



## War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – October 7th to 13th, 2024

*Updated October 14, 2024*

### Overview

For the week of October 7th to 13th, 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 battle events and rights violations were recorded in 50 woreda/city administrations across 11 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These zones included East Gojjam (8), South Wollo (6), North Shewa (6), South Gonder (6), Central Gonder (6), North Wollo (5), West Gojjam (5), Awi (3), North Gojjam (2), West Gonder (2), and North Gonder (1).
- Battle events were recorded in over 9 urban administrations across 6 zonal administrations. These urban administrations included Kobo, Woldia, Alamata,

---

<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.

---

Kombolcha, Debre-Birhan, Shewa-Robit, Finote-Selam, Debre-Tabor and Gonder cities in the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, West Gojjam, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones.

- Civilian casualties were recorded in more than 13 woreda/city administrations across 7 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Raya-Alamata, Wadla, Kombolcha, Kelela, Berehet, Bibugn, Dega-Damot, Jabi-Tehnan, North Mecha, South Mecha, Debre-Tabor, Lay Gayint and Gonder woredas in the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, North Gojjam and South Gonder Zones.
- Use of airstrikes and drones were recorded in 6 woreda/city administrations across 2 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included North Mecha, South Mecha, Estie, Ibnat, Lay Gayint, Tach Gayint Woredas in the North Gojjam and South Gonder Zones. Airstrikes have been used in attacks in North Gojjam whereas drones were used for aerial surveillance in South Gonder.
- Widespread arrests were reported in 10 woreda/city administrations across 5 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These include Raya-Kobo, Raya-Alamata, Wadla, Wogdi, Berehet, Kombolcha, Merhabete, Shewa-Robit, Gonder and Debark Woredas in the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, Central Gonder and North Gonder Zones. In several areas, arrest victims included religious leaders with ties to the *Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church* (EOTC).

## **North Wollo Zone**

### **Raya-Kobo Woreda**

- Intimidation and arbitrary arrests have intensified in Raya-Kobo Woreda as part of a region-wide crackdown.

- 
- Since September 29th, it is reported that over 1,000 individuals have been detained, with many being transported to Kombolcha town, inaccessible by their families.
  - In Kobo city and other towns across the woreda, banking services have been suspended due to ongoing network blackouts. This has severely impacted the population's ability to access essential financial services, creating significant hardships.
  - Regime forces have been engaging in intimidation, robbery, and arrests of drivers, particularly along the route from Woldia to Kobo. Regime forces have reportedly been interrogating drivers, asking why they had not joined previous strikes and questioning their sudden participation. They have also demanded bribes in exchange for permission to continue transportation services.
  - On October 11th, an armed clash erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces around Chobi-Ber, located to the north of Kobo city.
    - The fighting began at 5 pm and continued until 7 pm, with regime forces deploying heavy weaponry, including ZU-23's, mortars, and heavy machine guns, targeting the nearby mountains. The Fano forces responded swiftly.
    - Due to the network and telecommunications service shutdown in the area, it is difficult to determine the exact number of casualties.
    - Transportation between Raya-Kobo and Woldia remains suspended, severely restricting the movement of residents and preventing them from accessing market, health, and social activities.
  - Transportation between Kobo and Alamata cities resumed on October 11th.
    - The transport restrictions are a result of actions taken by regime forces, who have prevented vehicles and taxis from operating. Their justification for this is

---

reportedly in response to a drivers' strike, which was initiated due to orders from Fano fighters to halt transportation services.

- Despite Fano forces calling for the resumption of transportation services, regime forces have banned all transportation services. The regime forces have further intimidated, arrested, and robbed taxi drivers, even demanding money from them.

### **Woldia City**

- On October 7th, regime forces conducted house-to-house searches in various neighborhoods of Woldia city, targeting households with dishes used to watch independent pro-Amhara medias (e.g. Mereja TV). Residents found with such devices were registered for further action.
- On October 8th, the regime launched a cannon attack from a stadium outside the city at around 6:30 pm. The casualties from this attack are yet to be confirmed.
- On October 9th, regime forces halted bajaj transportation services within Woldia city, citing alleged connections to Fano fighters as the reason for this action.
  - Bajaj transportation is a relatively affordable and convenient option for locals. This ban has left many residents struggling with limited transportation options and has reduced income sources for bajaj operators.
  - In the morning, regime security forces also attempted to disrupt the minibus transportation system which has caused significant hardship for residents who rely on this form of transportation. This restriction was in effect before the strike organized by Fano forces, compounding the city's transportation crisis.
- On October 12th, regime security forces conducted raids on private clinics which sources suspect may have been part of a search for injured Fano fighters receiving

---

treatment.

- On October 13th, the Amhara Fano in Wollo, led by Fano Mire Wodajo launched a swift attack aimed at capturing Woldia city, the administrative center of North Wollo Zone.
  - Woldia holds strategic significance as it is a road to major cities including Gonder and Dessie cities and neighboring regions of Afar and Tigray.
  - According to sources, the attack began at around 8 pm, with intense fighting breaking out in all directions across the city. The Amhara Fano in Wollo's Brigadier-General Asaminew Tsige Division successfully infiltrated the city, engaging in combat both within and outside its borders.
  - Regime forces launched a cannon offensive from the area near Woldia Stadium, targeting distant locations in the morning and afternoon.
  - As fighting remains ongoing and intense, the extent of casualties is unclear.
  - Meanwhile, regime forces continue to prevent bajaj transportation in the city, further worsening mobility and affecting the livelihoods of residents who rely on this form of transport.

### **Raya-Alamata Woreda**

- Between October 5th to 8th, mass arrests targeting civilians advocating for the preservation of Amhara identity have been carried out jointly by Colonel Ahmed, commander of the Prosperity Party's Command Post, and TPLF forces in Alamata city.
  - These arrests are aimed at suppressing demands for Alamata city to remain under Amhara Region administration.
  - Among the arrested victims are:

- 
1. Andualem Manyazewal (from Kebele 01)
  2. Tigist Tafete (from Kebele 05)
  3. Meseret Haile (from Kebele 01, recently released)
- On October 7th, the Command Post in Raya-Alamata arbitrarily arrested three militias as part of an agreement with TPLF forces to suppress individuals committed to preserving their Amhara identity.

### **Wadla Woreda**

- Arbitrary arrests and torture of civilians by regime forces in Gashena have been reported.
  - Sources reveal that before transferring detainees to Dessie and Kombolcha, severe torture is inflicted on them in Gashena.
  - Continuous cries are heard from the ENDF camp in the town. Teachers, in particular, are being interrogated and beaten for allegedly closing schools. Witnesses describe the level of torture as extreme, with one source stating that it is so horrific that “*it is better not to be born.*”
  - The regime has also been pressuring teachers to reopen schools and resume teaching. Despite expressing concerns about the order by Fano forces, regime officials have dismissed these concerns, assuring teachers they will not be targets.

