you?*”, emerged as a direct response to the escalating violence and insecurity plaguing the city.
 - Fearing the potential for unrest and a direct challenge to its authority, the regime reacted swiftly by deploying a substantial force of armed personnel to Gonder city (a large contingent of regime commandos, identifiable by their red bonnets).
 - In an apparent attempt to quell public outrage and demonstrate a response to the ongoing violence, regime officials in Gonder city initiated a series of arrests within the ranks of its own riot dispersal and militia forces. Over 40 individuals, including members of the riot dispersal forces, militia forces, and Prosperity Party officials, have been detained
 - The crackdown extended to the Abera-Giyorgis village military camp, where over 12 members of the riot dispersal forces were detained. The accusations leveled against them included involvement in hostage-taking and robberies. Notably, among those apprehended was a lieutenant who served as the commander of the riot dispersal forces. Furthermore, the Gonder city peace and security officer was also detained.
 - In relation, the Atsewochu and Gondere-Begashaw Fano Divisions, announced the capture of 30 individuals suspected of engaging in robbery and hostage-taking within Gonder-Zuriya, specifically in the areas of Tseda, Maksegnit, and Qulqual-Ber. The Fano have established a specially trained and equipped commando force, dedicated to controlling and dismantling robbery groups operating in the city.
 - Intelligence reports indicate the presence of three distinct armed robbery

groups operating within Gonder city, each with its own motivations and methods:

- * *The Regime-Backed Group*: This group, allegedly deployed by regime officials in Gonder City, is believed to be engaging in hostage-taking and robberies to discredit the Fano fighters and undermine their standing among the population. Their actions are seen as a deliberate attempt to sow chaos and create an atmosphere of mistrust.
 - * *The Opportunist Group*: This group seeks to capitalize on the ongoing conflict, using the cover of the Fano fighters to engage in looting and hostage-taking for personal gain. They are opportunistic criminals, taking advantage of the prevailing instability to enrich themselves.
 - * *The Pre-Existing Group*: This group, known for its criminal activities even before the current conflict with the regime began, is now exploiting the ongoing war to further their illicit activities. They are simply using the current chaos as an opportunity to increase their criminal enterprise and gain more power and influence.
- The rampant issue of kidnapping and murder in Gonder city and its surrounding areas is widely believed to be orchestrated by key figures within the regime's political and security structures in the city. This allegation has even been acknowledged by the ruling party in a public statement.
 - A recent and confirmed case involves the brutal murder of a mother and her graduating daughter in Gonder city's Kebele 16, Maraki sub-city. The perpetrator, identified as Awoke Chanie, a traffic police officer, has been directly implicated in this crime.
 - Awoke, who recently transferred from the police force to traffic duty, disguised himself and entered the home of a woman named Mebrat with accomplices,

intending to kidnap her. Mebrat bravely fought back, attempting to defend herself. She successfully killed one of the kidnapers and injured another, but tragically, Awoke and his accomplices shot and killed both Mebrat and her daughter.

- Local residents who have been closely following this case have corroborated the evidence, confirming that Awoke Chanie and his associates are the primary suspects in this heinous crime.
- Despite his current role as a traffic officer, Awoke previously served as a police officer and has cultivated a close relationship with Ayelegn, the Gonder city police commissioner. This connection has allowed him to lead numerous kidnapping operations within the city. While he is currently under arrest, his close ties to Ayelegn raise concerns about a potential cover-up or escape from justice.
- It was later discovered that Awoke’s bank account had been frozen with a balance of 18,000,000 birr. Considering his monthly salary is only 7,500 birr, the origin of this substantial wealth is undeniable – it is believed to be a result of involvement in numerous kidnapping operations.
- The mask worn by Awoke and his accomplices during the mother and child kidnapping attempt was ultimately their downfall. When Mebrat resisted, the perpetrators removed their masks, revealing their identities. A local witness spotted the group fleeing with the injured accomplice, leaving the dead body of the other behind. This led to Awoke’s eventual arrest based on credible eyewitness accounts.
- It is clear that the organized criminal activities plaguing Gonder are orchestrated from the top, with Deputy Commissioner Ayelegn, a close associate of regime militia commander Desalegn Tassew, playing a central

