



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – August 26th to September 1st, 2024

Updated September 1st, 2024

Overview

For the week of August 26th to September 1st, 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 In Oromia Region, the *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) has worked alongside regime joint forces to attack Amhara residents.

- Fighting between Fano forces and joint regime forces has continued in urban areas including Debre-Birhan, Shewa-Robit, areas surrounding Bahir-Dar, Debre-Tabor and Gonder cities.
- Regime forces targeted civilians in the following locations: Dejen, Dega-Damot, Simada, Debre-Tabor, Gonder-Zuriya, West Armachiho and Debark Woredas. In addition, dozens of civilians were mass arrested in Enemay Woreda.

¹Regime joint forces consist of the *Ethiopian National Defense Force* (ENDF), regional riot dispersal forces, regional militias and regional police.

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- On August 29th, OLA militants abducted a significant number of travelers traveling aboard a bus from Amhara Region to Addis Ababa city.
 - On August 28th, OLA and regime joint forces attacked Amhara residents in Tuti Kebele in Dera Woreda (North Shewa Zone, Oromia Region).

North Shewa Zone

Tarma-Ber Woreda

- On August 27th, regime forces prevented transportation from Debre-Sina to Debre-Birhan, effectively denying people their right to freedom of movement. As a result, residents were unable to access essential goods and services, including emergency healthcare.
- On August 28th, regime forces raped an elderly woman and later killed her in Kebele 1 of Debre-Sina town.
 - Bajaj transportation services have been halted in Debre-Sina, making it difficult for residents to sustain their livelihoods. The regime’s actions have effectively restricted the right of individuals to work.
 - Regime forces, dressed in civilian clothing, have been harassing and insulting local residents.

Debre-Birhan City

- On August 26th, Ethio News reported that bombs exploded at the office of the North Shewa Zone Prosperity Party.² These explosions caused significant damage, including the destruction of three vehicles. Additionally, bombs detonated at the

²See August 28, 2024 [update](#) from Ethio-News.

Gitvah Hotel, a location where many military and security officials were staying, resulting in the deaths of numerous security personnel.

- On August 27th, at the entry point from Debre-Sina to Debre-Birhan, Federal Police at the checkpoint harassed people during inspections, causing frustration and distress among those affected. Regime forces have established numerous checkpoints throughout residential areas and at key locations across the city. This has resulted in widespread harassment and has contributed to heightened levels of frustration among residents.
- On August 28th, Fano forces launched an attack on the regime forces in Debre-Birhan city. Fano fighters primarily targeted the administration center of the city and regime military camps. As a result of this surprise attack, dozens of soldiers and regional state police forces were killed or injured.

Moretena-Jiru Woreda

- Between August 28th and 29th, fighting took place between Fano forces and regime forces in Moretena-Jiru Woreda after Fano fighters initiated fighting in Rema town. Aiming to control Rema town, the Fano fighters attacked the regime forces for nearly two days.

Efratana-Gidim Woreda

- On August 28th, regime forces imposed a blockade on bajaj transportation.
 - This measure has primarily impacted young people who rely on these vehicles for their livelihoods. Many individuals who depend on bajaj operations for their income are now at risk, as the blockade prevents them from earning a living.

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- On August 28th, regime forces launched a series of heavy weapon attacks from Ataye town targeting the surrounding countryside. These attacks resulted in the destruction of more than three houses in a place called Bergbi. Tragically, a child lost their life in one of the burned houses.
 - On the same day, regime forces killed two young men who were loading sand onto a vehicle in an area called Yelayignaw Ataye.

 - On August 29th, residents of Ataye town were denied freedom of movement within the town. Movement was restricted even between different local kebeles (local neighborhoods), specifically between Kebeles 1, 2, and 3.
 - The regime forces particularly targeted and harassed youths in Ataye town, with increased intimidation reported in Kebele 3.

 - On the morning of August 30th, OLA militants operating from the Oromo Special Zone in Amhara Region, launched an attack on residents in an area called Lugo in Ataye. Although there had been previous attempts, this group had planned to take control of the entire town of Ataye within 30 minutes.
 - Active conflict has persisted for over 12 hours, leading to significant casualties among the attackers. In response, the Amhara community in Ataye successfully launched a self-defense effort.
 - Despite these defense efforts, the regime forces have been patrolling against the Amhara people in Ataye. They have established a checkpoint around Mulu-Hayk, where they have been intimidating and harassing residents.
 - This includes arrests of youth, restrictions on market days, and limiting free movement of residents in and out of Ataye. Possessing an ID card from Ataye has even been used as grounds for arrest by regime forces.

Shewa-Robit City

- On August 29th, in Shewa-Robit, the local administration imposed a complete ban on the bajaj (three-wheeled motorized vehicles) transportation system, citing concerns that these vehicles were being used to transport Fano forces to attack regime forces.
 - However, this ban has led to significant socio-economic challenges for the city's residents. Many individuals who rely on operating bajajs for their livelihood are now facing economic hardships.
 - Additionally, accessing essential social services, such as health centers, has become increasingly difficult.
 - Pregnant women, in particular, are struggling to reach health facilities for childbirth and are instead forced to rely on traditional horse-drawn carts due to the absence of bajaj transportation.
- On August 30th, regime forces, along with the local administration, have been imposing fines of up to 5,000 birr on bajaj (three-wheeled) drivers in the city. The stated reason for these penalties is to counter a strike reportedly ordered by Fano forces.

