



## War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – October 28th to November 3rd, 2024

*Updated November 3rd, 2024*

### Overview

For the week of October 28th to November 3rd, 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.<sup>1</sup> This week, ENDF and *Oromia Region Special Forces* (OSF) have intensified forced disarmament of private arms belonging to Amhara communities in western Oromia Region which has coincided in an escalation in attacks by *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) militants.

- This week battle events and rights violations were recorded in 51 woreda/city administrations across 11 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These zones included North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, Bahir-Dar, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder and West Gonder Zones.

There were also developments recorded in an additional 5 woreda/city

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

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administrations outside Amhara Region. These included the North Shewa, East Shewa and East Wollega Zones of Oromia Region; East Gurage Zone of Central Ethiopia Region and in Addis-Ababa city.

- Battle events were recorded in over 7 urban administrations across 5 zonal administrations. These urban administrations included Woldia, Alamata, Debre-Birhan, Shewa-Robit, Debre-Markos, Bahir-Dar and Debre-Tabor cities in the North Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, Bahir-Dar and South Gonder Zones.
- Civilian casualties were recorded in more than 18 woreda/city administrations across 7 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Woldia, Legambo, Midana-Woremo, Tarmaber, Menz-Mam-Midir, Moretena-Jiru, Antsokiyana-Gemza, Bibugn, Debre-Markos, Fagita-Lekoma, North Mecha, Qonji-Qolela, Lay-Gayint, Ibnat, Dera, Tach-Gayint, Fogera, and Gonder-Zuriya Woredas in the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, and South Gonder Zones. In addition, civilian casualties were recorded in 3 woreda administrations across 3 zonal administrations in 3 regions outside Amhara Region. These included Sodo Woreda in East Gurage Zone of Central Ethiopia Region, and Dera Woreda in North Shewa Zone, Dugida Woreda of East Shewa Zone, and Kiremu Woreda of East Wollega Zone of Oromia Region.
- Use of drones was recorded in West Armachiho Woreda of West Gonder Zone in Amhara Region.
- Widespread arrests were reported in 10 woreda/city administrations across 3 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These include Raya-Kobo, Raya-Alamata, Midana-Woremo, Berehet, Menz-Mam-Midir, Moretena-Jiru, Hageremariam-Kesem, Estie, Debre-Tabor city and Ibnat Woredas in the North Wollo, North Shewa and South Gonder Zones.

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- This week, ENDF and OSF have intensified forced disarmament of private arms belonging to Amhara communities in East Wollega and Horo Guduru Wollega Zones of Oromia Region. This action has coincided with an escalation in attacks against civilians by OLA militants which carried out attacks on civilians in Dugida Woreda of East Shewa Zone, Dera Woreda of North Shewa Zone and Kiremu Woreda of East Wollega Zone in Oromia Region and in Sodo Woreda of East Gurage Zone in Central Ethiopia Region.

## **North Wollo Zone**

### **Raya-Kobo Woreda**

- Regime forces have continued arresting farmers during the crop harvest season, disrupting livelihoods.
- On October 29th, three individuals were detained without cause in Zobel. They were identified as Tigabu Sisay, Ayene Molla and Alemu Temesgen.

### **Woldia City**

- Between October 30th and 31st, regime forces launched a series of heavy weapon attacks on Merto. Initial reports from local sources suggest 2 civilian injuries.

### **Raya-Alamata Woreda**

- The regime command post continues to conduct arbitrary arrests in Alamata and Waja areas.
  - Individuals associated with the Raya Wollo Amhara Identity Repatriation Committee, which has advocated for Amhara identity and regional administration, and functioned as a transitional administration for two years have been targeted.

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- The arrests have been conducted in collaboration with TPLF-affiliated settlers who share intelligence on individuals opposing TPLF’s influence in the area.
  - Three recently detained individuals have been identified including:
    1. Fenta Mekonnen
    2. Mengistu Kebede
    3. Wondwossen (surname unspecified)

### **Habru Woreda**

- On the morning of November 2nd, the Amhara Fano in Wollo’s Girana Baleshirtu Division launched an attack on regime forces in Girana. The assault targeted troops in Faji at Turk Camp conducting field operations, resulting in over 10 regime casualties (deaths and injuries). Regime forces reportedly killed 2 youths (shepherds looking after cattle) as retribution.
- On November 3rd, at 9 am, a guerrilla attack led by Arbegna Indris Gudle of the Amhara Fano in Wollo’s Baleshirtu Division targeted regime forces in Mehal-Amba.
  - The regime forces, which included riot dispersal, local militias, and a ZU-23 unit, were en route from Mersa carrying food supplies to Girana in the Faji area.
  - The operation, initially a guerrilla ambush, escalated into a conventional battle that lasted until 1 pm.
  - Though precise casualty numbers remain unconfirmed, eyewitness accounts reported seeing ambulances transporting both deceased and wounded regime forces.

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## **South Wollo Zone**

- On October 31st, the Amhara Fano in Wollo announced the establishment of the West Wollo Corps, comprised of the Nigus Mikael Ali, Amhara-Sayint-Mekdela, and Kegn-Azmach Yitagesu Aragaw Teworwari Divisions.
  - This corps aims to streamline administrative order and improve coordination for strategic operations within the Wollo sub-region.
  - The corps will play a pivotal role in managing local administration while facilitating targeted military actions extending to the Gojjam, Gonder, and Shewa sub-regions.
  - Fano Sergeant Adem Ali, also known as Aba Nadew, has been appointed as the corp’s commander, with a statement indicating that the remaining executive members of the corps will be announced shortly.

## **Ambassel Woreda**

- On October 27th, conflict erupted between regime forces and Fano fighters in areas around Robit and Didi-Hora. Although regime forces attempted to encircle and attack the Fano fighters in their camp, the Fano forces managed to break through the encirclement. Over 10 regime soldiers were reportedly killed.

## **Legambo Woreda**

- On October 28th, an intense fighting erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces broke out in Genete town and surrounding areas.
  - In Kebele 06, civilians faced intimidation from regime forces under accusation of supporting Fano fighters.
  - Regime forces conducted an extrajudicial killing of a 70-year-old senior in the area, intensifying fear among the local community.

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- Emerging crops in farmlands were also destroyed by regime forces, causing significant losses to local livelihoods.

### **Kelela Woreda**

- On October 29th, heavy fighting erupted between regime forces and Fano in Baket and Shashe. The clashes resulted in significant casualties and crop damage.

