



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – July 22nd to 28th, 2024

Updated July 28th, 2024

Overview

For the week of July 22nd to 28th, 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. In addition, renewed violence has swept through areas of Oromia Region bordering Amhara Region.

- Regime joint forces carried out widespread attacks on civilians particularly in East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, Central Gonder and South Gonder Zones. In these areas, regime forces carried out widespread killings, arrests and sexual violence targeting unarmed civilians including minors.
- The *Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF) and Federal forces have continued arrests and harassment against Amhara residents in Raya-Alamata Woreda (North Wollo Zone, Amhara Region). On July 23rd, the African Union Monitoring,

Verification, and Compliance Mission visited Alamata town but met only with officials of the TPLF and Federal forces.

- On July 27th, regime officials held a pro-government rally in Gonder city which was poorly attended, with those attending being coerced by various means.
- Escalating violence in West Gonder Zone has forced Sudanese refugees to relocate from Kumer shelter.
- Since July 22nd, *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) militants entered Dera Woreda (North Shewa Zone, Oromia Region) and attacked Amhara residents. The OLA faced no challenge from federal or regional security forces when entering the area.

North Wollo Zone

Raya-Alamata Woreda

- In Alamata town, Federal and Tigray Region forces have been arresting and harassing young men suspected of opposing TPLF. TPLF soldiers are conducting house-to-house searches without any opposition from Federal forces.
- According to Ethio-News, merchants and residents with trade and driver's licenses from North Wollo Zone (Amhara Region) are facing harassment.
- On July 20th, Brigadier-General Belay Ayalew, a top ENDF commander held a meeting with residents of Alamata town. Despite his promise to remove TPLF militias in a few days not a single TPLF soldier has been removed.
- According to Ethio-News, the TPLF's Army 33 are providing military training to able-bodied Tigrayan recruits in areas surrounding Alamata town.
- On July 23rd, the African Union Monitoring, Verification, and Compliance Mission, established following the Pretoria agreement, visited Alamata town but it only met

with TPLF and Federal forces, representatives of the Federal Police, and ENDF without hearing concerns from the Amhara administration and local residents. Representatives of the Federal forces reported to the mission that there was no presence of TPLF militias in the town except for the returning IDPs, which is untrue.

- On July 24th, thousands of Amhara IDPs who were displaced from Alamata to Kobo town following the TPLF's invasion (mediated by the government) in April 2024 were traveling aboard 70 trucks from Kobo en route to Alamata holding the Ethiopian national flag. At a bridge on Gobo River that adjoins Raya-Alamata with Raya-Kobo Woredas, ENDF soldiers stopped the IDPs and told them that they could not enter the town with the flag and they could move only on foot for the remainder of the way, not by vehicle. Afterwards many of the IDPs were forced to move on foot to Alamata despite the significant distance. After they arrived they were prohibited from entering their homes and were forced to stay in camps by Federal forces. A significant number of IDPs were also forced to return to Kobo where they were previously taking refuge.

Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On July 24th, heavy fighting between regime soldiers and Fano fighters took place in kebeles east of Kobo town including Worke and Gedemeyu. The fighting was initiated by Fano fighters to capture weapons from regime troops encamped in the areas. The fighting lasted throughout the entire day and casualties were reported on both sides though they were more severe for the regime.

South Wollo Zone

- This week the regime deployed additional soldiers from Addis Ababa through the Merhabete-Dessie route to woredas west of Dessie city including Legambo,

Mekdela, and Kelela. As a result, tensions have been high from fear of large-scale fighting between regime forces and Fano fighters.

- On July 21st, Amhara Fano in Shewa Command leader Arbegna Aseged Mekonnen was captured by regime forces in Kombolcha city. Afterwards he appeared on state media with government sources claiming he surrendered. The Amhara Fano in Shewa Command issued a statement electing a provisional leader and clarifying they had no intention to surrender to the regime. Though the circumstances behind his capture are unclear, in a previous press briefing earlier this year, he had stated his forces would not negotiate with the regime.¹

Kelela Woreda

- On July 21st, Fano fighters ambushed convoys transporting regime soldiers in an area called Deger located between Dessie city and Kelela town. The ambush resulted in significant casualties for regime combatants numbering in the dozens. Following the surprise attack, fighting erupted in the area after regime reinforcements arrived, with fighting lasting for hours.

Mekdela Woreda

- On July 23rd, fighting broke out in Debrezeit town following deployment of a significant number of regime forces.
- In Masha town, regime forces killed several youths accusing them of being spies for Fano.

