War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – January 19th to 25th, 2026

Updated January 26th, 2026

Overview

For the week of January 19th to 25th, 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.[1][2]

- This week battle events and rights violations were recorded in more than 31 woreda/city administrations across 11 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These zones included North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, Bahir-Dar, South Gonder, Central Gonder and West

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

[2] The Fano are largely organized under a unified structure called the *Amhara Fano National Movement* (AFNM) organized under sub-regional commands based on geographic location which are comprised of divisions. The major sub-regional commands include 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), Amhara Fano Shewa Province Command (AFSPC), the Amhara Fano Gonder Province Command (AFGPC) and the Amhara Fano Wollo Bete-Amhara Province Command (AFWPC).

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

- Civilian casualties were recorded in 9 woreda/city administrations across 6 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Lalibela, Enemay, Bibugn, Shebel-Berenta, Dembecha, Quarit, South Mecha, Bahir-Dar and Guna-Begemidir Woredas in North Wollo, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, North Gojjam, Bahir-Dar, and South Gonder Zones. Civilian casualties were also recorded in Abe-Dongoro Woreda of East Wollega Zone in Oromia Region and in Addis-Ababa city.

- This week drone activity was reported in Qwara Woreda of West Gonder Zone in Amhara Region.

- Arrests were recorded in 5 woreda/city administrations across 5 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Lalibela, Kombolcha, Debre-Markos, Dembecha and North Mecha Woredas in North Wollo, South Wollo, East Gojjam, West Gojjam and North Gojjam Zones. In addition, abductions were recorded in Alamata and Jabi-Tehnan Woredas in North Wollo and West Gojjam Zones and in Bahir-Dar city. Abductions in Alamata city in North Wollo Zone were carried out by *Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF) forces targeting religious leaders affiliated with the *Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church* (EOTC).

Northeastern Amhara (Wollo Bete-Amhara Subregion)

- Between January 22nd and 23rd, defections of regime security forces to Fano units reportedly intensified following the recent declaration of unity among Fano groups under the banner of the AFNM.

  - Reports indicate that the formation of a unified command structure has contributed to an increased flow of defectors from regime forces. On January

22nd, multiple ENDF soldiers reportedly defected and joined the Wubante Abate Division (operating under the AFNM-MC Lasta Asaminew Corps) in Meket Woreda. According to sources, the defectors were previously serving in the 5th Battalion of the 65th Division.

  - On January 23rd, eight additional ENDF soldiers reportedly defected and joined the Kalakorma Division (operating under the AFNM-MC East Amhara Corps Two). Sources further indicated that the defectors arrived with military equipment, including seven Kalashnikov rifles, approximately 1,400 rounds of ammunition, six F1 grenades and other supplies.

- On January 24th, numerous regime security forces personnel defected to various Fano units.

  - On this day, seven ENDF members defected to the Maregu Temare Division (operating under the AFNM-MC Lasta-Asaminew Corps) and reportedly brought with them seven black Kalashnikov rifles, more than 1,400 rounds of ammunition, 14 hand grenades, and seven sets of waist and chest body armor. Te defectors previously served in the 61st and 65th ENDF Divisions. In a similar development, multiple additional army personnel defected to the Baleshiritu Division (operating under the AFNM-MC East Amhara Corps One). These individuals were reportedly members of the 2nd Company of the 2nd Battalion of the 58th ENDF Division.

  - After joining the Fano, the defectors stated that the country's defense institutions have deviated from their constitutional mandate of protecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity. They emphasized that they could no longer cooperate with a regime they accused of killing, persecuting, and committing atrocities against the public. These defections are believed to reflect growing internal dissent within the state security apparatus and an

increasing refusal by some security personnel to participate in operations against civilians in the region.