### **Wogdi Woreda**

- On the night of October 29th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Nigus Mikael Division reportedly launched a bombing attack on a regime camp in Lemi, resulting in the deaths of 4 regime soldiers and injuries to others. In retaliation, regime forces withdrew to Wogdi town and conducted a heavy weapon assault, which reportedly caused damage to residential homes.

### **Mehal-Sayint Woreda**

- On October 30th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo Mekdela Division's Atrons Brigade executed a swift, targeted assault on regime forces in Densa, the administrative center of Mehal-Sayint Woreda. The attack took place at 5:40 pm, resulting in substantial casualties, including the reported deaths of at least 2 regime militia members.
- On November 3rd, the Amhara Fano in Wollo's Amhara-Sayint-Mekdela and Kegn-Azmach Yitagesu Aragaw Teworwari Divisions, launched a surprise attack against regime forces in Kebero-Meda. The targeted regime forces were moving from Densa to Mekane Selam. The Atrons Brigade (part of the Mekdela Division) and the Kegn-Azmach Yitagesu Aragaw Teworwari Division executed the surprise guerrilla assault, resulting in multiple regime casualties, both dead and injured.

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### **Were-Ilu Woreda**

- On November 1st, the Amhara Fano Wollo Command Lij Eyasu Corps' Gof Division, launched an assault on Gugufu and Kulbi, targeting regime riot dispersal militia and police forces stationed in the area.
  - The attack resulted in the deaths of 15 militia and police personnel, with 5 others surrendering. Additionally, over 15 armed regime operatives surrendered.
  - The Fano forces successfully seized control of the camp, which remains under their command.
  - Following this operation, the Fano announced plans for similar missions targeting Dessie and Kombolcha, major urban centers in the Wollo sub-region.

### **Mekdela Woreda**

- Between October 31st and November 1st, armed confrontations occurred between Fano fighters and regime forces in the Wotet area. The skirmish resulted in injuries to over 15 regime forces, who were carried away by locals. Regime forces reportedly committed sexual violence against two women during the conflict.

### **Abuko Woreda**

- On November 2nd, the Amhara Fano Wollo Command's Gof Division issued a public statement through Tana Satellite Television regarding its recent military engagements. According to Arbegna Yohannes, on November 2nd, the division successfully killed over 26 regime soldiers, captured 3 who surrendered, and seized a substantial amount of military equipment. Arbegna Yohannes addressed the accusations from the South Wollo Zone Prosperity Party administration that Fano

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had dissolved. He affirmed that, contrary to these claims, Fano remains robust and is effectively challenging and dismantling regime forces.

## **North Shewa Zone**

### **Midana-Woremo Woreda**

- On October 27th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command's Atse Dawit Division, conducted a swift guerrilla attack on regime forces in Kolekol and Chelemit. This ambush disrupted the regime forces' plan to assault Fano forces and forced them to retreat, carrying their dead and injured. The attack resulted in severe casualties among regime forces.
- On October 28th, while returning to their camp in Merhabete, regime forces arbitrarily arrested 4 civilians and shot a civilian named Ashebir Desalegn in Chelemit.
- On October 30th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command launched a rapid assault from early morning until 1:30 pm, covering areas from Waso-Cheberie to Chelemit, Beg-Sirt, and Shola-Meda. The Atse Dawit Fano Division led the operation, reportedly inflicting severe casualties on regime forces, who were later transported to hospitals in Jama-Degolo and Meragna.

### **Tarmaber Woreda**

- On October 28th, regime forces reportedly physically assaulted a woman named Ehite Sharew in Eyesus town. They justified their actions with claims of evidence showing Ehite's alleged involvement in providing food to nearby Fano forces in Sela-Dingay. Despite severe injuries from the beating, Ehite was taken to the regime forces camp without access to medical care, placing her life in serious danger.



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- On October 30th, regime forces allegedly robbed cattle and killed civilian in Debre-Sina town. The victim, identified as Lakew (last name unknown), was a known cattle merchant and was reportedly transporting cattle when regime forces demanded a share. Upon his refusal, he was killed around 06.

### **Berehet Woreda**

- On October 28th, regime forces arbitrarily detained over 12 youths in Berehet. They claimed the detentions were due to the youths' failure to respond to a recruitment notice from regional police. The regime forces further intimidated the detainees, warning that such arrests would continue across the Amhara Region for those refusing to join the police force.

### **Menz-Mam-Midir Woreda**

- The regime forces have been arbitrarily detaining youths and committing severe human rights abuses in Molale town. Currently, numerous youths have been detained in overcrowded conditions, forced into a small room where sustaining basic living conditions was impossible.
- Regime forces have reportedly converted Molale Secondary School in Molale town into a site for torture and civilian killings, using disturbing tactics and creating a "*human-made sea*" with animals and other objects intended to intensify psychological trauma.
- According to sources, many civilians have been subjected to torture, extrajudicial killings, and other severe human rights violations in this area.

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## **Debre-Birhan City**

- IDPs in Bakelo Camp, along with coordinators and local community members, report severe survival issues.
  - These challenges stem from a directive by regime leaders, ordering IDPs to return to their original homes in the Oromia Region. However, many have refused due to heightened security risks in those areas.
  - In response to this refusal, the regime has halted all aid and pressured NGOs and volunteers to cease any support to the IDPs. Sources indicate that they have not received aid for over six months, pushing them into a critical survival situation.
  - As a result, the IDPs face a difficult dilemma that threatens their living conditions and survival. On one hand, the regime has been ordering them to return to the Oromia Region, from which they faced violent attacks (and massacres) and were forcibly displaced. Security conditions there remain highly unstable, and many IDPs continue to flee from Oromia Region due to ongoing threats.
  - On the other hand, the regime has cut off all forms of aid for the past six months, leaving the IDPs without essential necessities, including food. Consequently, their lives are in a state of severe crisis.

## **Shewa-Robit City**

- On October 30th, regime security forces conducted house-to-house searches, reportedly seizing jewelry and valuables from residents.

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### **Moretena-Jiru Woreda**

- After the surrender of Meto-Aleka Amare, the head of the regime's command post in the area and 105th Campaign leader, on October 29th, regime forces began detaining civilians under the pretense of supporting Fano forces. Six youths, including daily laborers, were reportedly detained arbitrarily.

