



## War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – September 8th to 14th, 2025

*Updated September 15th, 2025*

### Overview

For the week of September 8th to 14th, 2025, fighting between the *Amhara Fano self-defense force* (Fano) and *Prosperity Party regime joint forces* (regime forces) has continued in various parts of Amhara Region in Ethiopia.<sup>12</sup>

- This week battle events and rights violations were recorded in more than 29 woreda/city administrations across 9 zonal administrations in Amhara Region.

These zones included the North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam,

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

<sup>2</sup>The Fano are organized under sub-regional commands based on geographic location which are comprised of divisions. The major sub-regional commands operate under a consolidated structure known as the *Amhara Fano National Force* (AFNF) which includes the Amhara Fano in Wollo (Bete-Amhara) [AFW] or East Amhara Qetena (Menelik Command; MC), Amhara Fano Unity in Gonder (AFUG) or North Amhara Qetena (Belay Command; BC), Amhara Fano in Gojjam (AFG) or West Amhara Qetena (Tewodrose Command; TC), Amhara Fano in Shewa (AFS) or South Amhara Qetena (Asaminew Command; AC). The remaining sub-regional commands operate under the *Amhara Fano People's Organization* (AFPO) which are mainly comprised of the Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command (AFSPC), the Amhara Fano Gonder Province Command (AFGPC) and the Amhara Fano Wollo (Bete-Amhara) Province Command [AFWC].

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West Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder, and Welkait-Tegede-Setit Humera Zones. Developments were also recorded in East Wollega Zone of Oromia Region and in Addis-Ababa city.

- Civilian casualties were recorded in 7 woreda/city administrations across 5 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Alamata, Raya-Bala, Mehal-Sayint, Sekela, Farta, Estie and Gonder Woredas in North Wollo, South Wollo, West Gojjam, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones.
  - In Alamata city and Raya-Bala Woreda of North Wollo Zone, *Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF) forces carried out abuses against civilians across multiple recorded incidents.
  - In Addis-Ababa city, heavy rains led to flooding which resulted in civilian casualties. In addition, a structural collapse during rehearsals for a regime-sponsored rally led to civilian casualties including of young children.
- Arbitrary arrests were recorded in Addis-Ababa city.
- This week, TPLF militants were apprehended by security forces in Welkait-Tegede-Setit Humera Zone of Amhara Region. Authorities revealed that the militants were part of an espionage unit, comprised of Samri squad members involved in the Mai-Kadra massacre (November 2020), and had infiltrated the area from Sudan.
- This week, Amhara political prisoners in Kilinto prison in Addis-Ababa city held a hunger strike in protest of ongoing atrocities committed by the regime against Amhara people.

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## Northeastern Amhara (Wollo Bete-Amhara Sub-Region)

- On September 8th, the AFNF-MC proudly announced the graduation of its first cohort of political officers, marking a significant milestone in the organization's political and ideological development efforts.
  - To strengthen political education within its ranks, the AFNF-MC launched a dedicated training initiative under the name *Tsehafi-Tizaz Aklilu Habtewold Political Officer Training Center*. The center is named in honor of the late Aklilu Habtewold, a prominent Ethiopian statesman who served as Prime Minister, diplomat, and Secretary (Tsehafi-Tizaz), and is remembered for his lasting impact on Ethiopia's political and diplomatic history. The training program, developed and overseen by the Political Affairs Sector of the AFNF-MC, was designed to instill ideological clarity, discipline, and political commitment among selected officer candidates.
  - The first round of political officers, drawn from various corps under the command, underwent several days of intensive training. Their graduation was celebrated in a formal ceremony. During the event, the leadership extended heartfelt congratulations to the graduates, acknowledging their perseverance through rigorous training and commitment to the Amhara cause. The graduates were praised not only for completing the curriculum but also for demonstrating discipline, resilience, and political maturity.
  - The newly graduated officers pledged their loyalty to the principles of the Amhara Fano movement. They committed to upholding and protecting the organization's reputation, actively participating in the political and ideological aspects of the struggle, and serving the struggle and command with dedication, responsibility, and political awareness.
  - This initiative signals growing emphasis on integrating political consciousness

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with military structure among the Fano, ensuring that the movement is driven by both ideological clarity and strategic discipline.

- The Islamic Affairs Council in Dessie and Kombolcha cities issued statements condemning the recent decision by regional authorities to introduce Ge'ez language studies as a subject starting from the third grade, effective September 13th.
  - The councils referenced an official letter from regional authorities dated August 19th, as the basis for its criticism. The local councils in Dessie and Kombolcha cities issued statements strongly opposing the decision. These statements, which are now circulating widely on social media, argue that the policy was implemented without any consultation with the Muslim community and was made without their consent. The councils warned that if regional authorities do not reconsider the decision, they are prepared to resist what they described as an act of "religious colonialism" and would engage in peaceful struggle.
  - These developments have the potential to heighten political and religious tensions in the region. Moreover, there is concern that the OPP regime could exploit this controversy to further weaken and destabilize the region, using it as an opportunity to advance its own political agenda.

## **North Wollo Zone**

### **Alamata City**

- On September 8th, TPLF forces carried out an assault on civilians and property in Alamata city.
  - This incident follows a repeated pattern of violence attributed to these forces, which have long been accused of committing acts of ethnic targeting and

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displacement in contested areas. At approximately 9 pm, TPLF forces forcefully entered kebele administration offices. A confrontation ensued between the militants and the Federal Command post operating in Alamata. However, the situation escalated significantly around 3 pm, when the TPLF forces set fire to a commercial center known locally as the *Jamuye Building*, a central marketplace.