North Wollo Zone

Alamata City

- Between January 19th to 20th, TPLF forces carried out arrests of religious leaders amid the disruption of the annual Timket celebration due to coercive measures imposed by TPLF forces in Alamata city.
  - On January 19th, two priests were abducted from Haragualajo Genetetsige St. George's Church. The victims were identified as Melake Birhan Qesis Siyum Gezahegn, a prayer father, and Qesis Misgun Hadis, Head of the Church Control Department. The priests were reportedly kidnapped at around 6:30 pm in the Jihan area (Kebele 05), while traveling to their residences.
  - On January 20th, an attempted bomb attack was reported at Alamata Debre-Medhanit-Eyesus Cathedral Church. Sources stated that an explosion was heard within the church compound, causing alarm among the surrounding community. In addition, two explosive devices were discovered buried in an area known as Melakesha. According to reports, these devices were allegedly planted by TPLF forces with the intention of creating chaos and insecurity. The command post deployed in the area reportedly managed to locate and safely remove the unexploded devices before they caused harm to civilians or damage to property. As of January 20th, no casualties or material damage were reported as a result of the explosion.
  - As a consequence of these security threats and ongoing intimidation, the Epiphany celebration passed without public observance in the area, marking a

significant disruption to one of the most important religious festivals observed among followers of the EOTC.

- On January 24th, churches reopened after having been closed for one week due to forceful measures and interference by TPLF forces in Alamata city.
  - The closures significantly disrupted religious activities in the city and prevented the celebration of major annual religious festivals, including Timket (Epiphany). According to reports, the churches were closed following tensions involving TPLF forces, which led to restrictions on religious activities. The reopening of the churches reportedly followed discussions between the EOTC Raya Diocese and the Federal Command Post stationed in the area, resulting in an agreement that allowed religious services to resume.
  - In a related development, individuals who had been arrested by TPLF forces were reportedly released on January 24th, after being detained for approximately two weeks. Those released include Qesis Melaku Moges and at least two youths, among them Fitsum Reda.

Lalibela City

- On January 20th, regime forces carried out physical beatings and mass arrests in Lalibela city.
  - These acts targeted civilians who were celebrating the religious festival of Kana-Zegelila, and reportedly resulted in widespread fear among worshippers observing the event. According to sources, EOTC faithful who gathered publicly to celebrate the festival, traditionally observed with large communal participation, were subjected to physical assaults by regime soldiers. Witnesses reported that many worshippers were beaten and arbitrarily detained during the celebration, with mass arrests carried out in an indiscriminate manner.

Meket Woreda

- On January 21st, Fano forces carried out an ambush against regime security forces in the Waketa area.
  - The operation was conducted by units under the Ansha Division (operating under the AFNM Yedegaw-Mebreq Corps). The ambush reportedly targeted a military unit that was advancing from Gashena toward Filaqit. The attack began at approximately 10 am, continuing until around 12 noon. Sources indicate that the engagement resulted in significant casualties among the regime forces.
  - According to reports, at least nine soldiers were killed and seven others sustained serious injuries during the operation.

Gazo Woreda

- On January 21st, Fano forces carried out an offensive operation against regime security forces in areas surrounding Estayish town.
  - According to reports, the operation was conducted by units under the Dejen Division (operating under the AFNM Yedegaw-Mebreq Corps). The offensive reportedly took place in an area known as Addisgie. The attack targeted a regime military unit that was advancing from Gashena toward the area. Sources indicate that the engagement resulted in casualties among the regime forces with 13 regime soldiers sustaining serious injuries during the operation.

Lasta Woreda

- On January 23rd, Fano forces reportedly carried out a coordinated offensive against regime forces in Lasta Woreda.

- According to reports, the operation targeted regime soldiers traveling between Lalibela and Gashena with the purpose of exchanging or receiving rations. The joint operation involved units from the Nebro-Teworwari Commando unit (operating under the AFNM-MC Lasta Asaminew Corps), alongside units of the Wubante Abate Corps (operating under the AFNM-BC). These forces conducted synchronized attacks against regime convoys moving in both directions, from Lalibela to Gashena and Gashena to Lalibela. From early morning until midday, regime forces were reportedly subjected to sustained and heavy fire from both sides.
- A significant number of regime soldiers were reportedly killed or injured, although the exact number of casualties has not yet been confirmed. According to reports, the Fano forces inflicted heavy losses on regime forces in the Enkuay-Ber and Koga areas, constraining the movement of the targeted regime forces.