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- role. This criminal network extends its tentacles all the way to the regional cabinet, demonstrating a deep-rooted corruption and abuse of power.
- Awoke Chanie, the murderer of the mother and child, is a key confidant of Commissioner Ayelegn, raising fears that he may be released from custody. The people of Gonder, and indeed all Ethiopians, must be aware of this insidious crime and the individuals responsible.
 - If Awoke Chanie were to be subjected to a thorough investigation by an independent body, it is likely that he would expose numerous other atrocities committed by the regime. It is feared that the regime might attempt to silence Awoke by eliminating him in prison to cover up their involvement in this heinous crime.
 - The rampant kidnappings and murders in Gonder are not isolated incidents. They are being carried out by criminal elements operating within the regime’s political and security structures.
- On September 7th, regime forces attacked a significant number of civilians in Tseda sub-city during daily business activities in the local market.
 - The victims included ten farmers who had traveled to the market to sell their livestock in anticipation of the upcoming New Year holiday on September 11th. These individuals were mercilessly killed by regime forces in broad daylight, their lives cut short as they prepared for a festive occasion.
 - The regime’s attack was further compounded by the deployment of a ZU-23 anti-aircraft gun from the Azezo Central Military Command. The indiscriminate firing resulted in the deaths of 7 civilians in the crowded market, adding to the already heavy casualty toll.
 - This heinous act of extrajudicial killing was a direct response to an earlier attack on regime forces by Fano fighters. In the pre-dawn hours of the same

day, 3 regime soldiers were killed by Fano forces, sparking the regime's brutal retaliation against unarmed civilians. The massacre occurred at 11:30 am local time, as the market was teeming with traders and sellers, highlighting the regime's deliberate targeting of civilians.

- The Fano fighters, outraged by the regime's barbarity, retaliated swiftly and decisively. In a swift counter-offensive, they engaged the regime forces, resulting in the elimination of 11 regime soldiers and the capture of 6 others. This decisive action served as a stark reminder that the Fano would not stand idly by as the regime unleashed its violence against innocent civilians.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On September 4th, regime forces fatally shot a bajaj driver while he was sitting in a pool game house in Maksegnit town. The motive for the killing remains unclear. The victim was reportedly questioned about his attire, specifically why he was wearing a shirit (a traditional garment). The incident raises serious concerns about the arbitrary use of lethal force by the regime forces and highlights the potential for targeting individuals based on their clothing or perceived affiliations.

East Dembiya Woreda

- On September 6th, the Amhara Fano Gonder Command launched a coordinated offensive against regime forces naming the operation after the recently fallen Fano member, Gebeyew Alemneh. The offensive, spearheaded by a joint force from the Begemdir, Gondere-Begashaw, and Shaleqa Tadlo Birhanu army Divisions, has seen them steadily push back regime soldiers from Azezo towards Ayimba, Seqelt, and Chilga.
 - The Fano utilized strategic maneuvering to route regime forces in the

Azezo-Ayimba area. Facing a formidable and united resistance from the Fano, the regime's army was forced to retreat to their camp in Azezo.

- Instead of engaging in a direct confrontation, regime forces (stationed at the Azezo Central Military Command Camp) resorted to acts of terror, indiscriminately targeting innocent civilians in Ayimba town with heavy artillery and tank fire. They bombarded residential homes and killed elderly people and children.
- On September 6th, fierce fighting erupted in Ayimba town between Fano fighters and the regime forces. This clash marked a turning point in the conflict, resulting in the regime forces suffering their most significant casualties since the war began in the Amhara Region.
 - The intensity of the fighting was evident in the aftermath. Over 30 military vehicles and convoys were completely destroyed, leaving behind a trail of devastation. The toll on the regime forces was staggering, with over 1,300 soldiers killed or critically wounded. The grim reality of the battle was further highlighted by the sight of numerous charred bodies left on the battlefield on September 7th.
 - This military deployment had been dispatched by the regime from the Azezo central military command to reinforce their beleaguered troops in Metemma Woreda (West Gonder Zone). The regime forces had been engaged in relentless fighting in the area for nine days, facing stiff resistance from the Fano. However, the reinforcements were ill-prepared for the ferocity of the Fano fighters, resulting in the complete destruction of their logistics and vehicles.
 - The Fano fighters emerged victorious, capturing hundreds of regime soldiers, as documented in video footage released by the Fano. They also seized a

substantial amount of weaponry, including heavy weapons such as heavy machineguns and ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns. The Fano also destroyed numerous ZU-23 weapons, further weakening the regime's arsenal. The capture of four high-ranking military officers by the Fano represents a significant strategic victory.

- This decisive battle in Ayimba town has undoubtedly shifted power dynamics in the region demonstrating the resilience and effectiveness of the Fano fighters. The substantial losses inflicted on the regime forces are a testament to the Fano's determination and their ability to inflict heavy damage on the regime's military capabilities.