### **Habru Woreda**

- Regime forces have reportedly carried out widespread sexual violence in Wurgessa town. According to media reporting, 6 children were raped in the span of one week.<sup>2</sup> Families in the town have begun sending their children to distant areas out

---

<sup>2</sup>See October 11, 2024 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

---

of fear of both gang and individual rape by regime forces.

## **South Wollo Zone**

### **Kombolcha City**

- Regime forces have been torturing numerous civilians in Kombolcha town, including over 25 individuals who hold positions within the EOTC. This indicates a deliberate targeting of religious leaders and institutions by the regime, raising concerns about the growing hostility toward religious communities.
- Kombolcha has been repeatedly described as the “*Guantanamo*” of Wollo sub-region (north-eastern Amhara Region), where thousands of detainees from across the area are being held.
  - Families of detainees have recently voiced concerns, stating that victims of the arbitrary detentions are enduring torture, spread of infectious disease, unsanitary conditions, and numerous other severe human rights violations in Kombolcha’s detention centers.
  - The families have called on both domestic and international human rights organizations and media outlets to investigate these gross human rights violations.

### **Legambo Woreda**

- On October 7th, a man and his three children were attacked in Genete town by unknown assailants. The father was killed, and his children sustained injuries and are currently receiving medical treatment. There are suspicions that the man may have been collaborating with regime forces by providing security information.

---

### **Kelela Woreda**

- An armed clash took place in Kelela on October 7th, resulting in heavy losses for regime forces. Several pieces of military equipment were also captured by Fano fighters. Sources reported that 2 civilians (teachers) were brutally killed by regime forces in the aftermath of the clashes.

### **Wogdi Woreda**

- Arbitrary mass arrests have escalated in Wogdi Woreda this week by regime forces. Those arrested were subsequently transferred to Kombolcha, which has become notorious for its use as a detention center for detainees throughout the Wollo sub-region.
- On October 9th, Fano fighters launched a successful assault on regime forces in the Gorenji and Sokoru areas. Fano forces inflicted heavy casualties on regime troops, forcing them to retreat to nearby towns. The fighters also captured a significant amount of military equipment during the operation.

### **Ambassel Woreda**

- Despite attempts by regime forces to retake the Ambassel Mountains, including Gishen-Mariam, a historically significant religious site, Fano fighters have maintained control.
- On October 11th, the regime made an indiscriminate offensive targeting the Ambassel Mountains, particularly from the direction of the Teleyayen River.

### **Amhara-Sayint Woreda**

- Between October 11th and 13th, Fano forces launched an attack on regime forces in Ajibar. Heavy clashes occurred around Gua-Meda, Melaiktan-Mekabir, resulting in



---

significant casualties. The regime forces were eventually forced to retreat back to Ajibar.

## **North Shewa Zone**

### **Debre-Birhan City**

- On October 7th, sources reported that the Negodguad Division of the Amhara Fano Shewa Command launched a surprise attack against regime forces, including riot dispersal, militia, and police, in Debre-Birhan city.<sup>3</sup> The attack took place near the Sun Shine neighborhood as regime forces attempted to reopen roads that had been blocked by Fano forces. The attack led to multiple casualties among regime forces.

### **Minjar-Shenkora Woreda**

- Armed clashes have been reported between Fano and regime forces in various locations, including Guramba-Mariam, Bollo, and Shenkora, near Arerti.
  - Sources indicate that the regime has launched indiscriminate heavy weapons attacks on Guramba-Mariam, particularly around St. Michael’s Church.
  - Since October 5th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command has conducted successful operations in strategic areas of Minjar-Shenkora Woreda, including Arerti and Balchi, which are near Addis-Ababa city.
- On October 7th, Fano forces launched a guerrilla attack, resulting in the deaths of several regime soldiers. As of October 8th, Fano forces reportedly gained control of Balchi, the administrative (sub-woreda) center of Minjar-Shenkora situated near Mojo and Addis-Ababa.

---

<sup>3</sup>See October 7, 2024 [report](#) from Roha TV.

---

## **Berehet Woreda**

- On October 8th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command's Kesem Division launched a fierce attack against regime forces, resulting in the deaths of over 20 commandos and numerous other combatant casualties.
  - The fighting continued on October 9th in areas around Metehbila, including Wanise. Numerous regime forces, including senior officers, have been killed or injured. Following these battles, the regime was unable to retrieve bodies of its fallen soldiers or evacuate the injured on foot and according to sources, on the afternoon of October 9th, helicopters from Debre-Zeyit were dispatched to Berehet to collect the bodies and wounded soldiers.
  - In response to ongoing conflict, regime forces have reportedly arrested numerous youths in the area. Due to disruptions in telecommunications and network services, the exact number of casualties and arrests remains unverified.
  - Following the departure of Fano forces, regime troops reportedly retaliated by destroying civilian homes. Notably, the house and property of a local elder was burned, allegedly due to the suspected involvement of his son with Fano.

## **Merhabete Woreda**

- On October 9th, regime forces in multiple areas of North Shewa Zone including Merhabete, conducted widespread intimidation and arrests of drivers along with their vehicles. These actions followed a call by Fano fighters to restart the closed transportation services in protest against regime activities.

---

## **Shewa-Robit City**

- On October 9th, an armed clash occurred at around 1 pm in Mariye. Regime forces conducted door-to-door searches for weapons and discovered arms in three homes. The individuals in possession of these weapons were arrested, and the weapons were confiscated.

## **Efratana-Gidim Woreda**

- On October 12th, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command conducted a guerrilla attack against regime forces in Kara-Kore.
  - The regime forces were traveling to Kara-Kore from Ataye and Kemissie to launch an offensive against Fano forces.
  - However, before they could carry out their objective, Fano forces encircled and ambushed them in a surprise guerrilla attack. As a result, regime forces were forced to retreat to Ataye town.

## **East Gojjam Zone**

### **Machakel Woreda**

- On the afternoon of October 6th, Fano brigades from the Qegn-Geta-Yoftahe Division launched an offensive in Amanuel town.
  - Upon the Fano fighters' entry, regime soldiers quickly retreated to their fortified positions and intense fighting ensued until evening, with both sides utilizing heavy weaponry.
  - The following day (October 7th), Fano fighters resumed their assault on Amanuel, reportedly continuing until the afternoon. Despite inflicting significant casualties on regime troops over a three day period, Fano forces

---

were unsuccessful in breaching the regime's fortifications and fully displacing them.