Habru Woreda

- On January 22nd, Fano forces carried out an offensive against regime soldiers in Habru Woreda.
  - According to reports, the offensive targeted a military convoy moving from Mersa to Dessie and took place in the Libso-Ela area. The operation was reportedly conducted by units under the Baleshiritu Division (operating under the AFNM-MC East Amhara Corps One). The regime soldiers were traveling in three vehicles, one tractor, one Sino truck, and one patrol vehicle, when they were attacked.
  - Sources indicated that the ambush resulted in significant casualties among the regime forces with at least 35 regime forces killed or wounded, including

senior military commanders. The wounded were reportedly transported to Mersa Hospital using approximately ten vehicles (indicating a higher casualty toll). In addition to personnel losses, all vehicles in which the soldiers were traveling were reportedly destroyed during the attack.

Wadla Woreda

- On January 24th, numerous regime security personnel were captured by Fano forces following coordinated operations conducted in two separate locations within Wadla Woreda.
  - According to reports, the operations were carried out by the Kegnazmach Tebeje Worku and Ansha Sayed Divisions (operating under the AFNM-MC Yedegaw-Mebreq Corps). One of the engagements occurred in the Getatit area, approximately 5-km from Gashena. In this confrontation, Fano forces reportedly attacked a regime military unit, resulting in the killing of six soldiers and serious injuries to nine others. Simultaneously, the Fano launched a separate attack in the Arbit area, targeting regime forces which had dispersed while attempting to flee the initial assault. These coordinated actions significantly disrupted the movement and command structure of the regime forces operating in the area. As a result of the rapid advances in Arbit and the surrounding areas, including pressure toward Gashena, regime forces reportedly became encircled. Sources indicate that units associated with the regime's army were caught between advancing Fano forces, leading to additional casualties during exchanges of fire. Facing mounting losses and an inability to reorganize, the remaining regime forces were ultimately compelled to surrender. Reports indicated at least 15 regime soldiers captured during the operation.

South Wollo Zone

- As of January 24th, the regime has reportedly been undertaking extensive military preparations for a planned operation, referring to it as a "cleaning campaign," which is expected to be launched in the coming week in western woredas of South Wollo Zone.
  - According to reports, these preparations include large-scale movement of troops and military logistics into the targeted areas. Regime forces have reportedly been redeployed from several locations across North Wollo, South Wollo, and North Shewa Zone. Areas identified as points of origin for these movements include Mersa, Hara, Ambassel, Kombolcha, Mida-Woremo, and Dera Woredas. In particular, units of the ENDF 11th Command, previously stationed in Hara (North Wollo Zone), are reported to have been transferred toward western areas of South Wollo Zone. The movement of forces and supplies suggests a coordinated buildup aimed at launching a wide-scale military offensive. Sources further warn that the anticipated operation could involve a broad offensive across South Wollo Zone, raising concerns about potential escalation of armed confrontations and the associated risks to civilian populations in the affected areas.[3]

Delanta Woreda

- On January 20th, a significant military engagement took place resulting in heavy losses among regime forces in Entiguna Kebele.
  - The engagement commenced as units under the Tsinat Division (operating under the AFNM Yedegaw-Mebreq Corps) launched an offensive operation lasting from approximately 1:00 pm to 7:30 pm against regime troops that had

[3] See January 24, 2026 reports from Ethio Focus News.

reportedly mobilized in large numbers. The regime forces were said to have advanced toward Entiguna from three different directions, having been deployed from Gubalafto, Tenta and Delanta Woredas. Sources indicated that advancing troops took positions in the mountainous terrain of Entiguna, where intense fighting subsequently occurred. Following several hours of confrontation, the regime forces were reportedly overwhelmed, resulting in substantial casualties and forcing the remaining troops to retreat back to their points of origin.

  - According to reports, at least 29 regime soldiers were killed and 47 others were injured during the clashes.

Kombolcha City

- On January 19th, regime forces carried out mass arrests targeting civilians (daily laborers) in Kombolcha city.

  - According to reports, the operation began at approximately 7:30 pm and primarily targeted young day laborers who were present in tea shops and restaurants to eat dinner in Kebele 8 and its surroundings. Witnesses reported that a group of laborers who had gathered for dinner at a restaurant known locally as Guzguz were forcibly taken by security forces. The arrested individuals were reportedly loaded onto two Isuzu trucks and transported to an undisclosed location. As of January 22nd, no official information has been provided regarding their whereabouts, legal status, or the reasons for their detention.

  - Sources further indicate that the operation appears to be part of a broader campaign of intimidation and collective punishment against day laborers in the city. Residents fear that similar arrests may be extended to other kebeles and

neighborhoods, as reports suggest that daily laborers are being systematically hunted across the city.

