



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – September 9th to 15th, 2024

Updated September 15th, 2024

Overview

For the week of September 9th to 15th, 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 The *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) and Oromo militants have also carried out new attacks on Amhara communities after crossing into the Amhara Region. Meanwhile in areas occupied by Tigrayan forces in northern Amhara Region, identity-based persecution of residents has continued by the Tigrayan settler administration.

- Fighting between Fano forces and joint regime forces has continued in urban areas including Kobo, Woldia, Shewa-Robit, Debre-Birhan, Debre-Markos, and Gonder cities.

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

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- Regime forces targeted civilians in the following locations: Raya-Kobo, Lasta, Ambassel, Mida-Woremo, Efratana-Gidim, North Mecha, East Dembiya and Takusa Woredas. In addition, dozens of civilians were mass arrested in Enemay Woreda.
 - This week, OLA militants from the Oromo Special Zone (Amhara Region) carried out several deadly attacks on civilians after crossing into Efratana-Gidim Woreda (North Shewa Zone).
 - On September 15th, demonstrations took place in Alamata (North Wollo Zone) when priests were denied entry into a church due to their refusal to recognize the TPLF affiliated Tigray Church.
 - Militants from Oromia Region crossed into Bure Zuriyra Woreda (West Gojjam Zone) where they carried out an attack on local farmers, looting their cattle and private property.
 - The Amhara Region Peace Council reported challenges in dealing with regime officials towards potential peace talks with Fano fighters.

North Wollo Zone

Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On the night of September 8th to 9th, regime forces returned to surrounding areas of Kobo from Zobel. These forces had penetrated Zobel on September 7th, managing to hold some areas previously under the complete control of Fano forces.
 - However, regime forces withdrew from Zobel, a strategically significant location, which is now fully controlled by Fano fighters.
 - In Gobiye town, daily laborers who were arbitrarily arrested by regime forces during the conflict on September 6th, between Fano fighters and forces loyal to

the regime, remain in custody. These individuals, who traveled from distant areas for daily work, have been unable to secure a guarantor for their release, a condition imposed by regime forces.

- The victory of Fano fighters against regime forces in the battle of Kalim garnered media attention and achieved a symbolic political victory. Captives of the battle expressed surprise at their treatment by Fano forces, which contradicts what their leaders had told them. They reported receiving good hospitality, contrary to the portrayal of the Fano forces as robbers and terrorists. Fano forces achieved a significant military success against regime forces, capturing hundreds of prisoners and seizing various types of military equipment.
 - Furthermore, the captives testified to the strength, commitment, and armament of the Fano forces. While their leaders had claimed that the Fano fighters were disorganized and poorly equipped, the captives reported that they found them to be well-organized, well-equipped, and effective in battle. Some captives expressed interest in joining the Fano in the future.
 - They marked this victory alongside the Ethiopian New Year through celebrations in strategic areas such as Zobel, located east of Kobo city. According to sources, the local population was impressed by the scale of the material and human captives brought back by the Fano forces.
 - The Fano fighters' victory on the Kalim front continues to be celebrated as of September 12th. On the Zobel front, Fano fighters are marking their victory through various forms of celebration. The local population, pleased with the success, has contributed both resources and support to the festivities.
- On September 10th, regime forces reportedly massacred 2 civilians near the Karaila River in Kobo city, accusing them of providing logistical support to Fano fighters.

However, informants revealed that the victims had no connection to Fano, suggesting that the accusations by regime forces were unfounded.

- On September 12th, regime forces stationed in the mountains fired weapons into the town of Robit, damaging several homes. Among the damaged properties was the house of a resident named Belay Agazi.
- On the night of September 13th, Fano fighters launched a swift and coordinated attack on regime forces in Mado-Ketema, situated between Raya-Kobo and Raya-Alamata near Waja and Chobi-Ber. During the assault, the Fano forces seized a substantial cache of military equipment and captured several regime soldiers.
 - The Fano forces transferred the war prisoners from the recent Kalim Front to the International Committee of the Red Cross. They also provided the captives with transportation, healthcare, and other assistance.
 - The Fano fighters have invited captives who are interested in joining their cause. Through media outlets, they have shared their struggle's goals and clarified that their fight is not against the Oromo people but against elites like Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Shimelis Abdisa, and Birhanu Jula, whom they accuse of perpetrating violence against the Amhara people, including children.

