



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – January

12th to 18th, 2026

Updated January 19th, 2026

Overview

For the week of January 12th to 18th, 2026, fighting between the *Amhara Fano self-defense force* (Fano) and *Oromo Prosperity Party regime joint forces* (regime forces) has continued in various parts of Amhara Region in Ethiopia.¹²

- This week battle events and rights violations were recorded in more than 24 woreda/city administrations across 9 zonal administrations in Amhara Region.

These zones included Wag-Hemra, North Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West

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

²The 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 East Amhara Qetena - Menelik Command (MC), North Amhara Qetena - Belay Command (BC), West Amhara Qetena - Tewodrose Command (TC), 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), the Amhara Fano Wollo Bete-Amhara Province Command (AFWC) and the Amhara Fano Gojjam Province Command (AFGJPC).

Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones.

Developments were also recorded in East Wollega Zone of Oromia Region.

- Civilian casualties were recorded in Raya-Kobo, Jabi-Tehnan and Yilmana-Densa Woredas in North Wollo, West Gojjam and North Gojjam Zones in Amhara Region. Civilian casualties were also recorded in Sibiu-Sire Woreda of East Wollega Zone in Oromia Region.
- This week drone activity was reported in Sehala-Seyemit and Raya-Kobo Woredas in Wag-Hemra and North Wollo Zones of Amhara Region. The drone strike in Sehala-Seyemit Woreda of Wag-Hemra Zone resulted in confirmed casualties of regime combatants and civilians. In addition, drone surveillance was reported in East Wollega Zone of Oromia Region.
- Arrests were recorded in Alamata city and Jabi-Tehnan Woreda in North Wollo and West Gojjam Zones, respectively. Arrests in Alamata city were conducted by *Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF) forces. In addition, TPLF forces carried out abductions of civilians in Ofla Woreda of Wag-Hemra Zone in Amhara Region.
- This week, Fano forces announced the formation of a unified structure called the *Amhara Fano National Movement* (AFNM) comprising units from the two major regional structures, the AFNF and AFPO.³
- This week, the *Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church* (EOTC) Raya Diocese issued a statement detailing a pattern of abuses against religious communities in the Raya area by TPLF forces and members of a renegade religious faction called *Menbere-Selama*.

³See January 17, 2026 [statement](#) from the *Amhara Fano National Movement* (AFNM)

Northeastern Amhara (Wollo Bete-Amhara Subregion)

- On January 16th, the Raya Diocese Office of the EOTC released a statement addressing ongoing violence, intimidation, and abuses against priests and members of the Christian faithful within the Raya Diocese.
 - According to the statement, the establishment of the Raya Diocese followed repeated and formal requests submitted by local priests and believers, initially through the six-woreda church coordination office and subsequently by the wider Christian community of the area. These requests were deliberated by the Holy Synod Plenary Assembly, which, in accordance with the laws, canons, and regulations of the EOTC, decided to formally organize and establish the Raya Diocese as an independent ecclesiastical structure. Since its establishment, the Diocese has reportedly carried out its spiritual and administrative responsibilities in compliance with Church law and tradition.
 - However, the statement alleges that an illegally established entity operating outside the canonical structure of the EOTC, calling itself *Menbere-Selama*, and reportedly acting in collaboration with TPLF forces, has been perpetrating widespread violations against the Raya Diocese. These violations are said to include systematic attacks, intimidation, torture, and abuses targeting priests, church administrators, and members of the Christian community. The Diocese reports that such abuses have intensified since April 15, 2025 and have been carried out in a planned and coordinated manner.
 - The statement further notes that the group identifying itself as *Menbere-Selama* emerged following the conflict between the Tigray Region and Federal authorities, allegedly founded by ethnic-based political actors operating under religious cover, and citing grievances related to the EOTC's position during the war. The Holy Synod of the EOTC, while repeatedly

affirming that the activities of this group fall outside the canonical Church and undermine ecclesiastical unity, priesthood continuity, and the universality of the Church, has nonetheless issued multiple calls for peace, reconciliation, and unity. Despite these efforts, the statement asserts that the group has rejected reconciliation initiatives and has continued to commit abuses in coordination with TPLF forces.