- Reports indicate that Fano fighters withdrew from the town at around 4 pm, and reported the deaths, injuries, and capture of numerous regime soldiers.

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

- On October 7th, regime soldiers mobilized overnight to Yekura Kebele with the intent to suppress a smaller group of Fano fighters, who had separated from the main force due to accusations of misconduct.
  - The regime launched a surprise attack while the Fano fighters were sleeping, resulting in the deaths of 2 Fano members and the capture of one.
  - The remaining fighters reportedly escaped amidst the exchange of gunfire, with no casualties reported on the regime's side.
- On October 13th, a brief exchange of gunfire took place in the Debre-Yackob area. The fighting was initiated by regime troops mobilized from Merto-Lemariam town in an attempt to suppress Fano fighters who were entrenched in the town. Sources reported that Fano fighters repelled the attack, killing one militia member and a policeman.

### **Enemay Woreda**

- On October 6th, fighting erupted in the Telima area after regime forces mobilized overnight. Anticipating the attack, Fano fighters engaged regime troops early in the morning, inflicting heavy casualties. As a result, regime soldiers were compelled to retreat to Bichena and Debre-Work.

---

## **Bibugn Woreda**

- Heavy fighting erupted on October 7th in the Alema area of Bibugn Woreda, where regime forces mobilized from the woreda's center to Waber in an attempt to suppress Fano fighters.
  - Forewarned of the mobilization, Fano fighters ambushed regime troops in Alema early that morning, resulting in an intense confrontation lasting until the afternoon.
  - Reports indicate that Fano fighters inflicted significant casualties on regime soldiers, compelling them to retreat to Digo-Tsiyon with their dead in two vehicles. Consequently, Fano forces maintained control over Waber town.
- On the same day (October 7th), Fano fighters executed a sudden attack on regime soldiers traveling from Woyn-Wiha to Motta.
  - In retaliation, regime forces indiscriminately shelled heavy artillery, resulting in the deaths of 3 civilians from a single family—identified as 60-year-old Teferi Tesfaw, his 50-year-old wife Tirualem Kebe, and their 20-year-old son Tamene Teferi.

## **Debay-Telatgin Woreda**

- On October 7th, the Debay-Choke Brigade of the Fano group launched an offensive against regime encampments in Quyi town. This attack continued the coordinated assault initiated by Fano fighters on October 6th. Sources report that Fano forces inflicted additional casualties on regime soldiers during this engagement.

---

### **Enarj-Enawga Woreda**

- In the early morning of October 9th, regime soldiers mobilized from Debre-Work town to surrounding rural kebeles to disarm farmers.
  - Upon entering Aba-Jenber Kebele, the soldiers committed abuses and confiscated legally registered firearms.
  - However, the Soma Brigade of Fano from the Belay Zeleke Division launched a surprise attack against regime forces, leading to heavy confrontations. The few remaining soldiers were forced to retreat to Debre-Work.

### **Shebel-Berenta Woreda**

- On October 12th, regime forces mobilized towards the Mergech area in pursuit of Fano fighters. However, before they could reach their destination, Fano fighters ambushed them in the Woyiba area, inflicting over 20 casualties on regime soldiers.

### **Hulet-Eju-Enese Woreda**

- On the night of October 11th, the Mebreku Brigade of Fano fighters reportedly detonated explosives in Motta town, targeting administrative and security officials. The fighters claimed to have injured riot control police officers, though the exact number of casualties remains unidentified.
- On October 12th, the same Fano group ambushed regime soldiers mobilizing from Woyn-Wiha town (Bibugn Woreda) enroute to Motta town. The Mebreku Brigade of the Fano group launched three surprise attacks in the mountainous areas of Endiyamba and Aratie, reportedly inflicting heavy casualties on regime soldiers. Reports indicate that one convoy was destroyed in an explosion, killing the soldiers aboard. Additionally, Fano fighters allegedly attacked and killed over 30 state militias and riot dispersal police officers who were escorting the convoy.

---

## **West Gojjam Zone**

- Transportation restrictions imposed by Fano fighters since the previous week were lifted on October 11th. Following this announcement, transportation activities partially resumed.
  - Additionally, regime officials and command posts have been meeting with the public in various towns over the past two days, pressuring residents for mandatory financial contributions to support military efforts. Significant meetings have notably taken place in Motta and Bahir-Dar city.
  - Lastly, banking systems in towns and woredas recently captured by Fano fighters, such as Dega-Damot, Sekela and Guagusa-Sikudad have experienced significant disruptions. Cash withdrawals have been halted, and banking services have been severely limited following the regime's withdrawal from these areas.

## **Dega-Damot Woreda**

- Between October 6th and 7th, intense fighting occurred across various kebeles including Dikul-Kana, Aqlat and around Feres-Bet, resulting in the deaths of key artillery personnel.
  - On October 6th, the regime's ENDF 25th Division began mobilization toward Dembecha. Enroute, Fano fighters ambushed the mobilized soldiers in the Aqlat area, leading to a heavy confrontation that expanded into the Dikul-Kana area, where Fano fighters pursued and attacked. The regime soldiers ultimately retreated back to Feres-Bet town.
  - On October 7th, Fano fighters launched a strong offensive against regime forces in Feres-Bet and surrounding kebeles, claiming significant military losses for the regime, including the deaths of key artillery personnel. This

- 
- success brought Fano fighters closer to controlling the town and prompted plans for a further offensive on October 8th.
- Anticipating the planned attack, regime forces stationed in Feres-Bet abandoned their posts overnight, retreating to the surrounding mountainous areas. Reports indicate that during their withdrawal, regime soldiers vandalized the local *Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE)* branch and stole cash.
  - Following the regime’s exit from Feres-Bet, Fano fighters gained control of the town and dismantled military camps previously occupied by regime forces. Tensions remain high as regime troops are expected to regroup and attempt to retake the town.
- Between October 1st and 7th, sources indicated that regime soldiers killed at least 6 civilians in Dega-Damot Woreda, either through artillery bombardments or extrajudicial executions.
    - On October 1st, a priest named Ketsela Mengistu, aged 54, was killed in the Wogem-Giyorgis area. His body was reportedly laid to rest at the St. George’s Church cemetery.
    - On October 6th, 3 civilians were killed in Feres-Bet and Dikul-Kana. Among them was Nigussie Ayele (approximately 31-years-old), whose body was buried at St. Michael’s Church cemetery in Feres-Bet. The other two victims, identified as Amare Melese and Abineh Ayalew, both in their 20s, were killed in Dikul-Kana.
    - On October 7th, two additional civilians were killed, an 11-year-old boy named Kidus Ayal and a 37-year-old man named Esubalew Alemayehu in Feres-Bet. Their bodies were buried at Medhanialem Church in Feres-Bet town.



