



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia - June 17th to 23rd, 2024

Updated June 23rd, 2024

Overview

For the week of June 17th to 23rd, 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. The joint regime forces include *Ethiopian National Defense Force* (ENDF), riot dispersal force, militias and allied forces. In recent weeks, the *Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF) has continued human rights violations against residents of Raya Alamata and Telemt Woredas and surrounding areas with backing from the Prosperity Party regime, prompting demonstrations particularly in Alamata town. The *Oromo Liberation Army* (OLA) with support from regime security forces has continued attacks on civilians in majority-Amhara districts of Oromia Region. Some highlights are provided below:

- In recent fighting, joint regime forces have suffered proportionally substantial losses and high rates of defection leading to division and mistrust in their ranks.

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- In response to continued military losses to Fano forces, regional Prosperity Party officials have organized militias to commit various criminal acts of violence, aggression and mischief impersonating Fano in order to undermine widespread public support for Fano.
 - Between June 18th and 19th, high-ranking regime military leaders and regime officials including General Abebaw Tadesse and regional president Arega Kebede participated in a meeting in Injibara which was disrupted by Fano forces.
 - In Ibnat Woreda, members of the National Dialogue Commission were apprehended while attempting to compel the Fano forces to surrender to the regime.
 - Starting on June 18th regime military leaders (ENDF Generals) convened a meeting in Gonder city with members of the public during which members of the public voiced key concerns which were met with mixed responses from the military leaders.
 - In Raya Alamata, TPLF militants have continued aggressions, taking control of areas in Raya and looting property which have been transported to Tigray proper.
 - The Telemt Amhara Identity Repatriation Committee announced receiving a decision by the Amhara Prosperity Party agreed to cede Telemt to the Tigray Regional State and arrival of heavily armed TPLF militants.
 - The OLA and ENDF initiated attacks on Amhara residents in North Shewa, Horo Guduru Wollega and East Wollega Zones of Oromia Region.

North Wollo Zone

Raya Alamata Woreda

- TPLF militants have continued invading the Raya area. On June 21st, they moved southward and entered Waja town. Reports indicate the militants have carried out

killings, abductions, and harassment targeting residents in Alamata town.

- According to reports from Ethio-News, former TPLF officials summoned residents of Alamata town for a meeting on June 19th, but no one attended. In addition, TPLF forces stole a generator from Alamata Vocational Training Institute and transported it to Tigray proper.

Habru Woreda

- On June 20th, intense fighting took place between Fano forces and regime soldiers in a town called Wurgessa. The town was a stronghold for Fano forces for several months before regime forces took control of it last week. Following a surprise attack on their way from Woldia to Wurgessa town, regime forces killed several civilians in retaliation. On June 20th, Fano initiated another round of fighting to regain the town and protect residents. The fighting was so intense in which heavy weaponry was used by the regime forces. After several hours of fighting, heavy casualties were sustained on both sides and Fano regained control of the town. Regime forces deliberately targeted civilians in retaliation for the losses resulting in killings and injuries.

South Wollo Zone

- On June 17th, ENDF soldiers extra-judicially executed two civilians, a father and son in Zelhon Kebele of Delanta Woreda. The victims were identified as: (1) Mekasha Asfaw, the father and (2) Masresha Mekasha, the son.
- According to a report from Ethio-News, ENDF commanders are forcing Amhara businessmen to pay them money or they will arrest them in the guise of accusing them of being supporters of “extremists”. A significant number of businessmen in Dessie town have been forced to deposit millions of birr into the private accounts of

some generals. General Assefa Chekol, the new head of the Dessie and South Wollo Command Post refused to take action after receiving a detailed report. Many businessmen have also been forced to leave their residences.¹ Ethio-News reported on June 20th, over 25 civilians were extrajudicially killed in an area called Densa-Kotte in Mehal-Sayint Woreda. The crime was committed by regime soldiers who undertook a house-to-house operation in retaliation for military losses for Fano.²

North Shewa Zone

- Between June 19th to 21st, fighting has been underway between Fano forces and joint regime forces in Efratana-Gidim, Kewot, Antsokiya-Gemza, and Menz-Keya Woredas.

Efratana Gidim Woreda

- On June 18th, fierce fighting between Fano and joint regime forces took place in Efratana-Gidim Woreda. Fano forces initiated the fighting aimed at controlling Afeson, Kara-Kore, Kore-Meda, and Boru Kebeles. In this fighting, the Amhara Fano Shewa Command Yekuno-Amlak Major was able to gain the upper hand and managed to disperse regime forces operating in these areas.
- On June 20th, intense fighting took place between Fano forces and regime special commando forces in Efratana-Gidim Woreda. This fighting was initiated by regime forces with the aim to clear Fano fighters and their leaders from the woreda however, the Fano forces managed to kill and injure dozens of regime soldiers.