- According to the Raya Diocese Office, recent developments indicate that TPLF forces have forcibly entered the area, allegedly in coordination with representatives of the so-called Menbere-Selama, and have engaged in actions that violate the religious, moral, and cultural values of the local population. These actions are reported to have caused significant harm to church institutions, clergy, and believers.
- The statement highlights the following incidents as illustrative examples of the reported abuses:
 - * On August 28, 2025 at approximately 2 am, TPLF forces, allegedly operating under the coordination of Menbere-Selama, attacked the Raya Diocese Office and Woreda Church Offices, looted church property and religious artifacts, and converted the premises into a military camp.
 - * The same armed group reportedly prevented the 2018 EC Meskel Festival from being celebrated peacefully by establishing a military camp at the designated celebration square.
 - * Following the occupation of the Diocese and Woreda Church offices, the legitimate Diocese was forced to operate from a rented facility; however, armed individuals were reportedly sent to this location to obstruct spiritual and administrative services.
 - * The statement alleges the burning of the EOTC official seal and the Ethiopian national flag, looting of church assets and funds, and acts of

stripping, arrest, beating, intimidation, and suppression of priests and believers, thereby infringing upon the right to freedom of worship.

- * The Diocese further reports the deliberate spread of misinformation and rumors suggesting that the Raya Diocese was established to expand territorial control into North Wollo Zone, which the Church rejects as false and misleading.
 - * In efforts to forcibly bring monasteries and religious institutions under the Menbere-Selama structure, priests, parish administrators, parish council members, and believers have been subjected to kidnapping and arbitrary detention.
- The statement emphasizes that these actions violate Article 11 of the Ethiopian Constitution (separation of state and religion) and Article 44(1–2) (the right to a clean and healthy environment), as well as fundamental human and democratic rights. As a result, hundreds of priests and believers have reportedly been forcibly displaced from their communities.
 - According to information compiled from Woreda Church offices, the impact of these incidents includes the arrest of 40 individuals, the beating and torture of 14 people, the killing of two individuals, the looting of approximately 13,533,000 ETB, and the theft of more than 171 religious models, relics, artifacts, files, office equipment, and mobile phones.
 - The Raya Diocese Office states that it has repeatedly reported these abuses to the Command Post administering the area, but notes that the situation remains unresolved.
 - In light of the above, the Diocese calls upon authorities to fulfil their constitutional responsibility to ensure peace and security, protect freedom of religion, facilitate the return of seized church properties and offices, and secure

the release of arbitrarily detained priests and believers. The Diocese also appeals to the Holy Synod to engage relevant authorities to address the situation comprehensively and prevent further abuses.

- Finally, the statement urges independent and impartial media outlets to report accurately and responsibly on the situation, and calls on both the Ethiopian public and the international community to take note of the ongoing violations against the Raya Diocese, its clergy, and faithful.⁴

- On January 18th, the Raya Diocese Office of the EOTC issued a statement announcing the suspension of public and church-based Epiphany celebrations in areas under the Diocese.
 - The Diocese instructed the faithful to observe the holiday at home through prayer and personal devotion, citing serious security and religious concerns arising from the activities of TPLF forces in the area. According to the statement, the decision was made in light of the prevailing security situation, which the Diocese described as unsuitable for conducting public religious ceremonies.
 - Epiphany is one of the most significant holidays in the EOTC and is traditionally celebrated with large public gatherings, strong communal participation, and deep spiritual significance. However, the Diocese emphasized that the current circumstances do not allow for a safe and dignified public observance.
 - The statement recalled that in 2018 EC, the public celebration of the Meskel (True Cross) festival was also suspended after TPLF forces reportedly used the Meskel celebration site as a military camp. Similarly, the Diocese stated that locations designated for the Epiphany celebration have again been turned into

⁴See January 16, 2026 [report](#) from Mahibere Kidusan Broadcast Service.

military camps. Requests made for these areas to be vacated for religious purposes were reportedly rejected.