East Gojjam Zone

- From August 26th to 27th, Prosperity Party officials at the woreda level convened a meeting to address issues concerning Fano fighters. Sources report that officials urged civil servants and residents to refrain from contacting or supporting Fano, arguing that the group lacks genuine concern, as evidenced by disagreements within its factions.

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- Furthermore, transport restrictions in the East Gojjam Zone persisted until August 27th. Regime forces continued to obstruct vehicle movement unless hefty fines were paid. While a limited number of vehicles managed to resume service after meeting these financial demands, many remained inactive.
 - On August 28th, the Amhara Fano in Gojjam, specifically the Shifferaw Gerbaw brigade, announced that a cohort of trained commando Fano fighters graduated that week, sharing photographs to support their claim. Additionally, transport vehicles and business centers in the Gojjam sub-region, which had previously been closed, have resumed operations after reportedly paying substantial bribes to authorities.

Dejen Woreda

- Between August 25th and 27th, regime forces massacred at least 8 civilians in the Woblat-Getem and Muyan Teskare-Maryam areas of Dejen Woreda.
 - On August 25th, intense clashes erupted between Amhara Fano freedom fighters (Fano) and regime forces in the Gubiya area. During the confrontation with Fano, regime forces indiscriminately shelled residential homes in the Muyan Teskare-Maryam area, killing three civilians. Following the Fano fighters' attack in Gubiya, regime forces detained five young men returning from farming in the area. The soldiers compelled four of these individuals to collect the bodies of their comrades who had been killed during the confrontation. After completing this grim task, the four young men were executed with bladed weapons. The fifth victim was shot after 3 days of detention in the military camp, allegedly because his uncle was accused of being a Fano member. AAA has identified the eight killed victims as follows. The three victims killing due to shelling were: (1) Ayaneh Mekonen, (2) Tisew Tigure and (3) Ayele Goncha. The four victims killed by execution with a

bladed weapon were: (4) Mamaru Kemaw, (5) Dires Ashebir, (6) Yidenkal Baye and (7) Ayenew Teka. Lastly, the victim who was executed after 3 days by gunshot was (8) Abat Manaye. The first three victims killed by shelling were buried in the cemetery of Amanuel Church in Muyan Teskare-Mariam, while the remaining five were laid to rest in the cemetery of St. Kidane-Mihret Church in Woblat-Getem.

Enemay Woreda

- On August 28th, intense fighting and surprise attacks erupted in three areas of Enemay Woreda.
 - Sources report that the clashes began when regime troops advanced toward Yetmen town and encircled Fano fighters who were entrenched there. The Fano fighters mounted a fierce resistance, successfully breaking the encirclement with assistance from other Fano groups from nearby areas. Confirmed reports indicate numerous casualties among regime troops.
 - Additionally, regime soldiers traveling from Bichena to assist their troops in Yetmen battle were ambushed by Fano fighters in the Jench and Dibisa areas, resulting in further casualties.
- On August 29th, regime soldiers entered Yetmen town following the tactical withdrawal of Fano fighters from the area. Upon entering the town, regime soldiers carried out violations, including physical abuses and mass arrests. Confirmed reports indicate that at least 35 civilians were arrested, accused of having associations with Fano fighters. AAA was able to identify the names of 5 civilians arrested in this incident as follows: (1) Yizengaw Demis, (2) Habte (last name unknown), (3) Priest Wubete (last name unknown), (4) Gedefaw Wubeneh, and (5) Alayu Gashaye. The last two victims, Gedefaw Wubeneh and Alayu Gashaye, were

arrested because they were accused of having relatives who were Fano members.

- On August 30th, Fano fighters captured two teenagers (both under twelve years old) in the Telima area of Enemay Woreda, who were recruited and sent by regime soldiers with the mission of collecting information about Fano fighters.

West Gojjam Zone

- On August 28th, the Amhara Fano in Gojjam, specifically the Shiferaw Gerbaw brigade, announced that a cohort of trained commando Fano fighters graduated this week, sharing photographs to support their claim. Additionally, transport vehicles and business centers in Gojjam, which had previously been closed, have resumed operations after reportedly paying substantial bribes to authorities.

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On August 25th, regime soldiers brutally killed a young man named Menelik Tesfaw in Mankusa town. Despite the absence of military activity that day, soldiers dragged him from his home in front of his mother, shot him dead, and subsequently mutilated his body, showcasing their cruelty.
- On August 27th, gunfire erupted in Jiga town and its surrounding villages, linked to a meeting being held by regime officials in the area. Fano fighters opened fire to disrupt this meeting. There were also brief exchanges of gunfire in the Jiga surrounding areas. On the night of August 26th, over 6 riot dispersal police reportedly defected from the regime's station in Jiga town. In response, regime soldiers mobilized and engaged in combat in neighborhoods suspected of harboring the defectors.
- On the evening of August 29th, Fano fighters opened fire in two locations within Jabi-Tehnan Woreda. In Jiga town, a single Fano member reportedly shot and

injured two riot dispersal policemen, one of whom sustained critical injuries. In another incident, Fano fighters discharged weapons in Mankusa town, although the number of casualties remains unreported.