¹See Ethio-News June 18, 2024 [report](#) and June 20, 2024 [report](#)

²See Ethio-News June 20, 2024 [report](#)

Kewot Woreda

- On June 16th, following an unsuccessful invasion attempt by Oromo militants from the Oromo Special Zone against residents of Yelen Kebele, tensions remain high in areas neighboring Kewot Woreda and the Oromo Special Zone.
- On June 20th, the regime was planning to give urban land as an incentive to local regime militias in Shewa-Robit town. However, Fano forces aimed to interrupt this move and began firing directly at the militias organized to receive urban land from the town administration. Following this attack, dozens of regime militias were killed and injured. The regime also failed to deliver the urban land to militias who were fighting alongside the military and regional police.

Merhabete Woreda

- On June 22nd and 23rd, fierce fighting took place between Fano forces and regime forces in Merhabete Woreda. In this fighting, the regime forces moved from Alem-Ketema Town to disperse Fano from their stronghold of Merhabete Woreda. However, the Fano forces successfully defended their position.

Awi Zone

Banja-Sheukdad Woreda

- Between June 18th and 19th, high-ranking regime military officials, including General Abebaw Tadesse, and top regime officials, including regional president Arega Kebede, participated in a meeting in Injibara (Kosober), administrative center of Awi Zone. To disrupt the meeting, Fano fighters opened gunfire in various neighboring towns starting on June 18th. Reports indicate that Fano fighters managed to enter the towns of Tilili and Addis-Qidam at some points. Gunfire was also heard on the outskirts of Injibara town, where the meeting was held. Although

sources confirmed the presence of gunfire, the outcome remains unknown. As of June 20th, the gunfire that had been heard over the previous two days on the outskirts of Injibara, Addis-Qidam, and Tilili town had reportedly ceased. This cessation followed the conclusion of the meeting and the departure of the high-ranking military and regime officials from Injibara town.

West Gojjam Zone

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On June 17th, regime forces carried out a massacre of civilians in Jiga town. According to multiple sources, regime troops, primarily riot dispersal forces, carried out the massacre targeting customers at a local hotel. Regime troops dragged young men out from the hotel and shot them dead at the hotel's doorstep. Various sources report differing death tolls, with some stating at least 11 young men were killed, while others claim the number could be as high as 20 civilians, including five bank workers.

Quarit Woreda

- Since June 18th, tensions and fighting erupted in various areas of Quarit Woreda. Reports indicate Fano fighters confronted regime soldiers in an area called Biradama, bordering other woredas.
- On June 20th, tensions escalated on the outskirts of Gebeze-Mariam, administrative center of Quarit Woreda. Tensions were attributed to Fano fighters and armed farmers calling for reinforcements from different areas to encircle and attack the regime encampment in the town. Sources expect heavy fighting to commence tonight.
- On June 20th, Fano fighters encircled Gebeze-Mariam town, administrative center

of Quarit Woreda. The Fano launched an attack at night, but the regime soldiers, forewarned of the plan took hold of strategic mountainous positions and prevented their approach by shelling heavy weaponry. Tension remains high, but no casualties have been reported on either side.

Dembecha Woreda

- On June 20th, heavy fighting took place in Dembecha Woreda. The regime's joint forces, departing from Dembecha and Bure towns, advanced to Sekla-Mariam and Dad-Eyesus in an attempt to suppress the Fano fighters in their stronghold. Reports indicate that the Fano fiercely resisted, preventing the regime soldiers from advancing.

Bure Woreda

- On June 20th, there was fighting in the areas of Derequa and Quchi.

East Gojjam Zone

Baso-Liben Woreda

- On June 18th, fighting broke out in several areas of Baso Liben Woreda. Late at night, the regime mobilized its forces from Yejube towards Korke town, in an attempt to suppress local Fano. Forewarned about this attack, the Fano fighters launched a surprise assault before the regime forces reached Korke. Heavy clashes ensued following the surprise attack, with Fano fighters successfully defending against the regime forces' advance. Despite suffering significant losses, the regime continued its efforts to advance by bringing in reinforcements from neighboring bases. Reports also indicate that the regime persistently shelled heavy weaponry targeting schools and church areas in Korke town.

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- As of June 19th, regime forces regained control of some kebeles (administrative divisions) previously held by Fano forces, including Bete-Nigus, Dejach, and Yesibech Kebeles. Fano fighters launched gunfire in several areas to push regime forces out of these newly controlled areas. By mid-day, reports indicated that Fano forces regained the upper-hand position, causing them to suffer significant losses. However, in the afternoon, regime reinforcement forces came from Lumame, Amber, and Debre-Markos, compelling the Fano fighters to make a withdrawal. As of June 20th, the fighting in the woreda came to a standstill after regime forces took control of Korke Kebele.