### **Hageremariam-Kesem Woreda**

- On November 1st, regime forces detained 18 youths, claiming their *“soft hands indicated they were associated with the Fano fighters.”*

### **Antsokiyana-Gemza Woreda**

- On November 2nd, regime forces killed Getinet Eniyew, a civilian using a cart, alleging he was gathering intelligence for Fano forces.

### **East Gojjam Zone**

- Sources report that regime soldiers have begun conducting surprise searches in civilian homes. These searches have been deemed unlawful, as soldiers reportedly confiscated and looted property, including legally-registered firearms. Notable incidents have been reported in Jiga, Debre-Markos, Debre-Work, Finote-Selam, Merawi, and other locations. Additionally, recent reports indicate that the regime plans to conduct nighttime military operations. These operations have reportedly already commenced in certain areas considered to be Fano strongholds.
- Sources have reported that regime command posts held meetings in various woredas and zonal towns on October 31st. These meetings, led by security and administrative officials of the regime, often compelled local residents to attend. Reports indicate that the agenda focused on urging residents to engage with

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government services and educational programs. Areas notably hosting these meetings included Debre-Markos, Finote-Selam, and Dembecha.

### **Sedie Woreda**

- On October 27th, regime forces moved from Motta to Sedie town in Sedie Woreda, a region that had been under Fano control for an extended period.
  - The Mezgebu Choke Brigade from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam’s Samuel Aweke Division executed a tactical retreat following brief gunfire exchanges. As a result, regime soldiers entered Sedie town.
  - The following day, Fano fighters launched a counterattack on regime forces that had entered Sedie, with fighting continuing until the afternoon. Fano fighters claimed to have inflicted heavy losses on the regime, sustaining only minor injuries. Reports indicate that regime soldiers subsequently retreated to mountainous areas in search of Fano fighters.
- Between October 28th and 29th, reports indicate that the fighting in Sedie Woreda continued, with reports of regime soldiers reentering Sedie town and managing to maintain control of the district.

### **Goncha-Siso-Enese Woreda**

- On October 27th, regime forces reportedly mobilized from Ginde-Woyn into the Awja area to suppress Fano fighters.
  - The Arenzaw Damot Brigade from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam’s Samuel Aweke Division engaged regime forces before they could reach Awja, leading to heavy gunfire exchanges that lasted throughout the day. Despite suffering casualties, regime troops managed to enter Awja.

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- On October 28th, fighting resumed in Awja as Fano fighters launched a counterattack to expel the regime soldiers. Fano forces claimed to have inflicted significant losses on the regime, though further details have yet to be verified.
  - On November 3rd, the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Samuel Aweke Division's Arenzaw Goncha Brigade conducted a surprise attack on regime soldiers mobilizing from Ginde-Weyn to Debre-Work town. This sudden offensive took place in the Chiye-Qatla mountainous area, disrupting the regime's mobilization efforts and forcing the soldiers to return to their encampment. Sources reported that the Fano fighters inflicted numerous casualties on regime forces during this encounter.

### **Bibugn Woreda**

- On October 29th, heavy fighting erupted in Digo-Tsiyon town. Fano fighters initiated the confrontation by encircling the town overnight from four directions. The Mezgebu-Choke Fano Brigade then launched an attack on the regime's encampment in the Luba area to expel the troops from Digo-Tsiyon. The battle continued until the afternoon, ultimately calming down when the Fano fighters withdrew around 5 pm. Confirmed reports indicate that 2 Fano fighters were killed during the exchange of fire, while casualties on the regime's side were described as numerous. Sources also confirmed that regime soldiers killed a civilian farmer named Muniye Getachew.

### **Shebel-Berenta Woreda**

- On October 29th, fighting took place in Weyniye Kebele of Qutquat village, instigated by regime soldiers, following defection of ENDF members the prior night. The regime mobilized troops from Yedoha to pursue the defected soldiers in the Fano stronghold of Qutquat village. The Shifferaw Gerbaw Fano brigade from

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the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Belay Zeleke Division mounted a strong defense against the regime's advance, resulting in regime forces ultimately retreating to Yedoha after sustaining casualties. Confirmed reports indicate that 2 Fano fighters were killed during the confrontation.

### **Debre-Markos City**

- Since the night of October 28th, intense gunfire has been reported in Debre-Markos city and its surroundings.
  - The regime planned to mobilize forces on October 29th for operations in these areas. In anticipation of the attack, the Negus Tekle-Haymanot Brigade from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Nigussie Division entered Debre-Markos overnight on October 28th, launching a preemptive offensive against regime soldiers preparing for action.
  - Fano fighters targeted troops stationed at an unfinished hospital in Wiha-gan. Reports indicate that the Negus Tekle-Haymanot Brigade withdrew after inflicting casualties, while the regime continued its offensive in pursuit of Fano fighters in the Debre-Markos vicinity. On the same day, the Jibela-Mutera Brigade engaged in gunfire within Debre-Markos city, with casualties and overall outcomes still pending confirmation.
- On November 2nd, heavy gunfire erupted in Debre-Markos city, initiated by Fano fighters from various brigades of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's 6th (Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Nigussie) Division.
  - The engaged units included the Qeste-Damena, Jibela-Mutera, Belay Zeleke and Engineer Kiber Temesgen Brigades, which operate in different neighborhoods of Debre-Markos city.

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- The Fano fighters mobilized into Debre-Markos and approached the city the previous night and launched attacks at three locations early in the morning. The strong confrontation reportedly occurred in the Mosebit and Prison Administration areas. The fighters attempted to facilitate the release of detainees from prison, but these efforts were unsuccessful.
  - The clashes resulted in casualties on both sides, with at least 3 Fano fighters confirmed dead and 3 others wounded. Reportedly, regime soldiers prevented families and residents from retrieving and burying bodies of the fallen Fano fighters, leaving them on the streets for more than a day until they were collected the following day.
  - Sources described the regime’s casualties as numerous, while Fano fighters claimed to have inflicted over 30 casualties on regime troops, including the deaths of 3 ranking regime military officers. Civilian casualties were also reported, though details have yet to be verified.