Southeastern Amhara (Shewa Subregion)

North Shewa Zone

Hageremariam-Kessem Woreda

- Between January 21st and 22nd, intense fighting occurred between Fano forces and regime security forces in Hageremariam-Kessem Woreda.
  - According to reports, the clashes were initiated by regime forces with the stated objective of disrupting religious festival celebrations, as well as besieging and attacking Fano positions in the area.
  - On January 21st, during the celebration of Egziabher-Ab Nigis Beal, regime forces attempted to interfere with the religious event and simultaneously launched attacks against Fano forces. In response, units under the Hailemariam Mamo Division (operating under the AFNM-AC Kessem Corps) mounted a coordinated counter-offensive, successfully repelling the attack and preventing further disruption of the celebration.
  - On January 22nd, following the failure of this initial operation, regime forces escalated their military response mobilizing militia and ENDF units from Tulefa and Hageremariam, reinforced by troops deployed from the Kessem-Koremash Subdistrict, including units stationed at the Menelik Army Reserve Camp. These forces launched a coordinated offensive on three fronts, Weyin-Amba, Sherer, and Sewest-Amba, employing mortars and artillery in an attempt to overrun Fano positions. Despite this escalation and the use of heavy weaponry, the offensive was unsuccessful. After withdrawing from the

battlefield, regime forces reportedly engaged in acts of looting and intimidation against civilians. According to sources, farmers traveling along rural roads were beaten and arbitrarily detained. Community members were robbed of personal and household property, including pepper, sugar, eggs, clothing, mobile phones, and shoes. In one reported incident, an unnamed farmer was robbed of 10,000 ETB before the soldiers retreated from the area.

- In a parallel development, and seemingly aimed at diverting attention from the Koremasha front, regime forces redeployed remaining troops from Hageremariam toward Zala-Zebaba. However, this maneuver was met with resistance from Fano units, forcing the troops to withdraw. During these clashes, a militia member identified as Getahun Terefe was reportedly killed by the Fano forces.[4]

Southwestern Amhara (Gojjam Subregion)

- Since January 18th, regime soldiers and militias reportedly carried out a campaign of violence including killings and mass arrests targeting civilians. This wave of human rights violations coincided with the Timket (Epiphany) holiday, observed by followers of the EOTC in the region.

East Gojjam Zone

Debre-Markos City

- On January 19th and 20th, regime soldiers conducted mass arrests in Debre-Markos city. The arrests were conducted under allegation residents conducted demonstrations in support of Fano forces. The soldiers detained between 10 and 20 young people in the area.

[4] See January 23, 2026 report from Roha TV.

- On the night of January 24th (extending into the early morning hours of January 25th), Fano forces reportedly conducted a sudden attack in the suburbs of Debre-Markos city.
  - This operation was carried out by units from the AFNM-TC 206th Corps overnight at approximately 1 am, targeting a regime vehicle transporting forces from Debre-Markos, which had departed from Selassie Camp and was moving toward Yejube town. Fano forces utilized heavy explosives during this attack, resulting in reports of considerable casualties among the regime troops. Because the operation took place overnight, sources were unable to confirm the full extent of casualties.
  - According to reports, 14 regime soldiers were killed, including a commander, while 15 others were wounded and taken to Debre-Markos Hospital.

Enemay Woreda

- On January 19th, regime soldiers carried out a wave of deadly violence targeting civilians in Bichena town. The campaign resulted in the confirmed death of one civilian in addition to a series of physical assaults and harassment.

Bibugn Woreda

- On January 19th, regime soldiers and police set fire to a private residence in Bibugn Woreda. According to reports, the soldiers reportedly set fire to the property after the family left for church, and was conducted under allegation the home belonged to a Fano member. The incident has left an elderly woman homeless.[5]
- On January 20th, regime soldiers reportedly killed one civilian and injured ten others in the Adbar area.

[5] See January 20, 2026 report from Ashara Media.

- According to reports, regime soldiers perpetrated the attack by targeting a group of youths who were celebrating the Kana Ze-Gelila religious festival. While the youths were escorting the Bibugn Mikael Ark, regime soldiers, specifically militias, confronted them and carried out an indiscriminate attack which resulted in the death of one civilian and injuries to ten others (minors were among the victims). The deceased victim was identified as 26-year-old Debasu Lake.