- The attack resulted in the deaths of several civilians and the destruction of a large amount of property inside the building. According to sources, the militants' broader objective was to terrorize the local population, displace residents, and assert full control over the city, timed deliberately to coincide with the national celebration of the GERD inauguration, when public and regime attention was diverted.
- Four civilians were confirmed dead, three of whom were burned alive inside the Jamuye Building. Their funeral was held the following day (September 9th). In addition, five others sustained injuries of varying severity and are receiving treatment. In addition, over 21 individuals managed to escape from the burning building by climbing down using improvised ropes made of cloth, fleeing through the rear of the structure. The fire destroyed a substantial amount of commercial property, causing economic losses for traders and vendors operating within the building.
- During the armed clash, on the ENDF side, preliminary reports indicate numerous injuries ranging in severity between minor and serious. An unspecified number of casualties, including both deaths and injuries, were also reported on the TPLF side. TPLF militants also engaged in widespread looting, reportedly seizing mobile structures, residential buildings, and other valuable properties.
- On September 9th, TPLF reinforcements units were observed moving into

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Alamata from multiple directions, indicating a possible attempt to consolidate territorial control. Military tension remains high in the city. Federal forces, including ENDF and Federal Police, are patrolling Alamata city in full combat readiness. While some TPLF forces have retreated to fortified positions within parts of the city, the situation remains volatile.

- Between the night of September 12th and 13th, TPLF forces reportedly carried out attacks against civilians and looting of property in Alamata city.
  - According to sources, on the evening of September 12th, TPLF forces forcibly entered shops and storage units in the Gebeya area (Kebele 03). Property belonging to at least 12 local merchants was looted, including traditional clothing known as Shirit, men's and women's garments, and various personal goods. In addition to the theft, four civilians were reportedly beaten and sustained injuries during the raid.
  - In a related development, on September 13th, sources reported the organization of what was described as a “rehabilitation and recognition program” for TPLF fighters. The event was reportedly held at Selam School and the Kebele 02 Administration office in Alamata city. According to sources, the program was intended to express gratitude to the TPLF forces for their recent operations (violence against the local population) and to prepare them for continued political and security tasks in the area. They further claimed that supporters of the previous administration (under the TPLF-G faction) had been purged from their positions, and that remaining administrative and security roles were now being handed over to TPLF-D aligned personnel. Reports indicate that these forces have already begun operations in various parts of the city, including Addisu-Dildi, the Aba-Shehu Shop Community Policing Office in 02 Kebele, and in Kemise Restaurant, among other locations. These developments have

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raised alarm among locals, who fear a further escalation of violence and repression in the coming days. There is also growing concern that groups affiliated to the Tigrayan settler administration may carry out additional acts of retaliation or political intimidation, exacerbating an already volatile situation.

### **Raya-Bala Woreda**

- On September 12th, TPLF forces shot and injured a civilian in Karsole Kebele.
  - According to sources, the victim (a young man) reportedly sustained severe injuries as a result of the shooting. Due to the seriousness of his injuries, he was referred for advanced medical treatment in a nearby hospital.
  - Residents of the area described the attack as part of a broader pattern of violence and intimidation targeting the local population. The situation has sparked growing concern among community members and human rights observers regarding the continued presence and actions of armed TPLF forces in the region.

### **Kobo City**

- On September 12th, the ENDF confirmed the execution of Yohannes (Amare) Sisay after over 18 months of uncertainty.
  - According to the information provided to the victim's family, the victim was executed within six days of his arrest by ENDF forces, near Chorrie, a location close to Kobo city. Yohannes was detained by ENDF forces approximately 18 months prior to this confirmation. Since his disappearance, his family had been desperately searching for answers. Repeated inquiries made by the family were consistently met with denial by the ENDF, who claimed they had no knowledge of Yohannes's whereabouts. This prolonged period of silence

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and denial caused immense emotional suffering for his loved ones. Only recently, after renewed appeals by the family, did the ENDF admit that Yohannes had been arrested and executed within six days of his detention.

- Yohannes’s family is now in mourning, conducting traditional grieving ceremonies in his memory. The case has drawn attention due to the troubling nature of the betrayal, the lack of transparency, and the denial of due process in his detention and execution.

## **South Wollo Zone**

### **Kelela Woreda**

- On September 6th, fierce battle took place between Fano and regime forces in Kelela Woreda. Multiple battalions of the Nigus Mikael Corps Shewangizaw Division (operating under the AFNF-MC) engaged in fighting between 8 am to 3 pm. The Temem and Hunyalew Battalions engaged in battle in the Shafi area. Similarly, in the same battle, the Hunyalew Battalion, penetrated into Tirtira town, attacked and neutralized a group of regime forces.

### **Mehal-Sayint Woreda**

- On September 8th, regime forces reportedly executed a religious leader (civilian) in Yerie (Kebele 035).
  - At approximately 5 am, armed regime personnel entered Kebele 035 (Yerie) and forcibly entered the residence of Priest Habtamu Desalew, a respected local religious figure, where they summarily executed him.
  - The killing has been widely condemned as a deliberate and targeted act of terror against the local population and religious institutions. This act has sparked widespread anger and mourning across Mehal-Sayint Woreda.

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Community members and local leaders denounced the act as not only a violation of human rights but also an assault on the spiritual and cultural identity of the Amhara people. They emphasized that the killing of innocent and respected figures like Priest Habtamu Desalew under the cover of darkness only deepens public resolve in the anti-regime struggle. In addition, Fano forces, particularly the Atrons Brigade (operating under the AFNF-MC Nigus Mikael Corps), expressed strong condemnation of what they described as a “*fascistic and cowardly attack*” by regime forces.

### **Tehuledere Woreda**

- On September 11th, a fierce battle erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Segilen town (Kebele 017).
  - The confrontation was initiated and carried out by the Baleshiritu Division (operating under the AFNF-MC East Amhara Corps 1). According to reports, the fighting began at 6 am and continued until approximately 10 am. Fano units, reportedly entrenched in the mountainous area surrounding Segilen, launched a coordinated attack on regime positions.
  - While the exact number of casualties remains unconfirmed, local sources have verified that the regime riot dispersal and militias sustained losses during the engagement. Additional reports indicate that an undisclosed number of ambulances were seen transporting wounded personnel from Segilen to Hayq town, suggesting a significant number of injuries among the regime forces.