### **Sinan Woreda**

- On October 29th, regime soldiers attacked the Sinan Abajimie Fano Brigade in an attempt to extend their control from Rebu-Gebeya town to nearby rural kebeles. This operation in Sinan Woreda appears connected to fighting which erupted on the same day in Debre-Markos, as regime forces which mobilized from Debre-Markos sought to expand their operations into areas like Enerata. Details regarding casualties and overall results have yet to be reported.
- The conflict that began earlier in the Debre-Markos area and Sinan Woreda escalated as of October 30th. The regime had previously deployed a large force towards Fano strongholds in the Debre-Zeyit area, compelling Fano fighters to retreat. Following this withdrawal, Fano brigades from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam’s Belay Zeleke,

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Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Nigussie, and Haddis Alemayehu Divisions launched a coordinated counter-offensive on the afternoon of October 30th. The clashes reportedly continued into the evening, with further details pending.

- The fighting that erupted earlier in Debre-Zeyit Kebele continued through October 31st. Fano fighters surrounded regime soldiers in this area, effectively blocking them from retrieving logistics and firearms that had been gathered in previous encounters. While the day's fighting was relatively less intense, there were still sporadic exchanges of heavy weaponry from both sides.
- Tensions and confrontations that began in earlier days in the Debre-Zeyit area were reported to have subsided by November 1st. This calm followed the withdrawal of regime soldiers from the area.

### **Debay-Telatgin Woreda**

- On October 31st, regime soldiers mobilized from Bichena and Quyi towns into the Jerems area, known as a stronghold for Fano fighters. However, they faced fierce resistance from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Belay Zeleke Division's Aba-Kostir Fano Brigade and Debay-Choke Brigades. The Fano forces successfully defended their position, forcing regime troops to retreat to their bases in Bichena and Quyi.

## **West Gojjam Zone**

### **Dembecha Woreda**

- On October 28th, fighting broke out in areas surrounding Dembecha town, where regime soldiers mobilized large forces to advance towards Wad-Eyesus—a region long under Fano control. The Kiber Temesgen Brigade from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Nigussie Division engaged regime forces before they could reach Wad-Eyesus, although regime troops eventually entered the area.



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Reports indicate that Fano fighters attacked the troops stationed in Wad-Eyesus, but the outcome remains unconfirmed.

- On October 28th, it was reported that regime soldiers advanced into Wad-Eyesus Kebele. After a brief period of control, they were compelled to retreat back to Dembecha town.
- On October 29th, regime soldiers moved from Dembecha to Yezeleka, a known stronghold of Fano fighters. The Kiber Temesgen Fano Brigade mounted a fierce defense, successfully halting the regime's advance into the Yezeleka area.

### **Jabi-Tehnan Woreda**

- On the evening of October 29th, intense gunfire erupted between Jiga and Finote-Selam. Sources indicate that the regime has mobilized a significant force towards the Borebor and Arsema areas, launching an offensive against Fano fighters. The Geremew Wendawek and Arenzaw Damot Brigades from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's 5th Division (Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Atikem) faced off against the regime's troops after establishing strategic positions. This confrontation resulted in heavy exchanges of fire, involving substantial weaponry, which led to the encirclement of regime soldiers and significant casualties. Fano operatives in the area claimed to have inflicted over 200 casualties on regime forces.
- As of October 30th, fighting continued at a moderate pace, with reports indicating that regime troops returned to Finote-Selam town.
- Additionally, regime soldiers mobilized to rural areas near Jiga. Upon unexpectedly entering Fano-controlled territories, the Fano fighters chose to withdraw to minimize casualties. Reports also suggest that regime soldiers have been using long-range artillery and BM rockets in attempts to target Fano fighters in the vicinity.

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- On November 1st, intense fighting erupted in the Hodanshi area, situated between Jiga and Finote-Selam cities.
    - In earlier days, regime forces mobilized from both cities to Hodanshi, a known stronghold of Fano fighters. Fano fighters from the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's Fifth (Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Atikem) Division's Geremew Wendawek and Arenzaw Damot Brigades, executed a tactical withdrawal from the area.
    - In the early hours of November 1st, Fano fighters launched a coordinated offensive against regime soldiers who had advanced into this area. The fighting was fierce and reportedly continued until near evening. Regime forces utilized long-range artillery and BM rockets to target Fano fighters.
    - The casualties on the Fano side remain unknown, while Fano fighters claimed to have killed at least 15 regime soldiers, wounded several others, and captured firearms.

### **Bure-Zuriya Woreda**

- On October 31st, light gunfire was exchanged on the outskirts of Bure town. The skirmish began when several regime troops defected and joined Fano fighters active in the area. A spokesperson for the Bure Damot Brigade reported that at least 30 regime soldiers had defected from the military and joined the Fano.

### **awi Zone**

#### **Fagita-Lekoma Woreda**

- On October 27th, it was reported that intense battles took place in Addis-Kidam and surrounding villages in Fagita-Lekoma Woreda.
  - According to sources, on that day, regime soldiers mobilized a large force

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from Addis-Kidam towards Delkez and other rural neighborhoods. Fano fighters from various brigades of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's 3rd Division (Gojjam Agew Midir) mounted a resistance, successfully repelling the attack. At one point, Fano fighters entered Addis-Kidam town and launched an assault on the regime's encampment. That same day, they also targeted the outskirts of Dangila town in an effort to prevent reinforcements for the regime's operations in Addis-Kidam.

- Reports indicate that Fano fighters defeated regime troops in these encounters, resulting in over 31 deaths and numerous injuries among regime forces. A spokesperson for the Amhara Fano in Gojjam's 3rd Division reported to ABC TV that they killed over 88 regime troops, including three military officers, wounded 15, and captured more than 57 firearms during the day's battles.
- In a retaliatory move, regime forces targeted civilians in Addis-Kidam, with the spokesperson of the 3rd Division alleging that at least 23 civilians, including elderly persons, were killed. Sources reported that the killings were executed in both artillery shelling and deliberate shootings by regime soldiers, with the majority of killed victims being young men found on the street during and shortly after the fighting stopped.
- Sources identified names of six killed victims as follows:
  1. Arega Muluneh, 28 years old, has a child
  2. Yibeltal Demelash, in his 30s
  3. Tadesse Asresahagn, in his 40s, has 3 children
  4. Endeshaw (last name unknown)
  5. Degifew (last name unknown)
  6. Habtamu (last name unknown)
- On October 30th, Fano fighters ambushed regime soldiers traveling from Dangila to

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Addis-Kidam. This attack, executed around midday near Ashewa-Medhanialem, resulted in the deaths of at least 13 regime soldiers.