¹See [quote](#) from the April 13th, 2024 [press briefing](#) held by Amhara Fano leaders with international journalists and researchers.

North Shewa Zone

Mida-Woremo Woreda

- On July 21st and 22nd, joint regime forces initiated fighting against Fano forces aiming to retake control of areas under Fano control.

Mergna and Merhabete Woredas

- Between July 22nd and 23rd, regime forces launched attacks on Fano fighters based in Mergna and Merhabete Woredas, seeking to gain control over areas under Fano control. The regime forces however faced military defeats by Fano fighters in both locations.

East Gojjam Zone

Baso-Liben Woreda

- Tension broke out in Baso-Liben Woreda after Fano fighters deployed forces to Yejube town, the administrative center of the woreda, where regime troops were encamped.
- On the night of July 24th, intense fighting broke out in Yejube town as Fano fighters launched an offensive around 8 p.m. targeting regime soldiers stationed in the area. Reports indicate that the Fano fighters managed to enter the town, inflicting significant losses on regime forces. The Fano fighters had information that the regime troops were preparing to mobilize to support units engaged in military confrontations in Amanuel and Debre-Elias. By heavily engaging in Yejube, the Fano fighters disrupted this mobilization. Several wounded regime soldiers were seen entering Yejube Hospital for medical treatment, and the sound of gunfire continued until morning.

Debre-Markos City

- Sources indicate sounds of gunfire were heard in Debre-Markos on the nights of July 22nd and 23rd. It was reported that Fano fighters captured three regime agents despite a failed attempt to capture the city's municipal officer on July 22nd. The reason for the gunfire on the evening of July 23rd is still unknown.
- On the afternoon of July 24th, fighting occurred inside Debre-Markos city and the surrounding areas. Sources reported hearing sounds of heavy weaponry in the Bole area. It is believed that the gunfire in Bole was connected to fighting in nearby areas such as Enerata and Fendika. Reports indicate that Fano fighters carried out a successful operation, but details are unclear. That day (July 24th), a young man named Dawit Asrat was arbitrarily shot in front of Gozamin Hotel by regime soldiers who had returned from confrontations with Fano fighters.

Enarj-Enawga Woreda

- On July 23rd, intense fighting took place between Fano fighters and regime soldiers in kebeles surrounding Debre-Work town. Regime soldiers stationed in Debre-Work town mobilized to Enemi-Yedit Kebele upon hearing that a Fano leader had arrived there. However, Fano fighters ambushed the regime soldiers at the Aba-Felafe jungle located on the outskirts of Debre-Work town. The fighting started around 11 a.m. and lasted for at least four hours. According to sources, Fano fighters inflicted casualties on regime forces, repelling their advance to Yedit Kebele. It was also reported that regime troops killed a young civilian in Enemi-Yedit Kebele three days prior. The regime soldiers killed this person as he was fleeing in shock upon seeing them. The victim was identified as Habtamu Wale, a father of one daughter.

Machakel and Debre-Elias Woreda

- On July 24th, regime troops mobilized from various bases, launching an offensive to enter Debre-Elias Woreda, which has long been under Fano control. The attack began early in the morning. Forewarned of the offensive, Fano fighters launched a sudden attack on advancing regime forces before they reached Elias town. Another Fano group launched an attack in Amanuel town, possibly to disrupt the regime's advancement towards Elias. Fano fighters were able to control Amanuel town of Machakel Woreda. Despite sustaining heavy casualties, regime troops reached Elias town. However, upon hearing that Amanuel town was under Fano control, the regime soldiers were compelled to return by evening. Civilian casualties were reported though the exact number is unclear.
- Fighting continued into July 25th in the Amanuel and Elias areas. Sources report that many regime troops who entered Elias on July 24th returned to their base in Amanuel, while others remained encamped. As of July 25th, Fano fighters encircled and suppressed regime soldiers in the area, effectively defending Debre-Elias Woreda from regime control. Intense fighting also took place in Machakel Woreda that day. Fano fighters had surrounded regime troops in an area called Yewla-Megentiya since the previous day. When regime reinforcements moved from Debre-Markos city to break the siege, the fighting escalated and continued throughout the day. On July 24th, 5 civilians were reportedly shot and killed by regime soldiers.
 - Regime soldiers shelled a civilian residence, killing an elderly woman named Yetemegn Wonde, and a two-year-old child named Bewket Alemu in Amanuel town. Their bodies were buried in Eyesus Church of Amanuel town. On the same day (July 24th), shelling near the bus station in Amanuel town killed three members of a single family. Eldana Alemu, a three-year-old child, was

critically injured and died before reaching the hospital. Her mother, Habtam Yibeltal, and teenage brother, Yosef Alemu, succumbed to their injuries at Debre-Markos Hospital on July 26th. In Tikur-Abeba village, Machakel Woreda, regime soldiers killed a farmer (name not yet identified) and his ox while he was working on his farmland.