West Gonder Zone

Metemma Woreda

- On September 2nd, Fano fighters successfully regained control of Metemma Woreda. On September 1st, they captured Kokit town and on September 2nd, they captured Metemma town which is the port for dry goods. This is a decisive loss for regime forces as the strategic town is situated along the Ethiopia-Sudan border.
- From August 31st to September 2nd, intense fighting raged in the Metemma Woreda between the Fano fighters and regime forces. The three-day battle saw a decisive victory for the Fano, who ultimately gained control of the area.
 - The fighting began on August 31st and continued unabated until the evening of September 2nd. The regime forces, initially attempting to defend their positions, deployed ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns on September 1st, but were overwhelmed by the Fano offensive. This led to the regime forces abandoning Kokit town.

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- During the night of September 1st, the Fano launched a concentrated attack on regime forces stationed in Metemma-Yohannes. By the morning of September 2nd, they had successfully cleared the town and taken full control of Metemma. The Fano captured over 200 regime soldiers and seized a substantial amount of weapons, including heavy artillery and small arms.
 - While the Fano temporarily withdrew from Metemma-Yohannes between 7 and 10 pm local time on September 2nd, they returned by 11 pm and have maintained control of the town since then. They also remain in control of Kokit.
 - On September 3rd, the Fano expanded their offensive, targeting Genda-Wiha (also known as Shedi), the administrative center of West Gonder Zone. The regime forces responded with heavy artillery, ZU-23s, heavy machine guns, and mortars, initiating the fighting at Zibach-Bahir, a checkpoint on the outskirts of Genda-Wiha.
 - The Fano have seized control of Meqa, a town located along the main road connecting Gonder to Genda-Wiha. They were assisted in this effort by the Qimant fighters, led by Ayele Aba Guade.
 - The conflict continues, with the Fano seeking to wrest control of Genda-Wiha from the regime forces. The outcome of this battle will significantly impact the control of the West Gonder Zone.
- The battle for control of Genda-Wiha, the administrative town in West Gonder Zone, raged on relentlessly on September 3rd. The Fano fighters, determined to liberate the town, have encircled the regime forces stationed in Genda-Wiha from three different directions:
 - *Kokit to Genda-Wiha*: Fano forces advanced from Kokit town, tightening the noose around Ginda Wiha.

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- *Meqa to Genda-Wiha*: A second Fano contingent pressed forward from Meqa town, further isolating the regime forces.
 - *Zibach-Bahir to Genda-Wiha*: A third Fano force approached from Zibach-Bahir, effectively sealing off Genda-Wiha from any potential reinforcements.
 - Meanwhile, the fight for Metemma-Yohannes town intensified after 4 am on September 3rd, with the regime forces, regrouped and bolstered by reinforcements, launching a counter-offensive. Despite their efforts, the regime forces suffered heavy casualties, highlighting the Fano's fierce resistance. Adding to the regime's woes, Federal Police forces stationed at checkpoints in the area, fearing encirclement and cut off from reinforcements, retreated into Sudan. This further weakened the regime's defense and demonstrated the growing strength of the Fano.
 - The fighting continued unabated on September 4th, marking the fourth consecutive day of intense clashes in Metemma, Kokit, Dil-Ber, and Genda-Wiha. The Fano fighters inflicted heavy losses on the regime forces, claiming hundreds of casualties. Over 400 joint forces were captured, highlighting the Fano's tactical superiority.
 - Further demonstrating the Fano's momentum, the riot dispersal forces, who had previously attempted to negotiate surrender with the Fano through elderly mediators, were found fighting alongside the regime forces in Dil-Ber on September 4th. This betrayal led to the Fano's swift capture of Dil-Ber, a town strategically close to Genda-Wiha.
 - The regime's losses continued to mount. On September 3rd, they abandoned their military camp in Shinfu, located south of Genda-Wiha, allowing the Fano to seize control of the area. This victory solidified Fano control over a vast territory stretching from Shinfu to Qwara, effectively pushing the regime forces further back.