- On November 2nd, Fano fighters, specifically the Amhara Fano in Gojjam 3rd (Gojjam-Agew-Midir) Division's Efreem Atnafu Brigade, launched a surprise attack on regime soldiers traveling towards Addis-Kidam town. This unexpected assault occurred in Gula Kebele, where Fano fighters engaged in gunfire that reportedly caused casualties and compelled regime soldiers to retreat to their base.

### **Dangila Woreda**

- Reports indicate that a conference held in Dangila town, led by regime military officers, faced strong opposition from participants.
  - Residents voiced their dissent regarding the regime's classification of Fano fighters as extremists and robbers, asserting instead that it was the regime troops who were engaging in extremist and criminal activities.
  - One local elder spoke out rejecting the regime's distorted narrative about Fano fighters, emphasizing the community's support for them.
  - Similar conferences were conducted in various towns throughout the Gojjam sub-region, but the one in Dangila was particularly marked by strong objections.

### **Bahir-Dar City**

- On October 28th, regime forces shot and killed a nurse identified as Etayehu Tibebe in Bahir-Dar city.<sup>2</sup>
  - Etayehu was shot in her place of work, Han Health Station, where she had worked for several years, while she was at work. According to eyewitnesses,

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<sup>2</sup>See November 1st, 2024 [update](#) from the Amhara Association of America (AAA).

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five regime soldiers identified as riot dispersal and militia forces forcibly entered Han Health Station located in Kebele 7 of Belay Zeleke sub-city. Upon entering, the regime soldiers shot Etayehu five times, after which she was transported to Felege-Hiwot Hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries. Etayehu was a mother of young children estimated to be in her thirties and was known for promoting a peaceful end to the conflict in Amhara through negotiations. According to some media reports, she was shot while working the evening shift and for hesitating to show her identification when asked by the soldiers.<sup>3</sup>

## **North Gojjam Zone**

### **North Mecha Woreda**

- On October 28th, reports emerged of several regime soldiers defecting and subsequently joining Fano fighters.
- In other development on October 29th, regime soldiers conducted unauthorized and unlawful searches of civilian residences in the Dagi area, reportedly violating legal protocols during these operations. Sources indicate that regime soldiers seized and looted residents' private properties, including legally-registered firearms, jewelry, mobile phones, and other household items.

### **Gonji-Qolela Woreda**

- On October 27th, regime soldiers carried out extrajudicial killings of at least 3 civilians in Geregera Kebele.
  - Reports indicate that there was no military activity or presence of Fano in the area that could justify the killings. One victim was targeted for wearing a

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<sup>3</sup>See October 30, 2024 [report](#) from Meseret Media.

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t-shirt bearing the image of General Asaminew Tsige, however clear motives behind the deaths of the others remain unclear.

- The killed victims have been identified as:
  1. Birhanu Desta - 16-years-old
  2. Getachew Chale - 34-year-old(father of one)
  3. Gebre Tesize - 41-year-old (father of three)

### **South Mecha Woreda**

- On the morning of November 2nd, approximately 20 regime soldiers defected from their military encampment in Mehal-Genet town. Sources indicate that this defection was motivated by support for Fano fighters operating in the area.

### **South Gonder Zone**

- Intense fighting has erupted across eight different locations in South Gonder Zone, involving Fano fighters and regime forces. These battles commenced on October 27th, and continue to rage on October 28th in in Estie, Ibnat, Tach-Gayint, Mahdere-Maryam and Dera Woredas, and Hagere-Genet town (Lay-Gayint Woreda).

### **Estie Woreda**

- The fighting in Estie Woreda has spread from Dera Woreda towards Mekane-Eyesus (Estie Woreda) and Andabet Woredas.
  - A fierce battle is currently underway in Ginde Temem Kebele.
  - Similarly, a separate conflict is taking place in Liwaye Kebele, with regime forces advancing from Debre-Tabor city towards Estie via Gasay town.

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- As a result of the fighting and the regime’s heavy artillery bombardment from Lwaye and Tejbara mountainous areas towards Mekane-Eyesus town, residents of Mekane-Eyesus town have been forced to flee their homes, seeking refuge in nearby rural villages.
  - Fighting in Estie Woreda has escalated, with ongoing clashes in Mahdere-Maryam, Licha, Gelawdewos, and Lwaye.
    - The regime forces, having entered Mekane-Eyesus, are conducting house-to-house searches, using lists of individuals to detain and eliminate. These searches have prompted many residents to flee to rural villages, fearing arrest and potential execution.
    - On October 28th, regime soldiers raped 4 women in Gindatemem Kebele. When the victims’ families demanded justice, regime officers refused to investigate or punish the perpetrators, highlighting their disregard for human rights and their impunity.
    - On October 29th, regime forces, after enduring heavy casualties from a strategic Fano attack, entered Mekane-Eyesus town, located in the eastern part of Estie, following a prolonged battle. The regime forces advanced through Gasay town and Lwaye Kebele, originating from Debre-Tabor city.

### **Debre-Tabor City**

- Regime forces, based in Debre-Tabor city, have advanced towards Mahdere-Maryam town, where intense fighting with the Fano has been ongoing since the afternoon of October 27th.
- On October 27th, Fano forces infiltrated Debre-Tabor city, killing 2 regime militia members and injuring numerous soldiers in an operation carried out by the Guna Fano army division.

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- Regime forces deployed from Debre-Tabor city to Mahdere-Maryam on October 28th, were decimated by Fano fighters in a surprise ambush and close-quarters combat. The surviving soldiers were forced to retreat to Debre-Tabor, carrying their dead and wounded comrades. New reinforcements were sent to Mahdere-Maryam on October 29th, leading to ongoing battles.
  - On November 1st, a group of 22 young men were forcibly apprehended and detained by regime forces near Debre-Tabor city bus station.
    - The majority of these individuals were daily laborers, going about their routines when they were abruptly seized without justification.
    - Sources deeply concerned about the fate of these young men, suspect that they have been taken to military training centers. This practice is common for the regime, where young individuals are often coerced into military service without their consent. The absence of any explanation or justification for their detention further strengthens these suspicions.

### **Lay-Gayint Woreda**

- On October 27th, an intense battle occurred in Hagere-Genet town.
  - Regime forces killed 4 civilians who were traveling in a minibus. The civilians were forced to disembark from the vehicle before being executed. Despite sustaining heavy casualties, regime forces have also inflicted losses on the Fano, though these have been limited. The Fano forces involved in the fighting in Hagere-Genet town include the Wenchif, Nadew, and Nebelbal battalions. They have successfully destroyed a heavy machine gun used by the regime and other unspecified heavy weaponry.