Machakel Woreda

- On June 19th, fighting erupted in Amanuel town, initiated by Fano fighters attacking the regime's encampment.

Debre-Markos City

- On June 16th-17th, a brutal attack was committed at Debre-Markos University. The attack specifically targeted the female dormitory, resulting in the tragic death of a female student and the looting of numerous mobile devices. Reports indicate that regime forces raped more than five female students.
- On June 19th, a brief exchange of fire occurred in Wonka Kebele of Debre-Markos city. Fano forces suddenly attacked three regime vehicles moving from Debre-Markos city to reinforce fighting in Amanuel town. Reports indicate that a significant number of regime militias and riot dispersal forces were killed in the Fano offensive. Concerning civilian casualties, sources reported that regime forces shot and killed five civilians including a bajaj driver.

Awabel Woreda

- On June 18th, heavy fighting erupted in Yesenbet Kebele of Awabel Woreda, initiated by regime soldiers aiming to suppress Fano fighters. The regime forces managed to take control of the area. Sources confirmed that upon entering, the soldiers converted and utilized Qeezqez Elementary School and St. George's Church for their operations. After staying for two days, the regime troops left the area on the night of June 19th. Reports indicate that they caused significant destruction to the school and looted residents' properties. During their stay, regime soldiers reportedly killed at least four civilians.

Enbise-Sar-Midir Woreda

- On June 19th, fighting occurred in Wariya. The joint regime force unit mobilized from Merto-Lemariam to suppress Fano fighters however, the Fano, forewarned and prepared, successfully repelled the regime attack.

Bahir-Dar City

- On June 17th, brief fighting erupted inside Bahir-Dar city. Sources indicate that the gunfire exchange was initiated by Fano fighters targeting regime forces, specifically regime militias and riot dispersal forces at the seventh police station. The skirmish reportedly began around 5 pm and lasted for less than two hours. Consequently, the Fano reportedly killed and captured several regime militias and seized firearms. Transportation services around the Abay-Mado and Zenzelima area was disrupted during the exchange.

Central Gonder Zone

- Civil servants in numerous woredas of Central Gonder Zone, including East Dembiya, West Belessa, East Belessa, and Alefa, have not received their salaries for the month of May 2024. Despite repeated requests for payment, woreda authorities have consistently informed workers that no funds are available. Furthermore, health workers who requested payment of their back wages were threatened with imprisonment. This situation has left civil servants in these areas without their rightful compensation, raising concerns about their financial well-being and the potential impact on essential services.
- On June 21st, intense fighting erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Tikil-Dingay town. During the engagement, Fano forces gained control of the woreda police commander and a significant number of police officers. Police personnel who sustained minor injuries received medical treatment from Fano medical teams. Subsequently, all the captured police officers, including the commander, were released after their military equipment was seized by the Fano.
- In areas bordering Central Gonder and North Gonder Zones, particularly in Wegera Woreda, eleven members of the regime militia forces defected to Fano, bringing their military equipment with them.
- The main road connecting Gonder city to Wegera, Dabat, Debark, Telemt, and Shire has been blocked due to ongoing fighting between Amba-Giyorgis and Gedebye town.

Gonder City

- Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed issued a directive ordering all ethnic Amhara military Generals to return to their home regions and promote his regime's agenda to the

local population. In response, Generals native to Gonder city convened a meeting with residents of Gonder city on June 18th.

- While the people expressed strong criticism of the regime’s political cadres, the Generals received these criticisms with apparent approval. This suggests a growing disconnect between the military leadership and the political sphere, and a potential shift towards a military-controlled state of emergency under the auspices of the military leadership.
- The Generals’ participation in promoting the Prosperity Party’s ideology demonstrates a lack of political neutrality within the ENDF. Their willingness to engage in partisan indoctrination is seen by many as shameful and undermines the integrity of the military. The meeting, held at the Gonder Cultural Center, was led by Lieutenant-General Tigabu Yilma, Major-General Solomon Bogale, and General Wagnew Aleme. The event began with a traditional bread-breaking ceremony and was not covered by the media. While attendees were subjected to security checks upon entering the meeting hall, they were free to express their views during the meeting.
- During the meeting, participants raised over 14 critical issues concerning the regime’s policies and actions. These included:
 - * *Mischaracterization of the Fano*: Attendees refuted the regime’s portrayal of the Fano as bandits, asserting that they are freedom fighters fighting for the Amhara people. They demanded the regime cease this false labeling.
 - * *Forced Displacement and Demographic Change*: Participants accused the regime of ignoring their concerns regarding systematic displacement and demographic changes in Addis Ababa and Oromia Region, which they viewed as a deliberate attempt to undermine the Amhara population.
 - * *Political Gamesmanship Regarding Welkait*: The regime’s shifting stance

on Welkait's status, initially claiming it was part of the Begemidir sub-region and then proposing a referendum, was condemned as political manipulation and a betrayal of the Amhara people.

