



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – March 16th to 22nd, 2026

Updated March 23rd, 2026

Overview

For the week of March 16th to 22nd, 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 26 woreda/city administrations across 8 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These zones included North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, North Gojjam, South Gonder and Central Gonder Zones. Developments

¹Regime forces are primarily comprised of the *Ethiopian National Defense Force* (ENDF) often with backing from regional *riot dispersal forces* (RDF), militia and police. In Oromia Region, operations involved Oromia Region Forces including Geda Commando Forces.

²The Fano are largely organized under a unified structure called the *Amhara Fano National Movement* (AFNM) organized under subregional commands based on geographic location which are comprised of divisions. The major subregional commands include the Menelik Command (MC), Belay Zeleke Command (BC), Tewodrose Command (TC), Asaminew Command (AC), Shewa Province Command (SPC), and Gonder Province Command (GPC).

were also recorded in Addis-Ababa City and Metekel Zone of Benishangul-Gumuz Region.

- Civilian casualties were recorded in North Mecha and East Belessa Woredas of North Gojjam and Central Gonder Zones in Amhara Region.
- Arrests and abductions were recorded in Berehet and Dejen Woredas of North Shewa and East Gojjam Zones in Amhara Region. This week, numerous Amhara political prisoners reportedly faced serious medical problems in detention in Addis-Ababa City.
- Drone activity was recorded in 4 woreda/city administrations across 3 zonal administrations in Amhara Regions. These included Habru, Machakel, Dembecha-Zuriya and East Belessa Woredas of North Wollo, East Gojjam, West Gojjam and Central Gonder Zones.
- This week, *Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)* officials convened a meeting in Alamata City prompting criticism from locals.

Northeastern Amhara (Wollo Bete-Amhara Subregion)

- Between March 17th and 18th, reports indicate a continued trend of defections from regime security forces to Fano forces.
 - According reports, regime security personnel are increasingly defecting, following an amnesty decree from the AFNM. This shift is attributed, in part, to a growing perception among some personnel that the regime is weakening. On March 17th, eight regime personnel defected to Fano, bringing their weapons with them. Among the defectors were six militia and two RDF officers who joined the 102nd Corps (operating under the AFNM-MC). On

March 18th, two RDF personnel defected with their weapons and joined the Amhara-Sayint-Mekdela Division (operating under the AFNM-MC Nigus Mikael Ali Corps).

- On March 18th, Fano forces announced the graduation of units.
 - The ceremony reportedly included mechanized divisions referred to as Qagni units, specifically the 12th, 49th, and 65th Divisions (operating under the AFNM-MC 102nd Corps). During the ceremony, representatives emphasized their commitment to intensifying efforts against the regime, stating that their goal is to bring an end to what they describe as oppressive rule affecting the Amhara population. The representatives indicated that both practical and theoretical training, supported by technological tools, is being provided to strengthen operational capacity. The newly trained units reportedly conducted a live operation, described as a targeted mortar attack on a regime stronghold without direct trainer support, which was presented as evidence of their readiness.

- On March 20th, Fano forces operating under various commands, corps, and divisions marked the occasion of 1447th Eid al-Fitr, demonstrating a strong sense of unity across their ranks.
 - According to reports, members of the Tirari Division (operating under the AFNM-MC 303rd Corps) celebrated the 1447th Eid al-Fitr with notable enthusiasm. The celebration brought together followers of the Muslim and Christian faiths, reflecting a spirit of mutual respect and solidarity. Muslim members within the division shared messages emphasizing values of understanding, humility, and togetherness. They highlighted the importance of maintaining unity in the context of ongoing challenges, and stressed that

religious differences should not divide them. In their statements, participants reiterated their commitment to their broader objectives, noting that their struggle, described as opposing what they characterize as anti-Amhara and anti-national elements, will continue with increased determination.

Representatives also issued a message of goodwill, expressing hope that the holiday would reinforce collective resolve and strengthen their pursuit of stated goals.