- The Diocese further alleged that TPLF forces have interfered in religious affairs by attempting to impose church leadership through what it described as illegal and condemned bishops and armed priests, in violation of the Holy Church’s canonical laws. These efforts, according to the statement, were rejected by the faithful and clergy of the Diocese due to their incompatibility with established church canons.
- Consequently, the TPLF forces have established checkpoints along roads leading to churches and within inner-city areas. The statement further alleged incidents of harassment of the faithful, house-to-house searches, and the arrest of priests and believers. These conditions, the Diocese warned, have transformed Epiphany, a religious festival symbolizing peace and love, into a potential source of danger for the community.
- The statement further claimed that, following the closure of churches due to the dispute, TPLF forces brought in priests and youth from outside the area, dressing them in Raya traditional attire in an effort to stage Epiphany celebrations under the leadership of the condemned bishops and to advance political objectives.
- In light of these developments and the heightened tensions surrounding both security and religious affairs, the Diocese urged its faithful to remain at home, pray, and observe the Epiphany in a peaceful and devotional manner. The Diocese also strongly called on the community to safeguard children and remain vigilant to prevent violence, unrest, and any harm that could arise during the holiday period.⁵

⁵See January 18, 2026 [report](#) from Raya Diocese Media Centre.

Wag-Hemra Zone

Dehana Woreda

- On January 11th, material losses and human casualties among regime militia and police forces have increased following armed clashes with Fano forces in Dehana Woreda.
 - The incident follows an earlier confrontation in the Abam-Abo area, where intense fighting reportedly took place between the Wagshum Brigade (operating under the AFNF-MC Lasta Asaminew Corps) and regime forces. The clashes reportedly erupted after regime militia and police units attempted an offensive against Fano positions in the area however, Fano forces carried out a counter-offensive which resulted in significant casualties among the advancing regime forces.
 - According to reports, the confrontation resulted in the killing of 46 regime personnel, the wounding of 29 others, and the capture of 24, including two senior officials. In addition to personnel losses, Fano forces seized substantial military equipment during the fighting, including rifles, ammunition and other supplies. Among those reportedly captured were Inspector Shega Ayana, head of the investigation unit of the Dehana Woreda Police, and Captain Misganaw, head of the Dehana Woreda Militia Office.

Sehala-Seyemit Woreda

- On the morning of January 15th, regime forces conducted a drone strike targeting the Seyemit Bridge.
 - The targeted bridge served as a vital infrastructure link and a geographic boundary between East Belessa Woreda (Central Gonder Zone) and Sehala Woreda (Wag-Hemra Zone).

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- The strike resulted in more than 105 individuals confirmed killed in what is being described as an indiscriminate and devastating aerial assault. A significant portion of the fatalities involved the regime’s own forces; reports indicate that more than 65 members of Sahla Woreda militias were killed by the strike while they were gathered on the bridge. The remaining 40 fatalities were unarmed civilians. These individuals had reportedly been coerced by regime political cadres to assemble at the bridge alongside the militia forces, effectively placing them in the line of fire. In addition to the high death toll, a large but unspecified number of both civilians and militia members sustained critical injuries, further overwhelming local medical capacities. A news article from BBC Amharic confirmed 36 fatalities and 16 injuries among state militias and of three civilians including two women and a child.⁶
 - This incident follows a week of persistent drone reconnaissance over the region, suggesting that the strike was part of a planned operational phase. However, the outcome has created a profound sense of ambiguity and shock. It remains unclear whether the regime’s own militia forces were intentionally targeted due to internal distrust, or if the massacre was the result of a catastrophic intelligence failure and misguided coordinates provided by operators on the ground. Regardless of the intent, the strike represents one of the deadliest aerial incidents in this deserted area.

Ofla Woreda

- On the night of January 14th (extending into the early morning hours of January 15th), TPLF forces reportedly carried out abductions of civilians in Ofla Woreda.
 - According to reports, at least three civilians from Adigolo Kebele were forcibly taken from their homes at approximately 1 am and transported to an

⁶See January 17, 2026 [report](#) from BBC Amharic (an English translation is available [here](#)).

unknown location. Sources indicate that the abductions were conducted after the militants surrounded the victims' homes during the night, creating fear.