Dembecha Woreda

- On August 26th, brief gunfire exchanges occurred in Dembecha town as Fano fighters aimed to disrupt a meeting held by Prosperity Party officials. Reports indicate that the meeting was effectively interrupted for that day. A similar disruption occurred in Tilili town (Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda) on August 27th.
- On the evening of August 27th, intense fighting broke out in the Yechereka area. The confrontation began when Fano fighters ambushed regime troops who were traveling from Dembecha in search of them. Reports indicate that numerous regime troops were killed or wounded in this clash.
- On the morning of August 28th, as regime soldiers attempted to retrieve the bodies of their fallen comrades, a vehicular accident occurred. A civilian vehicle, losing control, collided with a regime patrol vehicle, resulting in additional casualties among the soldiers present.
- On the evening of August 31st, similar surprise attacks were carried out by Fano fighters in the Yechereka and Dembecha areas. Following the Fano fighters' ambush in the Yechereka area, the confrontation began and extended to Dembecha town. Casualties remained unknown as the exchange of gunfire occurred at night.

Dega-Damot Woreda

- In the early morning of August 28th, regime forces mobilized in over ten military convoys from Dembecha to Dega-Damot. Forewarned about this movement, Fano fighters executed ambushes in the Berek and Dikul-Kana areas, leading to fierce

confrontations. Reports indicate that many soldiers were killed or wounded, significantly disrupting the regime's advance toward Dega-Damot Woreda.

- Between August 30th and 31st, intense fighting erupted in Damot-Tsiyon and nearby areas of Dega-Damot Woreda.
 - Prior to the confrontation, on August 29th, Fano leaders held a meeting in Dama-Markos Kebele.
 - Most Fano fighters left their camp in Damot-Tsiyon to attend this meeting, leaving only a few security personnel behind. Upon learning of this assembly and the fighters' temporary absence, regime soldiers mobilized from Feres-Bet town at midnight and seized control of the camp without any resistance.
 - After concluding their meeting on August 30th, Fano fighters regrouped and launched a heavy counterattack against the regime soldiers who had occupied their camp. The Fano inflicted significant military losses on the regime, forcing them to retreat from the Damot-Tsiyon area. Reports indicate that during their withdrawal, regime troops committed violations against civilians, resulting in an unknown number of casualties and abductions. Additionally, a brief exchange of gunfire occurred in Feres-Bet town, likely aimed at obstructing the regime's reinforcement efforts.
 - The regime forces persisted in their efforts to reinforce additional units, attempting to encircle and capture Fano leader Zinabu Lingerew, who was allegedly present in the area. Despite the regime's repeated attacks, Fano fighters successfully repelled them and reportedly killed and injured over 100 soldiers within three days of confrontation.

Bure Zuriya Woreda

- On August 30th, intense fighting erupted in Quchi town, initiated by Fano fighters early in the morning. The Fano attacked regime soldiers, inflicting significant damage and leading to a prolonged exchange of gunfire that ultimately forced the regime to withdraw from the area.

Awi Zone

Jawi Woreda

- On August 27th, fierce fighting occurred in Jawi Woreda, initiated by a Fano ambush on regime soldiers in the Debrit area. This surprise attack led to heavy confrontations in the Debrit and Work-Meda areas, resulting in significant military losses for the regime.

Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda

- On August 27th, a brief fight took place in Tilili town, as Fano fighters aimed to disrupt a meeting held by Prosperity Party officials. Reports indicate that the meeting was effectively interrupted for that day.

Dangila Woreda

- On August 30th, Fano fighters executed a surprise assault on regime soldiers traveling from Dangila to Durbeti. This attack resulted in casualties among the regime soldiers, compelling them to return to Dangila.

North Gojjam Zone

Bahir-Dar Zuriya Woreda

- On August 27th, credible reports emerged that two high-ranking officials affiliated to regional state media, *Amhara Media Corporation* (AMECO), were captured by Fano fighters within Bahir-Dar city.
 - The officials included deputy media executive Ato Anteneh Mengiste and programming director Ato Demsachew Fenta who were accused by the Fano group (specifically the Degu-Belay battalion) of spreading anti-Amhara propaganda via AMECO despite repeated warnings. The Fano fighters stated that the captured officials are in good health and receiving necessary treatment from their group.
- On August 28th, a large contingent of regime forces mobilizing from Bahir-Dar to Tis-Abay encountered an ambush by Fano fighters in the Tikurit and Andasa areas, leading to prolonged and intense fighting. Reports indicate that the clashes persisted into the afternoon, significantly hindering the regime's movement toward Tis-Abay. Fano fighters claimed to have inflicted substantial losses on regime troops, while the regime continued deploying reinforcements from Bahir-Dar city.

South Mecha Woreda

- On August 30th, Fano fighters ambushed regime soldiers in Birakat area as they were traveling from Bahir-Dar to Adet. The Fano inflicted casualties on the regime forces during this surprise attack.