### **Dessie-Zuriya Woreda**

- On September 10th, Fano forces launched a coordinated and large-scale offensive across multiple locations in Dessie-Zuriya Woreda, targeting regime forces positioned around the strategically significant city of Dessie.

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- The offensive was spearheaded by battalions from the Bete-Amhara Division, under the Lij Eyasu Corps, and the Special Battalion unit (all of which operate under the AFNF-MC). Key areas targeted in this operation included the towns of Hayata, Mote and Daba, located in close proximity to Dessie. After intense combat, these towns reportedly came under the control of Fano forces, marking a significant tactical gain.
  - While the exact number of casualties remains unverified, multiple sources confirm that a considerable number of regime soldiers were killed or wounded during the fighting. Additionally, an unknown quantity of weapons and ammunition were seized by Fano units following the clashes.

## **Southeastern Amhara (Shewa Sub-Region)**

- On September 11th, the AFPO-AFSPC released several captive soldiers of the regime's armed forces on the occasion of the Ethiopian New Year (Meskerem 1, 2018 EC).
  - The decision was made following a situational assessment and in line with international humanitarian law regarding the treatment of POWs.
  - In an official statement, the AFSPC emphasized that despite ongoing military and political victories against the elite forces of the regime, it remains committed to upholding international legal and ethical standards. The captives, soldiers who had been detained during various battles, were released after ensuring their physical safety, dignity, rights, and basic humanitarian needs had been fully respected.
  - The command noted that it has made repeated efforts to coordinate the transfer of these prisoners with international humanitarian organizations, particularly

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the *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*. However, due to what it described as either direct or indirect pressure from the regime, or other unexplained obstacles, these organizations were unable to facilitate the handover. Despite these challenges, the command chose to release the captives independently as a gesture of clemency and goodwill for the New Year.

- Upon their release, several of the former captives expressed gratitude for the humane treatment they received. They commended the command's adherence to international norms and stated, "*you must maintain this moral high ground until the end.*" The released soldiers also reflected on their role in the conflict. Some acknowledged the damage, both human and material, they had contributed to, either directly or indirectly, against the Amhara people. They expressed a commitment to becoming advocates for peace and truth upon returning to their communities. "*We now understand the existential threat facing the Amhara people and recognize the legitimacy of the Fano struggle,*" they said. "*We will share what we have seen and learned, counter false narratives, and work in public awareness efforts to amplify the voices of those affected.*"
- In conclusion, one of the released individuals called on members of the regime's security and military structures to reconsider their actions. "*Knowingly or unknowingly, you are participating in a campaign that targets an entire people. This goes beyond the original mission of your institutions,*" he said. He further urged the youth and security personnel not to be misled by propaganda: "*Do not lend your strength to a system that is killing a people and destroying the country. Instead, fulfill your generational and historical duty by standing on the side of truth and justice.*"

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## **North Shewa Zone**

### **Arerti City**

- On September 8th, Fano forces carried out a targeted urban operation against regime police forces in Arerti city. The operation was executed by the 1st (Mebreq) Battalion of the General Tefera Mamo Brigade (operating under the AFNF-AC Nebelbal Division). During the operation, Fano forces identified and engaged two regime police officers traveling on a motorcycle within the city. As a result of the engagement, one police officer, identified as Sergeant Birhanu (last name unknown), was killed. In addition, another officer was injured, and his military equipment was seized by Fano fighters.
- On September 10th, Fano forces launched a targeted urban operation against regime forces in Arerti city. This operation was executed by the General Tefera Mamo Brigade, operating under the Nebelbal Division (part of the AFNF-AC) on the eve of the Ethiopian New Year. The operation specifically targeted two individuals of a traffic police officer named Simegnew and a local militia member named Girma. Both were known for their close collaboration with the regime and have been accused of acting as enforcers for the regime. According to reports, both individuals were seriously injured during the operation carried out by Fano forces. In the course of the operation, the Fano forces also seized key military equipment, including two F1 hand grenades and two pieces of chest armor. These items were reportedly used by regime agents to intimidate, torture, and extort civilians under the guise of routine traffic operations.

### **Mida-Woremo Woreda**

- On the morning of September 6th, intense fighting broke out in rural kebeles of Mida-Woremo Woreda.

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- The confrontation involved a joint counter-offensive by the AFSPC and AFWPC (both operating under the AFPO) against advancing regime forces, near the border with Jama Woreda of South Wollo Zone. The fighting was triggered when regime forces attempted to penetrate into Fano-controlled territory in areas bordering the two woredas. In response, Fano fighters under the Nigus Mikael Division (operating under the AFPO-AFWPC) and allied units (operating under the AFPO-AFSPC) coordinated a counter-offensive. The regime troops, having moved into rural areas of both Mida-Woremo and Jama Woredas, were met with strong resistance beginning at 6 am.
  - The Fano units mounted an effective defense, resulting in significant casualties among the regime forces which suffered many fatalities and injuries.

## **Southwestern Amhara (Gojjam Sub-Region)**

### **East Gojjam Zone**

#### **Enemay Woreda**

- Between September 8th and 9th, fighting was reported in multiple locations in Enemay Woreda.
  - On September 8th, Fano fighters launched a sudden operation in Yetmen town. The operation was reportedly executed by members of the Aba Kostir Brigade, part of the Belay Zeleke Division (part of the AFNF-TC). The Fano reportedly infiltrated toward the regime's presence around midnight and launched an attack a state militia encampment. Fano fighters used explosives and gunfire to target the presence of the regime troops. During this light and brief fire exchange, the Fano fighters managed to seize a computer and other office materials that had been used by the military.