Enbise-Sar-Midir Woreda

- On July 27th, fighting occurred in an area called Dibo. Fano fighters attacked a regime encampment late at night, resulting in unknown casualties among regime soldiers.

West Gojjam Zone

Dembecha Woreda

- On July 21st, short-lived fighting took place in an area called Embole Kebele, located between Amanuel and Dembecha towns. The fighting was triggered by a sudden attack by Fano fighters on regime troops moving from Dembecha to Amanuel for a logistics exchange. Reports indicate the Fano fighters were able to disrupt the movement and inflicted casualties among regime soldiers.
- Between July 21st and 22nd, regime forces extrajudicially executed three individuals including two civilians and a hors de combat in Dembecha town.
 - In the first incident on July 21st, regime forces (state militias) executed two civilians after detaining them for one day. These civilians were detained by regime soldiers on July 20th and killed on the morning of July 22nd. The regime troops alleged that the deceased were involved in theft. After the killings, the regime left the bodies and prevented family members from

collecting them for a prolonged period. AAA identified two of these killed victims as Asmamaw Belay and Nigussie Aweke.

- The following day, July 22nd, regime troops extrajudicially executed a hors de combat who had previously been involved in fighting between Fano forces and regime forces over one year ago. This individual had returned to civilian life, living with his family in Dembecha town. However, on July 21st, regime troops arbitrarily apprehended and detained him from his home. After one day of detention, they executed him on July 22nd. He was reportedly a businessman and had children.
- Between July 24th and 25th, regime forces mobilized a large force to suppress Fano fighters in the Wad-Eyesus area. However, reports indicate that regime forces were unsuccessful as Fano fighters fiercely resisted and repelled their advancement. There are also reports of fighting in other areas such as Gonji-Kolela, Washera, and Lumame, but details are under investigation.

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On July 22nd, reports indicate that Fano fighters captured the woreda's customs administrator. On July 23rd, regime troops shot and injured a young civilian in Jiga town.

Quarit Woreda

- On July 24th, regime soldiers launched an attack in an area called Teter-Mariam early in the morning. The fighting was intense, resulting in significant losses for the regime forces, including the deaths and injuries of multiple ranking military officers. Reports indicate that Fano fighters captured both small and heavy weaponry in the attack.

Dega-Damot Woreda

- Regime forces mobilized to several areas including Hamus-Gebeya and Sekela Kebeles, where intense fighting occurred. Fano fighters successfully defended against the regime's offensives.

Sekela Woreda

- Between July 26th and 27th, heavy fighting was initiated by Fano fighters. The regime forces, forewarned about the attack mobilized to Ambisi Kebele, in an effort to counter the attack, suffering significant losses, with many regime soldiers killed or injured. Survivors attempted to escape by taking refuge in St. Giyorgis Church but eventually surrendered to Fano fighters. The fighting continued on July 27th, with Fano fighters encircling and attacking Gish-Abay town, inflicting further casualties, including the killing of a ranking military officer and the capture of numerous firearms.

Awı Zone

Dangila Woreda

- On July 22nd, Fano fighters reportedly carried out three operations. On that day, Fano fighters killed a key military officer inside Dangila town. They also ambushed regime troops traveling from Dangila to Addis-Kidam in an area called Gimberi, causing casualties. Another Fano group attacked regime soldiers traveling from Dangila to Durbete, inflicting harm on this unit. On July 23rd, sources confirmed that regime troops killed a civilian in Dangila town. According to sources, regime troops patrolling in search of missing regime riot dispersal force members, encountered this civilian on the street and accused him of knowing where the defected regime forces had gone.

North Gojjam Zone

Bahir-Dar-Zuriya Woreda

- Between July 21st to 22nd, Fano fighters carried out two surprise attacks on regime soldiers. On July 21st, Fano fighters detonated an explosive targeting regime agents and security officials who were meeting in Kebele 14. It was reported that a police commissioner named Commander Melese Abate, was killed in the attack. Reports also indicate that Fano fighters ambushed regime troops traveling from Bahir-Dar to Adet town (Yilmana-Densa Woreda) in an area called Qimbaba, causing significant losses.