South Gonder Zone

- On August 26th, the South Gonder Zone witnessed intense fighting across three locations, with the most brutal clashes occurring in the Alemsaga forest and Alem-Ber town. The Fano fighters, a regional resistance group, launched a series of coordinated attacks on regime forces, resulting in significant losses for the regime.
- The Fano's primary target was a convoy of regime officials from seven different districts, escorted by a strong contingent of regime soldiers. The Fano's offensive assault inflicted heavy casualties on the convoy, including high-ranking officials. A senior military officer also sustained serious injuries during the fighting and was admitted to Debre-Tabor Hospital for treatment.
- The majority of injured soldiers were transported to Debre-Tabor University's health science college, which the regime forces have temporarily converted into a makeshift medical center for their troops.
- Fano Tsedalu, a leader of the Fano in South Gonder, confirmed the deaths of several key regime figures. On August 26th, a high-ranking official was killed in Addis-Zemen town. The vice-commander of the regime's 19th army division and the campaign commander of the 13th army division were also killed in the fighting.
- Further compounding the situation, the regime forces captured and held 17 young men hostage in Alem-Ber town. These young men were brought to Debre-Tabor city, where the regime falsely claimed they were captured Fano fighters. The hostages included daily laborers, a young farmer who had travelled to Alem-Ber to purchase vetch for his farm, and several young men who had come to the town to conduct business.
- The brutality of the fighting continued into August 27th, as the bodies of four dead soldiers were discovered near the Werqa river. Additionally, critically injured

soldiers were found lying helpless on the ground in Wej town.

- The intensity of the fighting and the high number of casualties reflect the ongoing instability and volatile situation in the South Gonder Zone.
- Fano operations continue across South Gonder Zone disrupting the regime's military engagement.
- The violence in South Gonder Zone continued unabated on August 26th, with the Fano fighters carrying out a series of attacks against regime forces in different locations.
- In a bold move, the Fano successfully launched a surprise attack near Kimir-Dingaye town in Guna-Begemidir Woreda, specifically targeting Geber village. This ambush resulted in significant casualties for the regime forces.
- Further south, in Simada Woreda, a fierce battle erupted between the Fano and the regime forces, lasting for two hours. This intense fighting resulted in unintended casualties among civilians, as two farmers were injured by stray bullets.
- The escalating violence spilled over into the following day, August 27th, as the regime forces engaged in heavy bombardment of Hamusit town, using heavy machine guns without any response from the Fano. This indiscriminate firing created a climate of fear and disruption, forcing the cancellation of the town's regular Tuesday market. Shops in Hamusit remained closed, as residents sought refuge from the escalating conflict.
- These events demonstrate the increasing intensity and geographic scope of the conflict in South Gonder Zone.

Debre-Tabor City

- On August 26th, a major confrontation unfolded in the South Gonder Zone, specifically in the Alem-Ber town and Alemsaga forest. The Fano fighters, initiated a series of attacks on forces loyal to the regime forces.
 - The conflict began when the Fano launched a surprise assault on a convoy of regime officials traveling from Debre-Tabor city. The convoy, which included high-ranking officials from the Dera, Fogera, and Libo-Kemkem Woredas, as well as officials from Addis-Zemen and Wereta towns, was escorted by a substantial force of regime soldiers, led by a number of colonels.
 - The Fano’s attack was multifaceted and aggressive. They targeted the moving convoy directly, causing it to come to a standstill deep within the Alemsaga forest. The Fano also launched a simultaneous assault on a regime military camp situated in Alem-Ber town, specifically known as the China camp.
 - In response, the regime forces retaliated with heavy weapons fire, directing their bombardment towards the Alemsaga forest in a desperate attempt to repel the Fano. Meanwhile, the Fano also launched an offensive attack from the Sene-Maryam direction, further encircling the trapped convoy and leaving the officials in a state of extreme fear for their lives.
 - The fighting resulted in casualties on the regime forces side. A prominent figure in the Amhara Regional Government, Ato Sisay Damte, the former head of the Amhara Regional State’s Peace and Security Bureau and current head of the region’s Rural Land Use Bureau, sustained injuries during the Fano’s attacks. He was transported to Debre-Tabor Hospital for treatment.
 - Fano Tsedalu Dessie, the main commander of the Fano’s General Nega Tegegn Division in Gonder, confirmed the information regarding Ato Sisay’s injury and revealed additional details about the conflict. He stated that a special Fano

operation conducted on the previous day resulted in the apprehension of over seven leaders of the Prosperity Party, the ruling political party in Ethiopia.

These individuals are currently under investigation by the Fano.

- The regime has responded by deploying fresh reinforcements to the conflict zone. These troops are tasked with assisting the trapped soldiers and officials, potentially indicating the severity of the situation and the regime’s intention to regain control.

- The Debre-Tabor Hospital is facing a critical crisis as its essential laboratory services have been suspended, leaving patients in a desperate and vulnerable situation. The hospital’s medical professionals have reported that vital equipment, including the CBC machine, chemistry analyzer, electrolyte and hormone analyzers, and X-ray machine, are no longer operational.
 - This lack of essential laboratory services has dire consequences for patients. They are forced to endure lengthy waits for testing, often incurring significant additional expenses. In some cases, patients are dying due to delays in receiving vital diagnoses and treatment. The medical professionals at Debre-Tabor Hospital have repeatedly appealed to the responsible authorities to address this urgent matter and restore essential laboratory services. However, their pleas have been met with silence and inaction. The absence of any response from those responsible for the hospital’s operations is causing immense hardship and suffering for patients and staff alike. This situation highlights a serious failure in healthcare provision, demanding immediate attention and decisive action to ensure the well-being of those relying on Debre-Tabor Hospital for their medical needs.

