



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – July 8th to 14th, 2024

Updated July 15th, 2024

Overview

For the week of July 8th to 14th, 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 Intense fighting continues across the majority of zonal administrations in Amhara Region with incidents recorded in North Wollo, South Wollo, West Gojjam, East Gojjam, North Gojjam, Central Gonder, South Gonder, West Gonder, and North Gonder Zones.

- Attacks against civilians by joint regime forces continue across all districts with active fighting, often taking the form of reprisal killings following military losses to Fano fighters. In addition, indiscriminate shelling by regime forces continue to target residential areas at times in absence of active fighting.

¹Joint regime forces include the *Ethiopian National Defense Force* (ENDF), regional state militias, regional riot-dispersal force, and state police

-
- Mass defections continue among joint regime forces particularly in areas with intense fighting. The rate of defections appears to have increased following a video statement issued on July 10th, 2024 by former commander of the Amhara Special Forces General Tefera Mamo.
 - In Raya-Alamata Woreda (North Wollo Zone), invading TPLF forces with backing from regime military commanders and forces continue to expand control despite calls by native residents for the withdrawal of these forces. In addition, regime forces continue to carry out abuses, harassment and arrests of residents suspected of opposing the TPLF.
 - Regime forces continue to use civilian aircrafts to transport military personnel and weapons to Amhara Region. Among the airports with high traffic are the Gonder Atse Tewodros Airport in Azezo sub-city of Gonder city (Central Gonder Zone)).
 - Reports continue to emerge of widespread defections from among the joint regime forces. In Guna-Begemidir Woreda (South Gonder Zone), over 15 ethnic Amhara regular army soldiers were executed after expressing opposition to atrocities against civilians in Kimir-Dingaye.
 - In Qwara Woreda (West Gonder Zone), TPLF-affiliated Qemant and Agew Shengo militants fought alongside regime forces but appear to have reconciled with Fano following military losses by regime forces.
 - In West Telemt, East Telemt and Mai-Temri Woredas, armed TPLF militants not native to the area have continued to enter by the hundreds under pretext of being internally displaced persons. Among the militants are members of the Kibrit kill squad. Native residents continue to protest ongoing attacks, arrests and persecution of native residents of Telemt. In addition, former officials of the Tigrayan settler administration have entered, despite many accused of complicity in widespread

ethnic-based abuses against native residents of Telemt.

North Wollo Zone

Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On July 7th intense fighting between the regime forces and Fano fighters took place in Menjelo and Aradum Kebeles. The fighting was initiated by Fano forces to attack and capture a regime ammunition stock in Aradum Kebele where regime forces were encamped. After a well-coordinated attack launched in the early morning around 6:00 a.m., Fano fighters were able to capture important military assets including both group and individual firearms. The fighting lasted for 6 hours up to 12:00 p.m. In addition to acquiring firearms, the Fano fighters were able to kill and injure numerous regime soldiers. While the fighting was taking place, the regime forces arrested several youths in Kobo town accusing them of spying for Fano fighters. Among the arrested youths, two were identified as (1) Kassa Teferie and (2) Dessale Zinabie. The youths were taken to military camps, contrary to formal detention sites or police stations, in violation of their due procedural rights. They were not brought before a court either.

Raya-Alamata Woreda

- Regime security forces based in Alamata promised to remove TPLF militias who invaded the Raya and Alamata areas at the end of June. However additional heavily armed TPLF militants have been entering the Raya area. The militias are saying they will start administering the areas beginning July. Federal security forces mainly the Federal Police are harassing and arresting youths found to be voicing opposition to TPLF, and declared restrictions that limit assembly and demonstrations against TPLF militants. Since July 4th, at least 20 Amhara youths

have been arrested by Federal Police, while TPLF militants have occupied schools and other public facilities across Raya. All arrested youths were detained in unsanitary and narrow conditions without any due process, denied being arrested in a formal detention center, and brought before a court. According to Ethio-News, the Commander of Federal Police in the area, Commander Abraham is a sympathizer of TPLF who is taking partial measures against the Amhara community. The residents are asking for his removal from his position.² In a meeting held in Timuga Kebele, a regime commander told residents that TPLF militants will not withdraw.³

Guba-Lafto Woreda

- On July 12th, heavy fighting took place in various areas of Guba-Lafto Woreda between regime forces and Fano fighters. The fighting was initiated by regime forces in the early morning around 6:00 a.m., to push Fano forces out of Wotek, Siba, Merto, and Wudmen Kebeles. The fighting took place in these areas and additionally Ezet-Ber. The regime forces recklessly fired heavy weapons including long-range artillery towards Siba, Wotek, and Wudimen Kebeles resulting in the deaths of over 10 civilians including four members of a single family. Young children, women, and elderly persons were among victims killed by the artillery. The artillery was fired from the Tikur-Wuha and Jeneto-Ber areas located on the outskirts of Woldia city. A single artillery shell that struck a house killed 5 civilians inside of whom four were from a single family. The victims included farmer Amare Eshetu, a farmer and owner of the house named Amare Eshetu along with his three young children. Only the wife survived the attack. Other identified victims killed with artillery shell strikes from the same kebele include farmer Fisseha Gashaw and Tesfalem Eshetu along with his young children. A woman named Tewabech (last name unknown) was also killed. Another killed victim was a woman (not identified

²See July 10th, 2024 Ethio-News [report](#)

³See July 13th, 2024 Ethio-News [report](#)

by name) who was there to borrow a phone and call for her family. These victims' remains were buried at the graveyard of St. Wotek Teklehaymanot Church the following day (July 13th). The tenth victim was another farmer from Siba Kebele named Amare Ambaw whose dead body was buried at the graveyard of Siba St. Mary's Church.