- * *Constitutional Reform*: Attendees called for a complete revision of the constitution, which they believe is biased and hinders their ability to address their concerns.
 - * *Border Disputes and Persecution*: The meeting demanded immediate action to resolve border disputes and end the persecution of Amhara people in other regions. They accused the regime of supporting and neglecting these injustices.
 - * *Compensation and Apology*: Participants demanded an apology and compensation for the suffering and persecution of the Amhara people since 1983.
 - * *Misconduct of the Prosperity Party*: The Amhara people's struggle against the Prosperity Party was attributed to its role as an obstacle to their rights and a facilitator of their persecution, not any inherent desire to commit violence.
 - * *Role of the ENDF*: The defense force was criticized for exceeding its mandate of protecting the borders by engaging in political activities, supporting the regime, and persecuting the population. They were urged to remain neutral, stop killing civilians, and encourage a neutralized and genuine politically negotiated solution to the ongoing conflict. They were also challenged to reclaim territory illegally occupied by Sudanese Armed Forces in West Gonder Zone.
- These criticisms were raised in response to the Generals' attempt to promote the Prosperity Party's agenda and to indoctrinate the public with its ideology.
 - The participants from the ENDF challenged the religious leaders, questioning

their silence during the ongoing conflict. The religious leaders in return also questioned the role of the ENDF, pointing out that while horrific atrocities are committed by the military in the name of political power, the military remains inactive and submissive to realize the OPP dominated Prosperity Party's atrocities against Amhara people. They criticized the ENDF for engaging in political activities, serving as local officials instead of focusing on their primary duty of defending the country.

- The attendees demanded the ENDF pressure the regime to engage in neutral political negotiations to resolve the conflict. They called for the Prosperity Party to relinquish power peacefully, mirroring the resignation of Hailemariam Desalegn, arguing that the party is incapable of leading the nation.
- The meeting, which continued into June 19th, awaited a response from the Generals regarding the participants' concerns. Despite the carefully selected audience, which included a significant number of Prosperity Party members, participants were able to freely express their opinions due to the absence of political cadres.
- Participants pressed the Generals for immediate action, demanding the removal of “puppet officials” appointed to positions in Amhara Region. They argued that the region should be governed by “true children of Amhara” who would represent the interests of the people.
- The participants also called for the immediate release of all political prisoners who were incarcerated across Ethiopia for speaking out against injustices faced by the Amhara people. They emphasized that genuine political negotiations were the only path to peace and stability in the Amhara Region. The meeting demanded transparency regarding the location and facilitators of these negotiations and called for an immediate start to the process. They also stressed the need for a defined timeline for the negotiations and a ceasefire

until their conclusion. The participants urged the release of a public communiqué with concrete guarantees for its effectiveness.

- The Generals responded to the participants’ questions with a furious and threatening tone. They presented the people with a stark choice: peace or war. They warned that if their demands were not met, they would unleash a full-scale war against the population. The Generals threatened to cut off access to essential supplies, including medicine, and declared that they were no longer willing to tolerate any dissent. The Generals also made several inflammatory claims, including:

- * *Sudan’s Division*: Sudan would be divided into two independent states, and the newly established Sudan would cede territory from Welkait to Qwara to the TPLF administration.

- * *Fano as Proxies*: The fighting by Fano forces was a proxy war orchestrated by the TPLF.

- * *Fano Lack Legitimacy*: The Fano do not represent the interests of the Amhara people and cannot speak on their behalf.

- * *Rejection of Fano’s Stance*: The Fano’s willingness to die for their rights, even if it meant reducing the Amhara population to 10 million, was unacceptable.

- The Generals’ aggressive response, coupled with their inflammatory rhetoric, further escalated the already tense situation. The Generals claimed that the military intervention in the Amhara Region had successfully prevented the Fano from taking control of the area. They asserted that as long as existential threats to the Amhara people persist, the military will not be bound by traditional limitations regarding border protection. They demanded that the Fano surrender their heavy weaponry to the ENDF through a traditional reconciliation process. However, they refused to allow the Fano to participate