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- On September 4th, Fano fighters launched a significant offensive against regime forces in Aftit Kebele, located just 5-km from Genda-Wiha town. This attack followed their arrival in Genda-Wiha earlier in the day. The fighting resulted in widespread disruption of daily life in Genda-Wiha, with banks and bajaj drivers suspending their services.
 - The Fano claimed a major victory in the afternoon fighting in Metemma-Yohannes, reporting that over 650 joint regime forces defected to their side. However, this victory came at a tragic cost. Thirteen unarmed civilians were killed by regime forces in Metemma-Yohannes over this week, many of them daily laborers who had traveled to the town for work. These civilians were falsely accused of providing information to Fano forces. Tragically, the town’s church leader, a priest, was also killed by regime forces for allegedly failing to oppose the Fano’s occupation of Metemma. This killing sparked public outrage and rioting in the town.
 - In response to the Fano’s gains, regime forces launched a counter-offensive on September 5th, aiming to retake Metemma-Yohannes, Dil-Ber, and Kokit. The Fano put up a strong defense, but the regime forces received significant reinforcements, including troops flown in from Sudan. This offensive was reportedly planned and organized in Sudan.
 - The night of September 4th was marked by intense shelling in the area around Genda-Wiha, although the precise location of the shelling remains unknown. The ongoing conflict, which has now stretched over six days, has resulted in numerous casualties. Injured regime soldiers are being treated in hospitals in Sudan.
 - On September 5th, regime forces supported by a formidable arsenal of tanks, ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, heavy artillery, and heavy machineguns, launched a full-scale

offensive against Fano fighters marking the seventh day of consecutive fighting in Metemma Woreda.

- Their initial target was Dil-Ber town, which they successfully captured. However, their victory was short-lived. The regime forces abandoned Dil-Ber and pushed forward towards Kokit town, aiming to regain control of this strategically important location. This retreat allowed the Fano to quickly reclaim Dil-Ber, demonstrating their resilience and agility.
- Following a fierce and protracted battle, regime forces ultimately managed to seize Kokit, which had been under Fano control for five days. Simultaneously, regime forces launched an early morning offensive against Metemma-Yohannes, which was under Fano control. While they managed to enter the town, a tense standoff ensued, with the potential for heavy fighting as both sides vie for control.
- Throughout the day, fierce clashes erupted in various locations within Metemma Woreda, including Dil-Ber, Kokit, Aftit, and Metemma-Yohannes, lasting until 3 pm local time. The fighting spanned a vast area, stretching from Metemma-Yohannes all the way to Genda-Wiha town.
- These battles resulted in significant casualties for regime forces. Estimates suggest that over 150 regime soldiers were killed or critically injured during just one day of fighting. Despite the regime's heavy weaponry and offensive push, Fano fighters proved their mettle, successfully reclaiming Dil-Ber, Metemma-Yohannes, Kokit, and Aftit.
- The Fano's tactical brilliance was evident in their encirclement of the newly deployed regime forces stationed in Metemma town, inflicting a substantial military blow. Further, they ambushed regime forces attempting to reach Kokit, inflicting heavy casualties and capturing a military patrol.

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- The regime’s strategic setbacks were compounded by their decision to cut off mobile and internet connections in Metemma Woreda, a move likely intended to hinder communication and disrupt the Fano’s coordination. This act further underscores the desperate measures the regime is resorting to in the face of the Fano’s tenacious resistance.
 - On September 6th, the war in Metemma Woreda escalated significantly, with the regime forces suffering a series of decisive setbacks at the hands of Fano fighters. The day began with a complete data blackout across the woreda at 5 am local time. Sources attribute this disruption to heavy artillery fire by the regime forces, damaging the fiber optic cable.
 - Amidst the chaos, the Sudan Tribune reported a mass exodus of regime soldiers across the Ethio-Sudanese border. The fleeing soldiers, numbering in the hundreds, sought refuge in Sudan after being disarmed by the Sudan forces. This retreat followed fierce fighting in Metemma-Yohannes town, where the Fano ultimately emerged victorious. The Sudan Tribune confirmed that this marks the second time the Fano have secured control of Metemma-Yohannes and the bordering towns along the Sudanese frontier.
 - Despite the regime’s attempts to regain control of the area with a massive offensive involving tanks, ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, and other heavy weaponry, the Fano remain firmly in control of Dil Ber, Kokit, Aftit, and Metemma-Yohannes. Since the conflict began in the region, the regime forces have been responsible for the deaths of 18 civilians, predominantly daily laborers, including priests.
 - In an attempt to bolster their presence in the area, the regime deployed a large contingent of soldiers from the Azezo central military command on September 6th. However, these reinforcements were met with a fierce counter-offensive

by the Fano, who targeted them in three locations: Atat, a village near Azezo Gonder city, and the towns of Aymba and Seqelt. The fighting raged for seven hours, resulting in substantial losses for the regime. Over 12 military vehicles, fully loaded with soldiers, were destroyed by Fano forces.