- For the past seven months, the Debre-Tabor Eyesus Church, perched atop a mountain owned by the church, has been occupied by regime forces. These forces

have utilized the strategic location to install heavy weaponry, specifically mortar machine guns, and have launched indiscriminate shelling attacks on the nearby town of Mahdere-Maryam. This has resulted in the destruction of civilian homes and the displacement of residents.

- The events of August 27th, took an unexpected turn. A heavy downpour forced the regime forces to cover the installed mortar machine gun with a tarp to protect it from the rain. Seeking shelter themselves, they temporarily left the area. During their absence, a large python, likely attracted by the shelter the tarp provided, entered the mortar machine gun. The python was unable to escape the confined space. Upon discovering the situation, the regime forces, rather than attempting to remove the python, blamed the priests of the Debre-Tabor Eyesus church. They accused the priests of employing sorcery, claiming that the python's presence in the mortar machine gun was a deliberate act to assist the Fano fighters. This accusation, however, seems to be a desperate attempt to deflect responsibility for their own negligence and the accidental entanglement of the python.
- On August 31st, a fierce and protracted battle erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Alem-Ber town, located near Debre-Tabor city between Farta and Fogera Woreda borderline. The fighting, which lasted for seven hours without respite, took place across three distinct locations: Sirqo-Medhanealem, Siraba-Maryam, and the military camp stationed at Sur Construction in Alem-Ber.
 - The clashes were marked by intense engagement, with regime forces suffering heavy casualties in both personnel and equipment. Reliable sources confirmed the sight of three large military trucks transporting bodies away from the conflict zone for burial, indicative of the severity of the losses sustained by the regime forces.

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- During the battle, a Fano sniper, in a daring attempt to capture the regime military commander, was tragically killed. This act of bravery highlights the determination and sacrifice of the Fano fighters in their ongoing struggle.
 - This was the second major battle in Alem-Ber within a week, demonstrating the escalating conflict in the region. Following the fighting, the regime forces, in a clear act of intimidation, demanded that Alem-Ber residents open their homes. The soldiers questioned the residents, asking why they kept their doors closed while the regime forces were present, but readily opened their homes when the Fano forces gained control. This pointed questioning was a veiled threat, designed to instill fear and suppress any resistance.
 - The regime forces then issued a chilling warning to the residents: they must stop opposing them or face dire consequences. The soldiers threatened to kill residents, dragging them from their homes, should they refuse to comply with their demands. These threats underscore the brutal tactics employed by the regime forces and the escalating tension in the area.
 - The events in Alem-Ber paint a grim picture of the ongoing conflict, where civilians are caught in the crossfire and subjected to the escalating brutality of the warring factions. The battle's aftermath reveals the desperate attempts of the regime forces to maintain control and suppress any opposition, using intimidation and threats as their primary weapons.

Estie Woreda

- On August 28th, Fano fighters successfully apprehended a group of ten individuals who had been posing as Fano fighters to rob grain stores in Mekane-Eyesus town. The criminals had been loading stolen teff (a type of grain) into vehicles when the true Fano forces apprehended them in Kebele 3 of the town.

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- The residents of Mekane-Eyesus expressed gratitude and admiration for the genuine Fano fighters who swiftly brought the robbers to justice. This incident highlights the commitment of the Fano to upholding law and order, even taking action against those who misuse their name for criminal activities. The swift capture of the thieves underscores the Fano’s vigilance and determination to protect the community from those who seek to exploit the current conflict for personal gain.
 - This incident also serves as a reminder of the importance of distinguishing between legitimate resistance fighters and opportunistic criminals seeking to capitalize on the chaos. The Fano’s willingness to apprehend these robbers, even as they continue to fight for their cause, reinforces their dedication to safeguarding the interests of the people they claim to represent.

Ibnat Woreda

- The Fano fighters staged a series of coordinated attacks on August 28th, targeting both military and administrative centers in Ibnat town.
 - The most significant assault involved a surprise bomb attack on a temporary military camp housing riot dispersal forces. The explosion resulted in heavy casualties, with at least 7 confirmed fatalities among the regime’s personnel.
 - In a display of their growing capabilities and determination, the Fano also targeted the town’s administrative bureau and police station on the same day. These coordinated attacks demonstrate the Fano’s expanding influence and their intent to disrupt the regime’s operations and control within the region.

Guna-Begemidir Woreda

- In the early hours of August 30th, Fano fighters launched a successful ambush against regime forces traveling from Kimir-Dingaye town towards Estie Woreda. The surprise attack, executed at 1:30 am local time early in the morning, caught regime forces off guard, resulting in significant casualties. The ambush occurred at Zebara village, situated strategically between Kimir-Dingaye and Gasay towns. Reports indicate that numerous regime soldiers were killed during the ambush, and a military patrol vehicle equipped with a Dushka heavy machine gun was completely destroyed.