Dawint Woreda

- After Fano forces attacked regime forces in Delanta Woreda and significant forces moved to Guba-Lafto Woreda, a few regime forces in Dawint Woreda left the woreda after being attacked by Fano in the area. Fano fighters entered Kurba town, the center of the woreda and managed to take control of the town.

South Wollo Zone

Delanta Woreda

- Since July 10th, Fano forces have been closing in on Delanta Woreda. In response, regime forces began arresting youths and taking them to China camp, where the regime forces were encamped. The youths were arrested being accused of spying for Fano fighters. While the regime forces were deployed to Guba-Lafto Woreda on July 12th, to attack Fano fighters stationed there, another Fano unit marched to Tsehay-Mewcha and Wogel-Tena towns simultaneously on the night of the same day. In Tsehay-Mewcha town, state militias, anti-riot police forces, and a few regime soldiers who were encamped there were attacked, and over 50 of them were killed. Civilians were also killed in during fighting in the area. The town (Tsehaye-Mewcha) remains under control of the Fano forces. In Wegel-Tena town, regime and security officials had entered the regime's temporary camp called China Camp, located at the eastern edge of the town. When Fano fighters entered the town

regime forces began indiscriminately firing mortar shells towards the town prompting the Fano to withdraw the following day (July 13th) not to jeopardize the safety of civilians.

East Gojjam Zone

- Over the past two days, regime forces compelled residents of woreda and zone administrations in the Gojjam sub-region to attend meetings. These meetings, led by regime command post officials, were held in many towns and cities in the area. Participants stated that discussions focused on the need to reconcile with Fano fighters. Regime officials warned residents that they would face indiscriminate extermination unless they brought the Fano to the negotiation table.

Debre-Markos city

- On July 8th, intense fighting erupted late at night at the Teachers' College and prison center, where regime soldiers were encamped. Fano fighters launched a heavy attack against the regime base, resulting in numerous regime soldier casualties and injuries. The fighting led to the killing of riot dispersal forces, and one civilian. The following day, tensions escalated further in the city, leading to the killing of four bajaj drivers by regime soldiers who accused them of delivering medicine to the Fano fighters.
- Between July 5th and 9th, regime soldiers extrajudicially executed at least six civilians in Debre Markos city and surrounding areas. On July 5th, regime soldiers killed Tsige Abebe, a church minister (Meri-Geta) and head of the Gozaman Woreda Church office. The incident occurred around midday in Kebele 5 (Fikire-Selam area) when the soldiers found him moving in the area. The soldiers killed him alleging he had ties with Fano fighters. Tsige Abebe was in his 40s and

had eight children. On July 8th, regime soldiers killed Fikru Yibeltal, a young resident of Debre Markos city. Though sources are unsure of the exact reason for the killing, he was killed in Kebele 10 after soldiers found him on the street. Fikru was laid to rest at the cemetery of St. Medhanialem Church. On July 10th, regime soldiers extrajudicially killed four civilians in Kebele 17 (Gutera area) in Debre Markos city. According to sources, the soldiers left the bodies on the road in Kebele 3 for an extended period. The victims, all bajaj drivers by profession, were accused of transporting and delivering medical equipment and tablets to Fano fighters. AAA identified names of four victims killed in the July 10th incident as follows: (1) Belayneh Ashebir, (2) Gezahegn Beyene, (3) Worku Kassa and (4) Zewdu Birhan.

Gozamin Woreda

- On July 10th, fighting occurred in the Desa-Yohannes area near Debre-Markos city. Sources say regime soldiers initiated gunfire in searching for militias captured during the Fano attack on regime soldiers on the night of July 9th. The fighting reportedly started early in the morning and persisted until midday.

Dejen Woreda

- On July 12th, regime troops traveling from the Gubiya area to Dejen town were attacked by Fano fighters, leading to a heavy clash. The Fano fighters launched a sudden attack in Qolim Kebele, killing more than 26 regime soldiers, primarily regime militias and riot dispersal forces. The Zambera Brigade Fano, operating in Dejen Woreda and the surrounding area, carried out this operation.

West Gojjam Zone

- Between July 10th-11th, heavy clashes and surprise attacks took place in areas of West Gojjam and Awi Zones.

-
- The regime has continued conducting meetings in various towns, seemingly to pretend that the Prosperity Party regime believes the ongoing armed conflict will end with peaceful solutions. Finote-Selam, Debre-Markos, and Jiga towns are examples where such conferences took place over the past two days.
 - In a separate development, members of regime troops, mainly riot dispersal forces and regime militias, continued to defect in large numbers. Some reports indicate that in Gojjam sub-region alone, over 130 troops have reportedly defected from the military in the last few days, with many joining the Fano group.

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On July 9th, intense fighting broke out in the areas of Sakbesak and Zindib. The conflict was initiated by regime soldiers after a battalion leader and two of his soldiers defected from Jiga. This defection prompted regime forces to launch a fierce assault against the Fano group that these defectors had possibly joined. Despite regime forces mobilizing from Jiga and encircling the Fano encampment at night, Fano fighters managed to break the encirclement, inflicting several casualties on regime soldiers. Sources also confirmed one unarmed civilian was killed by the regime soldiers in the context of the fighting. The name of the killed victim was identified as Manaye Emagnu Alemu.