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- Sources indicated casualties among the state militias during this operation. Reports also indicated that the regime soldiers, reinforced from nearby bases, mobilized to the nearby Felege-Selam Kebele to pursue and engage the Fano fighters. Upon the arrival of the regime soldiers, the Fano fighters had already retreated, at which point the regime soldiers then retaliated by looting farm animals and burning property belonging to civilians.
  - On September 9th, the Aba Kostir Brigade conducted a surprise attack in the Dibisa area. This surprise attack reportedly targeted regime forces moving from Dejen toward Bichena town, where the Fano fighters ambushed them in the Dibisa area. Reports indicated that the Fano fighters inflicted casualties among the regime soldiers during this surprise attack despite being accompanied by heavy artillery.

### **Aneded Woreda**

- Between September 9th and 10th, a light exchange of gunfire took place in Amber town.
  - The Tedla Gualu Brigade, under the Haddis Alemayehu Division (operating under the AFNF-TC), initiated the confrontation for two consecutive days. Sources reported that Fano fighters targeted the presence of regime forces in the suburbs of Amber. During the two-day exchange of fire, Fano fighters managed to disrupt the presence of regime forces, compelling them to retreat to the town center.
  - Sources reported that there were multiple casualties among the regime soldiers, though the exact number remained unreported.

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## **Debre-Elias Woreda**

- On September 10th, fighting took place in the Yeqegat area, near Elias town.
  - The fighting was reportedly initiated by the Qeste-Demena Brigade, under the Qegn-Geta Yoftahe Nigussie Division (part of the AFNF-TC). Fano fighters reportedly approached the regime's encampment overnight and launched an offensive. This offensive was conducted using explosives, leading to open combat and hand-to-hand fighting. The exchange of gunfire reportedly lasted for a few hours and subsided when regime reinforcements arrived at the battle location. This led to the Fano forces withdrawing, after which the regime soldiers proceeded to retrieve injured soldiers and dead bodies.
  - According to sources, three injuries were reported on the Fano side, while casualties among the regime soldiers remained unidentified. Fano fighters reportedly inflicted several casualties among the regime's soldiers and captured a soldier along with his firearm.

## **West Gojjam Zone**

### **Wemberima Woreda**

- On September 9th, fighting took place in the Koki-Megenteya area.
  - The fighting was reportedly initiated by Fano fighters, who launched a sudden offensive targeting regime forces while on route from Shindi town toward the Wededad area. This offensive led to a heavy exchange of gunfire, which continued beyond midday and resulted in casualties on both sides. Combined units of the Shindi-Wemberima Brigade, part of the Ras-Bitwedded Mengesha Atikem Division (part of the AFNF-TC), were reportedly involved in this confrontation.

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- Sources reported at least six fatalities and several injuries among the regime soldiers.

### **Jabi-Tehnan Woreda**

- On the evening of September 11th, heavy gunfire, reportedly involving heavy machine guns, was heard in Jiga town. The gunfire was so intense that residents were forced to stay indoors without knowing the exact reason for the firefight. The exchange of fire lasted for at least three hours. The identities of the combatants remained unknown, leading many sources to speculate that the fire exchange was mutual among the regime's own troops.

### **Sekela Woreda**

- On September 10th, Fano fighters conducted a surprise operation in Enduksi Kebele.
  - A small number of Fano fighters from the Giyon Brigade, part of the Gojjam-Agew-Midir Division (part of the AFNF-TC), reportedly carried out the operation by approaching a regime presence and detonating an explosive. The operation reportedly left at least two regime soldiers killed and resulted in the capture of one firearm.
  - In retaliation, regime soldiers executed two civilians in Enduksi Kebele, claiming they had contact with Fano fighters. However, Fano sources reported that the victims were civilian residents with no affiliation to the Fano movement. Regime soldiers reportedly dragged the victims out of their homes in the presence of their families and killed them. The killed victims were identified as: 28-year-old Getachew Qumlachew and Sharew Belayneh.
- On September 12th, Fano fighters launched a surprise attack in the Ambisi neighborhood. The operation was reportedly carried out by the Giyon Brigade

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(operating under the AFNF-TC), targeting regime forces that were mobilized from Gishabay and moving toward Tilili to transport logistics. As a result of frequent attacks by Fano fighters, they were able to disrupt the regime forces' movement and force them to return to their point of departure. Casualties from this exchange of fire were not reported.

## **Awı Zone**

### **Fagita-Lekoma Woreda**

- On September 8th, heavy fighting took place in the Dimama-Manguda area.
  - The fighting was launched by the Ephrem Atnafu and Bitwedded Mengesha Jembere Brigades, both under the Gojjam-Agew-Midir Division (part of the AFNF-TC). According to sources, Fano fighters reportedly approached the regime's presence overnight and launched an offensive early in the morning. Sources reported that the fighting involved heavy artillery shelling fired from both sides. The Fano fighters targeted the regime's presence in Dimama-Manguda, an area where riot dispersal and militia troops were primarily present. Sources reported that the fighting lasted for four to five hours and subsided when the Fano fighters withdrew following the arrival of regime reinforcements from nearby bases.
  - During this operation, sources indicated at least 9 regime troops killed and 12 others wounded, while at least four firearms and hundreds of rounds of ammunition were captured by Fano forces from the regime troops.

### **Banja Woreda**

- On September 12th, fighting took place in areas near the towns of Tilili and Injibara.

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- The fighting was reportedly initiated by regime forces who mobilized from Injibara and Tilili. The Simeneh Desta and Zengena Brigades of the Gojjam-Agew-Midir Division (operating under the AFNF-TC) reportedly confronted the regime forces to hinder their advance and defend themselves. The fighting primarily occurred in the Jibayta area, where Fano fighters resisted the regime's offensive with a counterattack. The intense fighting involved heavy artillery from both sides. Fano fighters also launched an attack targeting regime reinforcement forces who were arriving from Injibara town and Sekela Woreda.
  - During the operation, Fano fighters reportedly inflicted fatalities and injuries against several regime soldiers, including the heavy machine gun operator. It was also reported that the regime forces suffered material losses with patrol vehicles that were transporting heavy artillery destroyed.