The abducted individuals were identified as follows:

1. Ato Girmay Sharew;
 2. Ato Ayinekulu (last name unknown); and
 3. Qesis Haddis (last name unknown).
- Prior to this incident, TPLF cadres had convened community members and assured them that no abductions would occur and that the upcoming Timket celebrations would take place peacefully. The subsequent abductions have therefore intensified fear, mistrust, and insecurity among the local population. The abductions have been described as a recurring pattern in the woreda and has contributed to widespread fear and heightened risk of displacement.⁷

North Wollo Zone

Raya-Alamata Woreda

- On January 13th, TPLF forces have carried out property looting, forced illegal taxation, and disarmament of civilians in Timuga town.
 - According to reports, TPLF forces imposed forced and illegal taxation on individuals entering the weekly market. In addition to the unlawful taxation, the militants confiscated sticks carried by civilians, which are traditionally used by community members as a customary means of self-defense. Local sources further report that such practices have continued for the third consecutive week, creating fear, restricting livelihoods, and exacerbating civilian vulnerability.

⁷See January 15, 2026 [report](#) from Voice of Korem.

Woldia City

- On January 13th, regime forces carried out artillery shelling from positions within Woldia city toward surrounding areas.
 - According to reports, heavy weapons were fired from inside the city, with shelling directed toward parts of Gubalafto and Raya-Kobo Woredas. As of January 14th, the precise targets, scale of damage, civilian casualties, and broader humanitarian consequences of the artillery fire have not yet been verified. However, residents of Woldia city reported widespread fear, panic, and heightened anxiety following the shelling, driven by uncertainty over the intended targets and the risk of further escalation. The severity of the incident is compounded by the timing of the shelling. The artillery fire reportedly occurred on a Tuesday, which is the city’s weekly market day. On this day, Woldia hosts a large market that attracts civilians not only from the city itself but also from more than five surrounding woredas. As a result, the area typically experiences a high concentration of civilians, including traders, farmers, women, children, and elderly persons.

Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On January 13th, intense fighting erupted in multiple locations between Fano forces and regime forces in Raya-Kobo Woreda.
 - Units under the Hawano and Asaminew Divisions (operating under the AFNF-MC), engaged regime forces in and around Kalim town, located near Woldia city.
 - Particularly heavy fighting took place in Kalim-Mito and nearby areas bordering Gubalafto Woreda. According to sources, the confrontation lasted throughout the day and involved large-scale military operations. Reports

indicate that the Fano successfully repelled a major offensive launched by regime forces, which reportedly deployed drones, artillery, tanks, and mortars. The battle began at approximately 8 am and continued for nearly 13 hours, ending around 9 pm.

- Reports indicate that the regime forces suffered heavy losses, including a significant number of dead, wounded, and captured combatants. In addition, the Fano reportedly captured military equipment, including Kalashnikov rifles, assorted ammunition, mortar shells, and documentation.
- The regime forces reportedly conducted six drone strikes in and around Kalim. These drone attacks reportedly killed unarmed civilians and caused physical injuries ranging between minor to critical in severity. The strikes also caused significant damage to residential houses, livestock, and private property. Additionally, artillery shelling from Woldia city reportedly struck civilian areas, resulting in further civilian casualties and extensive damage to property and animals.
- On a separate front on the same day, units under the Kalakorma Division (also operating under the AFNF-MC) carried out a planned offensive against regime militias around Robit town.
- The regime militias, referred to as *Worke militia* reportedly originated from Worke Kebele. According to sources, at least three regime militias were killed during the engagement.
- In retaliation, the regime militias entered into Robit and carried out extrajudicial killings and attacks against civilians. Residents reported that three civilians were killed and at least five others were injured. Among those killed was a day laborer identified as Shimelis Sisay, who earned his livelihood through pushing carts, as well as two hotel workers identified as Tigist (last

name unknown) and Ayalew Melese.

- Furthermore, residents confirmed that regime militias engaged in widespread looting of shops and business premises in Robit. The looting reportedly continued on January 14th, coinciding with the town’s weekly market day, during which goods and property belonging to traders and market attendees were forcibly taken. Witnesses also reported that some militias carried out these acts while wearing masks resembling those used by internationally recognized terrorist groups such as Al-Shabaab, a tactic that reportedly heightened fear and insecurity among the civilian population.