Woldia City

- On the night of September 8th, an armed clash lasting approximately 40 minutes took place in Jeneto-Ber. The number of casualties remains unknown. As a result of the conflict, the local population in Jeneto-Ber has been displacing from their homes.
 - Approximately 30 households (more than one hundred people) have been displaced from Jeneto-Ber near Woldia. Families who lost loved ones in the

indiscriminate attack on September 7th have been prevented from mourning publicly. The casualties include the deaths of a one-and-a-half-year-old child and a five-year-old child, with many others injured.

Lasta Woreda

- On August 8th, a fierce armed clash broke out between Fano fighters and regime forces in areas stretching from Tafalay to the Tekezze River around Kulmesk. The conflict began due to the movement of regime forces into the area. The fighting involved both individual and group weapons, including ZU-23, light machineguns, mortars, and others. By the evening, the situation calmed as regime forces withdrew to Muja.
- On September 9th, fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces resulted in significant human and material casualties, particularly among regime security forces, including a vice-battalion commander and a campaign leader. Due to the strong offensive, regime forces were forced to retreat to Muja town.
- As of September 10th, active combat has continued in areas such as Kulmesk and Taja-Mesfina. Guerrilla warfare tactics by the Fano Freedom Fighters led to an estimated 16 deaths among regime forces. In retaliation, the retreating regime forces killed three civilians near Gashena.

Dawunt Woreda

- On September 10th, regime forces withdrew from Dawunt, allowing Fano fighters to take control of the area. However, before leaving, regime forces executed a prisoner named Dessalegn Alebe with a brutal gunshot to the head.

Raya-Alamata Woreda

- On September 15th, there was a public demonstration in Alamata. The protest was sparked by the refusal to allow priests to enter the church because they did not recognize the Tigray Orthodox Church, known as Abune Selama. The protesters voiced their opposition to the Tigray Abune Selama, which had seceded from the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, stating that it does not represent them. They reiterated their commitment to “*One Synodos, One Church.*”
 - The demonstrators also expressed their discontent with the ban on local youth wearing traditional attire and carrying sticks, a cultural practice in Raya.
 - Colonel Ahmed, the local defense force administrator, stated that anyone advocating for Amhara identity would not be allowed to enter his office.

South Wollo Zone

Legambo Woreda

- On August 8th, a fierce battle took place near Genete, resulting in material casualties. The conflict erupted following an attempt by regime forces to attack Fano fighters from three directions: Nechi Sar, Hotie, and Buso. The fighting affected residential houses and farmlands around the Woleka River.

Ambassel Woreda

- On September 9th, a fierce battle has erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in areas such as Ziha and Teleyayen. This intense battle forced regime forces stationed in Gishen-Mariam, a historical and religious site in Ethiopia, to retreat.
- On September 10th, heavy fighting continued in multiple parts of Ambassel Woreda, including Ambassel Mountain, Wuchale, and Marye. While ongoing

clashes make it challenging to determine the exact number of casualties, reports indicate significant losses among regime forces.

- Regional security forces have been intimidating and assaulting civilians under pretext of providing logistical and informational support to Fano forces. A man named Abate Yimer was severely harassed by regional forces, specifically by riot dispersal forces, and was referred to Dessie Referral Hospital.
- On September 10th, a fierce battle took place in areas to the south of Ambassel Mountain and around Wuchale Town. In the afternoon, Fano fighters managed to penetrate parts of Wuchale town but soon retreated to the mountainous areas.
 - The regime forces stationed near Gishen-Mariam Church withdrew from the area, moving to Dessie and Kutaber. After six months, Fano fighters took control of and entered into the area of Gishen-Mariam Church.
 - Sources reported a significant number of deaths and injuries among regime forces, though the exact number of casualties remains unknown.
- On September 13th, regime forces deployed additional security personnel in key areas such as Hayk and Wuchale. Car owners in these areas were forced to provide transportation for the movement of these forces. Sources suggest that this is part of the regime's plan to launch an offensive to regain control of the Ambassel mountain range.
 - Gishen-Mariam, a prominent religious site that will hold its annual celebration on October 1st, is currently under the control of Fano fighters. This event, attended by thousands, generates significant income for the regime. According to sources, the regime's recent movement of security forces is aimed at reclaiming the area before the holiday.

On September 14th, regime forces launched an offensive on the Ambassel Mountains and Gishen-Mariam Church, controlled by Fano fighters. The offensive was coordinated from two directions, one from Delanta through Teleyayen and another from Mariye, beginning at 11 am.

Between March and September 10th, regime forces stationed in Gishen-Mariam, a holy religious place, have reportedly committed sexual assaults against five monks.