- 
- On October 8th, Fano fighters successfully entered Feres-Bet, the woreda's administrative center.
    - Heavy clashes occurred in Feres-Bet and surrounding rural kebeles in the preceding days. The regime had deployed a significant number of regular and special forces in an attempt to neutralize the strong Fano contingent, known as the Dega-Damot Brigade, operating in the area. However, the regime's efforts to suppress the Fano fighters have proven unsuccessful. Fano forces mounted fierce resistance, inflicting substantial casualties on regime troops.
  - On October 10th, regime soldiers, who had been engaged in an extended confrontation with Fano fighters in Dega-Damot Woreda, fully withdrew from the district.
    - Just two days prior, these soldiers were routed from Feres-Bet town and forced into a single camp in the mountainous Qunzila area. After a two-day stay, regime troops began their retreat overnight on October 9th. In the early morning of October 10th, Fano fighters ambushed the withdrawing soldiers as they reached Anjeni in Dembecha Woreda.
    - This ambush aimed to prevent the troops from leaving with military equipment, resulting in an exchange of gunfire and numerous reported casualties among regime soldiers.

### **Finote-Selam City**

- On October 7th, regime soldiers reportedly extrajudicially executed 2 young men. Sources indicate that the men were shot after presenting their identification cards, which revealed their origins from Jiga town, which is currently under Fano control. The victims were identified as Bedlu Asmare and Meseret Melaku.

---

## **Jabi-Tehnan Woreda**

- On October 8th, Fano fighters launched a significant offensive targeting the Birsheleko military training camp.
  - The attack, executed around midday from multiple directions with mortar shelling, caused considerable damage to the camp and inflicted substantial casualties on those inside.
  - Reports indicate that Fano fighters also targeted regime soldier trainees attempting to flee the camp during the assault. The full extent of casualties is still under investigation.
- On the afternoon of October 8th, regime soldiers moved from Finote-Selam city toward Jiga town in an effort to retake control after it had been under Fano control for six days.
  - They employed heavy artillery for cover during this advance. Fearing reprisals, many residents, particularly young men, fled the town.
  - Fano fighters confronted the regime soldiers until the afternoon of October 9th, ultimately overpowering them and forcing a retreat back to Finote-Selam. The extent of casualties remains unclear.
- Fighting broke out in Jiga town on the evening of October 11th, which had been under Fano control for the past week.
  - The regime mobilized significant forces from Finote-Selam and Dembecha town, initiating gunfire in Jiga that evening. The regime deployed large troop reinforcements and heavy weaponry in a bid to regain control of this strategically significant town, which connects vital battle zones.

- 
- On the evening of October 11th, regime forces re-entered Jiga town following heavy clashes with Fano fighters.
  - On October 12th, both Fano fighters and regime troops were reportedly seen within and around Jiga town.
  - Upon entering Jiga, regime forces committed multiple human rights violations, including civilian killings and injuries during the gunfire and in the aftermath.
  - On October 11th, regime soldiers shot and injured 2 civilians who were observing from their homes.
  - On October 12th, another civilian was shot and killed while fleeing upon seeing the troops. The identities of those killed and injured have yet to be verified.
  - By the evening of October 12th, regime soldiers withdrew from Jiga, relocating to the Qulbit area on the town outskirts, likely due to the presence of Fano fighters nearby and the destruction of previous camps which left them vulnerable to further attack.
- On October 12th, sources reported witnessing over 200 empty buses passing through Jiga toward Finote-Selam, while the buses were seen returning the following day carrying newly trained soldiers from the Birsheleko military training camp.

### **Sekela Woreda**

- On October 9th, intense fighting erupted in the border areas of Sekela Woreda, and Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda (Awi Zone).
  - Fano fighters, notably from the Gojjam Agew-Midir Division, had gathered in nearby areas and moved toward Gish-Abay, the administrative center of Sekela Woreda.

- 
- Prior to engaging, they requested regime soldiers stationed there to surrender peacefully. The soldiers, however, ignored this plea and retreated overnight on October 8th.
  - As Fano fighters advanced toward Tilili town, they launched a strong offensive against mobilizing regime forces, particularly in the Gundil and Ashifa areas along the Sekela-Guagusa border.
  - Following heavy confrontations, Fano fighters achieved significant military successes, claiming to have captured heavy weaponry, numerous firearms, soldiers, and over 30 million ETB in cash, though these claims remain unverified.
  - Fano fighters gained full control of the woreda. Reports indicate that the regime has since mobilized reinforcements from Injibara in an attempt to retake the area.

### **Bure-Zuriya Woreda**

- From October 8th to 9th, approximately 200 state militia and riot dispersal police members reportedly defected from the regime’s military to join the Fano Bure-Damot Brigade.
  - ENDF soldiers, previously stationed in Bure town, had withdrawn to the surrounding mountains, leading the regime to have the militias remain in town with their assistance.
  - Fano fighters managed to engage with these militiamen, resulting in defections.
- Between October 11th and 12th, a reconciliation event took place between ethnic Amhara and Oromo communities living in areas bordering Bure and Wollega (western Oromia Region).

- 
- This reconciliation event was conducted in Quchi, Sentom, Alefa, and other areas in Bure-Zuriya in the presence of Fano leaders from the Bure-Damot Brigade and the Fifth Division of the Amhara Fano in Gojjam.
  - It was said a localized conflict had frequently occurred over the last few years, as regime cadres had intervened to provoke conflicts within these communities, who had long coexisted peacefully. However, under the leadership of the Fano brigades (Bure-Damot) and the contributions of elders from both the Oromo and Amhara communities, reconciliation was achieved between the two groups. Video footage was also circulated on social media, portraying the reconciliation event.

## **Awii Zone**

### **Jawi Woreda**

- Between October 6th and 7th, intense fighting broke out across multiple kebeles in Jawi Woreda.
  - On the afternoon of October 6th, regime soldiers began mobilizing toward Jahimala Kebele to confront Fano fighters. Fano forces from the Jawi Division engaged regime soldiers in the Bilala area before they could reach Jahimala.
  - The confrontation continued until October 7th and spread to Deq and Achare, where Fano fighters launched offensives to disrupt military movements. Fano forces successfully defended against the regime’s advances into rural areas, claiming to have captured firearms and inflicted casualties on regime soldiers.

### **Dangila Woreda**

- In the early morning of October 9th, Fano forces opened fire on regime soldiers stationed in Dangila town and surrounding villages.