Alamata City

- On January 14th, TPLF forces have continued targeting of religious leaders in Alamata city.
 - On the evening of that day, at approximately 8:21 pm, Chief Administrator of the Raya-Alamata Woreda Church under the EOTC Raya Diocese, Megabe Aelaf and church teacher Dawit Desalew, was abducted from his residence in the Kidana (Zone 3) area of Kebele 07. According to sources, the cleric was released the following day (January 15th).
 - Sources further report that this incident is part of a recurring and unabated pattern of abductions and harassment targeting religious leaders and teachers affiliated with the EOTC in the area. These actions are widely perceived by local communities as deliberate attempts to weaken and dismantle the EOTC’s diocesan structures in Raya, and to facilitate the imposition of the secessionist Menbere-Selama religious group in order to consolidate the authority of the Tigrayan settler administration over the Amhara population in the area.
- As of the eve of January 18th, the celebration of Epiphany (Timket) was not held

due to coercive actions by TPLF forces and the Membere-Selama religious faction in Alamata city.

- In response to escalating security risks and the potential for violence from TPLF forces, the EOTC Raya Diocese issued an official statement announcing that this year’s Epiphany would not be celebrated in public spaces. The Diocese urged the faithful to observe the holiday at home through prayer and devotion, emphasizing the need to prevent violence and further conflict. As a result of this directive, Arks (Tabots) from at least six churches did not proceed to their religious and traditional Epiphany ceremonial sites. The majority of the faithful complied with the Church’s decision and refrained from gathering in churches or public areas.
- Despite this, reports indicate that TPLF forces, together with Membere-Selama, forcibly removed the Tabot of Arsema Church and conducted a public display against the explicit decision of the Church authorities. This incident represents an unprecedented and highly irregular occurrence in Alamata city and surrounding rural areas. The situation has left the local population in a state of deep sadness and fear. Members of the affected community have called for the urgent attention of international human rights organizations and relevant stakeholders.

Lasta Woreda

- On January 14th, intense fighting reportedly erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Lasta Woreda.
 - The confrontation began after regime forces, launched an offensive operation from Muja toward Kulmesk, employing artillery fire in an attempt to target and dislodge Fano positions. In response to this offensive, units under the Tekeze

Division (operating under the AFNF-MC Lasta-Asaminew Corps) mounted a coordinated and heavy counter-offensive against the advancing regime forces. The fighting persisted for approximately eight hours, from around 6 am until 2 pm, indicating the intensity and scale of the engagement.

- According to reports, regime forces sustained casualties during the clashes with at least 15 regime personnel killed and more than ten others wounded. In addition, the Fano forces reportedly captured military equipment and supplies, including Bren LMGs, Kalashnikov rifles and assorted ammunition.

Southeastern Amhara (Shewa Subregion)

North Shewa Zone

Basona-Werana Woreda

- On January 13th, a major clash occurred between Fano forces and regime forces in Basona-Werana Woreda.
 - The clashes began after regime forces launched a coordinated two-front operation from Debre-Birhan city, administrative center of North Shewa Zone. In response, units under the Negodguad Division (operating under the AFNF-AC Atse Zerayaqob Corps), engaged regime forces beginning at approximately 7 am leading to fighting across multiple locations, including Metkoria Kebele, Workger-Gur-Gebriel, Zendogur, and Bezo areas (areas adjacent to Debre-Birhan). One advance reportedly moved through Goshbado-Arada toward Metkoria, while a second front advanced from the Kasima-Bezo direction.
 - Preliminary reports indicate that both sides sustained casualties during the clashes with one confirmed fatality on the Fano side.

Antsokiya-Gemza Woreda

- On January 14th, Fano forces carried out a coordinated ambush against regime forces in multiple locations across Antsokiya-Gemza Woreda.
 - According to reports, various battalions of the Aste-Guma-Terara Division (operating under the AFPO-AFSPC Muhammed Bihonegn Corps), engaged the 102nd Airborne Commando unit, which had been deployed by the regime to secure a meeting of cadres and to suppress Fano activities in the area. The engagements reportedly began at around 8 am and took place across several sites, including Woyin-Abagassie, Gebere-Marefiya, Adem-Hager, Aroresa, and Nechu-Hager.
 - The regime commando forces sustained casualties during the clashes with more than 19 commando fighters killed and 17 wounded. In particular, several commandos were seriously injured near the Mekidesa Union Shop.

Debre-Sina City

- On the night of January 15th (extending into the early morning hours of January 16th), Fano forces reportedly conducted a nighttime operation targeting regime officials in Debre-Sina city.
 - According to reports, the operation was carried out by units under the Rambo Division (operating under the AFPO-AFSPC Atse Amde-Tsion Corps). One of those killed in the operation was Ato Wondimsiegn Mamuye, who was serving as the First Deputy Mayor of Debre-Sina at the time. Following the incident, the North Shewa Zone Communications Office and other state offices released condolence messages acknowledging his death.⁸

⁸See January 16, 2026 [statement](#) from the North Shewa Zone Communication Office.