South Mecha Woreda

- On July 22nd, Fano fighters captured individuals who were allegedly members of the regional peace council, sent by the regime under the guise of reconciling Fano with the government. Videos showed these individuals facing disciplinary measures involving crawling on their knees in Gerchech town (Mehal-Genet). Since then, conflicting information has been reported by pro-government and independent sources. Accordingly, credible reports confirmed that 17 individuals were detained by suspected Fano fighters. The government accused the Fano fighters of killing members of the peace council, but the council released a statement denying any of their members were killed.²³ On the other hand, reports from Fano fighters claimed that the killing was perpetrated by regime forces. Sources in the area suggest that 4 civilians might have been killed by unknown individuals.

²The Amhara Regional Government Communications released a [statement](#) on July 23rd accusing the Fano of killing peace council members.

³In a July 23rd [interview](#) with Asham TV, the regional council's public relations officer Eyachew Teshale refuted the allegations saying none of their members were killed by Fano forces.

North Achefer Woreda

- On July 26th, Fano fighters mobilized to Ziquala Kebele to address a dispute involving a local Fano leader. With the help of local elders, the situation was peacefully resolved. However, regime soldiers later launched gunfire, resulting in casualties on both sides, including the death of a well-known Fano member named Solomon Gashu.
- On July 28th, regime forces mobilized from Merawi, Dangila and Durbete to launch a coordinated offense against Fano in Liben town. According to Fano, their forces inflicted a decisive punishing attack against the regime forces in an area called Kilti or Azena-Maryam as regime forces were traveling from Liben to Durbete. In intense fighting which took place between 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm alone, one Fano brigade alone neutralized more than 75 regime combatants while the wounded regime forces were transported away on four vehicles towards Durbete.

Central Gonder Zone

- On July 24th, ongoing conflict in Central Gonder Zone escalated to fierce fighting erupting in three separate locations, marking a significant shift in the battleground. The first engagement took place in Menti Kebele (Belessa) and simultaneously, another fierce battle unfolded in the rural town of Mikael-Debir, situated on the border between Libo-Kemkem Woreda (South Gonder) and Central Gonder. This confrontation at Mikael-Debir was sparked by the regime forces' attempt to advance towards the town from two directions: Addis-Zemen and Degoma (Belessa). The Fano, anticipating this move, met the regime forces with fierce resistance. The fighting proved particularly devastating for the regime forces advancing from Degoma which suffered heavy losses.

West Belessa Woreda

- On July 21st, Fano fighters staged a surprise attack against regime forces traveling to Arebaya town. The regime forces were transporting crucial military provisions and ammunition at the time. The ambush took place in Werala Kebele, a strategic location likely chosen for its suitability to trap the unsuspecting regime forces.
- A fierce battle erupted near Arebaya town on July 23rd, commencing at 9 pm local time and lasting throughout the night. The clash pitted the Fano fighters against the regime forces, resulting in significant human and material losses for the regime. The fighting unfolded under challenging conditions, marked by heavy rainfall and overflowing rivers. The Fano, deeply familiar with the rugged terrain, strategically exploited these environmental factors to their advantage, while regime forces, unfamiliar with the geography, were hampered by the difficult conditions. This disparity in knowledge of the area, combined with the Fano's tactical proficiency, proved decisive in the engagement. The regime forces, caught off guard by the Fano's aggressive tactics and the unforgiving terrain, suffered heavy casualties, highlighting the effectiveness of the Fano guerilla warfare strategy.

Gonder City

- On July 21st, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime forces stationed in Loza-Maryam village in Azezo sub-city. This ambush, carried out with precision and discretion, resulted in the death of six regime personnel including two high-ranking regime security and intelligence personnel and four regime militia members, highlighting the effectiveness of the Fano fighters' operation. In response to the attack, regime forces began constructing new military dugouts near Gonder Atse Tewodros Airport in Azezo. This defensive measure indicates the regime's concern about the ongoing Fano insurgency and their determination to strengthen

their positions in the region and also suggests an escalation of the conflict and a shift in the regime’s strategy to fortify key locations.