- 
- Fighting involved the Amhara Fano in Gojjam Agew-Midir Division’s Ras Bitwedded Mengesha Brigade.
  - The fighting persisted until the afternoon, during which Fano forces briefly entered the town.
  - Eventually, the fighting ceased following the withdrawal of Fano fighters. Two fatalities were confirmed on the Fano side, while casualties among regime forces remain unknown.
- On October 13th, a gunfire exchange took place in the rural area of Wundiri near Dangila town. The fighting was initiated by regime troops searching for Fano fighters who were said to be in a social gathering. Forewarned of the movement of the regime soldiers, Fano fighters ambushed the regime vehicles, inflicting substantial casualties. Sources reported that soldiers in the two vehicles were targeted, killing and wounding over 30 regime soldiers.

### **Fagita-Lekoma Woreda**

- On October 9th, a brief skirmish occurred in Addis-Kidam town, with no known casualties reported thus far.

## **North Gojjam Zone**

### **North-Mecha Woreda**

- Between October 6th and 7th, regime soldiers entered Amaret Kebele, which had long been a stronghold of Fano fighters operating in the area.
- In the early hours of October 7th, regime forces carried out consecutive airstrikes in Dagi Kebele.

- 
- Targeting a health extension, a school, residential homes, and wooded areas, the strikes resulted in civilian casualties and property damage.
  - Reports indicate 1 civilian was killed and 4 others were injured, including health professionals and patients inside the health station, one of whom is critically wounded.
- On October 8th, an airstrike was reported in the Qolela area, reportedly targeting a primary school. The number of casualties remains under investigation.
  - Between October 11th and 12th, fighting occurred in Amarit Kebele when Fano fighters launched a strong offensive against newly stationed regime soldiers. Reports indicate Fano pushed regime forces out of the kebele, which are now entrenched in the mountainous area of Enguti, near Merawi town. Tensions remained high afterwards as regime forces were expected to regroup to mount a counter-offensive.
  - On the morning of October 12th, the regime conducted an airstrike targeting civilians gathered enroute to the market in Amaret Kebele, resulting in multiple civilian casualties. Initial reports indicate that 6 civilian farmers were killed while another 4 were injured. Details of the incident are still under investigation.

### **South Mecha Woreda**

- Between October 9th to 10th, fighting took place in South Mecha Woreda and some areas of neighboring North Mecha Woreda.
- On October 11th, Fano fighters launched a strong offensive in the Gerchech area, targeting regime soldiers who had recently moved there. Reports indicate that the assault on Gerchech began earlier in the day and continued into the evening, where Fano fighters overwhelmed regime forces, driving them to the outskirts. Further details are pending investigation.

- 
- Between October 11th and 12th, intense fighting took place in Mehal-Genet (formerly Gerchech).
    - On October 11th, Fano fighters, particularly involving the Colonel Tadesse Muluneh and Tanaw-Mebreq Brigades, launched a significant offensive against regime troops that had entered the town earlier that week.
    - Reports indicate that the confrontation began in the morning and continued into the evening, with Fano fighters overpowering the regime forces and driving them to the outskirts.
    - Fano reported over 237 regime casualties.
    - In retaliation, regime troops resorted to indiscriminate shelling of the town. To protect civilian lives, Fano withdrew in the evening; however, regime forces re-entered and perpetrated arbitrary abuses, including killings and abductions of civilians. On the night of October 11th and into October 12th, numerous civilians were reportedly killed or injured.
    - A spokesperson for the Amhara Fano in Gojjam told independent media *Amhara Broadcasting Center* (ABC) TV that nearly 207 civilians were killed and injured by regime forces' reprisal attacks following the confrontation.
  - On October 12th, Fano fighters re-entered Gerchech, re-engaging regime troops and inflicting further casualties. In the morning, the regime carried out an airstrike on Abromenor Primary School, located near Gerchech, resulting in at least 4 civilian deaths, including two school security guards, the school's ICT professional, and another local. Detailed investigations regarding the airstrike and resulting casualties are pending.
  - On October 13th, regime soldiers killed a young man encountered in the Feres-Bet area while they were traveling from Merawi to Gerchech.



---

## South Gonder Zone

- Regime forces have conducted repeated aerial surveillance operations over Estie, Ibnat, Lay-Gayint, and Tach-Gayint Woredas. These surveillance missions are widely believed to be reconnaissance efforts preceding drone strikes and fighter jet attacks in these areas.
- The Fano fighters have issued an urgent plea to international humanitarian aid organizations, calling for the resumption of critical aid services in the Estie, Simada, Andabet, and Simada Woredas.
  - These areas, now under Fano control, are experiencing a dire humanitarian crisis, with children suffering from widespread food scarcity and various diseases. The lack of adequate treatment and support has tragically led to the deaths of numerous children, with more than 8 infants succumbing within just 6 days.
  - The Fano cite the regime’s deliberate actions as a key factor contributing to this crisis. Upon leaving the woredas, regime forces systematically removed all medications and dismantled all health-related facilities, effectively leaving residents without access to essential care. The situation is further exacerbated by the fact that health professionals in these areas have not received their monthly salaries, leaving them unable to provide adequate services.
  - The Fano fighters have pledged to guarantee the safety of any humanitarian aid organizations that enter these woredas to provide assistance. They recognize the urgent need for intervention and are committed to creating a secure environment for humanitarian workers to deliver life-saving aid to the suffering population.
- On October 10th, over 150 youths were transported from Debre-Tabor city to

---

Bahir-Dar city in three military trucks. These detainees are believed to be headed to Dangila town, where a temporary detention facility has been established to accommodate detainees from South Gonder Zone and Bahir-Dar city.

### **Tach-Gayint Woreda**

- On October 6th, regime forces, entrenched in Shit village, initiated shelling attacks on various locations in Tach-Gayint Woreda.
  - In response, Fano fighters launched an offensive in other directions, aiming to cut off regime forces in Shit.
  - The Fano launched a series of intense attacks on regime forces in Haya-Wiha, targeting three separate locations.
  - Following these fierce engagements, regime forces in Shit retreated back to Nefas-Mewcha town, loading their heavy weaponry for the withdrawal.

### **Libo-Kemkem Woreda**

- On October 8th, Fano fighters captured Kemal Geremew, the Prosperity Party-appointed chairman of Wisha-Tirs Kebele.
  - Kemal Geremew, who was deeply involved in inciting religious conflict within the community, was subsequently killed by the Fano.
  - The Fano's actions against Kemal Geremew appear to have been motivated by his role in escalating religious tensions and his deliberate attempts to instigate violence within the community. Geremew had been actively preaching to the Muslim community, urging them to fight against the Fano, claiming that the Fano were seeking to establish the dominance of Orthodox Christianity and were hostile towards Islam.