North Shewa Zone

Mida-Woremo Woreda

- Between September 6th and 9th, a fierce battle has taken place in Woremo sub-Woreda.
 - On September 9th, three civilians were injured in Woremo sub-woreda.
 - On September 9th, intense fighting occurred in Rema following a swift attack by Fano forces against regime forces. The assault resulted in an estimated 19 casualties among regime forces. A religious institution, St. Michael’s Church, suffered damage to its steeple due to indiscriminate shelling by regime forces.
- On September 11th, heavy fighting erupted in Rema after Fano fighters launched another swift attack against regime forces stationed at a local school. Exact human and material casualties are currently unknown.
- On September 11th, active fighting continued in Rema, particularly from the mosque to the school, between Fano fighters and forces aligned with the regime. The conflict resulted in several casualties, including 27 ENDF soldiers and four allied militias killed, while 18 regime forces were injured.
- During recent fighting in Rema, numerous casualties were reported on the side of

the regime forces. Informants estimate that over 30 regime soldiers died in clashes with Fano fighters.

Mojana-Wadera Woreda

- On September 8th, an armed clash occurred between Fano fighters and forces of the Abiy-led regime in Sela-Dingay, near Begoch-Gat. Following the clash, regime forces arbitrarily arrested over seven youths, accusing them of providing logistical, informational, and other support to the Fano forces. Some of the individuals who were arbitrarily detained include: (1) Tefera Gebeyehu, (2) Mezigebu Abera, (3) Bizuneh Endashaw, (4) Abeje Mamu and (5) Getachew (father's name unknown).

Tarmaber Woreda

- On September 10th, regime forces kicked youths in Tarmaber town by lining them up along the main road, under suspicion of providing information and logistical support to Fano fighters.
- On September 14th, an armed clash occurred between regime forces and Fano fighters around Sola-Meda. The number of casualties remains unknown.

Efratana-Gidim Woreda

- On September 8th, OLA militants operating in the Oromia Special Zone took hostage passengers traveling from Addis Ababa to Dessie, around Jawuha. Fourteen people were held hostage, and one passenger was killed. The remaining hostages were freed following a fierce battle with local residents from Ataye.
- On September 10th, regime forces launched an offensive against individuals who supported the release of hostages, resulting in the deaths of two female and one male civilians.

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- Additionally, around Baliche, located between Shewa-Robit and Jawuha, OLA militants slaughtered a driver and his assistant.
 - The regime forces have been terrorizing residents of Ataye town on the eve of the Ethiopian New Year, restricting movement in certain kebeles.
- On September 11th to 12th, OLA militants and allied militants in the Oromo Special Zone attempted several acts of harassment against the Amhara people in Ataye, around Fered-Wuha. Despite facing logistical challenges, the Amhara forces in the area successfully defended themselves.
 - On September 11th, a teff merchant was reportedly kidnapped by OLA militants near the Kara-Koriye area. The kidnappers are demanding a ransom for the merchant's release. Regime forces have blocked the main road from Addis Ababa to Dessie and Mekele in Ataye, halting transportation in the area.
 - On September 15th, regime forces assaulted a pregnant woman in Molu, near Ataye, by kicking her while she was on her way to deliver lunch to her husband. The attack was based on the unfounded suspicion that she was providing logistical support to Fano forces. Due to the physical and emotional stress, she was transported to Dessie hospital, where she remains in critical condition.
 - On September 13th, an incident of rape and an attempted rape occurred in Drir. Both victims were married women. One was gang raped by four regime soldiers, while the other narrowly escaped a similar attack.

Shewa-Robit City

- On September 10th, fighting broke out in several parts of Shewa-Robit, including Wanza and Kebele 03. Sources estimated that four regional security forces (riot dispersal forces) were killed in Wanza. In Kebele 03, two militias were killed and

three others were injured. A civilian woman was also injured in her home by an arbitrary attack.

Debre-Birhan City

- On September 11th, an armed clash was reported in the Basona area.

Menz-Mama Woreda

- On September 14th, regime forces arbitrarily arrested 12 youths in Molale town. The youth, who were at Bitila Grocery and not engaged in any criminal activity, were taken without justification.
 - As a consequence of the incident, one youth, a shoeshine boy, was hospitalized due to intimidation by the regime forces. The whereabouts of the others remain unknown.
 - In Astoya Kebele, regime forces looted cattle from local farmers. During a survey of the area, the forces found one farmer and questioned him about his failure to inform on the presence of Fano fighters in the region. Following this, they confiscated his cattle.