Finote-Selam city

- On July 8th, nine soldiers defected from the military and reportedly joined the Fano in the surrounding area.
- As of July 11th, riot dispersal forces continue to defect from the military, with three more police officers reportedly defecting from the Finote-Selam military camp.

Quarit Woreda

- On July 10th, a prominent Prosperity Party regime agent operating in the area named Dagnaw Kebede was killed by Fano fighters. Reports indicate that Dagnaw ordered the killing of countless civilians and key Fano members in the woreda. Consequently, residents and Fano fighters in the woreda particularly those in Genet-Abo town were relieved of his passing.

Dembecha Woreda

- On July 11th, there was a light gunfire exchange in areas surrounding Dembecha. The fighting erupted following a sudden Fano attack on a regime convoy traveling from Jiga to Dembecha. Reports indicate that Fano fighters inflicted significant losses on regime soldiers.
- On July 12th, intense fighting took place around Dembecha town following a surprise attack by Fano fighters on regime soldiers advancing towards Gelila. Reports indicate that regime forces, mainly regime militias and riot dispersal forces, were completely suppressed suffering deaths, injury, and capture. Regime reinforcements were also attacked by Fano fighters, resulting in further casualties among regime soldiers. The Engineer Kiber Temesgen Brigade Fano, operating in Dembecha Woreda and surrounding areas, carried out these operations.

Dega-Damot Woreda

- On July 13th, intense fighting occurred in Sekela and Hamus Gebeya Kebeles. The regime soldiers launched the attack early in the morning, mobilizing from nearby bases to Fano strongholds. Reports indicate that the fighting continued until the afternoon as Fano fighters, the Dega-Damot Brigade Fano group, fiercely resisted with a counteroffensive. Fano fighters also advanced on regime military camps in

Ziquala Kebele and areas surrounding Feres-Bet, possibly to disrupt further mobilization of regime soldiers towards the main battle area.

North Gojjam Zone

- On July 9th, journalist and former director of Amhara Media Corporation (AMECO) Kalkidan Girma, joined Fano forces operating in Mecha and surrounding areas.

South Achefer Woreda

- On July 9th, intense fighting erupted in Durbete, initiated by Fano fighters. Reports indicate that prolonged fighting led to significant losses among the regime soldiers.

Awi Zone

Kosober (Injibara) Woreda

- On July 9th, fierce fighting broke out in Kosober (Injibara), administrative center of Awi Zone. Fano fighters launched significant offensives early in the morning, following the mobilization of regime forces to Jawi Woreda. The fighting caused considerable losses among regime soldiers, and Fano fighters were able to disrupt the regime's movements.
- On July 9th, heavy fighting was reported in Kosober, both inside the town and on its outskirts. The clashes began after Fano fighters launched a sudden attack in the Durfan area neighboring the town. Reports indicate that over 70 regime soldiers were killed in the exchange of gunfire. Following this, another Fano group attacked a different location inside Kosober where regime soldiers were encamped, resulting in further losses for the regime. Reports also indicate that Fano fighters caused significant casualties in Addis-Kidam and Durbete.

-
- On July 11th, Fano fighters conducted a sudden attack on a convoy traveling in the Zengena area near Injibara town. This resulted in a brief gunfire exchange, leading to deaths of some regime soldiers. Following the clash with Fano fighters, regime soldiers reportedly killed a farmer they encountered on the street.

Fagta-Lekoma Woreda

- In the afternoon of July 9th, brief fighting occurred in Addis-Kidam town. Sources suggest that gunfire in Addis-Kidam may be connected to fighting in Kosober. The outcome remains unknown, but it was confirmed that a construction worker was killed.

Central Gonder Zone

- For two consecutive days, July 6th and 7th, intense clashes erupted between Fano fighters and joint regime forces spanning five woredas and multiple kebeles including East Dembiya, West Dembiya, Chuahit, Qoladiba, Gonder-Zuriya, and the area spanning from Maksegnit to Belessa.
- Fighting in Tseda sub-city resulted in significant casualties among high-ranking regime officials, including the militia secretariat authority and the top police commander. Numerous police officers and regular soldiers were also killed. In Chuahit, Fano fighters destroyed numerous military vehicles known as "orals."
- While fighting subsided on July 8th, it resumed in Gonder-Zuriya Woreda, specifically from Maksegnit town to Belessa. On the afternoon of July 7th, fierce fighting raged in Belessa, particularly in Arbaya, administrative center of the woreda. Following hours of intense fighting, Fano fighters emerged victorious, reclaiming control of Arbaya. The clashes resulted in the deaths of at least 24 regime forces including 11 militia members, six regular soldiers and seven so-called

peacekeeping forces. An unknown number of joint regime forces sustained critical and minor injuries. The woreda Prosperity Party's top officials were forced to flee the town. The Fano fighters seized over 21 heavy and small arms from the joint regime forces.