- On the night of July 26th, from 3 pm to 4 pm local time, a fierce battle raged between regime forces and Fano fighters spanning a significant stretch of territory, from Qeraniwo-Medhanialem to Cheneq village.
- On July 27th, a staged public demonstration was orchestrated in Gonder city by Prosperity Party officials, in an attempt to appease Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s anger after his planned visit was thwarted by the resistance of the Fano fighters. Following the inauguration of the Gorgora Hotel project, Abiy Ahmed had intended to visit Gonder city, but the active opposition of the Fano fighters forced him to cancel his trip.⁴

- The demonstration, held in Piassa square, was thinly attended, with only a handful of Prosperity Party members participating. These individuals, incentivized by financial rewards, were used as props to create the illusion of widespread public support for Abiy Ahmed. The majority of participants in the demonstration were elderly women, many of whom rely on the government’s safety net program for financial assistance. These individuals, facing the threat of losing their meager monthly aid allotment, were pressured to participate in the demonstration, further highlighting the manipulation and coercion employed by the Prosperity Party.
- The placards held by these individuals cynically proclaimed “development” as the sole priority for Prosperity Party, a stark contrast to the dire realities facing Gonder city. The city has been grappling with a severe water shortage for months, leaving residents reliant on rainwater collected from rooftops during the brief rainy season. Many areas receive clean water only once every three

⁴See weekly war update [report](#) for the week of July 15th to 21st, 2024.

months, highlighting the dire state of public utilities. The city is also plunged into darkness due to inadequate electricity supply, while the Azezo Piassa road, a vital infrastructure project, has been stalled for nearly a decade, reflecting the city's neglect. Despite this bleak picture, the Prosperity Party continues to promote itself as a champion of development in Gonder city. The city's abysmal education system further exposes the hypocrisy of this claim. With a dismal 2.7% percentile for quality education provision, Gonder city's schools are failing to deliver adequate education to the vast majority of students. This means that 98% of schools in Gonder are failing to meet basic educational standards.

- The staged public demonstration in Gonder city on July 27th, organized by the Prosperity Party, was met with a wave of disappointment and frustration from the city's high officials. Despite the forced nature of the event, the low turnout and lackluster enthusiasm from participants were immediately apparent. The officials were particularly dismayed by the small number of attendees, their reluctance to be publicly identified (choosing to cover their faces), and their obvious lack of genuine support for the Prosperity Party. The officials acknowledged that the majority of those who did attend were motivated by fear of losing their salaries rather than genuine support. The city's authorities were deeply embarrassed by the paltry turnout, confirming their growing suspicion that the Prosperity Party lacked widespread support among residents in Gonder city. The demonstration was widely deemed a failure, with officials openly admitting that it could not be considered a genuine demonstration of public support for Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. Critical voices within the party lamented the absence of even the city's janitors, highlighting the widespread apathy and lack of buy-in from the city's civil servants. The political cadres were blamed for failing to effectively coordinate and coerce workers into

attending the demonstration, further emphasizing the party's waning influence. In a desperate attempt to salvage some semblance of control, the officials issued orders to gather the names of all government employees who failed to attend the demonstration, particularly those who are members of the Prosperity Party. This punitive measure reflected the party's deepening insecurity and its reliance on coercion rather than genuine popular support.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- The aftermath of the intense fighting that gripped Enfranz town throughout the week took a turn on July 21st, as regime forces unleashed a massacre on youth in the town. Following the withdrawal of Fano fighters, regime forces, engaged in a systematic house-to-house operation, dragging out young men and women who had no connection to Fano indiscriminately and taking them to secondary locations. Some of these individuals were subsequently taken to the military camp in Enfranz, where they were executed. Among the victims was a well-known cloth trader named Abebaw who was seized by regime forces and taken to Qulqual-Ber along with other youth before they were all brutally killed and their bodies dumped into a ravine, only to be discovered by local residents days later.
- On July 26th, a fierce battle erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in Gera and Dinzaz Kebeles, near Maksegnit town. The fighting raged from 9:30 pm to 12:30 am local time, with regime forces employing heavy weaponry, including mortars and heavy machineguns. The Fano fighters successfully executed an ambush, inflicting significant casualties on the regime forces.