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- Sources allege that Ato Wondimsiegn Mamuye was implicated in serious human rights violations in Debre-Sina and surrounding rural areas. These sources claim that he played a leading role in enforcing Prosperity Party–led security measures that resulted in abuses against civilians. Further allegations from sources indicate that the deceased official was involved in coordinated actions with federal and allied forces operating in the area. He is accused of facilitating military operations, including logistical support, and of participating in or enabling acts of violence against rural Amhara communities in the Shewa Subregion, both within the city and in surrounding countryside areas.

Southwestern Amhara (Gojjam Subregion)

East Gojjam Zone

Debre-Markos City

- On the night of January 17th (extending into the early morning hours of January 18th), Fano forces reportedly conducted operations inside Debre-Markos city.
 - This mission was conducted by units under the 14th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 206th Corps). The Fano fighters launched a coordinated overnight operation at three locations within the city. Sources reported that fighters infiltrated areas with a regime presence beginning at midnight and carried out attacks at the 4th Police Station, Yemeqa near the University, and the Wiha-Gan area. Reports indicate that these operations resulted in the seizure of military equipment and casualties among regime forces, including HMG operators.

West Gojjam Zone

Sekela Woreda

- On January 13th, an exchange of gunfire occurred in Agut Kebele.
 - The fighting reportedly began when regime forces departed from their camp in Agut toward the Guncan area. In response, units from the 44th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 105th Corps), engaged the advancing troops, leading to a brief confrontation. The exchange of fire concluded when the regime soldiers returned to their camp. According to sources, this confrontation follows a previous operation on January 10th, during which Fano units infiltrated the regime's presence in Agut, where they reportedly captured two regime soldiers, including one military commander.

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On January 12th, Fano forces facilitated the escape of a group of underage recruits defected from the Bir-Sheleko Military Training Camp. The facilitation was undertaken by units under the 99th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 109th Corps). The following recruits were identified as personnel which managed to escape the training facility: (1) Tedi Werke; (2) Yasin Bilsa; (3) Abdi Muzanbil; and (4) Tilahun Takele.
- On January 13th, regime joint forces carried out abuses against civilians in Zindib Kebele.
 - That day, regime joint forces reportedly mobilized toward Zindib and upon entry to this kebele, the soldiers conducted several abuses, including physical beatings and arrests, primarily demanding the surrender of firearms. Three

farmers were reportedly arrested, while others were released after surrendering their weapons.

- In a separate development, between January 12th and 13th, regime soldiers reportedly conducted several abuses against civilians in Jiga town, particularly by compelling residents to pay duties imposed by the regime.
- On January 18th, fighting took place in the vicinity of Kilinik town.
 - The engagement was initiated by the regime army, which mobilized ground and mechanized forces on the night of January 17th (extending into the early morning hours of January 18th) from neighboring bases to encircle and neutralize Fano forces operating in the area. In response, units from the 77th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 105th Corps), confronted the regime forces before dawn. After a few hours of exchange, the Fano forces managed to break the siege and avoid neutralization.
 - During this confrontation, at least three Fano fighters were confirmed killed, while more than ten soldiers from the regime army were killed.

Dembecha-Zuriya Woreda

- On January 16th, fighting took place in Anjeni Kebele.
 - This firefight began when the regime army launched a sudden operation targeting Fano fighters while they were moving towards Dega-Damot Woreda. This surprise ambush reportedly led to heavy fighting, involving close-quarters combat and HMG shelling, which took place in the early morning. According to sources, Fano fighters managed to overwhelm the regime troops and inflicted several casualties. Although the regime army mobilized reinforcements from Dembecha town, the Fano forces managed to pass through without incurring losses.

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- Reports indicated more than 30 soldiers killed on the regime side, with no known casualties reported from the Fano side.