- In related developments, Fano forces announced the graduation of a group of recruits on the same day (March 20th). The graduates joined the Mebreq Division (operating under the AFNM-MC Nigus Mikael Ali Corps) completed the training of recruits which had undergone several months of preparation.
- On March 22nd, Fano forces held a large-scale graduation ceremony for trainees who had completed a special training program.
 - The program was organized by the 12th Division (operating under the AFNM-MC 102nd Corps) brought together both new recruits and existing members drawn from seven battalions, all of whom underwent preparation for designated operational missions. The graduation ceremony began with an opening address by a representative from the 102nd Corps. In his remarks, the representative congratulated the trainees on their completion of the program and emphasized that similar training initiatives would continue across other units. The representative further noted that such efforts are aimed at strengthening operational readiness and accelerating the broader campaign against the regime. Other representatives explained that the program combined both theoretical instruction and practical exercises, designed to prepare trainees from all battalions within the division for coordinated field operations. According to their remarks, the training was intended to enhance the capacity

of forces to carry out their stated objectives effectively.

North Wollo Zone

Woldia City and Gubalafto Woreda

- As of March 16th, defections from regime-aligned forces to Fano forces intensified in Woldia City and its surroundings.
 - According to reports, three regime strike personnel defected and joined Fano units. The individuals were previously assigned to the 24th Regiment, 2nd Company, which was stationed in Gubalafto Woreda near Woldia. Following their defection, they joined the 35th Division (operating under the AFNM-MC 101st Corps), bringing their full equipment with them.
- In a related development, two personnel from the 38th Division (operating under the ENDF Southern Command 204th Corps) defected and joined the 30th Division (operating under the AFNM-MC). The defectors were ranking officers identified as Yohannes Wondime and Mohammed Sayed. They reportedly brought with them a number of military assets, including two Kalashnikov rifles, six pistols, two sets of body armor, approximately 420 rounds of rifle ammunition, and six hand grenades.
- On March 17th, defections from regime-aligned forces to Fano forces in areas surrounding Woldia City. According to reports, three regime personnel defected and joined Fano forces in Woldia, administrative center of North Wollo Zone. The defectors include two RDF members and one member of the 58th ENDF Division, who served as a mortar operator. They were integrated into the 11th Division (operating under the AFNM-MC-101st Corps).

Lasta Woreda

- Between March 14th and 15th, intense fighting took place between Fano forces and regime forces in multiple areas in Lasta Woreda.
 - The clashes began on March 14th, when units under the Northeastern and Southern ENDF Commands initiated an offensive operation extending across Wag, Lasta, Meket, and Bugna. In response, units under the 303rd Corps (operating under the AFNM-MC), mobilized counter-offensive operations. On the same day, regime forces advancing from Lalibela reportedly moved in three directions, Erfa, Gulbet Mountain, and Mucha-Beret, during nighttime operations. In response, the Fano launched a counteroffensive, resulting in ten regime forces killed, and more than 17 wounded (evacuated by ambulance).
 - On March 15th, at approximately 4 am, regime forces launched a renewed, multi-directional offensive. Movements were described along three main axes: from Amdework (Dehana Woreda) toward Kob, from Ayina (Bugna Woreda) toward Birko via Kob, and from Dorolaba toward Gonder-Ber. Heavy fighting was reported in the Birko area, where the Fano engaged regime forces across five locations such as Misanaw-Ber, Chiqaw, Telew, Wurmsh, and Birquaqua. According to reports, 27 regime troops, including two heavy weapon operators, were killed during these clashes. In addition, 14 Kalashnikov rifles along with their ammunition were reportedly captured by Fano forces.

Habru Woreda

- Since the morning of March 18th, intense clashes erupted between Fano forces and regime troops in Habru Woreda and surrounding areas.
 - The confrontation began when regime forces advanced from Woldia and Mersa cities toward Merto utilizing a combination of infantry, mechanized units, and

drones. In response, units under the 11th and 35th Divisions (operating under the AFNM-MC 101st Corps) mounted counteroffensives to halt and repel the regime forces' advance. The ensuing fighting extended across a broad area including Mechare, Ezet-Ber, Merto-Eyesus, Setwuha, Wudmen, Sawa-Meda, Amaya-Micha, Sirinqa, Sembo, Molla-Giyorgis and surrounding areas.

- The battles resulted in significant casualties among the regime forces.