Debre-Elias Woreda

- On January 22nd, Fano forces reportedly conducted an operation in the vicinity of Elias town.
  - This operation was conducted by units under the 14th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 206th Corps), targeting regime forces moving from Yekegat toward Gofchima Kebele. The attack was conducted before the troops could reach Gofchima. According to reports, the regime forces suffered considerable casualties.

Shebel-Berenta Woreda

- On January 23rd, a firefight took place in Goy Kebele.
  - The engagement was reportedly initiated by regime forces who had departed from Yedoha town and mobilized toward Goy. In response, units under the 64th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 201st Corps), confronted the regime forces as they moved into the kebele. The engagement lasted for a few hours and subsided after the regime forces withdrew from the area.
  - Sources reported minor casualties on both sides including more than four casualties on the regime side. Following the engagement, regime forces killed

a civilian, identified as Ato Anley Ewnetu, before they withdrew from the area.

West Gojjam Zone

Dembecha Woreda

- On January 20th, regime soldiers conducted mass arrests and harassment in Dembecha town. The soldiers engaged in severe beatings of individuals alleging they chanted messages in support of Fano forces.

Quarit Woreda

- On January 20th, regime troops fired on a crowd of churchgoers near Gebeze-Mariam town. The incident took place as residents were attending observing the Timket St. Mikael's feast. The gunfire injured two young people, leaving one with a critical neck wound.

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- Between January 24th and 25th, a firefight was reported in the vicinity of Mankusa town.
  - According to sources, the engagement was initiated when regime forces deployed troops to the area in an attempt to intercept a large movement of the Fano army. This operation was a regime attempt to obstruct Fano movement, which Fano forces met with a counter-confrontation. The firefight was reportedly light and lasted for a brief period, though the extent of casualties remains unknown. The following day (January 25th), a similar firefight was reported in the Mankusa neighborhood, with the details and outcomes yet to be investigated.

- In a separate development in this area, sources reported that between January 23rd and 25th, regime soldiers intensified mass abduction of young civilians in various towns, particularly in the towns of Bure, Jiga, Mankusa, and Dembecha. Hundreds of civilians were abducted from these towns and transported to military camps from their places of recreation or work over this period.

North Gojjam Zone

North Mecha Woreda

- On December 1st and 2nd, regime soldiers reportedly perpetrated attacks against civilians across North Mecha Woreda, resulting in the deaths of at least three civilians and injuries to others in separate incidents.
  - According to recent update received from sources, on December 1st, regime soldiers killed a young civilian identified as 14-year-old Aweke Nibret when the patrolling regime soldiers encountered him on their route. His body was later laid to rest at the local Selam Argiw Bahta church cemetery. That same day, regime soldiers executed another youth, 16-year-old Muluken Gebre, after finding him outside in a Dagi town neighborhood. He was buried at the Dagi St. Mikael's Church cemetery. The following day (December 2nd), regime soldiers killed a priest in the Surba-Giyorgis area. The name of the deceased was not identified by sources, but he was reportedly returning from the funeral of the respected religious father, Yibabe Belay, when regime forces executed him. He was later buried at St. George's Church.
- On January 19th, regime soldiers conducted mass arrests of young civilians in Merawi town during Epiphany celebrations. Regime soldiers detained these

individuals on the grounds that they had allegedly chanted the name of Arbegna Zemene Kassie during the festivities.

South Mecha Woreda

- On January 24th, regime forces killed three civilians in Addis-Alem Kebele.
  - According to reports, regime soldiers targeted civilians who were accused of having familial affiliation with Fano fighters, accusing them of hiding them. The killed victims were identified as: 54-year-old Ato Mulat Admas; his son, 16-year-old Yihenew Mulat; and his nephew, 22-year-old Wudu Melke. Regime soldiers, who advanced carrying on the family's residence on that day, opened fire on the victims and killed them all.
  - Since the deployment of the regime's army in Mehalegenet town, several families have been repeatedly targeted including that of the late Ato Mulat Admas. The soldiers have looted their property and seized their home to house militias. These actions prompted Ato Mulat to flee Mehalegenet and seek shelter in Addis-Alem.