South Gonder Zone

Debre-Tabor City

- On July 23rd, a decisive clash occurred on the outskirts of Debre-Tabor city, as Fano fighters carried out a successful operation to capture a substantial number of regime militia forces. The exact number of captured regime militia members remains unknown, but the Fano seized their full military equipment, including weapons and ammunition. The regime militia forces were reportedly entering Debre-Tabor city when they were intercepted by Fano fighters. The encounter resulted in a fierce exchange of gunfire, leading to significant casualties among militia forces. While the precise number of those killed remains unconfirmed, the intensity of the fighting suggests substantial losses for the regime.
- On July 27th, a fierce battle erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces near Debre-Tabor city, specifically in Werqe school in Werqe village. The fighting resulted in significant casualties for regime forces, while Fano fighters sustained two critical injuries. Following the defeat, regime forces were forced to withdraw from Werqe Kebele and retreated back to Debre-Tabor city. This setback effectively thwarted their planned advance towards Mahdere-Maryam town. On July 28th, the aftermath of the battle was evident, with numerous uncollected bodies of regime soldiers lying in Werqe village. Seeking to regain control, regime forces repositioned themselves on the Eyesus Church mountain overlooking Mahdere-Maryam town. From this vantage point, they began indiscriminate shelling of the town using heavy artillery, further escalating the conflict and endangering innocent civilians.

Estie Woreda

- On July 22nd, a deeply disturbing incident occurred in Estie Woreda, where regime forces perpetrated the heinous act of sodomizing a 15-year-old boy. The victim, who has suffered immense trauma due to this brutal act, has been admitted to the hospital for necessary medical treatment and psychological support. This incident not only highlights the horrific violations of human rights occurring in the region but also raises significant concerns about the safety and protection of vulnerable populations during times of conflict.
- On July 26th, a fierce battle erupted in Liwaye between Fano fighters and regime forces, adding to the ongoing conflict and grief. The confrontation was sparked by a sudden offensive launched by regime forces aiming to seize control of the Fano fighters' military camps. However, the Fano fighters responded with remarkable courage and determination, successfully repelling the regime's attack. The regime forces suffered significant losses, with at least 4 soldiers confirmed dead and over 13 seriously wounded. In contrast, the Fano fighters experienced only minor casualties, with three members sustaining minor injuries.
- On the night of July 27th, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on regime forces stationed in Estie. The attack resulted in the deaths of at least 4 soldiers, and numerous others sustained serious injuries. In retaliation for the attack, the regime forces turned their brutality towards unarmed civilians, resulting in the deaths of several civilians with no involvement in the fighting. On July 28th, regime forces further escalated their violence by shelling farmers with mortars as they arrived in Estie to collect fertilizer. This indiscriminate attack led to the deaths of numerous farmers.

Simada Woreda

- On July 25th, fierce fighting erupted in Wegeda town, resulting in significant losses for regime forces. Facing overwhelming pressure from Fano fighters, regime forces were compelled to abandon their camps and seek refuge within the town's churches, exploiting their protected status as places of worship. However, regime forces installed ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns and heavy machineguns within these revered spaces, turning them into military fortifications.
 - The regime's heavy artillery bombardment of Wegeda town was indiscriminate, causing widespread destruction to residential areas. The Fano fighters, having successfully retaken control of the town by the evening, were forced to withdraw due to the regime's continued shelling of civilian areas.
 - This conflict also saw abuse of power by the regime's military commander stationed in Wegeda. He publicly degraded and mistreated police officers and regime officials, treating them with utter disdain and disrespect. These officials, seemingly prioritizing personal gain over their dignity, remained passive in the face of this abuse, demonstrating a willingness to endure humiliation and physical violence for the sake of their own self-interest. The military commander, identified as Leykun, a native of Tigray, subjected these officials to public humiliation, including flogging, slapping, and forced kneeling. Inspector Nibrete, the Wegeda town police commander, was particularly targeted, slapped publicly while forced to kneel, and subsequently arrested with his military arm confiscated. Sergeant Nigussu, the Wegeda town peace and security authority, suffered similar treatment, with his face slapped and forced kneeling. The members of the Simada Woreda cabinets, including the mayor of Wegeda town, were subjected to public insults and degrading language. The abuse of power by the military commander had a significant

impact on the town's police force. Offended with the military commander's public humiliation and abuse, many of the police officers refused to participate in the battle on July 25th, effectively abandoning the regime forces. The Fano fighters, as a result of the regime's brutal tactics and the police's withdrawal, were able to seize a large cache of heavy weapons and small arms, further diminishing the regime's military strength.