- On July 8th, a fierce battle erupted between Fano fighters and joint regime forces in Zuyi Hamusit town (Belessa), resulting in heavy casualties for regime forces. Over 30 regime soldiers were killed in the fighting. Additionally, in a separate clash in Guhala town, another six regime soldiers were killed. The Fano fighters successfully captured over 24 heavy and small arms, as well as over 20 hand grenades, from regime forces. Although fighting lasted for a relatively short time it proved devastating for joint regime forces.
- As of July 12th, fierce fighting between Fano fighters and joint regime forces entered the ninth consecutive day and has spread across six woredas, including Gonder city, and encompasses 34 separate locations. The battle near Atse Tewodros Airport in Azezo sub-city was particularly intense, involving heavy weapons such as heavy machineguns, mortars, and artillery, with both sides engaging in fierce exchanges.
 - The regime forces suffered substantial losses, including the deaths of at least 200 special commando forces. The regime deployed ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns in the fighting. Two Fano fighters were reportedly killed in the fighting.
 - The fighting began in Min-Yichil-Gebriel village, located northwest of Atse Tewodros Airport, and forced regime forces to retreat into the airport. Following this victory for the Fano, all flights from Addis Ababa city to Gonder city were cancelled. The regime deployed special commandos to Gonder city using civilian aircraft and Antonov planes. Their mission was to provide security for the inauguration of a hotel park in Gorgora town by Abiy

Ahmed. The commandos were tasked with protecting Abiy Ahmed during his travel from Gonder city to Gorgora.

- In a conflict escalating in Guba Kebele, regime forces have been accused of targeting unarmed civilians while engaging with Fano fighters. During the fighting, regime special commandos reportedly fired heavy weapons into residential villages in the kebele, resulting in the deaths of at least six civilians. The indiscriminate use of ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns from the Megech Military Camp also caused damage to numerous homes.
- The Fano fighters claim to have captured 14 special commandos, along with three light machineguns, four sniper rifles, and various other heavy weapons and small arms. Two military trucks, a pickup vehicle and an Isuzu, with many special commandos onboard, were also destroyed, with over 14 trucks deployed to support the regime forces. Despite their supposed elite training, the special commandos were overwhelmed by the Fano fighters, lasting less than three hours in the confrontation. The fighters' perceived athleticism contributed to the regime forces' perceived weakness. Even soldiers stationed at the Azezo Central Military Command exhibited fear and apprehension, with civilians were restricted from moving around the camp.
- Three fortified military positions, carefully constructed by the regime with bulldozers to defend Gonder city, were breached by Fano fighters. The regime special commandos were forced to abandon these positions, leaving them in the hands of the Fano fighters. Top Gonder city officials, who were anticipating the arrival of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, were also forced to flee the city following the fall of the fortified positions, which were considered impregnable. The fighting has continued as of July 12th.
- On July 13th, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed visited Gorgora town to inaugurate the

newly constructed luxury hotel on the shores of Lake Tana. While the regime had planned a series of events in Gonder city following the inauguration but these plans were abruptly canceled. The Fano fighters' control over Gonder and the risk of unforeseen incidents during Abiy's visit prompted the regime to abandon its plans.

East Dembiya Woreda

- Between July 8th and 9th, regime forces carried out killings against unarmed civilians in Qoladiba town and surrounding areas. Among the victims were farmers entering the town to sell charcoal and were accused of spying and providing information to Fano. On July 8th, regime forces carried out reprisal killings targeting civilians in Qoladiba town following heavy losses to Fano forces nearby. These individuals, who had no connection to Fano were dragged from their residences and subsequently executed. Among the killed civilians were four adult women identified by name as follows: Meseret Abebe (40-years-old); Aregash Belete (66-years-old); Worekete Feleke (40-years-old) and Wubet Feleke (45-years-old)
- On July 9th, numerous helicopters were observed landing and taking off in areas between Azezo and East Dembiya Woreda. These helicopters were seen deploying commandos in at least four locations. A large number of military forces, deployed from Azezo Central Military Command, were seen conducting military parades towards Tseda and Maksegnit. Gonder city is experiencing increased movement of military vehicles and soldiers with the majority of them being commando forces wearing red bonnets.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- Heightened military activity is expected due to heavy losses sustained by the regime during fierce fighting in the woreda. The regime is deploying reinforcements by air

and land, seeking to regain control. Furthermore, a military general has been missing from the region for the past three days, prompting the deployment of highly trained commandos to Gonder city in an attempt to locate him. The general's identity remains unknown, and his whereabouts, whether he has joined the Fano or returned to his family, are currently unclear.

- On July 8th, fierce fighting erupted in the afternoon across multiple locations in Gonder-Zuriya Woreda. The clashes intensified around 8 pm, lasting until 3 pm local time in the evening, with Minzro, Jayra, Maksegnit, and the outskirts of Tseda sub-city begin epicenters of conflict. A surprise attack on a regime checkpoint in Aroge-Maksegnit resulted in the deaths of at least 10 regular army soldiers. Following this surprise attack, the fighting escalated and spread from Maksegnit town to other areas within Gonder-Zuriya, including Tsion, Jayra, Degola, and Chinchaye. Intense clashes also occurred near Tseda sub-city, covering the area from Bahir-Ginb to Amora-Giyorgis. The joint regime forces suffered heavy losses in all areas of conflict. Two military vehicles carrying riot dispersal forces were destroyed in a surprise attack by the Fano, resulting in at least 15 casualties among the riot dispersal forces. Mortar shelling continued until 3 pm local time near Maksegnit town.
- On July 9th, a fierce battle erupted between regime forces and Fano fighters in a location between Azezo and Tseda sub-cities. The regime forces unleashed a barrage of heavy weaponry, including heavy machineguns, artillery, and ZU-23s, until 2:00 pm local time in the evening. The intensity of the firing was so significant that residential buildings in Azezo were reportedly shaking from the force. Casualties from the fighting are currently unknown.
- Since the afternoon of July 10th, regime forces have been shelling the villages of Burbuaks and Wanza with heavy artillery. The extent of casualties from this