Bahir-Dar City

- On the night of January 17th, residents set off fireworks to celebrate the declared unification of Fano forces across Bahir-Dar city.
  - During the Epiphany celebrations on January 19th, regime soldiers opened fire with HMGs in Kebele 14. The soldiers claimed that the residents were chanting the names of Fano leaders. While the shelling was described as indiscriminate, no casualties have been confirmed as of January 19th.
- Between January 18th and 20th, regime forces carried out a series of abuses against civilians in Bahir-Dar city.

- The regime forces reportedly carried out assaults under pretext that victims engaged in chants expressing support for Fano forces.
- According to reports, regime militias opened fire on a crowd of worshippers at Akotet Square, killing two civilians and wounding seven others. Following the shooting, soldiers abducted a large number of youth and took them to detention centers.[6]

Northwestern Amhara (Gonder Subregion)

South Gonder Zone

Guna-Begemidir Woreda

- On January 19th, regime militia forces killed four civilians in Kimir-Dingay town.
  - The incident occurred as youths were gathered singing traditional songs on the occasion of the Timket holiday. The militia forces opened fire on the singing youths alleging the songs had political messaging. All confirmed victims were unarmed.
- On January 20th, Fano forces conducted an offensive against regime militia forces in Kimir-Dingay town.
  - The operation was conducted by units under the Teraraw-Guna Division (operating under the AFNM) targeting militia units stationed at the Menehariya (public bus station). Throughout the evening, the town was engulfed in the sound of heavy, uninterrupted gunfire echoing from all directions.

[6] See January 20, 2025 report from Ashara Media.

- The operation resulted in the confirmed deaths of at least four militiamen and left several others with critical injuries, during which the Fano forces seized Kalashnikov rifles. The offensive was launched as a retaliatory measure following a massacre committed by militia forces against unarmed youths celebrating the Timket holiday only a day earlier.

Central Gonder Zone

Central Armachiho Woreda

- On January 19th, a high-intensity battle erupted between Fano forces and regime troops in Shimelgot Kebele.
  - The engagement began when regime forces were deployed from Maserodenb town, administrative center of Central Armachiho Woreda, under the cover of darkness, attempting a stealthy advancement into Shimelgot. In response units under the Tekeze Division (operating under the AFNM-BC) coordinated ambush, completely encircling the regime units and launching a decisive assault.
  - The results of the engagement were lopsided with the majority of the deployed regime forces killed or wounded during the encirclement. Faced with overwhelming pressure and significant losses, surviving remnants of regime units were forced to break formation and retreat back to Maserodenb.
- On January 19th, intense clashes erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Jarsuma Kebele.
  - The confrontation commenced in the early hours of the morning when the 78th and 92nd ENDF Divisions, having deployed covertly from Maserodenb town to Shimel-Ber Got under the cover of darkness, initiated an offensive. In

response, units under the Tekeze Division (operating under the AFNM-BC) launched an early morning counter-offensive.

  - The strike inflicted heavy losses on regime joint forces, with at least 70 confirmed killed and over 40 others sustaining various degrees of physical injuries. Among the fatalities on the regime's side was their campaign leader, while on the Fano side, a prominent figure named Arbegna Melaku Nega was killed in battle. In the week preceding the battle, more than 20 regime soldiers defected to the Fano forces, joining with their full military equipment, notably including Lieutenant Amanuel Leta, who had served as a radio operator within the 78th Division.

East Belessa Woreda

- On January 21st, an intense and protracted military engagement erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Abuye-Mikael Kebele.
  - The fighting involved units under Nisir-Belessa Division (operating under the AFNM-BC). The confrontation, characterized by its fierce nature, raged for several hours without respite as both sides clashed for control of the area. By the time the fighting finally subsided, the regime forces had reportedly sustained significant losses, suffering heavy casualties.

Alefa Woreda

- On January 23rd, a fierce engagement took place between Fano forces and regime forces in Chimalembez Kebele.
  - The conflict began when regime troops stationed in Atsedemaryam town were deployed to the kebele with the objective of attacking Fano positions and forcibly disarming local farmers. In response, units under the Adwa Division

(operating under the AFNM-BC) launched a preemptive counter-offensive when regime forces arrived at their destination. While militia units tasked with disarming the farmers were caught off guard and neutralized, the Fano forces simultaneously struck the regime's regular army to prevent them from reinforcing the beleaguered militia. The assault resulted in casualties for the joint regime forces, with at least seven fatalities and three critical injuries. By the afternoon, the regime forces were compelled to withdraw from Chimalembez, retreating while carrying their casualties.