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- in any political negotiations.
- Brigadier General Wagnew Aleme dismissed the participants’ concerns, stating that they had not adequately addressed the true issues at hand. He criticized them for failing to mention the significant loss of life, the hostage-taking, killings, and destruction of property that had occurred during the conflict. He accused the participants of overlooking the fact that Fano members granted amnesty had rejoined the fight, suggesting a lack of commitment to peace.
 - He further alleged that political leaders were deliberately undermining peace and stability by providing the Fano with sensitive information about the ENDF. He questioned why the Fano continued to block roads and why, despite claiming to be disciplined, they lacked a central command structure. He concluded by stating that the unity of the Amhara people was unlikely to be effective and that the only way to change the government was through free and fair elections. The General warned that the government would take strong measures moving forward.
 - Major-General Solomon Bogale responded by acknowledging the long-standing concerns of the Amhara people but asserted that addressing these concerns required the consent of all Ethiopians. He stated his support for a constitutional revision but within the framework of the existing political system. He rejected the notion that the Amhara people were greatly responsible for the creation of Ethiopia, dismissing it as a claim that should be abandoned. He accused regional political leaders and the populace of aligning with a “Fano fascist system.”
 - The General maintained that the ENDF would continue their law enforcement duties and demanded that the Fano cease their attacks on the military. He challenged the participants, asking if the Amhara people’s concerns were more important than the existential threat against them. He categorically refused to

allow the Fano to participate in negotiations facilitated by third parties, specifically rejecting any involvement from the United States or Europe. He argued that without the intervention of the ENDF, the Amhara people would have been embroiled in internal conflict.

- Lieutenant-General Tigabu Yilma stated that the Amhara Regional State Government intentionally disbanded the Amhara Special Forces. He called for an end to the fighting, urging the participants to encourage their children to return to their normal lives and religious leaders to pressure the Fano forces to cease hostilities.
- On the night of June 18th, Fano forces launched a surprise attack on a military camp used by riot dispersal and regime militia forces in Aba-Samuel village in Azezo sub-city. The attack resulted in the confirmed deaths of at least six riot dispersal and militia personnel. The Fano successfully captured heavy weaponry and small arms from the camp.
- On the night of June 19th, Fano forces carried out a successful surprise attack on a military camp and a police station in Tseda sub-city. This attack was followed by a two-hour-long, intense firefight between Fano forces and regime military forces. Public statements from Fano indicate they have shifted their focus from rural areas to urban centers, having successfully secured control of the majority of rural areas surrounding Gonder city.
- Throughout the night of June 20th, Fano forces captured a large number of militia, security, and intelligence personnel in Azezo sub-city. This capture of key regime force members triggered heavy gunfire exchanges between Fano and regime forces, spanning from Azezo to the Shinta River.
- On June 21st, Colonel Yoseph, a high-ranking ENDF military officer, was

reportedly killed in Azezo sub-city. His death occurred under mysterious circumstances, as there was no known fighting in the area at the time.

- Following a series of escalating attacks in Gonder city, city authorities implemented a curfew on two- and three-wheeled motorized vehicles after 12 am in the evenings effective June 22nd for an indefinite period of time. The curfew was attributed to decisive victories by Fano forces against joint regime forces throughout various kebeles and woredas of Central Gonder Zone and a steady approach towards Gonder city. The Fano had also launched nighttime attacks on military bases in the city, including those in Tseda, Azezo, Shinta, and other areas. The Fano have also been targeting high-ranking civil and military officials. This week alone, five high-ranking civil officers were captured, and Colonel Yoseph, a top military figure, was killed, sending shockwaves through the regime forces. The regime fearing a potential Fano takeover of Gonder city has begun deploying militants impersonating Fano forces to carry out hostage taking and looting, targeting wealthy citizens, and blaming Fano for the crimes. The regime forces have been seen building fortifications around Gonder city, preparing for a possible confrontation with Fano forces. The curfew, while ostensibly intended to maintain order, appears to be a measure aimed at controlling the city and mitigating potential Fano gains.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On June 16th, Fano forces launched a successful surprise attack on regime forces in Minzro-Teklehaymanot, inflicting heavy casualties. Reinforcements were dispatched to Minzro, leading to intense fighting that lasted until 1 pm in the evening.
- The regime has deployed four heavily mechanized and motorized army divisions to Gonder-Zuriya Woreda alone, in addition to a substantial number of regime riot

dispersal forces and militia members, to combat the Fano. Fierce fighting has taken place in Ayimba, Zergaj, Arba-Geleba, Denqez, Belessa, and Wegera.