prolonged shelling remains unknown. On July 10th, numerous Antonov aircrafts landed in Gonder Atse Tewodros Airport, deploying a large number of commandos to Gonder city. This deployment of commandos continued into the following day, July 11th. Following the deployment of new commando forces to Gonder city, Fano fighters received intelligence indicating that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed would visit Gonder on Saturday to inaugurate a hotel park constructed at Gorgora. In response, the Fano launched a three-pronged offensive against the newly stationed commandos near Tewodros Airport in Azezo, targeting the airport itself. This surprise attack resulted in significant casualties among regime forces. In an attempt to support encircled troops and counter the Fano advance, regime forces stationed in Azezo initiated heavy artillery shelling towards the airport. However, this shelling also targeted civilian areas, causing damage and potentially injuring civilians.

Gonder City

- On July 8th, Fano fighters staged a surprise ambush against regime forces traveling in two military trucks and two military pickups near Loza-Maryam church, just outside Azezo sub-city. The attack resulted in the deaths of most of the soldiers onboard, with the remaining soldiers sustaining serious injuries.
- The family of Colonel Abera Azanaw, a renowned expert in anti-ground mining, has reported his disappearance. Colonel Azanaw, who had received extensive training in anti-ground mining across Africa, Asia, Europe, and America, had submitted his resignation from the military's anti-mining office in Addis Ababa three months prior to his disappearance. He traveled to Gonder to visit his family but was subsequently abducted by military intelligence and placed in a dark, underground cell at Azezo Central Military Command. The military accused Colonel Azanaw of planning to join the Fano and give military training to Fano fighters. After three months of solitary confinement, his whereabouts remain unknown to his family.

-
- On July 9th, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime forces traveling in military vehicles near the North-West Central Military Command in Azezo sub-city. The attack, which occurred around 10:25 pm local time in the village of Muqechit near Atat, resulted in heavy casualties for regime forces. At least 17 soldiers were killed, and numerous others were critically injured and transported to Azezo Ayra Hospital.
 - Following this attack, a fierce battle erupted between the Fano and regime forces in Azezo, lasting for 1 hour and 30 minutes. Heavy weaponry was used, causing buildings across Azezo to shake. One Fano fighter and one civilian were killed during the fighting, the latter by regime forces' mortar fire. The Fano captured over 14 small arms and one heavy weapon.
 - Intense fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces has continued across various woredas and kebeles in Central Gonder Zone since Thursday (June 11th). The fighting has resulted in the destruction of 19 heavy military trucks belonging to the regime forces. The clashes are ongoing in Central Gonder Zone as of July 10th.
 - On the night of July 12th, intense clashes erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in the Angereb and Maremiya Bet (Gonder city's detention center) areas. The fighting, which began at 5 pm lasted until 11 pm local time, and reportedly resulted in the deaths of high-ranking security officials. Similar fierce battles were also reported in Ras-Ginb village. In a further development, military personnel suspected of supporting Fano fighters have been detained, disarmed, and restricted to their camps. This measure, targeting primarily riot dispersal forces, aims to curtail their participation in any future military operations within Gonder city.
 - Corruption is rampant in Gonder city with Prosperity Party political cadres and top military personnel engaged in illegal land sales throughout the city. These sales are taking place from Maraki sub-city to Abune-Aregawi and Aba-Samuel villages.

Furthermore, the regular police forces of the 6th police station in Gonder city have been eating at a restaurant located in front of the station under a contract where the cost was supposed to be covered by government funds allocated for this purpose. However, when the police officers were asked to pay for their meals, they told the restaurant owners that there was no budget to cover the cost of feeding the police forces. Over 250,000 birr has gone unpaid to this single restaurant.

West Dembiya Woreda

- In response to the Fano's attacks, regime forces have perpetrated widespread attacks against unarmed civilians in Central Gonder Zone. A list of victims killed in West Dembiya Woreda alone, between June and July 9th, has been compiled as follows:

No.	Victim Name	Sex	Age	Location
1	Semahagn Malede	M	45	Chuahit
2	Yohannes Semagn*	M	34	Chauhith
3	Meles Semagn*	M	31	Chauhith
4	Adane Semagn*	M	28	Chuahit
5	Getasew Nanaw	M	36	Kebele 1, Chuahit
6	Getasew Wudu	M	34	Kebele 1, Chuahit
7	Mesafint Tesfaw	M	42	Kebele 2
8	Agazje Assefa	M	20	Kebele 2
9	Aderajew Mebratu	M	28	Kebele 2
10	Fetishew Babil	M	36	Kebele 2
11	Moges Lakew	M	24	Abawuram Kebele
12	Asqenaw Birhan	M		Abawuram Kebele
13	Getalem (last name unknown)	M	40	Abawuram Kebele
14	Tesfahun Getinet	M	29	Dahnawawa Kebele
15	Mulugetta Andualem	M	36	Dahnawawa Kebele

16	Awoke Abebe	M	28	Chenker Kebele
17	Yenesew Kassie	M	34	Mange Kebele
18	Misganaw Tareqegn	M	38	Qezeba Kebele
19	Gebre Asfaw	M	36	Simra Kebele
20	Abraham Demoze	M	29	Jenda Kebele
21	Sisay Endeshaw	M	36	
22	Endalamaw (last name unknown)	M	27	
23	Mengistu Chanie	M		
24	Dessie (last name unknown)	M		
25	Abaynew Bere	M	28	
26	Sendeq (last name unknown)	M	36	