### **Dangila Woreda**

- On September 13th, four Fano fighters were reportedly killed by regime soldiers.
  - That morning, regime soldiers reportedly withdrew from the small town of Afesa. Following the withdrawal, some Fano fighters entered the area and joined their families to share the New Year celebration. After gaining intelligence about this, on the night of September 13th, the regime forces returned by mobilizing a considerable number of ground forces toward the area and encircled them overnight. The regime soldiers then found at least four Fano fighters asleep and shot and killed them.
  - In a related development, on September 14th, regime soldiers captured one more Fano member in Dangila town. This Fano member was reportedly captured while he was with his family to visit and share the New Year

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celebration.

## **North Gojjam Zone**

### **Gonji-Qolela Woreda**

- On September 7th, Fano fighters conducted an operation in the Shewa-Tsiyon area (Menta-Debir Kebele).
  - The operation was reportedly conducted by the Yohannes Alemayehu Brigade of the Tefera Damte Division and the Animut Yazachew Brigade of the 1st Division (all operating under the AFNF-TC), which targeted regime security and administrative officials which had been preparing to organize a gathering.
  - In the operation, Fano fighters managed to disrupt the meeting and inflict casualties on the regime soldiers with two reported regime fatalities and three injuries.

### **Yilmana-Densa Woreda**

- On the morning of September 10th, Fano forces conducted a sudden operation in the Goshiye neighborhood.
  - This operation was reportedly executed by the 1st Division's Animut Yazachew Brigade (part of the AFNF-TC). The Fano forces reportedly targeted the regime soldiers who were said to be mobilizing from the Adet town towards the Goshiye area, where the Fano fighters carried out an unexpected attack primarily on militia and police members.
  - During this surprise attack, at least four militia members were killed and five others were injured, including one police captain commander who was critically injured.

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- On September 12th, Fano fighters conducted a sudden operation in the neighborhood of Adet town.
    - This operation was reportedly executed by the 1st Division's Animut Yazachew Brigade (operating under the AFNF-TC). The operation targeted two vehicles of regime forces that had departed from Adet town and were mobilizing toward the Adama area to transport food supplies. The attack was reportedly carried out that evening in an area known as Shewa-Meda. During this operation, Fano fighters targeted the patrol vehicle and managed to inflict casualties among those inside, disrupting the regime movement.
    - Sources indicate at least five regime soldiers were killed in the operation, including a heavy machine gun operator.

### **South Achefer Woreda**

- On September 12th, fighting took place in the Ashuda neighborhood.
  - The fighting was reportedly launched by the Abe Gubegna Brigade, under the Gojjam-Agew-Midir Division (part of the AFNF-TC). The Fano fighters initiated the fighting when they carried out an ambush targeting regime forces en route from Zihibist to the Dilamo area for the purpose of transporting logistics. After the regime forces delivered the logistics to the regime's presence in the Zihibist area and were returning, the Fano fighters reportedly launched a surprise attack in the Ashuda area. This ambush reportedly led to a gunfire exchange and a confrontation between the combatants that lasted for hours.
  - During this operation, Fano fighters inflicted considerable casualties among the regime soldiers, while two injuries reported on the Fano side.

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## **Northwestern Amhara (Gonder Sub-Region)**

### **South Gonder Zone**

#### **Simada Woreda**

- On September 7th, intense fighting erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Zebo Kebele.
  - The regime forces, having been deployed from Wegeda to Zebo, initiated an offensive with the aim of attacking the Hagere-Bizen Brigade (part of the AFNF-BC 1st Corps), indicating a strategic objective to disrupt the Fano's presence in the area. The Fano forces responded with a counter-offensive, intensifying fighting and highlighting their resolve to defend their positions. During the initial stages of the conflict, regime militia and riot dispersal forces sustained heavy casualties, reflecting the intensity of the engagement. However, the deployment of regime mechanized forces as reinforcements shifted the balance of power, overwhelming the Fano forces and forcing them to withdraw from Zebo town. Despite their withdrawal, the Fano forces continued to engage regime forces from the outskirts of Zebo town, utilizing heavy weapons and maintaining pressure on the regime forces.

#### **Farta Woreda**

- On September 9th, Fano forces launched a surprise attack on regime forces in Gasay town.
  - The operation was carried out by the Guna Division's Meqdela-Amba Brigade (part of the AFNF-BC 1st Corps). The ambush was conducted at approximately 10 pm local time. The Fano forces successfully infiltrated Gasay town and targeted stationed regime militia forces. Prior to the attack,

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the Fano forces had repeatedly warned the regime militia, urging them to disarm and disengage from the regime forces, highlighting a desire to avoid a confrontation.

- The attack resulted in significant casualties among the militias, with numerous fatalities and physical injuries, ranging in severity between minor and critical). Furthermore, the Fano forces seized the weapons of the fallen militias following the attack, further weakening the regime's presence and bolstering their own arsenal.
- On September 15th, regime forces committed an extrajudicial killing, targeting a minibus driver identified as Daniel Dagnachew.
  - The driver, having been ordered by the regime forces to transport Andabet Woreda health professionals from Welesh town to Debre-Tabor city, was provided with a letter as proof of his official duties. He successfully completed the transport of the health professionals from Welesh to Debre-Tabor. However, on his return journey from Debre-Tabor to Welesh, he was intercepted by regime forces in Mahderemaryam town, who had arrived from Arb-Gebeya town. Despite presenting the official letter confirming his authorized service, the regime forces, without any apparent justification, shot Daniel multiple times, resulting in his death.