Awi Zone

Dangila Woreda

- On January 13th, a firefight took place between regime forces and Fano fighters in and around Gisa town.
 - The fighting was reportedly initiated when the regime’s army mobilized from nearby bases prompting a Fano counter-offensive. This resulted in a heavy exchange of fire that began in the morning and continued for several hours. During the confrontation, units from the 55th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 105th Corps) were involved and managed to repel the regime’s offensive, pushing the regime troops out of the town and seizing control of Gisa for several hours. Later, the regime deployed reinforcements supported by heavy weaponry from neighboring bases, leading Fano forces to withdraw.
 - Sources reported that Fano fighters sustained a few injuries during this confrontation, while the regime forces suffered greater casualties, with sources reporting between 20 and 30 regime soldiers killed or injured.

Jawi Woreda

- On January 18th, Fano forces reportedly conducted a surprise attack in the vicinity of Jahimala Kebele.
 - This ambush was carried out by a unit from the 66th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 105th Corps). The operation targeted regime forces that were traveling overnight from Jahimala Kebele toward the woreda’s center, Fendika

town. According to sources, the Fano launched the attack before the regime forces reached Fendika at approximately 5 am. During this engagement, Fano forces claimed they neutralized the moving regime unit, killing and injuring several soldiers.

North Gojjam Zone

North Mecha Woreda

- On January 12th, fighting took place in the Tateq-Lesira-Yimrehal area of Hamusit Kebele.
 - The fighting reportedly began when the regime’s army moved from Wetet-Abay (Bikolo) under the cover of night. In response, Fano units conducted an ambush in Hamusit town. As the regime troops arrived at approximately 9 am, units from the 11th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 102nd Corps) launched a sudden attack, leading to a heavy combat engagement that lasted for four hours. During this confrontation, sources reported that casualties were suffered on both sides.
 - According to reports, over 25 regime soldiers were killed, and more than 40 others were wounded. The engagement ended when regime reinforcements with heavy weapons arrived from Wetet-Abay, after which Fano forces withdrew and the regime army collected its casualties.

Bahir-Dar-Zuriya Woreda

- On January 14th, an attack was undertaken against regime forces in the Robit locality of Dehna-Maryam Kebele.
 - The operation was reportedly conducted by a single Fano fighter from the 22nd Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 102nd Corps). According to

reports, the lone fighter launched an ambush on regime soldiers moving in the area. In this offensive, at least six soldiers, all of whom were local militias, were killed, and their weaponry was reportedly seized. Upon completing the mission, the fighter withdrew from the area and rejoined his unit.

– The fallen casualties were from the Gombat and Robit localities, identified as follows:

1. Takele Ejigu (a militia leader);
2. Alemu Mellese;
3. Mulu Sendegh;
4. Geteneh Muche; and
5. Alemante Gebre.

Yilmana-Densa Woreda

- On January 17th, regime soldiers reportedly executed two civilians in the Konch-Selassie area.
 - According to reports, the victims were students at Adet High School. They were reportedly returning home from school in their uniforms when regime soldiers fatally shot them. The incident occurred in the Konch Selassie vicinity, though the exact motive for the killings remains unconfirmed. The killed victims were identified as 17-year-old Bekalu Melese and 19-year-old Yechale Aysheshim.

Northwestern Amhara (Gonder Subregion)

South Gonder Zone

Ibnat Woreda

- As of January 17th, regime forces enforced a blockade on Ibnat town, strictly prohibiting all movement into and out of Ibnat town.
 - This lockdown has severely disrupted regional commerce, as local farmers attempting to attend scheduled market days have been systematically intercepted and turned back by security personnel. The heightened security posture and local instability are direct consequences of a drone strike in Sehala-Seyemit Woreda of Wag-Hemra Zone, which resulted in heavy casualties among allied militia forces. This incident has triggered significant volatility and a breakdown of trust within the regime’s own ranks, leading to an atmosphere of deep-seated suspicion and tension among the forces stationed throughout Ibnat Woreda.

Andabet Woreda

- On January 18th, a significant military engagement erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in the Andabet region.
 - The conflict began when regime joint forces, a coalition of militia, riot dispersal, and the regular army units, attempted a clandestine maneuver under the cover of darkness, deploying from Jaragedo town toward Abala Kebele. In response units under the Andabet Brigade of the Guna Division (operating under the AFNF-BC) carried out a preemptive assault. The ensuing battle was described as fierce, characterized by intense combat that resulted in heavy casualties for both the joint regime coalition and the Fano combatants.