- On July 9th, regime forces stationed near Chuahit town, specifically in Semercha village, opened fire with heavy artillery on Tezeba-Genbera Kebele, striking civilian homes and killing residents. Following the death of 40-year-old Aregash, her family approached local authorities seeking answers about the unprovoked attack. The authorities, however, claimed to have no power to prevent civilian casualties. Undeterred, the family then appealed to the ENDF commander (a captain) in Chuahit, demanding an explanation for the killings. The captain, in a startling response, asserted that they had actually saved the villagers from further harm by intervening, claiming the soldier firing the artillery was intoxicated. He accused the families of being ungrateful for their "rescue" from potential death. Frustrated by the lack of accountability and the ongoing threat, local farmers, during a meeting with political cadres, demanded an immediate end to the violence and the demilitarization of the woreda. They expressed their refusal to tolerate any further killings or harassment, demanding the soldiers be returned to their military camps.

Wogera Woreda

- On July 8th, regime forces extrajudicially killed four 12th-grade students in Arba-Arat Kebele. These students were scheduled to take their matriculation exams on July 10th. Fano fighters subsequently announced the capture of ten militia members responsible for the students' deaths. The woreda administration issued a statement claiming the Fano were responsible for the killings however this has been widely seen as an attempt to discredit the Fano through false means.

West Belessa Woreda

- On July 8th, fighting in Arbaya town resulted in significant casualties for regime forces. A total of 28 regime forces were killed including 12 militia members, 5 riot dispersal forces, and 11 regular soldiers. The Fano captured a number of heavy weapons and small arms from fallen regime soldiers.
- During this fierce battle, Gelagay Fentaw, elder brother of Belete Fentaw, leader of the Tsinat Fano armed division, was killed. Despite his deep grief over the loss of his brother, Belete led his forces to a decisive victory against the regime's joint forces. Motivated by a desire for vengeance, Belete relentlessly pursued the regime forces, forcing them to abandon Arbaya after suffering heavy losses.
- As of July 15th, the majority of militia forces in West Belesa have been disbanded following heavy casualties sustained in fighting over the last ten days with Fano fighters. The militia commander, Hassen, fled his post after these losses. The woreda authority responsible for the weapons store also disappeared. Meanwhile, the local peacekeeping force, initially composed of 60 members, now stands at only 14.
- On July 13th, seven riot dispersal force members and five militia members deserted their posts and joined Fano fighters.

East Belessa Woreda

- Intense fighting erupted on July 14th, in Chorqa Kebele between Fano fighters and joint regime forces. The fighting resulted in significant losses for the regime, with over 31 members of the joint regime forces killed and 11 captured by the Fano. The Fano fighters also seized a large cache of weapons, including over 27 heavy weapons and small arms, from the regime forces.

South Gonder Zone

- In a dramatic shift of allegiance, over 73 riot dispersal, militia, and regular police forces from the Amhara Regional State defected to Fano fighters in South Gonder Zone alone within just two days following the official call to arms from Brigadier General Tefera Mamo. This trend was replicated in other zones, with 23 riot dispersal and militia forces joining the Fano in west Gonder, and 19 defecting in Central Gonder Zone. Seven members of the riot dispersal forces defected from the joint regime forces in Mekane-Eyesus town and joined the Fano. This was followed by a similar defection in Fogera Woreda, where 15 militia members joined the Fano forces on the night of July 7th. The riot dispersal forces who defected arrived fully equipped with military gear.

Tach-Gayint Woreda

- On July 7th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and joint regime forces across multiple locations, including Zenefel, Agat, Megga, and Daq. The fighting in Zenefel was particularly fierce, resulting in heavy casualties for the regime forces. At least two militia members were killed, and numerous regime forces sustained critical and minor injuries. Furthermore, following the refusal of riot dispersal forces to participate in the fighting, a conflict emerged between them and regular

military forces.

Estie Woreda

- On July 8th, a female police commander defected from the regime forces, taking with her a significant number of militia members and joining Fano fighters in Estie Woreda. Additionally, the Fano issued a warning to Estie Woreda political cadres, urging them to cancel their planned political indoctrination meeting scheduled for the coming Saturday (July 13th).
- On July 10th, a large number of militia and regular police forces defected from joint regime forces in Estie Woreda, with the majority joining Fano fighters. A planned political cadre meeting in Mekane-Eyesus town was canceled due to a multi-pronged offensive attack launched by the Fano in the town. In response, regime forces retaliated with mortar fire, causing critical injuries to four unarmed civilians. Two of those injured are in critical condition and feared dead.
- On July 13th, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on a militia camp in Andabet. The assault resulted in the deaths of at least five militiamen and the injury of eleven others, including police forces. The Fano captured an unspecified number of additional militiamen, along with seven heavy weapons and numerous small arms. The attack also resulted in serious injuries to a high-ranking Prosperity Party cadre in the area, who was subsequently hospitalized.

Fogera Woreda

- On July 9th, a significant number of militia members defected from joint regime forces in Fogera Woreda. In response, the woreda military command post issued a declaration barring militia and riot dispersal forces from engaging in any military operations. They were ordered to remain in their respective camps. Over 35 militia

members have joined the Fano fighters in Fogera Woreda. A battle between the Fano and regime forces near the border of Dera Woreda was reported, but casualties remain unknown.