Mechanized units were heavily damaged, and numerous infantry troops were either killed or injured, with the wounded being admitted to hospitals in Woldia and Mersa. Following their battlefield, regime forces conducted indiscriminate attacks from Woldia Stadium, employing heavy weaponry against civilian areas. These actions reportedly led to loss of life and the destruction of numerous homes and properties with the full extent of losses unconfirmed.

- On March 21st, Fano forces conducted coordinated urban operations in Wurgessa and Mereto-Eyesus towns.

- The operation was carried out by units of the 35th Regiment (operating under the AFNM-MC 101st Corps). In Wurgessa, the operation targeted an ENDF battalion commander and resulted in significant casualties, including the reported death of the targeted military commander. During the operation, the Fano captured the commander's communication radio and mobile phone. His security personnel reportedly fled following the engagement. In response, the regime deployed a large contingent of ENDF forces to the area the following day (March 22nd). Tensions have remained high in Wurgessa following these events.

In Mereto-Eyesus, the 35th Regiment carried out a separate offensive. The operation resulted in casualties among an entire team of ENDF personnel, with

several soldiers killed or wounded.

Alamata City

- On March 21st, Tigray Region (TPLF) officials convened a meeting in Alamata City.
 - According to reports, senior figures, including General Tadesse Werede and Yohannes Medid, were present during the visit. The officials are said to have gathered a group of supporters affiliated with the TPLF for the meeting. Reports claim that the gathering involved a limited number of participants, primarily ethnic Tigrayans, and was presented as a broader community consultation. Some accounts allege that the purpose of the meeting was to project the view that there is no ongoing identity-related dispute in the Raya territory. The visit comes amid ongoing tensions regarding occupation of Alamata City and surrounding areas by the Tigrayan settler administration.
 - Observers and residents have criticized the officials' visit, arguing that it contradicts the provisions of the Pretoria COHA. The agreement outlines arrangements for the administration of disputed areas, including provisions that such areas remain under federal oversight until their status is determined through legal process. Critics further argue that the meeting and continued presence of regional authorities in the area reflect broader political and territorial disputes. According to these perspectives, the discussions held during the meeting suggest the TPLF's intention to forcibly annex the Welkait-Tegede-Setit Humera Zone.

Meket Woreda

- On March 21st and 22nd, regime forces carried out repeated artillery shelling in the Agrit area. According to sources, the attacks originated from the Dande-Ber area.

Details regarding the outcome of the shelling, including the number of projectiles fired, the extent of casualties and physical damages, were not confirmed.³

Dawunt Woreda

- On March 22nd, Fano forces held a large public forum in Dawunt Woreda.
 - The forum was organized by the 106th Corps (operating under the AFNM-MC) bringing together members of the local community to discuss the ongoing situation and the broader “*struggle for existence*.” The discussion was led by representatives from the corps. During the session, both representatives addressed key issues, including the origins of the struggle, its intended goals, and its current stage. They also provided broader awareness-raising insights aimed at helping the community better understand the context and direction of the movement. A significant portion of the forum focused on explaining what was described as harmful political practices and alleged manipulation associated with the electoral process. The speakers emphasized concerns that elections are being used as a tool to further marginalize the Amhara public. In this context, they also reflected on the circumstances that led to the emergence of the current struggle, noting that previous attempts to address grievances through peaceful means had not been successful. The regime’s approach of promoting dialogue was discussed critically, emphasizing the lack of any tangible or meaningful solutions. Community members participated in the discussion and expressed their views. Many participants stated that the challenges they face cannot be resolved through elections alone. Instead, they emphasized that their survival and rights depend on continued struggle and collective action.

³See March 22, 2026 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

South Wollo Zone

Degolo City

- On March 17th, Fano forces conducted an urban operation targeting regime forces in Degolo City.
 - According to reports, the operation was carried out by units under the Wasil Division (operating under the AFNM-MC Nigus Mikael Ali Corps). The target of the operation was described as regime militias and RDF units stationed within the city. Sources indicate that Fano fighters entered the city from multiple separate directions at approximately 4 pm, suggesting a coordinated approach aimed at engaging the stationed forces from multiple directions. The operation resulted in significant clashes between the two sides.
 - Regime forces sustained casualties during the engagement, with reports indicating that around ten personnel were killed and more than eleven others were wounded. In the aftermath of the fighting, ambulances were seen transporting injured personnel to nearby medical facilities.