### **Sedemuja Woreda**

- On September 11th, intense fighting erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Adada Kebele. The offensive against regime forces in Adada was spearheaded by the Gebriye Division (part of the AFPO-AFGPC). The battle lasted for three hours, suggesting a prolonged and intense engagement. The regime forces sustained casualties during the fighting with at least 13 regime joint forces personnel

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confirmed killed by the Fano forces. Moreover, the Fano forces seized more than 10 black Kalashnikov rifles from the defeated regime forces, further bolstering their arsenal.

### **Estie Woreda**

- On September 14th, Fano forces launched a surprise attack on regime forces in Estie Woreda.
  - The regime forces were en route from Mekane-Eyesus town to Amjaye Kebele with the intention of attacking the Fano forces stationed there. The Fano forces had planned a public gathering in Amjaye Kebele to discuss the resumption of education with supervisors, teachers, youths, and residents of Estie Woreda. Intelligence was reportedly leaked to the regime forces regarding the planned gathering, prompting the regime's deployment to Amjaye in an effort to disrupt the meeting and target the Fano. However, the Fano forces had also received advanced warning, allowing the Estie-Densa Brigade, in collaboration with the Meqdela-Amba Brigade (part of the AFNF-BC Guna Division), to strategically position themselves in anticipation of the regime forces' arrival. The regime forces were ambushed before they reached Amjaye Kebele, resulting in a fierce battle that lasted for six hours. The regime forces sustained heavy casualties during the unexpected attack, demonstrating the effectiveness of the Fano forces' preparation and tactics. The regime forces were ultimately forced to retreat back to Mekane-Eyesus town, abandoning their planned offensive. During the fighting, the riot dispersal forces, who had been deployed by the regime to Amjaye, were also attacked by the Fano forces, indicating the Fano forces' goal of targeting all regime personnel involved.
  - In a related development, the regime forces retaliated against the civilian population, launching an attack that resulted in the deaths of several farmers.

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These farmers, multiple over 50 years of age, were accused of being Fano sympathizers, a pretext used by the regime forces to justify their actions. Efforts were made by the political cadres of the Estie Woreda administration to cover up the attack by falsely claiming that the farmers were, in fact, Fano members. The victims were identified as:

1. 50-year-old Tafete Desse (killed);
2. 65-year-old Muche Yirga (killed);
3. 20-year-old Getasew Atnafu (killed); and
4. a young man was critically injured and taken to Mekane-Eyesus town by the regime forces.

## **Central Gonder Zone**

### **Gonder-Zuriya Woreda**

- On September 8th, Fano forces launched a surprise attack targeting regime forces in Minzro Kebele.
  - The operation was undertaken by the Gondere-Begashaw Division (part of the AFNF-BC 5th Corps). The regime forces were en route from Maksegnit town to Gonder city, escorting high-ranking military leaders who were traveling to celebrate the upcoming New Year holiday.
  - The regime forces sustained heavy casualties during the surprise attack, significantly disrupting their planned celebrations and operations.
- On September 9th, intense fighting erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Burbuaks, Bahir-Ginb, and Arsema Kebeles.
  - The Gondere-Begashaw Division's Fasiledes Brigade and the Tadilo-Birhan Division's Jibasra Brigade (both operating under the AFNF-BC 5th Corps)

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launched a coordinated counter-offensive against regime forces who had deployed to these areas with the apparent objective of encircling the Fano forces.

- During the engagement, the regime forces sustained casualties, including more than 10 soldiers killed or critically injured. As a result of the Fano counter-offensive, the regime forces were forced to abandon their military operation and retreat back to Gonder city.
- On September 14th, intense fighting broke out between Fano forces and regime forces in Amsa-Feji Kebele, marking a continuation of the ongoing conflict.
  - The fighting, which lasted for several hours, indicated a sustained and determined engagement. The Atsewochu Division (part of the AFPO-AFGPC) launched an offensive attack against regime forces who were manning checkpoints in the area, suggesting a strategic effort to disrupt the regime's control and mobility. The regime forces suffered heavy casualties as a result of the Fano offensive, reflecting the intensity of the fighting and the effectiveness of the Fano forces' tactics. Due to the significant losses, the regime forces were compelled to abandon their checkpoints, losing control of those strategic locations.
  - In a subsequent act of retaliation, the regime forces launched a barrage of heavy machine gun fire into Bahir-Ginb and Minzro Kebeles on the morning of September 15th, indicating a shift in tactics towards targeting civilian areas. Resulting civilian casualties are yet to be confirmed.

### **Wegera Woreda**

- On September 10th, Fano forces launched a joint offensive operation.

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- The operation was carried out by the Gondere-Begashaw Division's Atnafa, Tewodrose, and Yitayew Brigades, in collaboration with the Ras Amoraw Wubneh Corps (all operating under the AFNF-BC). This operation was directed against organized robbers who were reportedly supported by regime forces and engaged in pillaging travelers along the road from Werqedemo to Gedebye town, with fighting in Werqedemo Kebele and skirmishes outside of Gedebye. These robbers were allegedly operating under the guise of being Fano fighters. As the Fano forces initiated their offensive against the organized robbers, regime forces were deployed from Ambagiyorgis town to the area, apparently to rescue the robbers. In response, the Fano forces launched a coordinated counter-offensive attack targeting the regime forces who had intervened.
  - During the ensuing fighting, the regime forces sustained critical injuries and were ultimately forced to retreat back to Ambagiyorgis town, carrying their dead and injured.
  - On September 13th, intense fighting raged between Fano forces and regime forces, spanning a vast territory from Gedebye town to Guntir-Abbo Kebele.
    - The Gondere-Begashaw Division, in collaboration with units from the Ras Amoraw Wubneh Corps (both operating under the AFNF-BC), jointly launched an offensive against regime forces, signifying a coordinated effort to dislodge them from the area. The Fano forces initiated their operation with an ambush, catching the regime forces off guard. This initial ambush then transitioned into close-quarters combat. The regime forces encountered fierce resistance from Fano forces in Guntir-Abbo, resulting in heavy casualties. The Fano forces pushed forward, entering Gedebye town and pursuing the retreating regime forces. The fierce fighting also extended to Werqedemo

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Kebele.