Menz-Gera-Midir Woreda

- On September 14th, arbitrary arrests, intimidation, and harassment continued in Mehal-Meda.
 - Regime forces arrested 13 youths on baseless accusations of providing information to Fano forces.
 - The regime forces are also restricting the movement of people and vehicles within the town.

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- On September 15th, numerous regime soldiers were captured by the Fano fighters. A total of 42 regime troops surrendered to Fano forces, 28 of whom handed over their full military equipment.
 - The Fano forces are treating the captives well, with 14 already released and sent back to their families, and plans in place to release more.

Merhabete Woreda

- On September 14th, regime forces conducted mass arrests of over 115 farmers in a camp located in Geren. The justification for the arrests was the farmers' alleged failure to support regime forces during the recent conflict with Fano fighters near the Kericha River.

Menz-Keya-Gabriel Woreda

- On September 14th, regime forces arrested more than 100 farmers around Zemero. The arrests were based on suspicions that the farmers might join the Fano forces in future conflicts with the regime.

East Gojjam Zone

Enarj-Enawga Woreda

- On the evening of September 10th, fighting occurred in Debre-Work town and surrounding areas. The fight erupted when regime soldiers were mobilized to suppress Fano fighters in the Arara rural area. Despite the attack, Fano fighters successfully defended themselves, though casualty figures are unknown. Additionally, Fano fighters engaged in gunfire within Debre-Work town. The skirmish lasted less than two hours, with casualty still unconfirmed.

Awabel Woreda

- On September 13th, fighting occurred in Yesembet Kebele. The clash was initiated by regime soldiers aiming to suppress Fano fighters. Fano forces engaged to halt the regime's advance toward Yesembet, but the regime eventually gained entry to the area. Fano fighters conducted a tactical retreat by midday but launched a renewed offensive later in the evening to push regime forces out. Casualties on both sides remain unknown.

Debay-Telatgin Woreda

- On September 13th, fighting broke out in Quyi town. Fano fighters entered the town, where regime forces were encamped. Some sources suggest that the attack was an attempt by Fano to disrupt the regime's mobilization toward the battle in Yesembet. The number of casualties is yet to be confirmed.

Debre-Markos City

- On September 12th and 13th, Fano fighters launched a series of surprise attacks on regime forces, officials, and military leaders. On September 13th, reports emerged of a bomb attack orchestrated by Fano fighters at the Enqutatash Hotel, where security and administrative officials had gathered along with their escorting soldiers. The attack resulted in the deaths of 6 individuals—3 officials and 3 soldiers—while the assailant reportedly managed to escape the scene.
- On September 13th, Fano fighters carried out another attack near the L.B.S Hotel in Debre-Markos, specifically targeting military officials. In this instance, a bomb detonated among the military personnel, resulting in the deaths of over 5 soldiers. The attacker sustained injuries and was apprehended after the assault.

Enemay Woreda

- On the afternoon of September 13th, regime soldiers surrounded a single Fano member, identified as Fano Geta Ayalew, during a family visit in Ansilal-Manqorqoriya Kebele, Boqer village. Faced with overwhelming odds, Ayalew engaged in a counterattack, killing over 7 regime soldiers before breaking free from the encirclement. Despite sustaining injuries, he managed to escape and rejoin the Teqil battalion Fano group.

West Gojjam Zone

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On September 8th, fighting erupted in the Wenge area, located between Jiga and Dembecha towns. Earlier, on the evening of September 7th, there had been light gunfire exchanges around Jiga. The fighting escalated when regime soldiers executed two defectors attempting to join the Fano in Jiga town. Subsequently, Fano fighters entered Jiga and reportedly killed at least four regime soldiers. On the morning of September 8th, regime forces mobilized from Jiga and launched an offensive on Fano fighters in the Wenge area, utilizing heavy artillery. The confrontation reportedly continued until midday, ceasing when regime soldiers withdrew back to Jiga. Casualties from this confrontation have yet to be confirmed.
- On September 12th, a brief gunfire exchange occurred in Jiga town, lasting about 20 minutes. According to reports, regime soldiers opened fire upon seeing Fano fighters leaving town after purchasing food and drinks. No casualties were reported in this incident. Additionally, a brief gunfire exchange unfolded on September 14 in Jiga town, where several riot dispersal policemen managed to defect amidst the gunfire.

Bure-Zuriya Woreda

- Recent reports indicate that Oromo militants have crossed into the Amhara Region and attacked local farmers. The militants reportedly looted cattle and other properties.