Central Gonder Zone

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On January 12th, Fano forces conducted a series of operations targeting regime security details in the vicinity of Gonder city.
 - During the afternoon, the Tadilo-Birhan Division (operating under the AFNF-BC) launched a surprise assault in Chinchaye Kebele, located near Tseda Sub-city. The primary target was a regime motorcade consisting of military patrol vehicles escorting high-ranking political officials. The convoy also included heavy military trucks transporting riot dispersal forces. The Fano assault resulted in significant casualties among the regime's security personnel, with reports confirming several fatalities as well as a range of physical injuries ranging from minor to critical in severity.
 - Later that evening, a major coordinated operation was carried out in Arsema Kebele with involvement from the Tadilo-Birhan and Tiquir-Anbesa Divisions (both operating under the AFNF-BC). The Fano assault inflicted heavy casualties on the regime's ranks which were compelled to withdraw, retreating back to Tseda Sub-city.

Alefa Woreda

- On the night of January 18th, Fano forces initiated a coordinated offensive against regime positions near Delgi town.
 - Utilizing the element of surprise, units under the Adwa Division (operating under the AFNF-BC) targeted a military encampment situated in the vicinity of Chachenaluwa village. The operation resulted in the complete encirclement of the regime forces, leaving them tactically disadvantaged and unable to

mount an effective breakout. Reports indicate that the joint forces suffered heavy casualties, including the loss of several high-ranking commanding officers who were killed in battle.

- In the aftermath of the fighting, a massive logistical recovery effort was observed the following day (January 19th). A significant convoy of military trucks and ambulances was deployed to the area to retrieve the deceased and transport the wounded back to Delgi for medical attention and processing.

Areas Outside Amhara Region

East Wollega Zone (Oromia Region)

- Between January 11th and 14th, tensions escalated sharply across Guto-Gida and Sibu-Sire Woredas.
 - Sources indicate heavy military movement, with regime forces specifically deploying large numbers of personnel supported by heavy artillery, advancing toward areas within these woredas.
 - Between January 12th and 13th, skirmishes were reported in Guto-Gida Woreda. During this time, the regime army utilized indiscriminate heavy artillery fire and conducted drone surveillance for two consecutive days. However, so far, no casualties among combatants or civilians have been confirmed.
- Between January 11th and 13th, intense fighting took place in Beqo Kebele in Sibu-Sire Woreda and neighboring areas in Gudyabila Woreda.
 - The firefight began on January 11th, after regime joint forces mobilized toward Beqo, an area predominantly inhabited by ethnic Amhara residents. On the

regime side, the Oromia Region Special Commando forces, known as “*Geda Commando*”, were primarily involved in the combat in coordination with ENDF. Initially, the commando forces were deployed for operations against Fano in the Gerado and Merkato areas, while the ENDF were stationed nearby as a reserve. On the first two days (January 11th and 12th), Fano forces fiercely resisted, successfully defending their positions and overwhelming the regional forces.

- Once the regional special forces were defeated in their engagement with Fano forces, the ENDF moved toward the frontlines on January 13th, positioning themselves as mediators or a stabilizing force. Because the local community placed more trust in the ENDF than in the regional forces, the soldiers entered and secured the area without resistance. Shortly after, the commando forces followed them in and carried out numerous violations against civilian residents. Upon entering these areas, the commando forces conducted various abuses including a civilian massacre and extensive property damage. Among these incidents, the soldiers killed at least eight civilians and injured another; this included a woman killed while fleeing with her infant child, who also sustained physical injuries. The soldiers also arrested several farmers, forcefully demanding the handover of firearms. Additionally, regime troops burned at least five residential homes, more than 15 motorcycles, and other civilian properties. Sources reported that tensions continue to escalate and the majority of civilians fled the area in fear of further attacks.
- In a related development in neighboring Dengeyo-Guyo Kebele, an exchange of gunfire took place on January 14th, between OLA militants and local farmers. The fighting was reportedly initiated by OLA, who launched a sudden offensive on the residents. Sources reported that the farmers, in coordination with Fano fighters, confronted the OLA militants in a counteroffensive, with

reports of casualties on both sides. However, tension continued to escalate in this kebele as the regime joint forces prepared to launch an offensive in the area.

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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