- 
- Following his inflammatory rhetoric, 12 individuals, including two pregnant women, were killed by extremists, highlighting the consequences of Kemal Geremew's incitements.
  - Tensions have increased in Addis-Zemen town, where regime forces are imposing strict control on travelers. The regime's checkpoint at the entrance of the town has implemented a policy of denying entry to anyone who cannot present a Kebele ID, the local community identification card.
    - Travelers carrying work or license ID cards, which are typically used for professional purposes, are being forcibly turned back. This policy has left many individuals stranded and unable to reach their intended destinations, highlighting the regime's increasingly restrictive control over movement and the daily lives of local residents.
    - The regime's reliance on the Kebele ID as the sole acceptable form of identification is seen as a tactic to control movement and potentially target individuals based on their place of origin or perceived allegiance. This policy, coupled with the forced return of travelers with valid work ID, underscores the growing sense of fear and insecurity in the region.

### **Dera Woreda**

- On October 7th, a convoy of regime officials from various zones and woredas in the Gonder sub-region was ambushed by Fano fighters as they approached Shoble Kebele, near Hamusit town, enroute to Bahir-Dar city.
  - These officials had been summoned for a meeting by top Prosperity Party officials stationed in Bahir-Dar city.
  - The ambush resulted in heavy casualties among the soldiers and military trucks escorting the officials. The Fano, having received intelligence about the

---

convoy's movement, had planned the attack. The lead military truck in the convoy was overturned, resulting in the deaths of all soldiers on board. Following this surprise attack, intense close-quarters combat ensued between Fano fighters and regime forces from 9 pm to 1 am local time.

- In a retaliatory measure, enraged by the Fano's successful attack, regime forces killed 2 farmers residing near the Gumara River and seized numerous motorbikes used by local farmers.

### **Debre-Tabor City**

- On October 7th, regime forces attempted to deploy troops from Debre-Tabor city to Ibbat and Mena-Meqetewa Woredas. However, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack on these moving forces at three separate locations near Debre-Tabor city.
  - The resulting fierce fighting resulted in significant casualties for regime forces, forcing them to abort their deployment to the targeted woredas.
  - Over six heavily loaded military trucks, carrying the bodies of fallen soldiers, were forced to return to Debre-Tabor city.
- Regime forces stationed in Debre-Tabor city have unveiled a new, aggressive military strategy and military plan aimed at dismantling the Fano fighters.
  - Their plan hinges on conducting surprise night raids against established Fano positions, hoping to catch them off guard.
  - The regime acknowledges the limitations of remaining confined to towns and cities, recognizing the significant losses they have incurred through this defensive approach. Their strategy shifts to a more proactive stance, encouraging offensive action against the Fano.

- 
- The regime has issued a directive to its soldiers, urging them to infiltrate areas controlled by the Fano, avoiding detection and launching surprise attacks. This strategy emphasizes the use of subterfuge and deception. To enhance their ability to gather intelligence, the regime has ordered militia and riot dispersal forces to disguise themselves as civilians and infiltrate Fano areas. They have also tasked religious leaders with spying on the Fano, demanding their cooperation in facilitating the regime’s military plans. If these religious leaders refuse, the regime has ordered select individuals from its joint forces to assume religious attire and infiltrate the Fano network as undercover operatives.
  - On October 12th, the regime initiated a mass recruitment drive in Debre-Tabor city, targeting young men and women, including those living on verandas, under the guise of a “*national service call.*”
    - The regime’s forces are forcibly rounding up these youths and sending them to military training centers, effectively drafting them into their military forces.
    - Many of the youths targeted in this recruitment campaign were orphans, struggling to make a living, and had made the bus station their shelter. The regime’s aggressive recruitment efforts are seen as a desperate attempt to bolster their depleted ranks, resorting to forceful conscription to fill gaps in their military.

### **Guna-Begemidir Woreda**

- On October 7th, a fierce battle erupted between regime forces and Fano fighters in Wuqro-Medhanialem Kebele, located near Kimir-Dingaye town.
  - The regime forces had ventured into Wuqro seeking retribution for the killing of Mulat Molla, a security official from the woreda. However, regime forces

- 
- suffered heavy casualties in the engagement and were forced to retreat back to Kimir-Dingaye town, carrying the bodies of their fallen and wounded soldiers.
- The Fano fighters, aware of the regime’s plans for a mourning procession in Wuqro for their fallen soldiers, prevented the event from taking place.
- On October 12th, a fierce battle erupted between Fano fighters and regime forces in the Fitatra and Didim-Tsion Kebeles, located near Kimir-Dingaye town.
    - This offensive, primarily led by the regime’s riot dispersal forces, with limited participation from the regular military, aimed to target Fano positions in these areas. However, regime forces faced a decisive defeat, suffering heavy casualties during the clash. The Fano successfully repelled the attack, inflicting significant losses on the riot dispersal forces, including the death of their leader and vice commander for the military campaign. Over 9 riot dispersal force members were killed, while more than 22 joint forces sustained critical injuries, forcing regime forces to retreat without achieving their objectives. The slain commander was identified as Solomon, though his last name was not identified.
    - Adding to the regime’s losses, a separate battle raged in Moksh, a rugged and challenging terrain located between Kimir-Dingaye town and Guna Mountain. The Fano once again emerged victorious, inflicting heavy casualties on regime forces.

### **Lay-Gayint Woreda**

- On the night of October 10th, regime forces, based in Nefas-Mewcha town, launched a deployment operation, sending troops to Checheho and Sali towns.
  - The regime, under the assumption that these areas were strongholds of the

---

Fano fighters, aimed to secure these locations. However, their advance was met with a swift and decisive response.

- The Fano fighters, anticipating the regime’s move, had already prepared an ambush in Checheho. The regime forces, unaware of the Fano’s presence, walked into the trap. The Fano, with precise and effective tactics, inflicted significant losses on regime troops.
- On the night of October 13th, the Fano fighters, under the leadership of Kefyalew Dessie, launched a decisive offensive against regime forces stationed in Nefas-Mewcha town. Utilizing stealth and strategic planning, the Fano infiltrated the town’s interior, launching coordinated attacks against regime positions across various locations.
  - The battle, which began at 7 am, raged throughout the night, continuing until 12 am local time early in the morning. The Fano’s offensive, focused on the Nefas-Mewcha Police Station, inflicted heavy casualties on regime forces, resulting in numerous deaths and critical injuries among their ranks.
  - This attack was fueled by outrage over the regime’s brutal actions, which included the killing of innocent civilians, including individuals with disabilities in Gobgob town.
  - The Checheho and Mehal-Gayint Fano Brigades, both part of the Fitawrari Gebriye Fano Division led by Kefyalew Dessie, spearheaded the attack on the police station, successfully seizing a large cache of weapons stored within the facility.