Dembecha Woreda

- On the evening of September 12th, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime soldiers at a checkpoint near the entrance of Dembecha town. The skirmish was brief, lasting less than an hour. Sources reported that Fano fighters managed to capture both soldiers and firearms during the short exchange of fire.

Sekela Woreda

- On September 14th, clashes erupted in the Ambisi area of Sekela Woreda, initiated by regime soldiers mobilized from Gishabay to confront Fano fighters. Reports indicate that Fano forces mounted a fierce resistance, successfully repelling the advancing troops back to Gishabay.

Awi Zone

Dangila Woreda

- On the evening of September 10th, there was a brief exchange of gunfire in Dangila town. This incident was reportedly a result of a dispute between regime troops, leading to the deaths of two soldiers.
- On the evening of September 14th, brief gunfire exchanges occurred in Dangila town. Fano fighters opened fire to create a diversion that allowed state militias and policemen to defect from the military. As a result, at least nine individuals successfully left their posts. A similar incident unfolded in Jiga town within

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda, where some riot dispersal policemen also chose to defect amidst the gunfire.

Jawi Woreda

- Reports indicate that fighting took place two days ago (September 11th) in several kebeles of Jawi Woreda. The regime force, mobilizing in rural areas to suppress Fano fighters, initiated the fighting. Fano fighters claim to have inflicted significant losses on the regime, reporting over 30 regime soldiers killed or wounded.

North Gojjam Zone

North Mecha Woreda

- On September 8th, Fano fighters took decisive action against bandits responsible for a series of abductions and robberies targeting civilians. Sources indicate that these bandits had forcibly dismounted passengers from public transport vehicles and were robbing them of money and belongings. Fano fighters arrived at the scene and opened fire, killing four bandits who refused to surrender.

Bahir-Dar-Zuriya Woreda

- On September 11th, Fano forces carried out a sudden attack in the Zegie area on the regime soldiers who were said to have departed from Bahir-Dar city. Fano fighters claimed to have inflicted significant casualties among regime troops engaged in logistical operations. According to reports, over 20 troops were killed and injured and 3 patrol vehicles were damaged.
- On September 14th, Fano fighters infiltrated inside Bahir-Dar city, capturing a Prosperity Political cadre identified as Seyife Kebede.

South Gonder Zone

- The withdrawal of regime forces from numerous woredas in South Gonder Zone has sparked a wave of fear and displacement amongst local regime officials, militia forces, and riot dispersal units affiliated with the Prosperity Party. These individuals, fearing reprisal from Fano fighters, have fled their posts, taking their families with them. They have sought refuge in nearby towns, most notably Debre-Tabor, where they are now viewed with scorn and derision by the local population, who refer to them as “*displaced militia.*” Their presence in hotels and bars is met with mockery and resentment.
 - The Fano, particularly the Gebriye Division, have sought to quell any anxieties about potential reprisals. They have issued a public declaration, stating that while the officials and militia forces will be held accountable for their participation in the regime’s violence against the Amhara people, they can remain in their communities without fear of harm as long as they are no longer actively aiding the regime. The Fano emphasized that children and women should not suffer for the actions of their families.
 - Furthermore, the Fano issued an ultimatum to individuals engaged in hostage-taking operations on behalf of the regime. They have been given until September 16th to surrender and cease their attacks on the Amhara people. Failing to do so will result in “*unprecedented military measures.*”
 - In a bid to maintain essential services, the Fano called on medical professionals working in liberated woredas to continue their duties without fear. Starting from September 11th, medical institutions are expected to resume normal operations, ensuring continued access to healthcare for the local population.
 - The Fano have also issued a call to action to all young men who are physically capable of participating in military training. They are encouraged to join the

Fano's efforts to defend themselves and the Amhara people against the threat posed by the regime.

- The Fano leadership has also expressed concern about attempts to sow discord within their ranks, urging individuals, both within Ethiopia and abroad, to refrain from undermining their efforts through political maneuvers. They have implored those providing financial and moral support to the Fano movement to continue their vital contributions as the struggle continues.
- In areas where regime forces have withdrawn, Fano fighters have implemented a system of direct governance, establishing official public administration secretariats in each woreda. These secretariats, directly elected by the people of each woreda, function as representatives of the local communities. The elections have ensured diverse representation, with individuals from youth, women, and other sectors of society participating in the selection process. Once elected, the secretariat appoints its own chairman, further reflecting the principles of local autonomy and self-governance.
 - A notable outcome of this shift in control has been the absence of crime reports in woredas that have been reoccupied by Fano. This suggests a sense of security and stability in these areas, potentially attributed to the Fano's focus on community governance and the local population's support for their leadership.
- The Fano fighters in South Gonder Zone have Established Administrative Structures in South Gonder region. The Fano, a powerful armed group particularly the Guna division operating in the South Gonder Zone, has announced the establishment of administrative structures in areas under its control, particularly in the South Gonder Zone. This includes the appointment of district administrators, council leaders, and city mayors.