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## **Ibnat Woreda**

- On October 27th, regime forces carried out a massacre of 17 civilians in Ambo-Meda town. The civilians were killed while celebrating the holiday of St. Stefanos in a church. The regime forces opened fire on the church with heavy artillery.
- On October 28th, a fierce clash occurred at Gela-Metatebiya village where Fano fighters captured 10 regime soldiers and seized over 15 small arms and heavy weapons.
- On the night of October 29th, regime forces conducted a covert operation targeting the villages of Gela-Metatebiya and Ayha.
  - Under the cover of darkness, they sought to disarm local farmers, specifically seizing legally registered kalashnikov rifles from them. During this raid, 6 farmers were apprehended and forcibly detained. Their families remain unaware of their current location, as authorities have not disclosed where they are being held. Reports indicate that the farmers were physically assaulted while being taken into custody.
  - This incident marks a severe human rights violation against these farmers, carried out by regime forces in response to recent intense clashes between the regime and Fano fighters in Gela Metatebiya. During these encounters, Fano forces launched an offensive against the regime's troops, capturing more than 10 regime soldiers. The regime forces, suspecting that the farmers had witnessed their comrades' capture by Fano fighters, pressured them to reveal any information they might have about the captured soldiers' whereabouts.
  - Further escalating the violence, regime forces allegedly killed 2 additional farmers near Debre-Tabor city and detained 3 others, whose locations remain

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undisclosed.

- In another incident in Ambo-Meda, a town situated between Addis-Zemen and Ibnat, 2 more farmers were reportedly killed by regime forces.
- On October 31st, there was a fierce fighting held in Ambo-Meda town located between Addis-Zemen and Ibnat town between Fano fighters and regime forces. The fighting lasted for two hours and was mainly conducted with the support of heavy weapons. The resulting casualties are unclear.

### **Dera Woreda**

- Between October 25th to 28th, fierce fighting has raged between Fano fighters and regime forces in Dera Woreda, with key battlegrounds located around Ambesame and Arb-Gebeya towns, and along the Gumara River.
  - The regime forces, primarily deployed from Bahir-Dar city, have been engaged in intense clashes, but they have suffered significant casualties.
  - In the battle near Ambesame, Fano fighters inflicted a major blow on regime forces, killing a high-ranking officer (whose rank has not been publicly disclosed) and 9 soldiers. Numerous other regime soldiers sustained critical injuries.
  - The fighting near Gelawdiwos town, located close to Arb-Gebeya, also resulted in heavy losses for the regime. At least 18 soldiers were confirmed killed by the Fano.
  - In retaliation, regime forces killed 14 civilians in Gelawdiwos town. Among those killed was a medical professional working at a local health clinic in Gelawdiwos town, whose name is Abrarew (father's name was not specified). The victim was killed and his body set ablaze after being doused in gasoline

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from a motorcycle. There were other civilians who were burned with the motor bike.

- In the Gumara River area, regime forces sustained heavy casualties as well, forcing them to retreat back to Wereta town following an intense assault by Fano.
- In the early morning of October 28th, fighting shifted to Licha.

### **Tach-Gayint Woreda**

- On October 27th, intense fighting erupted in Tach-Gayint Woreda, pitting Fano fighters against regime forces.
  - This intense clash, which lasted over 28 hours, saw the regime unleash a barrage of heavy artillery fire, including 107mm artillery and rocket launchers, against the Fano.
  - This indiscriminate shelling, intended to suppress the Fano, resulted in civilian casualties. Several homes were destroyed, and at least 3 civilians were killed in the heavy artillery fire.
  - Despite their heavy weaponry, regime forces sustained significant losses during the engagement. Numerous soldiers were killed, and many others sustained critical injuries. In a significant victory for the Fano, 5 regime soldiers were captured, including two members of the militia and three regular soldiers. The Fano also seized over 20 small arms and heavy weapons, further bolstering their arsenal and weakening the regime's firepower.
  - A significant regime military deployment took place in Tach-Gayint Woreda, concentrating significant firepower in the area. Two military commands and numerous army divisions have been deployed, equipped with a formidable arsenal of weaponry. At least two general heavy artillery pieces, over 10

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ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, along with a multitude of mortars and light machineguns have been deployed in the woreda.

- The regime’s heavy artillery fire, particularly the general heavy artillery, caused significant destruction. In Kebele 8, specifically at Tegegna village, a significant number of homes have been destroyed in the bombardment. At least 10 residential houses have been demolished, and a farmer, along with 5 members of his family, were killed in this indiscriminate attack.
- After five days of fierce fighting, regime forces entered Tach-Gayint Woreda. They have announced plans to launch military operations towards Mena, Meqetewa, Sede-Muja, Dera, Simada, and Andabet Woredas, starting on October 29th.
- On October 30th, regime forces conducted house to house searches in Arb-Gebeya town, administrative center of Tach-Gayint Woreda. The regime forces have disarmed 50 traders in Arb-Gebeya with their legally registered arms.

### **Mena-Meqetewa Woreda**

- Regime forces, based in Kimir-Dingay town, administrative center of Guna-Begemidr Woreda, attempted to infiltrate Mena-Meqetewa. However, they were met with a fierce ambush by Fano fighters at Amjaye-Giyorgis, suffering heavy casualties and being forced to retreat back to Kimir-Dingay.

### **Fogera Woreda**

- On October 28th, regime forces, in a brutal act of retaliation, killed 4 civilians, including militia members, in Wej and Alem-Ber towns. A militiaman in Wej was brutally killed after being mutilated by regime forces for refusing to participate in fighting alongside them. The regime also targeted youths, dragging them from

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hotels and executing them. Despite these atrocities, Fano fighters, after securing a decisive victory in Wej, entered the town.