Central Gonder Zone

East Dembiya Woreda

- On August 25th, a fierce battle erupted in the regions of Aymba and Chilga, marking a significant victory for Fano fighters against regime forces. The regime, seeking to quell the growing Fano resistance, deployed a substantial force from the Azezo Central Military Command and Metemma, approaching from both the east and west.
 - The Fano, known for their strategic prowess, allowed the regime forces to advance into their carefully prepared positions, effectively drawing them into a strategic trap. Once the regime forces were ensnared, the Fano unleashed a devastating surprise attack from all sides, inflicting heavy casualties. The battle resulted in the deaths of over 118 regime soldiers, whose bodies remained uncollected on August 26th. The Fano also captured 54 soldiers and seized more than 115 heavy weapons and small arms.
 - The regime suffered further setbacks with the death of a Colonel, the regime's military commander in the area. Prosperity Party officials, who were under the protection of the regular military forces, also sustained casualties during the

fighting. Four heavily armed trucks, used to transport the regime soldiers, were captured by the Fano.

- While the Fano achieved a decisive victory, they also suffered losses. One Fano fighter was killed in action, while eight sustained injuries ranging from minor to critical.
- The Fano, currently engaged in active combat in Armachiho, have appealed to the International Red Cross to intervene in returning over 200 captured regime soldiers to their families. They emphasized that these prisoners would not be released unconditionally, as they fear the soldiers would be immediately redeployed to fight against them. Recognizing the humanitarian implications of this situation, the Fano have proposed a neutral third-party involvement to safely escort the captured soldiers to their families and prevent further escalation of the conflict.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On August 25th, regime forces stationed in Maksegnit launched a series of indiscriminate attacks on the Bahir-Ginb and Lamba Kebeles, using heavy mortar shells. These repeated bombardments resulted in civilian casualties, with four unarmed individuals sustaining injuries in Bahir-Ginb alone. The shelling also caused significant property damage, including the complete destruction of a civilian house and the deaths of numerous livestock.
 - Similar incidents of indiscriminate shelling were reported in Lamba Kebele, where civilians suffered injuries and livestock were killed. Notably, Fano fighters did not retaliate against these attacks, despite the regime forces' disregard for civilian safety. The regime troops, stationed in their military camp, fired their mortars aimlessly, causing widespread destruction and

suffering.

- This incident highlights the regime’s blatant disregard for civilian life and their willingness to employ heavy weapons in a manner that directly endangers innocent populations. The Fano’s restraint in the face of these unprovoked attacks underscores their commitment to protecting civilians, even as they face ongoing aggression from the regime.
- On August 27th, regime forces stationed in Maksegnit and Tseda sub-city of Gonder unleashed a barrage of heavy weaponry on several rural kebeles. Zenga, Boguas, Jinjirabano, and Ambo Ber Kebeles were repeatedly subjected to artillery fire, resulting in significant damage to residential structures and the loss of livestock. Numerous civilians were also injured in these attacks.
 - It is crucial to note that these indiscriminate attacks have not been met with retaliation by Fano fighters. The regime forces appear to be deliberately targeting civilians who possess no military advantage, solely for the purpose of inflicting harm and terror. This reckless disregard for civilian lives underscores the severity of the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the Amhara Region. The escalating violence demands immediate action to protect civilian populations and ensure accountability for the perpetrators of these brutal attacks.
- On August 31st, the Fano fighters, specifically the Atsewochu Army division, made a significant announcement: they had apprehended twelve individuals posing as Fano fighters and engaging in criminal activities, primarily hostage-taking for financial gain.
 - Seven of these individuals were captured in Bahir-Ginb while attempting to extort money from civilians by setting up a fake checkpoint on the main road. They were masquerading as Fano fighters, exploiting the ongoing conflict to

further their own self-serving interests. Meanwhile, three other imposters were apprehended in Tseda sub-city, along with a four-year-old child whom they were holding captive for ransom.

- Investigations revealed that these three individuals had close ties to high-ranking officials in the Gonder-Zuriya Woreda. During interrogation, the imposters confessed to their crimes, admitting that they had been instructed by these officials to rob and take hostages under the guise of Fano fighters, with the goal of discrediting the Fano movement. They also revealed that the ransoms collected were split with these officials, highlighting a corrupt and deeply embedded network within the administration.
- Coinciding with these arrests, another intense battle erupted in Bahir-Ginb on August 31st, between the Fano fighters and regime forces. The fighting, which took place between 10:00 pm and 12:00 pm local time, involved a barrage of heavy artillery fire unleashed by the regime forces, targeting residential villages. The battle serves as a reminder of the ongoing conflict and the dangerous situation facing civilians caught in the crossfire.
- These separate but interconnected events highlight the complexities of the conflict and the various actors involved. The Fano's efforts to apprehend imposters within their ranks underscore their commitment to maintaining the integrity of their movement and fighting against those who seek to exploit the conflict for personal gain. The violent clash in Bahir-Ginb, however, illustrates the continued brutality of the regime forces, who are using heavy weaponry against civilian populations. Both events, taken together, demonstrate the volatile nature of the conflict and the multifaceted challenges facing the region.