- Following the fierce battle in Wegeda town two days prior, the regime forces escalated brutal measures, engaging in a systematic campaign of killings, mass detentions, and intimidation against the town's youth. On July 26th, three young men were detained by regime forces and taken to St. Giyorgis Church village. Two of the youths disappeared without a trace, while the body of the third was found discarded on the street. The families of the dead youth were denied retrieval of the victims' bodies.
 - The regime's cruelty extends beyond the youth, with reports of further senseless killings. An elderly man in Kosh Kebele, as well as two visually-impaired elderly men in Kebeles 6 and 2, were murdered by regime forces, seemingly for their perceived support of Fano fighters.
 - In a blatant attempt to further terrorize residents of Wegeda town, regime forces have embarked on a campaign of looting, claiming that the property they are stealing belongs to Fano members. This systematic looting serves not only to deprive individuals of their possessions but also to instill fear and uncertainty within the community, creating an atmosphere of constant anxiety and vulnerability.

West Gonder Zone

- Metemma and Qwara Woredas have become epicenters of brutal conflict between Fano fighters and regime forces. The fierce fighting, which began over a week ago has continued unabated for six consecutive days, and has intensified in recent days, spilling into the kebeles of Mender 6, Shimelegara, and Wedi-Gemzu.
 - A major turning point in the conflict came on July 23rd, when Fano fighters, in a decisive victory, captured several heavy military trucks along with their accompanying tag trucks. These vehicles were filled with hundreds of soldiers, representing a significant loss for the regime in terms of both manpower and resources. This defeat has shaken the regime forces, leading them to suspect a leak of information from within their ranks. The regime has detained regime agents in Metemma Woreda, accusing them of providing information to the Fano about the military convoys.
 - In a desperate attempt to regain control and free captured soldiers, the regime has deployed a large number of reinforcements to the region. However, their efforts have been met with fierce resistance from Fano fighters. In Mender 6, a well-planned ambush by Fano fighters resulted in heavy casualties among the newly deployed regime forces.
 - The conflict has also spread to the Shinfa direction, extending from Metemma to Qwara Woredas, highlighting the escalating nature of the fighting. Tensions are high in the town of Kokit, where the regime has deployed heavy weaponry and additional troops, creating a volatile situation. The Fano fighters, with a significant force of their own, positioned themselves near the town, ready to engage if necessary.
 - The escalating violence has caused displacement of Sudanese refugees who were previously housed in the Kumer shelter. They have been moved to the

Aftit shelter, highlighting the profound impact of the fighting on the civilian population. The conflict in West Gonder is far from over, with the potential for further escalation and civilian suffering.

Metemma Woreda

- On July 22nd, Fano fighters achieved a significant victory in their ongoing struggle against the regime. In a meticulously executed operation, they successfully captured five heavy trucks, along with their accompanying tag trucks, and hundreds of soldiers traveling aboard them.
 - This strategic capture was accomplished through a combination of clever encircling tactics and the Fano's signature ability to effectively divide and conquer enemy forces. The capture of this substantial number of soldiers and equipment represents a major setback for the regime, impacting their logistical capabilities and bolstering Fano morale. Adding to their success, the Fano ambushed regime forces traveling to Negade-Bahir town, killing five militia members and inflicting significant injuries on others, forcing many to seek medical attention. This attack resulted in the closure of the main road connecting Ethiopia to Sudan, effectively disrupting crucial logistical routes and isolating regime forces. In the aftermath of this series of victories, the political cadres in Metemma, driven by a desperate need to rally support, resorted to inflammatory rhetoric, publicly inciting religious war. They falsely accused the Fano of hatred towards Islam and urged civilians to join the fight against them, offering weapons in exchange for their loyalty. This desperate attempt to exploit religious tensions highlights the regime's fear and vulnerability in the face of the growing Fano movement.
- The conflict in Metemma Woreda continues to escalate, with fierce fighting between

Fano fighters and regime forces raging for an unrelenting seven days. The night of July 23rd saw a decisive blow struck by the Fano, who launched a surprise attack on a heavily fortified military camp in Metemma. This audacious operation resulted in significant casualties for the regime forces, with numerous soldiers confirmed killed. The Fano successfully captured a substantial amount of heavy weapons and small arms, emerging from the attack with only minor injuries.

- Further solidifying their control, the Fano launched a second surprise attack, this time targeting a regime patrol comprised of riot dispersal and anti-guerrilla forces. The attack resulted in heavy casualties, with at least 10 members of the regime’s specialized forces confirmed dead.
- The fighting intensified on July 24th with the Fano maintaining a relentless offensive, employing both surprise attacks and direct confrontation tactics. The regime forces have sustained a staggering number of casualties, both in terms of personnel and equipment, highlighting the effectiveness of the Fano’s strategy and the growing vulnerability of the regime.
- In a major development, Fano fighters captured a high-ranking Prosperity Party official in Metemma Woreda, a significant blow to the regime’s local leadership. This capture demonstrates the Fano’s ability to penetrate deep into regime-controlled areas and neutralize key figures, further weakening the regime’s grip on the region.
- The unrelenting fighting in Metemma Woreda paints a picture of a conflict spiraling out of control, with the Fano demonstrating their ability to inflict heavy losses on the regime forces. The outcome of this prolonged battle remains uncertain, but the Fano’s relentless attacks and growing control over the region are a clear indication of the regime’s diminishing power.