### **Guna-Begemidir Woreda**

- On October 30th, regime forces made a renewed attempt to infiltrate Mena-Mequetewa Woreda, marking their second effort to gain control over the area.
  - However, Fano fighters, who were strategically positioned in Wuqro-Medhanialem and Amjaye-Giyorgis, anticipated the move and successfully ambushed the advancing forces at Amjaye. Despite the regime forces' military advantage and larger presence, they were met with a strong resistance from the Fano fighters, who managed to overpower them in a decisive engagement. Unable to sustain their position, the regime forces were compelled to retreat, ultimately falling back to Kimir-Dingay town.
- From October 31st to November 2nd, a fierce three-day battle took place in rural kebeles of Arb-Gebeya and Amjaye-Giyorgis.
  - This conflict erupted when regime forces attempted a third incursion into Mena-Mequetewa, only to face fierce resistance from Fano fighters.
  - Regime forces deployed from Kimir-Dingay town suffered significant losses in the clash. A confirmed count revealed at least 42 regime soldiers killed and 29 critically wounded. While Fano fighters also suffered casualties, with 2 members killed.
  - The conflict extended beyond the battlefield, claiming the lives of 7 farmers who were tending their fields when they were caught in the crossfire of the regime's mortar shelling. 2 additional farmers sustained severe injuries and were hospitalized in Debre-Tabor, but succumbed to their wounds.

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- The intense fighting resulted in widespread destruction. Heavy weapons fire devastated residential homes in both Amjaye and Arb-Gebeya, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake.

## **Central Gonder Zone**

### **Gonder-Zuriya Woreda**

- On October 27th, regime forces killed 5 civilians in Gonder-Zuriya Woreda.
  - In Mantelo and Chira Kebele, a battle on October 27th resulted in the deaths of 17 regime soldiers, while one Fano member was also confirmed killed.
  - The fighting intensified on October 28th, with clashes erupting in Minziro and Burbuaks Kebeles. The regime forces, launching an early morning attack, killed a three-year-old child and two other children with heavy weaponry. A recently postpartum mother was also killed in the fighting.
  - The battle has continued through to the afternoon, with the fighting shifting to Jangla-Maryam Kebele. Regime forces have been using ZU-23 guns in this engagement, resulting in the destruction of over eight houses.
- The regime forces have carried out systematic destruction of property and livestock belonging to residents of Maksegnit town.
  - Under the false pretense that these assets belong to Fano fighters, regime forces are seizing and destroying homes and livestock.
  - On October 29th, a 75-year-old man, a dairy farmer in Maksegnit town, became the latest victim of this ruthless campaign. Seven of his cows, a prized herd of foreign breeds, were seized by regime forces. The regime forces justified the theft accusing the elderly man of being a member of an opposition political party, singling him out from other dairy farmers in the town.

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## **East Dembiya Woreda**

- Starting on the night of October 27th and continuing into October 28th, regime forces launched a strategic encirclement operation to subdue Fano fighters in Dahna-Gebriel village.
  - However, the Fano successfully defended their position, engaging in fierce close-quarter combat with regime forces for an entire day.
  - The Fano's defense proved effective, resulting in significant losses for the regime. At least 4 regime soldiers were captured by the Fano. While the Fano sustained some casualties, with one member sustaining a physical injury, their overall losses were minimal.
  - The Fano also seized a substantial quantity of small arms and heavy weaponry from the captured regime forces, bolstering their arsenal and further weakening the regime's firepower.

## **Alefa Woreda**

- On October 30th, Fano fighters conducted surprise attacks against regime forces who were travelling from Gonder city in this direction with 30 heavy military trucks.
  - The attacks were conducted in three different places near Shawra town. The ambush was made in Kazan-Mikael at the junction road to Atsedemaryam Kebele, the other ambush was made in Ankelgosh or Ameshe-Wiha and the third one was made in Anchiwa Kebele.
  - The regime forces sustained heavy casualties in this surprise attack. Three trucks sustained heavy damage. A lot of dead soldiers were neutralized from these places and were taken to Delgi town. During this ambush, 2 Fano fighters were killed and 3 sustained physical injuries.

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- The regime forces took 2 farmers hostage after the ambush which were taken to their military camp.

## **West Gonder Zone**

### **Metemma Woreda**

- On October 28th, a fierce battle erupted in Kormur, between Fano fighters and regime forces.
  - The fighting, which commenced early in the morning, has been ongoing throughout the day.
  - The regime forces, having regrouped and consolidated their strength from Midre-Genet and Awderafi, launching a coordinated offensive against the Fano, aiming to regain control of the area.
  - The Fano fighters mounted a robust defense, engaging in a fierce clash against the combined regime forces.
  - On October 28th, new fighting was held between Fano fighters and the regime forces in Mender 6 since the afternoon. The regime forces are utilizing heavy artillery, ZU-23, heavy machine guns and mortars.
- A fierce battle has been raging in Metemma Woreda since October 27th, with clashes occurring around Mender 6, near the main bridge, Dil-Ber, and Kokit town.
  - The Fano fighters inflicted heavy casualties on regime forces, forcing them to retreat. The regime's retreat has been so swift that over 20 soldiers, cut off from their comrades by Fano, crossed the Ethio-Sudan border seeking refuge. In Wedigemzo, a significant number of regime soldiers were killed, with at least 34 uncollected bodies reported. Seven soldiers were captured by Fano. The Fano fighters are now negotiating with Sudanese government officials in



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Gelabat to facilitate the return of the fleeing soldiers. The Sudanese government has indicated willingness to repatriate the soldiers, but they are refusing to surrender the weapons seized from them. There are above 400 fleeing soldiers in Sudan.

- Despite cloudy and rainy weather conditions hindering drone strikes, regime forces have conducted aerial reconnaissance in Metemma Woreda. Meanwhile, the regime is desperately attempting to assist its stranded troops, who are encircled by Fano and sheltering in a maize farm. The regime has been shelling the area from two directions, targeting the trapped soldiers, who numbered 174 as of last night. On October 29th, the regime forces intensified their shelling of the area with heavy artillery.
- The Fano fighters achieved a decisive victory in Wedigemzo Kebele, completely dismantling regime forces who were cut off from their main unit. In response to these significant losses, the regime's top officials have ordered relentless shelling of the area as a reprisal measure.
- Between October 27th and 30th, heavy fighting unfolded in Wedigemzo Kebele.
  - The Fano fighters had successfully surrounded 174 regime soldiers who, cut off from their main units, had taken shelter in a nearby maize farm. In a bid to support these entrapped soldiers, regime forces launched a continuous and intense barrage of heavy weaponry aimed at breaking the encirclement. Despite these efforts, regime forces suffered substantial losses. Eyewitnesses later reported seeing the bodies of 12 fallen soldiers discovered in the maize field on the morning of October 30th.
  - In parallel, fierce combat also took place in Tagur, a location near Wedigemzo. Although the encircled soldiers managed to escape with the aid of covering fire from heavy weaponry, they endured significant casualties. Ultimately,

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Wedigemzo Kebele came under the control of Fano fighters. With the strategic position lost, regime forces were compelled to retreat to Mender 6, halting their engagement with Fano fighters and ceding control of the area.