- Desperate to rescue their trapped comrades, regime forces based in Azezo retaliated with a barrage of heavy weaponry, including rocket launchers, ZU-23s, and general artillery, towards Fano positions. Despite this bombardment, they were unable to assist their beleaguered soldiers. Instead, their indiscriminate firing resulted in the destruction of a high school in Qoladiba town.
- The day’s events highlight the intensifying conflict in Metemma Woreda, with the regime facing significant setbacks and the Fano gaining momentum and control over key strategic locations. The regime’s desperate attempts to regain ground through brute force have only resulted in further civilian casualties and destruction. The situation remains volatile and further escalation is a serious concern.
- The Fano fighters continue to hold strategic positions in the towns of Metemma-Yohannes, Kokit, Dilber, and Aftit, demonstrating their control over key areas in West Gonder Zone. Following eight days of relentless fighting, a temporary ceasefire has been established, bringing a brief respite from intense clashes.
 - The regime forces, significantly weakened and facing mounting losses, have been forced to retreat and limit their operations to a few checkpoints in Genda-Wiha, the administrative center of West Gonder Zone. The severity of the Fano’s offensive is evident in the exodus of regime soldiers across the Ethio-Sudan border. Over 173 regime soldiers have been confirmed to have fled into Sudan, where they were disarmed by Sudanese military forces,

signifying a major defeat for the regime.

- Despite the temporary lull in the fighting, the regime has shown signs of attempting to regain lost ground. On September 8th, they deployed new reinforcements via helicopter, landing five flights in Genda-Wiha town. This move suggests the regime's determination to reassert its control over the region, raising concerns about a potential resurgence of hostilities.

West Armachiho Woreda

- Fano fighters have liberated most of West Armachiho Woreda, with the exception of Abrahajira town, which remains under regime control but is encircled by the Fano forces in all directions. On September 2nd, Fano forces recaptured Girar Wiha town after a brief engagement with government troops.
- On September 2nd, a tragic incident unfolded in Armachiho, highlighting the brutality and senseless violence perpetrated by the militia forces. A young university student, seeking to earn money for his education by working as a daily laborer during the recess period, was brutally murdered while traveling from Maksegnit to Armachiho.
 - The young man was intercepted by militia forces while on the road. Despite providing a clear explanation for his presence in Armachiho, seeking work as a daily laborer, he was mercilessly shot in the chest, head, and neck. This act of senseless violence sparked widespread outrage and condemnation in Armachiho.
 - Adding to the tragedy, a priest was also killed alongside the young laborer, further deepening the sense of shock and grief in the community. The militia's actions, characterized by brutality and cold-bloodedness, underscored the growing fear and desperation within their ranks.

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- As the Fano fighters approached Abrahajira town, the militia forces, sensing defeat and despair, resorted to increasingly desperate measures, targeting young people in a bid to maintain control. The killing of the university student exemplified their growing recklessness and willingness to inflict violence on innocent civilians.
 - In a significant blow to the militia's authority, a chairman of a kebele in West Armachiho Woreda, along with a substantial number of militia forces, defected to the Fano fighters. This defection demonstrated the growing distrust of the militia forces within the local community and signaled the waning support for the regime. The chairman's decision to join the Fano fighters was a clear indication of the increasing desperation and lack of faith in the regime's ability to protect the community.

North Gonder Zone

Debark Woreda

- It has been confirmed that among 28 Kebeles located in Debark Woreda, 24 of the Kebeles are under the control of the Fano fighters.

Dabat Woreda

- On September 4th, there is a fierce fighting held between the Fano fighters and the regime forces from the stretch of Wegera-Dabat to Werqedemo Kebele (Gedebye town). The regime forces having carried heavy weapons and ammunitions have been deployed from Gonder Azezo Central Military Camp to these places. The fighting in Werqedemo is so fierce and was started at 1 am local time early in the morning.
- On September 4th, regime forces launched a series of heavy artillery attacks on Arebur Kebele in Dabat Woreda. This indiscriminate shelling resulted in the

complete destruction of four farmers' homes and their surrounding farmland, including newly planted seedlings. The motive behind this attack remains unclear, as there were no reports of Fano freedom fighter activity in the area at the time. The shelling appears to have been a deliberate act of destruction, causing significant damage to both property and livelihoods.

Addis Ababa City

- On August 5th, the regime conducted large-scale arbitrary arrests in Addis Ababa city. Individuals holding Amhara identification cards were particularly targeted and detained in areas such as Addisu-Gebeya, Hanna-Mariam, and Ferensay.
- On September 8th, regime forces have detained the manager of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, FilWiha Branch. His family remains unaware of his whereabouts.

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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