North Gonder Zone

Debark Woreda

- On July 23rd, as a sudden and intense barrage of gunfire erupted, marking a brief but decisive engagement between Fano fighters and regime militia forces in Zerima town. The Fano, in a swift and precise operation, killed at least 4 regime militia members, demonstrating their agility and effectiveness in close-quarters combat. The short-lived but intense exchange of fire serves as a reminder of the ongoing conflict's volatile nature and the Fano's capability to strike quickly and decisively, even in seemingly secure areas. The loss of life underscores the human cost of this conflict and the growing threat posed by the Fano to the regime's forces, even in areas they previously considered secure.

Dabat Woreda

- On the evening of July 26th, Fano fighters successfully recaptured the strategically important town of Dara, located between Dabat and Debark. The Fano forces entered the town without encountering any resistance, as the militia stationed in Dara retreated upon their approach. In response to this setback, regime forces deployed a large contingent of armored military vehicles and soldiers from Debark town towards Dabat on July 27th, indicating their intention to regain control of the area.

West Telemt, East Telemt and Mai-Temri Woredas

- On July 22nd, Inspector Gebreegziabher Nigussie, a police commander in Mai-Temri town, was killed by unidentified assailants. While the circumstances surrounding his death remain unclear, strong suspicion falls on the regime forces. Inspector Gebreegziabher had previously taken a stand against the North Gonder

Zone authorities' order to disband police and militia forces following the entry of the TPLF forces into Telemt. He refused to comply, ultimately leading his forces to Adarkay. This defiance suggests that he may have been targeted for his opposition to the regime's directives. The circumstances surrounding his death are shrouded in mystery. He was summoned to attend a meeting in Debark town by the North Gonder Zone high authorities. However, his death was announced in Debark, raising questions about the events that transpired during the meeting. The lack of transparency and the strong suspicion surrounding the regime's involvement cast a dark shadow over his death. This incident underscores the precarious situation in the region and the growing tensions between the regime and those who oppose its directives. The death of a high-ranking police officer, who refused to obey orders, signifies a dangerous escalation in the conflict. It raises serious concerns about the safety of individuals who dare to challenge the regime's authority, and the potential for further violence.

- On July 28th, former mayor of Mai-Temri city Solomon Atalay who recently joined the Fano following the regime's controversial decision to facilitate the re-entry of TPLF forces into Telemt, issued a powerful statement. He condemned the regime's actions, accusing them of orchestrating a systematic TPLF invasion under the guise of repatriating IDPs. Solomon Atalay called on the people of Amhara, including local militia forces and officials, to unite behind the Fano movement for freedom and actively resist the regime's dangerous policies. He directly addressed those who facilitated the TPLF's invasion, warning them to cease their support and stop obstructing the independent movement. Solomon Atalay's statement underscores the growing resentment towards the regime's actions and highlights the increasing call for resistance.

Welkait Tegede Setit Humera Zone

- On July 26th, a significant military convoy traveling from Tegede to Dansha was ambushed in Shenbeqo village at 3:15 am local time. This surprise attack resulted in heavy casualties for regime forces. At least 75 soldiers were affected, with over 37 killed outright and another 40 suffering critical and minor injuries. The Fano fighters responsible for the ambush, successfully seized over 30 heavy weapons and small arms from the targeted regime forces.

North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)

Dera Woreda

- On July 22nd, OLA militants entered Gundo-Meskel town, administrative center of Dera Woreda. The OLA militants did not face any confrontation from ENDF or the OSF, who have a military base in the town. As a result, Amhara residents of Gundo-Meskel town became vulnerable to abduction, killing, and torture. Sources from Gundo-Meskel reported that the OLA fighters began to kill and abduct Amhara residents immediately after entering the town.
- On July 23rd, after taking control of Gundo-Meskel town without any confrontation from regional security forces or ENDF, OLA fighters began to attack Fano fighters based in Dera Woreda. The Fano fighters, positioned advantageously, were able to kill and injure dozens of OLA fighters.

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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