Gonder City

- On August 26th, a tense meeting convened in Gonder city, presided over by the Amhara Regional State's job and security officer and the region's vice-administrator, Dessalegn Tassew. The focus of the meeting was the escalating unrest in Gonder, with tensions running high between the city's mayor and vice mayor, who led separate factions with opposing views on the situation.
 - Participants voiced serious accusations against a number of high-ranking Gonder officials, alleging they were involved in widespread land grabbing within the city. Furthermore, it was claimed that these officials had traveled to Addis Ababa and were responsible for leaking information to the Fano fighters, fueling the ongoing conflict.
 - The meeting also highlighted the resentment simmering among Gonder officials after a recent decision to demolish houses built on land allocated to them. Over 70 officials had been granted plots to construct their own homes, as they lacked adequate housing. This decision to demolish the newly built homes, however, has prompted a significant number of officials to question their allegiance to the Prosperity Party, the ruling political party. Many officials have indicated their unwillingness to continue as members of the party, highlighting a growing sense of discontent within the city's administrative ranks. This meeting serves as a stark reminder of the deep divisions and simmering frustrations that have fueled the unrest in Gonder, posing a significant challenge for the regional regime in its efforts to restore stability and address the concerns of its officials.
- On the night of August 28th, intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Tseda sub-city of Gonder city. The exact casualties resulting from this clash remain unknown, highlighting the ongoing volatility of the conflict. The

battle raged near the Tseda police station, which has become a recurring target for Fano attacks, signifying the Fano's determination to disrupt regime control in the area.

- On August 30th, a somber incident unfolded in Gonder city, casting a shadow over the annual celebration of Abune Teklehaimanot. A group of young people, their hearts filled with joy and their voices raised in hymns, were returning home from Abune Teklehaimanot Church, where they had participated in the festivities. They had donned specially designed t-shirts to mark the occasion, their spirits buoyed by the celebration.
 - However, their peaceful journey was brutally interrupted by militia forces stationed in the Buluko area. As the young people sang hymns, making their way back home, they were confronted by the militia. The assailants, without provocation, opened fire on the unsuspecting group. The unjustifiable act of violence resulted in the tragic death of one young person and left several others wounded.
 - The assailants, before unleashing their barrage of bullets, reportedly shouted, “*Why are you coming closer to us singing a song?*” Their words revealed a disturbing hostility towards the young people, who were simply expressing their faith and celebrating a cherished religious tradition. This incident highlights the growing tension and violence in the region, where even the act of singing hymns is met with aggression and bloodshed.
 - Following the attack, there are reports of the militia forces entering homes searching for young people, and were engaged in looting the residential houses under the cover of apprehending the escaped youths who were singing.
- Gonder city has become increasingly gripped by a wave of organized crime, particularly hostage-taking, fueled by the current conflict. The situation is not

isolated to Gonder itself; the surrounding zones, including Central Gonder, South Gonder, and specifically areas like Gasay, Nefas-Mewcha, Wereta, and Gonder-Zuriya Woreda – from Enfranz to Addis-Zemen – have also witnessed a surge in this criminal activity.

- The perpetrators of these crimes are well-equipped and organized, capitalizing on the chaos of the war for their personal gain. They operate with military-grade precision, wielding sniper rifles, heavy machineguns, and other heavy weaponry, a stark contrast to the civilian population they prey upon. Their primary targets are affluent communities, with wealthy families and individuals becoming easy prey in a climate of fear and uncertainty.
- On August 29th organized robbers looted the home of Woizero Mebrat in Lideta village (Kebele 16). The robbers which were believed to be affiliated to local regime authorities stormed the residence of Woizero Mebrat, demanding she accompany them. When she refused, they forcibly dragged both her and her graduating student daughter out of their house and tragically murdered them. A neighbor, fearing for his life, fled his home after hearing gunshots. The robbers, attempting to conceal their identities, fired at him, injuring him. Woizero Mebrat owned a small hotel, making her a particularly attractive target for the robbers.
- The escalating situation has triggered widespread fear, with many affluent families choosing to flee Gonder city out of fear of becoming hostages. This exodus has further disrupted the city’s fabric, leaving behind a sense of vulnerability and despair. Adding to the grim reality, there are persistent allegations of collusion between Gonder’s security and peace officials and these criminal gangs. Individuals who have reported incidents of hostage-taking on social media have reportedly been pressured to delete their

posts, suggesting a possible cover-up or complicity.

Chilga Woreda

- On August 26th, the Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on a convoy of regime officials traveling to Chilga, specifically at Aymba. The ambush resulted in significant casualties, including the death of the administrator of Aroge Woreda.
 - The attack also claimed the life of the Prosperity Party’s political wing officer in the area. Additionally, several high-ranking officials sustained critical injuries including the head of the woreda militia forces secretariat, the head of the woreda sport secretariat, and a number of members of the woreda cabinet and military forces.
 - This attack, targeting a convoy of high-ranking officials, demonstrates the Fano’s growing audacity and their determination to disrupt regime operations in the region. The significant casualties among regime officials highlight the potential for the conflict to escalate further, creating a volatile and unpredictable security environment.