- Cumulatively, across all fighting areas, it is estimated that more than 70 regime forces were either killed or sustained critical and minor physical injuries, highlighting the magnitude of the losses suffered by the regime.

### **Tegede Woreda**

- On September 14th, Fano forces launched a surprise attack targeting regime forces in Maksegnit Kebele.
  - The offensive was undertaken by the Tikimit 30 Maikadra Brigade (part of the AFNF-BC 4th Corps Gobie Melke Division). The ambush took place as regime forces were traveling from Soroqa town to Gonder city, indicating a strategic effort to disrupt the regime's movement and control. The surprise attack resulted in heavy casualties among the regime forces. In a particularly devastating development, a military Ural truck carrying regime soldiers was struck by heavy machine gun fire, causing it to careen into the abyss. All soldiers on board the truck were killed instantly. In addition to this, another military convoy was also targeted by the Fano forces.
  - The combined attacks resulted in more than 41 regime military personnel killed or injured, revealing the scale of the losses. Specifically, 29 soldiers were confirmed dead, and an additional 12 soldiers sustained critical injuries.

### **Gonder City**

- On September 11th, militia forces launched an unprovoked attack, opening fire on a group of youths who had gathered to celebrate the New Year holiday in Hamus-Gebeya village (Azezo).
  - The militia's actions resulted in the immediate deaths of two youths, and

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injury to six others. The injured youths were transported to a hospital for medical treatment, with two of them reported to be in critical condition and receiving intensive care, indicating the severity of their injuries. There was no apparent justification for the attack; the youths were gathering to celebrate the holiday, as is customary, and posed no threat to the militia forces.

- In a separate incident in Azezo, a regime soldier, heavily intoxicated at a local bar, killed two civilians. The soldier, who was initially engaged in a dispute with another soldier, left the bar, retrieved his weapon from the military camp, and returned to the bar. Although the initial argument was with his fellow soldier, he inexplicably opened fire, killing the bar owner and another civilian. Several other civilians sustained physical injuries as a result of the soldier's rampage.

### **West Dembiya Woreda**

- On September 12th, intense fighting occurred between Fano forces and regime forces in Narchacha.
  - The fighting lasted for several hours underscoring the sustained nature of the conflict. In addition to close-quarters combat, the Fano forces launched a surprise attack against regime forces in Dikul-Arba, catching them off guard and escalating the intensity of the engagement. The Fano forces utilized heavy machine guns in their attack. The Fano forces, specifically the Jano Division's Aysheshim and Nahusenay Brigades (operating under the AFPO-AFGPC), targeted regime forces who were escorting civil officials traveling from Gonder city to Delgi town, suggesting a strategic attempt to disrupt the regime's administration and control in the region.
  - The military trucks used to transport the regime forces and escort the officials

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were destroyed, and a significant number of regime personnel involved in the escort were killed or sustained critical and minor physical injuries.

### **Welkait-Tegede-Setit Humera Zone**

- On September 9th, a TPLF espionage squad was apprehended by Tekeze Special Guard forces, highlighting ongoing security concerns and covert operations in the region.
  - This squad was comprised of members from the Samre armed group, reportedly operating from Sudan, suggesting external involvement in the internal conflict. The spies had infiltrated the zone using fabricated identities, posing as daily laborers working in the zonal extensive farming sector. To conceal their identities, the spies possessed falsified identification cards indicating that they were from the highlands of the Amhara Region. This disguise exploited the common practice of highlanders seeking seasonal employment as daily laborers in the sisal agriculture industry in the Welkait-Tegede-Setit Humera Zone, allowing them to blend in and avoid suspicion.
  - The spies were believed to be perpetrators of the Mai-Kadra massacre. Upon apprehension, the spies were found to be in possession of military radio communication equipment and other espionage gadgets, confirming their clandestine activities. Investigations revealed that the squad received instructions from high-ranking TPLF officials to launch an offensive attack against the Welkait administration before the rainy season commenced. However, this military campaign had been postponed to Meskerem 2018 EC, pending further assistance and military cooperation from other countries, suggesting potential international alliances and support for the TPLF. The

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spies' mission in Welkait was to gather crucial intelligence and reconnaissance information in preparation for the planned military campaign, demonstrating the strategic importance of this information to the TPLF.

## Areas Outside Amhara Region

### Addis-Ababa City

- On September 10th, a number of Amhara political prisoners held at Kilinto Prison have declared a hunger strike to mark the Ethiopian New Year (2018 EC), in protest of what they describe as ongoing atrocities committed by the current regime against the Amhara people and the Ethiopian state at large.
  - In a letter addressed to the Amhara public and the international community, the prisoners condemned the widespread violence, displacement, economic hardship, and systemic persecution targeting the Amhara population. They described the current ruling party as “*isolated internationally and driven by divisive politics*,” accusing it of collapsing rule of law and weaponizing state institutions, such as prosecutors, police, and prisons, against a single ethnic group.
  - The statement highlighted ongoing mass displacement, with over 4.9 million Amhara people reportedly living in camps; extrajudicial killings and torture, enforced disappearances, and detention of Amhara people in undisclosed locations; economic crisis, where the cost of living has become unbearable, and public institutions now only serving the wealthy; ethnic-based violence and genocide, including forced evictions from urban areas like Addis-Ababa under the pretext of “*corridor development*”; and systematic marginalization of the Amhara people, who, the letter notes, have historically upheld values of

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justice, literacy, self-reliance, and national unity.