## **Central Gonder Zone**

- On the morning of October 10th, a mass deployment of regime soldiers took place across Central Gonder, North Gonder and West Gonder Zones.

- 
- The regime, in a show of force, deployed a significant number of troops from the Tigray Region, moving them from Shire town through North Gonder to several areas within Central Gonder such as Armachiho, East Dembiya, and West Dembiya and to West Gonder Zone. The regime’s presence was also felt through military helicopters flying at low altitudes over East and West Dembiya Woredas, departing from Gonder city.
  - However, a dramatic turn of events occurred in West Dembiya Woreda. More than 30 soldiers, deployed near Chew-Diba town in Sebirasebo village, made the decision to defect to the Fano fighters, bringing with them a substantial amount of weaponry – including heavy weapons, small arms, and ammunition. The defectors were met with immediate action by their former comrades, who attempted to apprehend them. The Fano fighters, provided covering fire, enabling the soldiers to safely join their ranks without suffering any harm at the hands of the regime forces.
  - Fano forces in Gonder sub-region are currently engaged in discussions to establish a unified command structure, bringing together forces currently operating under separate leaderships of Arbegna Baye Kenaw (Amhara Fano in Gonder) and Arbegna Habte Wolde (Amhara Fano Gonder Command).
    - Both leaders have expressed a strong commitment to achieving unity, recognizing that their current division has hindered their overall military success. While they have secured military dominance in the region, they believe a united front is essential to reach their outcome.
    - A significant obstacle to this unification has been the interference of external groups seeking to exert influence over the Fano movement. The Fano leadership views these external forces as a disruptive influence that needs to be addressed for true unity to be achieved.



---

## Gonder City

- On October 7th, a large number of youths detained in Gonder city were transported to a military camp located in Chilga Woreda.
- This week reports indicate that thousands of residents have been taken into custody within the Gonder including a significant number of young people and officials. Over 40 officials from the ruling Prosperity Party, have been confirmed detained in Gonder city.
- The regime's crackdown on its own officials intensified on October 12th, with the detention of over 20 Prosperity Party members in Gonder city.
  - The majority of these arrests were carried out at the city's sixth police station, highlighting the regime's targeting of individuals associated with the ruling party.
  - Those who attempted to visit the detained officials were threatened that they, too, would soon face detention, accused of betraying the very regime they had diligently served. This internal suspicion and distrust among the regime's officials is reaching a critical point, fueling a growing sense of insecurity and anxiety within their ranks.
  - The fear of arrest has driven over 40 high-ranking officials in Gonder city, including those at the kebele level, to flee the city and seek refuge in hiding. This mass exodus of officials highlights the deep sense of vulnerability they feel under the regime's oppressive rule.
  - In Azezo, the regime's political department officer, Tesfa Mekonnen, delivered a message at a meeting of Gonder city officials. Warning of severe consequences for disobedience, he demanded complete submission to orders from higher-ranking officials, threatening to "*wipe out*" anyone who defies the

---

regime's authority. This blatant intimidation sparked outrage and fear among meeting participants, leading to its abrupt adjournment without addressing the intended security concerns.

- On October 13th, Lieutenant Sendeq, a driver for the peace and security officer in Gonder city's Azezo sub-city, was killed by unidentified individuals.
  - His car was damaged, and his weapon was seized.
  - The Dimaza Fano Brigade later claimed responsibility for Sendeq's death, alleging he was involved in crimes against humanity committed against civilians in Azezo. They emphasize that Sendeq was not just a driver but also participated in military activities, indicating a broader role in the regime's operations.

### **Alefa Woreda**

- On October 9th, Fano fighters launched a surprise offensive against regime forces stationed in Shawra town.
  - The attack caught the regime off guard, resulting in heavy casualties. At least 17 regime soldiers were killed, and 21 others sustained critical injuries.
  - The Fano's success extended beyond the initial assault. They also ambushed two separate regime convoys near Shawra town. The first convoy, carrying crucial military supplies to the town, was intercepted, while a second convoy leaving Shawra to retrieve the supplies met a similar fate.

### **Gonder-Zuriya Woreda**

- On October 11th, Fano fighters delivered a decisive blow to the regime's authority in Denqez town, killing the chairman of Zantera Kebele and the commander of the

---

militia forces stationed in the area. These officials were actively involved in a regime-led operation to disarm local farmers, who had legally registered weapons.

### **Wegera Woreda**

- Regime forces have implemented a cruel and inhumane policy in Qola-Wegera, denying vital medications to public health institutions, effectively withholding life-saving care from the local population.
  - Humanitarian aid organizations had delivered essential medications, intended for the Adigagra, Tirahi, Dawi, and Aditeter health centers. However, the regime’s military forces intercepted the shipment, seizing medications and preventing their distribution.
  - When questioned about this blatant act of deprivation, the soldiers responsible cited the residents’ perceived support for Fano fighters as justification. They explicitly stated that residents of Qola-Wegera, deemed to be Fano sympathizers, would not receive any medical aid.

### **East Dembiya Woreda**

- On October 13th, Fano fighters launched a series of successful ambushes against regime forces traveling from Ayimba to Gonder city.
  - The regime’s convoy, laden with heavy military vehicles, was targeted at three separate locations. The Fano’s surprise attack resulted in heavy casualties for regime forces, effectively disrupting their movement and inflicting significant losses.
  - The ambushes triggered fierce fighting at three locations – Sosir-Gultooh, Dawa, and Megech – with both sides deploying heavy weaponry in an intense battle for control.

---

## **Tach Armachiho Woreda**

- Between October 13th and 14th, intense fighting took place between Fano fighters and regime forces in the villages of Mar-Zeneb and Dir-Mager.
  - In an attempt to control the flow of information and limit outside communication, the regime has implemented a complete telephone blackout in conflict zones. This move highlights their fear of information reaching the outside world and their desperate attempt to control the narrative surrounding the clashes.
  - The blackout has extended to a vast area, including the entire West Armachiho Woreda, encompassing Abrahajira town (the woreda’s administrative center), Abderafi, Hormar, and all kebeles located below Soroqa town. This widespread communication blackout, initiated on the afternoon of October 13th, has effectively cut off these communities from the outside world.

## **West Gonder Zone**

- Fano fighters successfully ambushed military trucks and escorts transporting a large number of detainees from Metemma (West Gonder Zone) to the Sereba military camp near Negade-Bahir town. The ambush, which took place in Umer-Awlala and Shikrkrit villages, resulted in heavy casualties for the soldiers and military trucks in both Genda-Wiha and Negade-Bahir towns. Over 16 regime soldiers were captured by the Fano. Following the ambush, the majority of the youths who were being taken to Sereba military camp were able to escape.
- As the regime’s forces experience continued military setbacks and political failures, a growing number of military officers are choosing to defect and join the Fano fighters.