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- Fano spokesperson, Mihret Assaye, has stated that the Fano forces are building strong administrative structures in their controlled territories. He highlighted that the initial focus of Fano forces entering newly captured towns has been to calm the population and ensure stability. They have engaged in discussions with religious leaders, government employees, youth, women, and other influential individuals to achieve this objective.
 - As a result of these efforts, the Fano has begun implementing administrative structures in areas such as the Simada Woreda, including the appointment of a city administration. They have also formed a temporary council by selecting 15 members to oversee the region.
 - Mihret Assaye emphasizes that this council is representative of all segments of society and reflects the diversity of the region. He further explains that the Fano has appointed heads of offices, mayors, district administrators, and council leaders, who are now taking on their responsibilities.
 - This initiative, has been welcomed by the people of South Gonder Zone as a sign of Fano’s commitment to governing the areas under their control. The move raises questions about the future of the region and its relationship with the regime. It remains to be seen how these developments will unfold and what impact they will have on the ongoing conflict.
 - On September 15th, there was a drone surveillance in most part of South Gonder Zone by the regime forces. This drone surveillance was conducted in the Woredas where the regime forces left last week. In addition to this, more than 120 militiamen have defected to the Fano fighters in South Gonder Zone alone.

Libo-Kemkem Woreda

- On September 8th, regime militia forces killed a 9-year-old boy as he was preparing for the traditional Christian baptism ritual of Puagemen in Addis-Zemen town.
 - Puagemen, the 13th month of the Ethiopian calendar, holds special significance for Christians. It is a time of blessings and renewal, marked by five days of intense spiritual reflection and purification. Baptism is a central part of this celebration, a symbolic cleansing and renewal of faith.

Central Gonder Zone

- The regime forces are strategically withdrawing from border areas, particularly areas bordering Sudan and Eritrea, shifting their focus towards the administrative centers of various zones within the Gonder sub-region. This retreat extends beyond the border, as the regime has also withdrawn from numerous woredas in South Gonder Zone and from East Belessa Woreda in Central Gonder Zone.
- This withdrawal has left a power vacuum that Fano fighters are swiftly filling. Recognizing the need for effective governance in the newly liberated territories, the Fano have established two distinct administrative structures:
 - *Military Command Posts*: In areas where security remains a paramount concern, the Fano have established military command posts. These posts are staffed by elected representatives from within the Fano ranks, tasked with maintaining peace and security within their designated territories. This structure prioritizes immediate stability and defense, focusing on securing the newly liberated areas from potential regime counter-offensives.
 - *Public Administration*: Alongside the military command posts, the Fano are facilitating the establishment of public administrations through direct elections

by the local populace. This approach emphasizes community ownership and seeks to ensure that the elected officials are both trustworthy and accountable to the people they serve. The Fano are actively engaging with civilians, including those who previously had no allegiance to the regime, to identify individuals who can effectively lead their communities.

- This dual-pronged approach, combining military oversight with civilian governance, demonstrates the Fano's commitment to securing liberated territories while simultaneously fostering long-term stability and democratic participation. The Fano's efforts to establish these administrations highlight their vision for a future free from the regime's control, one where the people have a say in their own destiny and where their voices are heard in shaping the future of their communities.
- Amhara Fano Gonder Command requested Humanitarian Assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) society for the newly captured regime soldiers.

East Dembiya Woreda

- The recent attack by Fano fighters on regime forces in Ayimba last week resulted in significant casualties among high-ranking military officers. Confirmed fatalities include Colonel Kassahun, Colonel Bayisa, Captain Bedhasa, and Captain Gubena, hailing from the 104th, 65th, and 96th army divisions, respectively. In addition, 11 military cadets were also killed in the engagement.
 - Despite the intensity of the conflict, Fano fighters demonstrated a commitment to humanitarian principles during the New Year holiday. They treated the captured high-ranking officers and regular soldiers with respect and dignity, offering them warmth and hospitality without discrimination. This act of

compassion stands in stark contrast to the brutal tactics employed by regime forces.