- On November 2nd, a fierce battle erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Metemma Woreda, with the intensity of the fighting being particularly pronounced in the locations of Shimelegara, Dereq-Wenz, and Kresher Kebeles, continuing into the early hours of November 3rd.
  - The Fano fighters had engaged in a strategic offensive against regime forces in Shimelegara on November 2nd, forcing the latter to retreat and relinquish control of the town. The Fano's superior strategy and combat capabilities had overwhelmed the regime forces, leaving them with no choice but to withdraw.
  - In the ongoing fighting on November 3rd, Fano fighters have employed heavy machine guns against regime forces.
  - Additionally, on November 1st, a separate engagement took place in Das-Gunda, where the Karamara Fano Division clashed fiercely with regime forces. During this battle, the Fano fighters successfully captured significant weaponry, including heavy machine guns and a ZU-23 anti-aircraft gun.
  - Despite the regime's inability to recover the ZU-23 due to the Fano's strategic dominance, they resorted to firing heavy artillery in an attempt to destroy it. This resulted in the burning of the ZU-23.
  - Furthermore, Fano fighters captured 16 soldiers during the combat encounter on November 1st.

### **West Armachiho Woreda**

- On October 29th, fighting also erupted in Kormer and Abrahajira town. While drone reconnaissance was conducted in the area, no airstrikes were reported. The Gobe

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and Arbegnoch Fano army divisions are actively engaged in combat against regime forces in the woreda.

## **Addis-Ababa City**

- Meskerem Abera, a journalist, human rights activist, and founder of the social media channel “*Ethio Nikat*”, was found guilty under the Computer Crimes Proclamation for content broadcasted on her YouTube channel with the sentencing set for November 10th.<sup>3</sup> Two specific programs were cited, broadcasted on April 4th and April 7th, 2022, titled “*Message to General Abebaw Tadese*” and “*What is being done in the Amhara Region?*” respectively.

## **East Gurage Zone (Central Ethiopia Region)**

### **Sodo Woreda**

- On the night of October 31st, OLA forces carried out a violent massacre targeting Amhara civilians in Sodo Woreda.
  - The forces reportedly entered East Gurage Zone from Nono Woreda, located in South West Shewa Zone of Oromia Region.
  - Over 34 civilians were killed, including 18 women and children. Additionally, 11 civilians were abducted, and 40 homes were set ablaze, with seven people killed inside their homes. The attackers also looted over 80 cattle, compounding the devastation in the area.

## **North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)**

### **Dera Woreda**

- On November 1st, OLA militants killed at least 12 civilians in Gendarebo.

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- The victims were reportedly family members of Sheikh Haji Muhammed Wole, the imam of Haji Ahmed Mosque in Gendarebo.
  - Prior to the massacre, over 30 civilians were abducted, including individuals from the mosque and surrounding areas. The local community raised 1.5 million ETB in ransom to pay to the OLA militants, leading to the release of two civilians, the mother of the imam and his wife. An abducted individual named Moges Kifle managed to escape but had his home burned down. More than 20 civilians remain in captivity.
  - There are suspicions of involvement by local regime officials, such as Dechassa Habtamu, who is alleged to have mediated money transfers.
  - Regime forces have been criticized for failing to take sufficient action, despite the incident occurring close to Addis-Ababa city.

## **East Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)**

### **Dugida Woreda**

- On October 30th, since 8:30 pm, reports indicate that OLA militias carried out a violent assault on a farmers association meeting in Bitisi Kebele resulting in over 40 civilians being burned alive inside their homes after being forcibly locked in.
  - The Enat Party, a nationally registered opposition political party, released a statement condemning the attack as an identity-based atrocity.<sup>4</sup>
  - According to DW Amharic, “*militias entered from multiple directions, locked the houses, set them on fire, and shot those who attempted to escape.*”<sup>5</sup>
  - The casualties included a 6-month-old baby, women, seniors and individuals with disabilities.

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<sup>4</sup>See November 2nd, 2024 [statement](#) from Enat Party.

<sup>5</sup>See November 1st, 2024 [report](#) from DW Amharic (English translation available [here](#)).

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- The number of victims is expected to rise as some bodies have yet to be recovered and properly buried.
  - The attack has resulted in widespread displacement, significant property damage, and the destruction of livestock, with cattle burned in the blaze.

## **East Wollega Zone (Oromia Region)**

### **Kiremu Woreda**

- On November 1st, OLA militants abducted 2 civilians in the Ejere area.
  - The victims, identified as Adamu Desta and Wubetu Molla, were residents of Haro town and had traveled to Nekemte for medical services due to the closure of local healthcare facilities in their area.
  - As the two men were returning home to Haro-Addisalem Kebele after seeking medical treatment, they were intercepted by OLA militants who subsequently took them hostage. Sources indicate that the abductors demanded a ransom of 300,000 ETB for the release of the hostages.
  - After negotiations with the families of the abducted victims, sources confirmed that the ransom was paid, leading to the eventual release of Adamu and Wubetu.
- In a separate development, the recent disarmament campaign led by the ENDF and the OSF, in collaboration with the regional administrative cabinet, has intensified across various woredas and towns in East Wollega and Horo Guduru Wollega Zones.
  - This initiative appears to particularly target Amhara residents in the region.
  - This week, efforts to disarm Amhara residents have escalated, with continued meetings held across various kebeles, notably in Haro-Addisalem,

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Anger-Gutin, and Tulu-Gana. These meetings are reportedly aimed at both persuading and intimidating the Amhara community into compliance with the disarmament initiative.

- Sources indicate that some community members have begun to surrender their weapons to the joint forces; however, the majority of residents are resisting these efforts. A significant number of young civilians have reportedly sought refuge in forested areas to evade capture or disarmament.
- In a meeting held in Haro-Addisalem Kebele, Amhara residents openly expressed their opposition to the disarmament campaign, claiming that it disproportionately targets ethnic Amharas. They articulated their unwillingness to surrender their weapons until local security conditions improve, specifically citing ongoing threats from the OLA. Additionally, residents emphasized that the disarmament should not proceed until the regime manages to reopen the main road connecting the Wollega zones (western Oromia Region) with Bure in south-western Amhara Region.

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## 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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