- On January 25th, intense night fighting erupted in Atsedemaryam town.
  - The fighting broke out after regime forces stationed in Shawra town moved under the cover of darkness to mount a surprise attack against units of the Adwa Division (operating under the AFNM-BC); the clash began in the middle of the night and quickly escalated as the Fano mounted a determined defense and launched a counter-offensive to break an attempted encirclement. In the ensuing combat, regime militia, riot-dispersion units, and ENDF units sustained heavy casualties, with a large number killed as Fano fighters pressed their assault and ultimately succeeded in lifting the siege. On the Fano side, a prominent commando trainer was killed in the fighting.

West Gonder Zone

Qwara Woreda

- On January 22nd, regime forces attempted an offensive resulting in an intense military confrontation in Abay-Dar Kebele.
  - The regime units, which had been deployed from their bases in Gelego and Bemur, were met with a counter-attack led by units under the Qwara-Omedla,

Karamara, and Fitawrari Gebayehu Divisions (operating under the AFNM-BC). This resistance inflicted losses on the regime side, with 12 soldiers confirmed dead and another 18 suffering critical injuries. Beyond the casualties, the Fano forces seized significant military supplies, including Bren LMG ammunition. As a result of the offensive, the regime forces were forced into a retreat, withdrawing from the combat zone later that afternoon.

- On January 24th, Fano forces launched a coordinated offensive against regime troops in Bemur Kebele.
  - Following intense combat that resulted in heavy casualties, regime forces were compelled to abandon their military installation in Bemur and retreated toward the rugged terrain of Alemu Mountain. Units under the Qwara-Omedla and Karamara Divisions (operating under the AFNM-BC) seized control of the Bemur camp along with its substantial logistical assets. In an effort to stabilize the situation, the regime deployed reinforcements on January 25th from Alefa Shawra, Tewodrose town and Metemma Woreda into Qwara Woreda, supported by frequent drone reconnaissance missions over the area. Despite these reinforcements, the regime units stationed at Alemu Mountain and Abay-Dar Kebele found themselves in a precarious position, having been effectively isolated and cut off from their command lines. Adding to the regime's tactical disarray, several high-ranking military officers who had been commanding forces in Bemur were reported as missing from their posts.

Areas Outside Amhara Region

Addis-Ababa City

- Between January 19th and 20th, regime forces carried out acts of civilian intimidation, harassment, and looting in connection with Timket celebrations in Addis-Ababa city.
  - According to sources, regime security forces, including city police, targeted youths who were peacefully celebrating the religious festival by singing cultural songs. Witnesses reported that these youths were subjected to repeated physical intimidation and harassment by security personnel during the course of the celebrations.
  - In addition, the security forces reportedly confiscated and looted personal property belonging to the celebrants, particularly traditional sticks used during the Timket festivities. These sticks serve not only as cultural instruments during religious and communal celebrations but also as important symbols of identity, especially among Amhara communities. The confiscation and looting of these items were therefore perceived by the affected communities as an attack on their cultural expression and identity.

East Wollega Zone (Oromia Region)

Abe-Dongoro Woreda

- Starting January 20th, regime joint forces, primarily comprising the Oromia Special Commando soldiers (Geda commando) supported by ENDF units were deployed to Gulente, Gerchi, and Horo Kebeles.
  - Sources reported that the regime soldiers were unable to locate any Fano fighters. The regime forces, particularly those belonging to the

Geda-commando unit, then reportedly resorted to violence against civilians, perpetrating multiple violations and systematic intimidation against Amhara residents in these areas. Among other incidents, sources confirm that upon entering Gulente on January 20th, the soldiers executed a local farmer.

  - As the regime forces continue to expand their presence in neighboring kebeles, they have employed coercive threats, warning Amhara residents of "total extermination" should they fail to submit to the regime.

Metekel Zone (Benishangul-Gumuz Region)

Dangur Woreda

- On January 22nd, several armed militants reportedly joined Fano forces. According to reports, nearly 60 individuals, who had previously been operating under an independent structure joined the 66th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 105th Corps). The group brought with them a large quantity of firearms including HMGs and Kalashnikov rifles.

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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Amhara Association of America
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