- The regime forces have suffered significant casualties, with at least 80 regime soldiers confirmed dead. On June 17th, Fano forces launched a massive offensive, overwhelming regime forces and forcing their withdrawal from multiple battlefields. The regime's control over these areas has collapsed, with the Fano now in full command. A significant number of regime soldiers have retreated to Gonder city. In Wegera, specifically in Amba-Giyorgis town, at least 16 militia members were killed, and regular forces sustained heavy losses. Fano fighters entered Amba-Giyorgis after a prolonged and intense battle. Four civilians were killed by the regime forces during the fighting, and one Fano fighter was killed and another critically injured.
- On June 17th, following the Fano forces' recapture of Amba-Giyorgis town, regime forces launched a heavy artillery barrage on the town. The shelling resulted in the deaths of at least 4 unarmed civilians and critical physical injuries to 3 others. The local St. Michael's Church was also struck, sustaining damage but not complete destruction. Additionally, a heavy artillery shell landed in Tena-Tabiya Mender, setting numerous civilian homes ablaze and causing unknown injuries from shrapnel.
- Fighting continues in Amba-Giyorgis, Dera village, Werqe-Demo, and Gedebye, all of which are now under Fano control. The Fano have captured numerous militia members and sent them back to their homes after requiring them to sign a document pledging not to fight alongside the regime against the Fano in the future.
- On June 17th, intense fighting erupted between regime forces and Fano forces in the Minzro-Teklehaymanot region, lasting from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm in the evening. The clashes, which took place in Argiw Kebele, Amora-Giyorgis, and Bahir-Gimb areas,

were particularly fierce. The regime forces suffered significant casualties, including 12 soldiers killed and 11 captured in the fighting held near Maksegnit town.

- The conflict began when the Fano launched a surprise attack on regime troops traveling from Tseda to Maksegnit town. The ambush resulted in numerous fatalities and critical injuries among regime forces. In response, the regime deployed reinforcements, escalating the fighting into a heavily mechanized engagement. The fighting was so intense that Maksegnit town's hospital was overwhelmed with injured riot dispersal forces throughout the day.
- The fighting, which intensified between 10:00 pm and 1:30 am in Zarit Kebele, resulted in devastating losses for regime forces. A particularly devastating attack targeted two Isuzu trucks carrying soldiers, completely destroying one truck and inflicting heavy casualties on its occupants.
- On June 18th, Fano forces launched a surprise ambush against three military vehicles carrying a large number of soldiers in Dinzaz Kebele. The attack resulted in the deaths of at least 36 soldiers, with many more sustaining critical injuries. At least 13 soldiers were seriously wounded.
- On June 18th, in Gonder-Zuriya Woreda, specifically the area extending from Tseda and Megech reservoir to Maksegnit town, heavy artillery shelling by regime forces continued for a fourth consecutive day. ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns fired on Dinzaz and Minzro towns in the afternoon. The regime forces have also been observed deploying troops to Denkez and Fenter towns.
- On June 18th, a significant number of riot dispersal and militia forces defected to the Fano in Gonder-Zuriya Woreda alone. The Fano's ambush in Dinzaz Kebele that day resulted in the deaths of 39 regime soldiers, over 13 were critically injured, and they captured 43 weapons, including heavy weaponry. The Fano suffered two

casualties during the three-hour engagement. Heavy military movements have been observed on June 19th between Tseda and Maksegnit, and from Belessa to Ayimba towns, raising concerns of an imminent escalation to full-scale fighting. The regime forces have been using ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns in the area, resulting in sporadic shelling. The intense fighting on June 18th, from Tseda to Maksegnit, caused a complete closure of the main road connecting Gonder city to Bahir-Dar and Debre-Tabor. The road reopened on June 19th, but heavy military presence and activity in the area remain a concern. Further escalation of fighting could lead to a renewed closure of the road.

- On the night of June 20th, an unspecified number of riot dispersal and militia force members defected to Fano. This signifies a growing trend of defections from the regime forces to the Fano, highlighting the shifting loyalties and increasing support for the Fano movement in the region.

Dembiya Woreda

- The regime has been systematically targeting and eliminating individuals in Dembiya who refuse to cooperate with their rule, particularly those considered for leadership positions. In Robit town, Fente Kase, a popular and respected former chairman of Robit Kebele, was killed in his own home. He had resigned from his position rather than accept an appointment under the regime. The regime accused him of supporting the Fano, citing his resignation as evidence.

Kinfaz-Begela Woreda

- On June 21st, intense fighting broke out in Werqe Kebele between regime forces and Fano forces. The conflict resulted in at least 12 fatalities among regime forces, including riot dispersal personnel, militia members, and a high-ranking military officer. Additionally, six regime soldiers were critically injured, and a significant

number of militia members surrendered to Fano forces.