- On July 10th, Melaku Assefa, owner of the Tewodros photo shop in Wereta town, was detained by regime forces. The alleged reason for his arrest was that he displayed and posted images of Dessalegn Bele, a former commander of the militia forces secretariat in Dera Woreda who recently defected to Fano fighters. Melaku's current location remains unknown.

Guna-Begemidir Woreda

- Following Brigadier-General Tefera Mamo's public call for riot dispersal forces, militia members, regular police, and military personnel to join the Fano, a mass defection occurred on the night of July 10th, in Estie and Simada Woredas.⁴ Numerous militia, riot dispersal, police, and regular army members joined the Fano forces. Additionally, a large but unspecified number of riot dispersal forces, fully equipped, defected from their post in Kimir-Dingaye town, the administrative center of Guna-Begemidir Woreda, and joined the Fano on July 11th.
- Colonel Juar, a regime army officer stationed in Kimir-Dingaye town, has ordered the execution of numerous Amhara soldiers in the town. These soldiers were called to a meeting and then killed once they were gathered in a single room. Over 15 soldiers were executed by Colonel Juar. The Amhara soldiers were targeted because they vocally opposed extrajudicial killings of unarmed civilians in Kimir-Dingaye.
- On July 15th, regime forces severely beat a number of drivers transporting matriculation examinees from Gaynt to Debre Tabor University. The reason for the attack is unknown. Most of the drivers have been confirmed to be detained by

⁴See July 10th, 2024 [statement](#) from General Tefera Mamo

regime forces.

Debre-Tabor city

- On July 11th, a fierce battle erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Werqe Kebele, located 2-km from Debre-Tabor city and between Debre-Tabor and the historic town of Mahdere-Maryam. The Fano forces employed RPGs against the regime, which retaliated with ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, mortars, and light machineguns. Fighting continued into the evening until darkness made it impossible to continue.
- The regime forces reportedly sustained heavy losses, with at least 13 soldiers killed. Local residents confirmed seeing three uncollected bodies of regime soldiers on July 12th in the battle zone. The road between Debre-Tabor and Mahdere-Maryam has been blocked for nine months, isolating the town. The semi-arid region near Mahdere-Maryam has been affected by a malaria epidemic, but residents are often denied treatment at Debre-Tabor Hospital under the claim that all Mahdere-Maryam residents are members of the Fano fighters.
- A brief clash occurred between Fano fighters and regime forces in Ayer-Marefiya village, in Debre-Tabor city, on July 15th. The extent of casualties from the fighting is currently unknown.

Simada Woreda

- On July 13th, a young man who had joined the regime's militia forces for military training and equipment, defected to the Fano after completing his training. The individual, fully equipped and trained by the regime, ultimately chose to align himself with Fano.

West Gonder Zone

Qwara Woreda

- On July 9th, Fano fighters launched surprise attacks against regime forces in the area of Qwara town. First, they ambushed a group of soldiers traveling from Delego town to Mur village, targeting two military trucks and inflicting heavy casualties on the soldiers onboard. Later, Fano fighters ambushed another group of regime forces traveling from Metemma and Shinfa towns towards Qwara, attacking four military vehicles with explosive devices near Dubaba village, resulting in significant damage.
- On July 10th, fierce fighting erupted across the woreda between the Fano fighters and joint regime forces including TPLF affiliated Qemant and Agew Shengo militants. Despite the regime's efforts to bolster its forces, the Fano decisively defeated them in six separate locations, including Agam-Wiha, Mur, Fershewa, Nikawa, and other areas in the zone. The Fano claimed to have killed over 184 regime soldiers, with significant additional casualties, including those injured, whose exact number remains unknown.
- On July 11th, multiple helicopters were deployed to Qwara Woreda to evacuate bodies of fallen soldiers and injured officers. Following heavy losses, surviving regime allied forces retreated to the mountains, sporadically firing heavy weapons in an attempt to regain control of the area.
- As of July 13th, Fano fighters have established control over most of Qwara Woreda, leaving only two kebeles under control of the regime administrative. A significant number of Qemant and Agew Shengo militants have reconciled with the Fano, surrendering over 19 weapons. This victory has further solidified Fano's control over the region, with all regime administrative institutions from Dubaba to Shinfa

and Metemma now disbanded and under Fano control.

- In a surprise ambush three days ago (July 11th), Fano fighters launched a decisive attack on a convoy of 12 heavy military trucks traveling from Genda-Wiha Kebele (Metemma Woreda) towards Qwara. The fierce attack, which caught regime forces off guard, resulted in the deaths of the majority of soldiers on six of the vehicles, with the remaining sustaining critical injuries. Among the casualties were a General and a Colonel, whose names remain undisclosed, along with the soldiers under their command. The Fano claimed a total of 184 soldiers were killed in the ambush. As a result of this victory, the Fano now controls 28 out of the 29 kebeles in Qwara Woreda. The remaining kebele is held by regime forces who have retreated to Alemu Mountain. From their position, they are attempting to shell Fano-controlled areas with mortars and ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, but their attacks are sporadic and ineffective.

West Armachiho Woreda

- Eight individuals, including medical workers and former politicians such as Engidaw Wagnew, were detained by regime forces and held for an extended period, during which they suffered from cholera and malaria. After a long delay, they were brought before the West Armachiho Woreda court, where they were exonerated of all charges and ordered to be immediately released. This decision was made following a habeas corpus petition filed by their legal counsel. The West Armachiho Woreda administration delegate, Yeshiwerq Dires, informed the court that the individuals were detained by the State of Emergency Military Command Post and stated that they would not be released. However, the court ruled that the Command Post's mandate had expired and that its current existence was unconstitutional. The court ordered the immediate release of the detainees, demanding that the individuals be freed from their illegal detention by the unauthorized group.