- 
- On October 11th, a significant development occurred when a lieutenant, along with his weapons and soldiers from West Gonder Zone, defected to the Fano, joining the Karamara Division in Gonder. Fano Anteneh Mekbib, spokesperson for the Karamara Division, confirmed this defection.
  - Simultaneously, in West Gonder, the regime's forces suffered a devastating ambush while traveling from Abra-Jira to Holmer. The Arbegnoch and Gobie Fano Divisions launched the attack, inflicting casualties on regime troops and forced them to retreat, as confirmed by Fano Berhanu Nega, commander of the Arbegnoch Division in Gonder.

### **Metemma Woreda**

- A fierce battle erupted on October 12th, between Fano fighters and regime forces in the Mender 6 area and surrounding areas.
  - The clash resulted in significant casualties for regime forces, with the Fano claiming victory.
  - Among the regime's losses was a colonel, who had recently been assigned to lead the military deployment in Metemma Woreda. His death, confirmed by the Fano, serves as a blow to the regime's leadership and a testament to the Fano's growing military strength. The Fano reported a high number of regime soldiers killed, though the exact number remains uncertain.
  - Five casualties were reported among the Fano. The Fano also seized a substantial amount of weapons and ammunition from regime forces, further strengthening their arsenal.
  - The fighting, which took place in Mender 6, Humer, Arsema, and Dil-Ber, subsided around 11 pm local time. However, the following day, October 13th,

---

numerous uncollected bodies of regime soldiers remained scattered across the battlefield.

### **West Armachiho Woreda**

- On October 11th, a fierce battle erupted between the Fano fighters and the regime forces near Abrahajira town, specifically in the Girar-Wiha Kebele.
  - The regime forces, armed with heavy weaponry, including tanks, were enroute to Hormar, aiming to launch an offensive against Fano.
  - However, the Fano, having received intelligence about the regime's movement, devised an ambush. The regime forces, caught completely off guard, were effectively surrounded at Girar-Wiha, where they faced a devastating defeat at the hands of the Fano. The Fano inflicted heavy casualties on the regime forces, with many soldiers killed. The remainder of the regime troops, including the tanks, were forced to retreat back to Abrahajira, abandoning their intended attack.
  - Meanwhile, a separate battle unfolded in Tach Armachiho Woreda, specifically in Adet Kebele located in Tegadilo. The Fano and regime forces clashed once again, with the Fano emerging victorious. The regime suffered significant losses, with three high-ranking security personnel and numerous militia members captured by Fano.
  - Across all four Armachiho Woredas, there is a significant surge in military activity from the regime side. However, Fano fighters have strategically secured key positions, giving them military dominance over the regime forces in the region. These strategic gains demonstrate the Fano's military prowess and their ability to effectively counter the regime's offensive maneuvers.

---

## North Gonder Zone

### Debark Woreda

- A wave of detentions has swept through Debark town since October 11th, as regime forces, armed with lists of names, have targeted young men and women. The regime has been systematically rounding up youths, using lists prepared by regime militia forces, and taking them into custody.

## Addis-Ababa City

- On October 7th, Field Marshal Birhanu Jula, General Chief of Staff the ENDF, denied and mocked the abduction of 17 Amhara students from Denbi-Dollo University (West Wollega Zone, Oromia Region) in December 2019 during an interview with regime-affiliated media.<sup>4</sup> Field Marshal Jula introduced contradictory narratives regarding the abduction:
  - He claimed that the students were kidnapped by a man named “*Ashenafi Gonderew*” allegedly a member of the *National Movement of Amhara* (NAMA), an opposition group.
  - In another statement, he argued that the students were not abducted by Oromo individuals but rather by Amharas.
  - These statements contradict the regime’s previous official positions:
    - \* Initially, the regime admitted that the students had been abducted by *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) militants.
    - \* Later, the regime’s spokesperson Nigussu Tilahun claimed that the regime had successfully rescued the students.

---

<sup>4</sup>See October 5, 2024 [interview](#) on Lualawi media.

- 
- \* Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed himself made a contradictory statement, asserting that there were no abducted students at all.
  - After five years, the regime has now shifted the narrative once again, deflecting responsibility for the abduction onto Amhara individuals while absolving the Oromo community. This new narrative appears to carry calculated political implications, potentially targeting Amhara communities residing in the Oromia Region.
  - On October 6th, the *Ethiopian Human Rights Commission* (EHRC) expressed concern over widespread arrests in the Amhara Region, including in Gonder and Bahir-Dar cities, which have been ongoing since mid-September 2024.<sup>5</sup>
    - The EHRC reported that the arrests, which have affected public employees, political party members, media professionals, and civil society figures, were conducted without due legal process. Many detainees are being held in temporary detention centers without court orders or proper legal procedures.
    - Additionally, some of the detainees are in need of continuous medical care, raising concerns about their well-being during detention.
  - On October 8th, the Addis-Ababa City Administration, led by Mayor Adanech Abebe, announced a controversial “*Corridor Development*” project that encompasses historically significant areas like Kazanchis, Mexico, Shiro-Meda, Arat-Kilo, and Meskel Square.
    - This project has been criticized as a tool for forced displacement and demographic manipulation, with many seeing it as part of a broader agenda to alter the ethnic composition of the city, and the political-economy.

---

<sup>5</sup>See October 6, 2024 [press release](#) from the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC).



- 
- Sources have indicated that previously displaced individuals have not received adequate compensation, while those supportive of the regime’s policies and from favored ethnic groups have been given housing and financial compensation.
  - The forced displacement, demographic engineering, and widespread human rights violations linked to the Corridor Development Project are expected to escalate.
  - Meanwhile, more individuals are reportedly joining Fano. Notably, journalist Menelik Fantahun, who previously worked for state media outlets and was a producer on Abay 365 (Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation) has joined the Amhara Fano in Wollo.

---

## About the Amhara Association of America (AAA)

The Amhara Association of America (AAA) is a non-profit civic organization based in Charlotte, North Carolina that investigates and documents human rights violations in the context of conflict, violence and political repression in Ethiopia. AAA seeks to inform U.S. policymakers, international human rights organizations, journalists, researchers, and all Ethiopian stakeholders to pressure Ethiopian leaders to change laws, policies, and practices in Ethiopia so perpetrators are held accountable and victims receive justice. AAA also collaborates with Amhara organizations in the U.S., supports independent Amhara organizations in Ethiopia, and provides humanitarian aid for Amharas impacted due to targeted ethnic attacks. AAA's funding comes directly from members and supporters; the organization is not affiliated with any Ethiopian or American political or governmental entities.

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