South Gonder Zone

- A group of individuals, operating under the guise of Fano, have been terrorizing the population in the Alem-Saga forest region. These individuals, who are affiliated with regime militia forces, are led by Getnet Alemu Belete, a resident of Gundiba. The group includes: Birara Wale and his two sons, residents from Watlay who have been robbing travelers under the false banner of the Fano; two sons of Biweta Temire who are from Gundiba; Beantegize Belay and Wuletaw Belay who are both from Kona village; the son of Qelem Yehuala from Kona village; the son of Eshete Andarge, who was formerly a guard of the Alem-Saga forest and now leads a militia unit; and the son of Maregu Tegegne, a member of the militia forces currently terrorizing Debre-Tabor city who was previously captured by the TPLF while they controlled Kimir-Dingay and Gasay towns; the sons of Habtam Abebaw and Demewez Abebaw (brothers) who were both members of the militia and were killed while robbing; Gashaw Andarge who was recently killed after taking a driver hostage; the brother of Tangut Birhan: He was robbing near Gumi school in Alem-Saga. These militia-affiliated robbers, acting under the direction of the Farta Woreda administrator, are using the Fano's name to carry out robberies, hoping to discredit the genuine Fano fighters and alienate them from the public. The administrator of Farta Woreda, who is from Duyi, is coordinating with individuals from Duyi, including individuals named Yohannes, Medeb, Buro Teraroy, and Hamus Wenz, to carry out these crimes. They justify their actions by falsely claiming to be Fano members and demanding financial support for their fight for the Amhara people. The militia leaders, Aser-Aleqa Demewez Wase and Aser-Aleqa Getachew, provide detailed instructions and guidelines for these criminal activities.

Estie Woreda

- In Mekane-Eyesus town, specifically in Kebele 3, fierce fighting took place between Fano forces and regime forces on June 16th and 17th. The Fano initiated the fighting after receiving information about the presence of high-ranking regime officials in the town. The regime forces defended themselves using heavy machine guns, but the extent of the damage caused by the fighting is unknown.
- On the night of June 18th, over 22 members of the riot dispersal and militia forces defected to the Fano in Estie town.
- On June 19th, regime forces allegedly killed two unarmed civilians, a Muslim husband and wife, in Mekane-Eyesus town. The killings reportedly occurred in Kebele 3 and were witnessed by residents who saw the perpetrators entering a military camp after the act. This incident has sparked accusations that the regime forces intentionally targeted the couple to frame the Fano forces as anti-Muslim and incite inter-religious animosity. However, the Muslim community reportedly refused to participate in demonstrations condemning the killings, stating their knowledge of the true perpetrators.

Ibnat Woreda

- On June 16th, fighting erupted between Fano and regime forces in Ibnat town, beginning in the afternoon. At least four regular soldiers and two militia members were killed, and an unknown number of soldiers and militia were captured by the Fano. The fighting was sparked by the Fano forces after receiving information that the regime forces were attempting to loot the property of local residents. The Fano waited for the regime forces to arrive and then launched a surprise attack.
- In Ibnat, members of the National Dialogue Commission were detained by the Fano for attempting to convince Fano forces to surrender to the regime. The Commission

falsely claimed that all Fano had surrendered and reconciled with the regime, and that those remaining in Ibnat were the only holdouts. After two days of detention, the Fano released the Commission members, having indoctrinated them on the reasons for their fight against the regime. This event highlights the regime's use of the National Dialogue Commission not as a genuine peace initiative, but as a tool to maintain the regime's dictatorial rule. Fano forces in Ibnat Woreda have issued a statement urging militia members to return their weapons and return to civilian life. Those who lost property or livestock due to their participation in the fighting alongside the regime would be compensated financially to purchase replacements. Following this declaration, at least six militia members surrendered their weapons to the Fano and received compensation for oxen, allowing them to return to their normal lives.

Dera Woreda

- On June 17th, a military vehicle carrying a large number of soldiers, traveling from Arb-Gebeya to Hamusit town, plunged into a deep ravine near Sene-Maryam village. Numerous soldiers were killed in the accident. It remains unclear if the vehicle was attacked by Fano forces or if the accident was caused by mechanical failure. Additionally, on June 17th, Fano forces successfully ambushed a large convoy of military vehicles returning from Sahna to Estie town, inflicting heavy casualties on the regime forces.
- The Fano announced that they have successfully repelled a multi-pronged offensive launched by the regime's joint forces, particularly targeting Dera Woreda. The Fano reported no losses of their own, while inflicting heavy casualties on the regime forces. The regime forces have been forced to retreat to defend Prosperity Party authorities and towns in South Gonder Zone. Following this withdrawal especially from the strategic town of Arb-Gebeya, the Fano regained control of Arb-Gebeya on

June 17th.