Tach Armachiho Woreda

- A significant development occurred on August 26th, as a large contingent of riot dispersal forces, including police personnel, defected to the Fano. The defectors brought with them their full military equipment and their commander, signifying a substantial shift in allegiance.
- On August 27th, a medical professional, whose identity remains undisclosed, was killed by regime forces in Tach Armachiho Woreda. The individual was reportedly

shot multiple times by regime forces, highlighting the tragic consequences of the escalating violence, even on non-combatants.

- In a further indication of the growing unrest, a large group of nine militia members and three regular forces, many equipped with sniper rifles, defected to the Fano fighters on August 28th. This significant defection, within the same woreda where a medical professional was killed, showcases the growing dissatisfaction and disillusionment with the regime forces among those on the ground.
 - Three days prior to this incident, a group of more than 10 members of the local peace-keeping squad, who were aligned with regime forces, had also defected to the Fano. This pattern of defections highlights the deteriorating morale and effectiveness of the regime's forces, while bolstering the Fano's growing strength and influence.

West Gonder Zone

Metemma Woreda

- On August 26th, Fano fighters launched a successful offensive attack on regime forces stationed at Mender 6 in Metemma Woreda. The attack resulted in significant casualties for the regime, highlighting the Fano's growing strength and capacity to challenge the regime's military presence in the region.

West Armachiho Woreda

- As the Fano fighters advance in large numbers towards Abrehajira town, the administrative center of the woreda, tensions in the area are escalating rapidly. In anticipation of a potential confrontation, regime forces have been observed patrolling the town heavily armed, their military vehicles mounted with heavy

weaponry. A particularly ominous sign is the deployment of mortars and heavy machineguns by the militia forces, specifically in Kebele 1 of the town.

- The situation is on the verge of a full-blown, fierce battle, fueled by the growing tension and the recent mass defections of woreda militia forces from their assigned posts. This exodus of militia members highlights the growing discontent within the regime forces and their waning support in the region.
- Adding to the grim reality, on August 30th, a medical professional was tragically killed by a sniper from the regime forces in Muse-Bamb town, within the same woreda. This extrajudicial killing, without any apparent justification, further highlights the brutality and disregard for human life exhibited by the regime forces. The killing of a medical professional, a person who should be protected and respected for their humanitarian work, underscores the dire situation facing civilians caught in the crossfire.
- The Fano fighters managed to consolidate their control over the majority of kebeles in Armachiho. On August 27th, the Fano issued a second public announcement demanding that international humanitarian organizations facilitate the repatriation of captured regime soldiers to their families.

North Gonder Zone

Telemt Woreda

- A tragic landslide claimed the lives of 21 individuals and displaced over 2,700 people. The humanitarian situation in the region remains dire as victims of the landslide have not yet received adequate aid or attention. The lack of response underscores the pressing need for urgent assistance and intervention to address the growing crisis in North Gonder.

Beyeda Woreda

- A devastating landslide struck Beyeda Woreda on the evening of August 26th, at 5 pm local time, claiming the lives of seven people.
 - The landslide occurred in Tanatiguna Kebele, where 6 individuals lost their lives, and Sabra Kebele, where 1 person was killed. The disaster also resulted in the complete destruction of four houses, leaving many families homeless.
 - The landslide inflicted significant damage to the woreda's infrastructure, including the destruction of water supply systems serving over 1,700 residents. Livestock were also killed in the disaster, adding to the already immense loss.
 - This tragic event highlights the vulnerability of the region to natural disasters and the urgent need for preparedness and mitigation measures to prevent future tragedies. The loss of lives and the destruction of vital infrastructure underscore the critical need for immediate relief efforts and long-term recovery plans to support the affected communities.

Debark Woreda

- On August 28th regime forces engaged in indiscriminate fire of heavy weapons targeting rural communities in Debark Woreda. This bombardment has resulted in the destruction of homes, the loss of livestock, and injuries to innocent civilians.
 - Regime forces stationed in Debark town targeted Weged Bale-Egziabher and Gizaba-Maryam Kebeles. These rural villages were bombarded with heavy artillery on multiple occasions, at least nine times, leaving farmland and its seedlings destroyed. While the shelling did not result in direct civilian casualties, homes were destroyed, leaving residents with nothing.
 - Further exacerbating the situation, regime forces positioned at the Limalimo steep ravine near Debark town launched a heavy artillery attack on Tiray

Kebele. This assault resulted in the destruction of houses and the loss of livestock belonging to local farmers.

- For the third consecutive day as of August 29th, regime forces stationed in Debark town continued their relentless bombardment of rural kebeles, despite no apparent threat from the Fano fighters. This indiscriminate shelling, utilizing heavy weaponry, has targeted civilian populations and their homes, demonstrating a blatant disregard for civilian safety.
 - The Fano have not retaliated against these attacks, highlighting the regime’s willingness to escalate the violence and inflict suffering on the civilian population. The lack of retaliation from the Fano, however, does not diminish the severity of the situation, which represents a grave humanitarian crisis.

North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)

- On August 29th, civilians traveling from Amhara Region to Addis Ababa by bus were abducted by OLA fighters near the border between Gebre-Guracha and Tulu-Melki. Among the abducted victims were women, children, and elders.

Dera Woreda

- Regime forces and the OLA continue their attacks against ethnic Amhara residents of Tuti Kebele. On August 28th, Fano forces confronted the attack around Tuti Kebele and successfully repelled the joint OLA and regime forces.

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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