Metemma Woreda

- Numerous truck drivers have been taken hostage, with the captors demanding a ransom of 3 million birr per person. The kidnappings are believed to be orchestrated by regime forces and high-ranking woreda officials, who aim to blame the Fano fighters for these acts. This road, a vital artery for the transport of goods and commodities between Sudan and Ethiopia, is the second most important route to Ethiopia after the Djibouti connection.
- On July 11th, fierce fighting erupted in Kokit town (Metemma Woreda) between Fano fighters and regime forces. Adding to the conflict, Inspector Tadesse Wubalem, a seasoned military officer with 27 years of military experience serving regular military forces and the Amhara Regional State, joined Fano forces in Metemma. His expertise is expected to bolster the Fano's combat capabilities.

North Gonder Zone

West Telemt, East Telemt and Mai-Temri Woredas

- On July 8th, former TPLF official Addisalem Assefa was apprehended by the residents of Telemt while attempting to orchestrate the assassination of current Telemt administrative officials. Simultaneously, a significant number of TPLF armed militants, belonging to the Tsinat army division (focused on intelligence operations for retaking Telemt and Welkait-Tegede), infiltrated Telemt with the explicit permission of regime forces stationed in the area.
 - The infiltrators, all members of the Tsinat army division, arrived fully armed and were identified by sources as follows: Fisseha Asmare, Abraham Mulualem, Mamaye Asmare, Million Techanew, Priest Molla Berhe, Tadesse Kehasay (member of the 51 Commando army division), Abraham Mulualem,

Hagos Birhanu, Teferi Mekonnen, Birhane Nigussie, Addisalem Kidanemaryam, Priest Hagos Gebremaryam, Asres Amare, Hagosay Mekonnen, Zenebe Admasu, Abay Tsigabe, Mebrhatay Mengistay, Mohaba Tadesse, and Ambachew Melkam.

- Several of these individuals belong to the TPLF’s Kibrit killing squad, tasked with eliminating prominent figures and members of the current Telemt Amhara Identity Restoration Committee. Despite local residents alerting regime military commanders to these infiltrators’ identities and their intended actions, the commanders ignored the warnings and allowed them to enter, disguised as former Telemt Woreda militias and local residents.
- Additional high-ranking former TPLF officials who entered under the guise of internally displaced persons include: Tamene Ashebir, Ashebir Tesfaye, Haben Asfay, Atakliti Amare, Goshu Teshome, and Searon Berhe. Tsegaye Mulaw, Mesafint Asfaw, Hadush Amare, Solomon Teka, and Legesse Yirga, former TPLF-appointed officials of Telemt Woreda, were also permitted entry by regime forces. Their objective is to restore TPLF administration and facilitate the reannexation of Telemt to the Tigray Regional State.
- Former TPLF police commanders, posing as internally displaced persons, include: Ashebrom Berhe, Gebreamlak Gebrewahd, and Sisay Mulualem.
- On July 9th, May-Temri town Mayor Solomon Atalay, along with a group of well-trained residents of Telemt, joined the Fano, bringing with them full military equipment. Solomon Atalay narrowly escaped a bomb attack on his home, allegedly perpetrated by the TPLF’s kill squad. Following the Prosperity Party’s decision to transfer Telemt to the TPLF.
- TPLF armed forces, specifically members of the Tsinat army division, continue to infiltrate Telemt Woreda under the guise of returning IDPs. These militants are not

native to the region, and their presence has been confirmed by Telemt residents. According to local reports, 16 armed militants entered Sene-Maryam Kebele, 22 in Dilamba Kebele, 28 in Mai-Gimere Kebele, 31 in Dima town (East Telemt Woreda), 20 in Miyami Kebele, 34 in Chachire Kebele, 26 in Fiyel-Wiha Kebele, 20 in Babaqo Kebele, and 15 in Minchara Kebele. All arrived fully equipped. Telemt residents are increasingly concerned about the influx of armed TPLF militants. Furthermore, two TPLF army divisions that were not withdrawn after the TPLF was pushed out of Telemt remain stationed near Dima town in East Telemt Woreda. With these additional reinforcements, the TPLF militants are poised to launch attacks against the native Telemt Amhara population and facilitate the region's annexation into Tigray Regional State.

Debark Woreda

- On July 9th, a six-hour battle raged between Fano fighters and joint regime forces in Weqin town, a strategically important location in North Gonder Zone, 15-km from Debark town. The Fano emerged victorious, inflicting heavy casualties on the regime forces. At least eight militia and regular police officers were killed, while a significant number of regime soldiers sustained injuries. The Fano captured over 15 soldiers and seized over 30 heavy and small arms. The Fano suffered only one minor injury during the battle, with no fatalities or serious injuries.

Adarkay Woreda

- On July 8th, an assassination attempt was made against Deacon Shegaw Wube, administrator of North Gonder Zone. The attack targeted his vehicle near Adarkay town, resulting in the deaths of six of his bodyguards. However, Shegaw narrowly escaped the assassination attempt.

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.

- Contact us via Email: info@amharaamerica.org
- Visit our website at www.AmharaAmerica.org
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#)
- To make donations: <https://www.amharaamerica.org/get-involved>