- The regime forces, during their trial for the occupation of Ayimba, had engaged in indiscriminate shelling, firing multiple rocket launchers at civilian areas. This reckless act tragically resulted in the deaths of seven civilians, including a three-year-old child, who were killed while sitting in their own homes. This indiscriminate shelling occurred while the Fano fighters were not present in the town, highlighting the regime forces' disregard for civilian life.
- The stark difference in conduct between Fano fighters and regime forces demonstrates a profound divergence in values. While the Fano prioritize compassion and respect for all, even amidst conflict, the regime continues to perpetrate acts of violence and disregard for human rights.
- As of September 12th, no active fighting between Fano fighters and regime forces was observed in any part of the Gonder region.

Gonder City

- The regime has deployed a new ENDF contingent to Gonder city. This comes as the regime forces are facing setbacks in their ongoing war with the Fano fighters.
 - On September 14th, in the Azizo Mandela village, the newly arrived soldiers reportedly shot and killed two civilians without any provocation, highlighting their desperation and escalation of violence. The identities of these extrajudicially killed civilians were not known as they were killed while travelling with Bajaj.
 - Furthermore, these soldiers have established a new camp in Azizo and have been firing heavy weapons towards the Qoladiba and Ayimba towns, even though no active fighting is taking place. The indiscriminate shelling suggests

a deliberate attempt to intimidate and harm civilians.

- The regime’s military forces have consistently employed a strategy of repression and violence to quell dissent and subdue the population of Gonder city. However, the people have become increasingly aware of the regime’s tactics and are rallying behind the Fano fighters.
- The regime’s latest actions, targeting innocent civilians, are a blatant attempt to instill fear, undermine popular support for the Fano, and impose a crushing political reality on the population. This ruthless strategy, characterized by the deliberate killing of unarmed civilians, represents a desperate move by the regime to salvage its dwindling control over the region.

Taqusa Woreda

- There was intense fighting ongoing on September 15th between Fano fighters and the regime forces in the Chachna Alwa Kebele.
 - The Tana Brigade of the Begemidir Fano, reportedly inflicted heavy losses on the regime’s military forces. On September 14th during a fierce battle in Delgi highschool, the Fano fighters inflicted heavy casualties on the regime forces particularly the militia forces with an ambush attack. At least 11 militiamen were killed instantaneously. The remaining regime forces, having been severely weakened, were attempting to retreat from Delgi today. Meanwhile, the Tana Brigade, advancing from Delgi has been engaging in heavy combat with the newly deployed regime reinforcement forces from Gonder Azezo central military command in the Chachna Alwa Kebele. The fighting was held in support of ZU-23 heavy machineguns and mortars. The regime reinforcement forces were deployed with 21 heavy military trucks. They were ambushed by the Fano fighters in Sankisa and 5 Qutir Kebeles while they

travelled to Delgi. The Fano have Liberated Political Prisoners in Delgi town. The Amhara Fano Gonder Command, specifically the Nadew Brigade and the Tana Brigade of the Begemidir Fano, have successfully liberated numerous political prisoners from the Delgi Police Station today in the mourning. They achieved this by storming and breaching the station, demonstrating their growing strength and determination.

- The Tana and Nadew Brigades have engaged in fierce combat with the regime’s forces, pushing back against the regime military. This ongoing battle, which began in Chachna Alwa, has seen the Tana Brigade effectively encircle and outmaneuver the regime’s troops. They have seized strategic positions in Narchecha and Jibjibba, and are now advancing towards the town of Zahith, pushing the regime’s forces into a desperate retreat.
- The liberation of political prisoners marks a significant victory for the Fano forces. These prisoners, many of whom were local citizens accused of supporting the Fano, had been subjected to severe mistreatment and torture by the regime’s security forces.
- The Fano’s offensive continues with intense battles raging in Denbiya and Taqusa, where the Tana and Nadew Brigades are waging a fierce fight against the regime’s army. Reports indicate heavy casualties among the regime’s forces, with many killed or injured. The remaining regime soldiers are attempting to escape, while an unspecified number have been taken prisoner. The Fano has also captured numerous weapons, including both personal and group firearms.
- The Fano’s victories in Taqusa Woreda represent a significant setback for the regime and a clear indication of the growing momentum behind the resistance movement. This ongoing conflict continues to have a profound impact on the region, with civilians caught in the crossfire and facing a growing

humanitarian crisis.