- The prisoners expressed deep concern over Ethiopia’s future, citing a campaign of hatred and state-sponsored propaganda that aims to eliminate Amhara identity, heritage, and presence from the national fabric. They praised the continued struggle of Amhara resistance forces, stating: “*we thank the fighters of the Amhara people for their sacrifice in the face of genocide and ethnic cleansing. Your steadfastness is a symbol of our collective resilience.*”
  - The hunger strike, they affirmed, is a symbolic act of solidarity with the suffering of their people and a protest against the regime’s inhumane policies. They called on international human rights organizations and global actors to break their silence and act to stop what they describe as a systematic and structural genocide.
  - Finally, the prisoners described this New Year not as a time of renewal, but as a continuation of darkness, dubbing it “*the New Year that has not yet come.*”
- On the night of September 12th, the OPP regime escalated mass civilian detentions, with a particularly severe crackdown reported in the Kotebe area (Woreda 11, Yeka Sub-city) of Addis-Ababa city. Eyewitnesses described the arrests as widespread and forceful, primarily targeting young people. This incident is part of a broader and sustained pattern of arbitrary mass detentions carried out by the regime, particularly against civilian youths, raising growing concerns about human rights violations and the use of state power to suppress dissent.
  - On September 12th, a heavy downpour struck leading to casualties in Addis-Ababa city. According to sources, the flooding led to the loss of human lives, the destruction of homes, and extensive damage to property. In one particular incident near the Wossen area (Woreda 13, Lemi Kura Sub-city) six civilians were swept away by the floodwaters while inside their home and lost their lives.

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- On September 13th, the *Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party* (EPRP) issued an urgent humanitarian appeal, calling for immediate intervention to save the lives of political and conscientious prisoners on hunger strike in Kilinto Prison in Addis-Ababa city.<sup>3</sup>
    - The appeal comes amid reports that, on September 12th, the regime forces conducted mass arrests of civilians in the Kotebe area of the capital, and a heavy downpour struck Addis-Ababa, resulting in severe humanitarian consequences.
    - The statement reveals that since September 10th, a group of prisoners held in Kilinto and other detention centers under harsh and inhumane conditions launched a hunger strike. The EPRP expressed deep concern over the deteriorating health of these detainees, many of whom have been denied adequate medical care and legal due process. The party asserted that these individuals are imprisoned not for criminal acts but for peacefully advocating the rights and freedoms of the Amhara people and other oppressed groups in Ethiopia.
    - Among those named were Members of Parliament Christian Tadele, Yohannes Buayalew, Dr. Kassa Teshager and Taye Dendea; Professor Sisay Awgichew, Dr. Chanie Kebede, Dr. Wondwossen Assefa, Dr. Tewodros Hailemariam; journalists such as Dawit Begashaw, Gobeze Sisay, Genet Asmamaw, Meskerem Abera; Merigetta Belay Adamu, and others.
    - The EPRP called on opposition leaders, human rights activists and organizations, civic and professional associations, diplomatic missions and governments, religious institutions and community elders, and scholars and other public figures to take urgent, coordinated action to prevent further loss of

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<sup>3</sup>See September 13, 2025 [statement](#) from the *Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party* (EPRP).

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life.

- The party outlines several immediate steps visiting the hunger-striking prisoners in Kilinto, pressuring authorities for their unconditional release, publicizing their plight through media and social platforms, and supporting the families of the detainees both materially and morally.
- On the evening of September 13th, a tragic incident occurred during final rehearsals for a regime-organized rally in Addis-Ababa, resulting in the deaths and injuries of several children.
  - The incident took place at approximately 8 pm at Meskel Square, where children had been practicing performances to be showcased during a regime forced rally in support of the GERD inauguration, scheduled for the following day. According to eyewitness accounts and sources close to the incident, the platform constructed for the children's performances suddenly collapsed while the children were actively rehearsing. The structure's failure caused severe injuries and fatalities among the young performers. Although an official casualty count has not been released, several sources confirm that some of the injured children died due to the lack of timely medical attention.
  - The children participating in the rehearsals were reportedly as young as eight years old. They had been undergoing intensive performance training organized by the regime. Training was conducted at the Addis-Ababa University Sidist Kilo Campus, where the children were kept over the New Year holiday without being allowed to return home to their families. The rally and performances were part of a state-led celebration for the GERD's formal inauguration on September 14th.
  - Following the collapse, witnesses stated that people in the area who attempted to offer help were blocked by security forces. Only select police members

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were allowed to remove debris and access the site. According to sources, the delay in rescue efforts significantly reduced the chances of survival for some of the victims. Victims were eventually transported to Tikur Anbessa Hospital and Zewditu Memorial Hospital. However, family members who rushed to these facilities in search of their children were reportedly barred from entering. Many parents were forced to wait outside hospital gates throughout the night, desperate for information. By morning, some were informed that their children had died. Despite this, authorities allegedly prevented families from retrieving the bodies of their children, citing “*orders from higher officials.*” As of September 14th, the exact number of casualties remains unknown. However, sources confirmed multiple children have died, and many others remain hospitalized with severe injuries, some of which may result in permanent disability.

- According to multiple sources, security forces instructed grieving parents and community members not to publicly mourn, with one statement reportedly saying, “*you should not cry today; it will spoil the image of the rally.*” Families were also warned against speaking to media or sharing details of the incident.
- The state’s lack of transparency has fueled public outrage and concerns about accountability. Reports indicate that the ruling Prosperity Party is actively attempting to suppress information about the incident, including harassing victims’ families and restricting media coverage.

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

### **Kiremu Woreda**

- On September 13th, Fano reportedly carried out an operation in the Ashu-Kusaye and Haro-Addisalem areas.

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- In the first operation, the Fano fighters under the Wollega (Bizamo) Fano targeted the regime's presence in the Ashu-Kusaye area, where local militia and police troops were encamped. During this operation, at least 15 regime soldiers, primarily militia and police members, were reportedly killed, and another six were captured by Fano fighters.
  - In the second operation, on the night of September 13th, Fano fighters launched heavy gunfire in the Haro-Addisalem area, particularly targeting the regime's encampments and the kebele administrative building. The casualties that resulted from this fire exchange remained unreported.

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## About the Amhara Association of America (AAA)

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

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