Debre-Tabor City

- On June 19th, regular military forces reportedly killed an unarmed civilian youth in public, sparking outrage against regime forces in Debre-Tabor city. The victim, from Woybila Maryam, was allegedly beaten repeatedly.
- On June 20th, heavy weapons shelling by regime forces was reported in Mahdere-Maryam town. The extent of the damage is currently unknown.
- Following intense fighting in Mahdere-Maryam town on June 20th, regime forces suffered significant casualties. After these heavy losses, Fano forces successfully entered Mahdere-Maryam town under the cover of darkness, securing a victory in the engagement.
- On the night of June 21st, a significant number of riot dispersal force members defected to Fano. This wave of defections prompted the military command post in South Gonder Zone to issue a directive prohibiting riot dispersal forces from undertaking special military operations independently. The command post stated that these units should only be deployed in conjunction with other military forces.

Guna-Begemidir Woreda

- On June 21st, at least 10 members of the regular army were executed in Kimir-Dingay town by ENDF military commanders. The soldiers were accused of intending to desert the regime forces, leading to their execution under military measures.

Fogera Woreda

- On June 21st, intense fighting erupted in various kebeles within Fogera Woreda, with particularly fierce clashes occurring in Tankua-Gabriel and Misko-Mikael. The fighting lasted from 4 am in the morning until 10 pm at night, resulting in significant casualties among regime forces. During these engagements, a Fano member died in combat in an effort to destroy an armored military vehicle, attempting this task alone without assistance.

West Gonder Zone

West Armachiho Woreda

- A number of civil servants who were detained in Abrhajira town remain in custody. Among them are Engidaw Wagnew, Alemnew, Setegn, Getachew, Muluken, and Tesfaye. Many of these individuals were apprehended while providing medical care at local health centers. The reasons for their detention remain unclear, as they have not been informed of any charges against them.

North Gonder Zone

Debark Woreda

- On June 22nd, Fano forces held public gatherings in the Adigagra, Debr, and Abraham areas, addressing residents and explaining their motivations for fighting against the regime forces. The Fano's presence extended from the Dimbil-Gisa mountain range to Zoba-Gebeya, where they assembled large gatherings of people. These meetings, characterized by a focus on rallying support and conveying their message, were conducted peacefully, with no reported clashes or fighting.

Telemt Woreda

- The Amhara Prosperity Party has reportedly agreed to cede Telemt Woreda to the Tigray Regional State by June 26th, a decision which was communicated to the *Telemt Amhara Identity Repatriation Committee* in Gonder City. This news, along with the imminent arrival of TPLF forces with military equipment, has been relayed to residents of Telemt Woreda. In response to this announcement, residents of Telemt have called for a peaceful demonstration on June 23rd, to express their fierce opposition to the government's decision, which they view as an illegal occupation of their woreda by invading TPLF forces. Residents in both rural and urban areas are mobilizing for the demonstration. The Telemt Amhara Identity Repatriation Committee has declared its intent to resist the TPLF invasion, pledging to fight alongside the people of Telemt Woreda.

North Shewa Zone (Oromia Region)

Dera Woreda

- On June 19th, regime soldiers killed at least four residents in Selelkula town of Dera Woreda (North Shewa Zone, Oromia Region). On June 19th, local armed farmers and militias successfully defended themselves against an invasion by OLA militants in Chekorsa Kebele. Afterwards, regime soldiers launched an attack against them in retaliation for losses suffered by the OLA, killing four people in the process. AAA was able to verify the names of four killed civilians. AAA identified the four killed victims as: (1) Abushe Derso, (2) Emeye Asmare, (3) Solomon Taleme and (4) a woman named Meseret (last name unknown).

Horo Guduru Wollega Zone (Oromia Region)

Abe-Dongoro Woreda

- The recent disarmament campaign in Abe-Dongoro Woreda has continued through June 17th. Sources confirmed that the regime compelled residents to surrender their weapons, including those legally registered. Although the exact number of surrendered weapons remains unknown, sources confirmed that many civilian farmers and militias, particularly from Mender 21, surrendered their arms. The regime continued to fire heavy weapons in an attempt to locate and attack armed farmers who were fighting in self-defense.

East Wollega Zone (Oromia Region)

Gobu-Seyo Woreda

- On June 20th, OLA militants launched a raid into Dishe village, located in the Sembo-Qejo Kebele of Gobu-Seyo Woreda. The attack targeted local farmers responsible for protecting residents in the area. According to sources, the OLA militants entered the area around 5 am, killing six and injuring three armed farmers after encircling them. The victims, predominantly ethnic Amharas, had legal arms and were previously tasked by the administration with protecting the villagers. All the victims were married and fathers of several children. AAA has identified the killed and injured victims as follows. The killed victims were: (1) Mohammed Hussen (a father of six children, estimated to be in his 50s); (2) Ibrahim Ketemaw; (3) Tilahun Mohammed; (4) Shumet Engidaw; (5) Geshere Hailu (ethnic Oromo) and (6) Teme Begna (ethnic Oromo). The injured victims were identified as: (1) Mohammed Belay; (2) Umer Shikur and (3) Shikur Mohammed.

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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