West Gonder Zone

Metemma Woreda

- The current situation in the Metemma area, bordering Sudan, is tense. The regime forces, facing significant losses, have retreated to a single camp in Genda-Wiha, the administrative center of West Gonder Zone. This camp is completely surrounded by the Fano freedom fighters, with no escape route. The regime forces have been offered a choice: surrender their weapons and retreat, or face annihilation. The decision lies with them. However, the regime's Arawete (elite) forces, along with local officials and the police, remain stationed in Genda-Wiha, refusing to leave the town.
 - Meanwhile, the strategic towns of Metemma, Kokit, Aftit, Dilber, and Meqah Shinfu remain under the control of Fano. The Fano, a coalition of fighters from various districts including Begemidir, Karamara, Arbegnoch, Atanaw Wassie, and Qwara Omedla, are actively preventing any attempt by regime forces to escape. They have even mobilized local armed farmers to strengthen their defenses, demonstrating the widespread support for their cause.
 - The fierce fighting, which has encompassed a vast area from the Sudanese border to Azezo, represents a strategic push by the Fano to liberate the entire West Gonder area.
- Between September 9th and 10th, Fano fighters have made significant gains in their struggle against regime forces in the border region between Ethiopia and Sudan.
 - On September 9th, Fano successfully recaptured the strategic checkpoint at Korshede, located approximately 3 kilometers from Genda-Wiha town. The

regime forces withdrew from the area, leaving the checkpoint in the hands of the Fano. Korshede is a crucial location for military operations, and its loss represents a significant setback for the regime. The checkpoint is vital for the movement of goods between Ethiopia and Sudan, facilitating trade in both directions. Notably, the Fano regained control of Korshede without any gunfire, suggesting a possible shift in the dynamics of the conflict.

- Further demonstrating their advance, the Fano captured the strategic location of Korhumer Kebele on September 10th. This location, situated on the Ethiopia-Sudan border, holds significant strategic value.
- Adding to these successes, a large number of regime soldiers defected to the Fano on September 9th, near Metemma-Yohannes town. This defection highlights the growing pressure on the regime forces and the growing support for the Fano's cause.
- Following these victories, the Fano established numerous new checkpoints throughout the Metemma Woreda. These checkpoints are strategically placed along the main road connecting Ethiopia and Sudan, effectively controlling the flow of goods and people in the region.
- These recent events suggest a growing momentum for the Fano fighters in their struggle against the regime. Their strategic gains in the border region, combined with the defection of regime forces, indicate a shift in the balance of power.
- A temporary lull in the fighting between regime forces and Fano fighters took effect on September 10th, following the New Year's Eve. There has been no active conflict in South Gonder, Central Gonder, and North Gonder Zones, including their respective woredas.

- The Fano fighters have experienced a significant surge in support within a short

period, with over 120 members of the regime forces defecting to their cause in just two days. These soldiers, previously stationed in Abrahajira, Sur camp, Genda-Wiha, and the nearby town of Metemma-Yohannes, represent a diverse range of military units, including regular soldiers and anti-guerilla fighters. This mass defection signifies a growing shift in allegiance, highlighting the increasing pressure on regime forces and the growing appeal of the Fano's cause.

- As a result of these developments, a relative calm has settled over Metemma Woreda, with no active fighting reported between Fano and regime forces. This newfound stability has allowed for the resumption of transportation between the towns of Metemma-Yohannes and Genda-Wiha, a crucial step in restoring normalcy to the region. The defections and the subsequent lull in fighting suggest a potential turning point in the conflict, with the Fano gaining momentum and regime forces facing growing challenges.
- On September 14th, regime forces killed 3 young men in Metemma town.
- This act of violence was allegedly orchestrated by the town's mayor, Abdulkerim, and his associate, Andualem.
- These officials, motivated by fear and a desire to maintain control, falsely accused the youths of celebrating the Fano movement through playing music. They claimed the music expressed support for the Fano forces and wished them victory on the New Year holiday.

Addis-Ababa City

- This week, the Amhara Region Peace Council reported they have been unable to engage with any federal government officials, except the Ministry of Peace, regarding potential peace talks with Fano fighters.²

²See September 15, 2024 [news update](#) from Ethiopian Reporter.

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- However, they were able to meet with the diplomatic communities and the Fano forces, who expressed their willingness to engage in peace talks in principle. Nevertheless, the council observed that Fano leaders believe the government's response is merely a stalling tactic and that it has not sincerely committed to the peace process.

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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