Southeastern Amhara (Shewa Subregion)

- On March 20th, Fano representatives celebrated Eid al-Adha together with local communities.
 - According to sources, the representatives marked the 1447th Eid al-Adha (Arafa) holiday with strong enthusiasm across areas under the jurisdiction of the Atse Zera Yacob (1st) Corps (operating under the AFNM-AC). The ceremony was conducted in a manner intended to reflect long-standing traditions of religious respect, coexistence, and resilience within the Amhara community. In their remarks, movement leaders emphasized that the Fano

struggle seeks to uphold the equality, identity, and unity of all Amhara people. They argued that attempts by the Abiy Ahmed regime to divide communities along religious lines have not succeeded, stressing instead a shared sense of identity and national belonging. The leaders also invoked historical figures and symbols as sources of inspiration, underlining continuity between past and present struggles, and reaffirmed their commitment to protecting what they described as their people's heritage and homeland.

- The report further noted that religious leaders, both elders and community figures, who attended the celebration expressed appreciation for the participation of Fano members in important religious events. In a message of gratitude conveyed by representatives of the Muslim community, appreciation was extended for the presence and support shown during the festival. The message also included prayers for unity, strength, and success in the future. The celebration concluded in a spirit of joy and gratitude, with participation from people of all ages. Observers noted that the event served as a visible demonstration of the strong relationship between the local population and Fano forces in the Shewa Subregion.

North Shewa Zone

Mida-Woremo Woreda

- On March 16th, Fano forces conducted a targeted operation against regime forces in Dire Kebele.
 - The operation was aimed at confronting local regime cadres who had been pressuring residents to make financial contributions to sustain the regime. These demands were being enforced without the consent of the local population. Around midday, units from the Atse Dawit Division (operating

under the AFNM-SPC Atse Amde-Tsion Corps) carried out a coordinated and sudden attack. The target was a group of more than 30 regime militia members who were present in the area using coercive measures to collect the imposed funds from residents.

- Sources indicate that the militia forces sustained casualties during the confrontation. Several of the seriously injured were transported to Alem-Ketema Enat Hospital for medical treatment. The operation included action against a regime security figure identified as Ato Shitye Ababu, along with other unidentified members. In addition, multiple firearms were seized during the operation.

Ankober Woreda

- On March 19th, Fano forces conducted a planned military operation against regime forces in Derefo Kebele. The operation involved units under the Tayitu Division (operating under the AFNM-SPC Mohammed Bihonegn Corps) which launched the assault at approximately 6 am. As a result of the attack, at least four RDF personnel were confirmed killed, and more than three others sustained injuries.

Berehet Woreda

- Since March 17th, regime forces conducted widespread arrests against civilians in Meteh-Bila town.
 - According to reports, a significant number of civilians, including women and children, have been detained and subjected to abuses. These actions are reportedly being justified by authorities on the grounds that the victims are relatives of Fano.
 - The regime forces have conducted civilian arrests while shutting down internet

access in the area, limiting communication and restricting the flow of information. Observers have strongly condemned these actions, describing them as a form of collective punishment and a serious violation of IHL.

Southwestern Amhara (Gojjam Subregion)

East Gojjam Zone

Dejen Woreda

- On March 16th, regime forces withdrew from Qoq-Wiha Kebele.
 - It was reported that these forces had been deployed a week prior to this locality. The regime forces originally entered Qoq-Wiha without facing any confrontation. On March 16th, regime forces vacated the area and moved to a neighboring base in Gubiya town. During both the initial deployment and subsequent withdrawal, the regime forces detained a woman, claiming she was the wife of a Fano member. The regime troops also looted and transported ten quintals of crops from a local farmer, accusing him of having familial ties with Fano.

Machakel Woreda

- On March 17th, heavy combat was reported in Debre-Kelemo Kebele.
 - Fano forces stated that they overwhelmed regime troops, claiming to have blocked their advance toward Dega-Segnin Kebele while inflicting significant human and material losses on the regime army. Upon entering Debre-Kelemo, regime troops looted health and other equipment and medication from the Debre-Kelemo Health Center and destroyed the remaining medical supplies.

Furthermore, the regime soldiers destroyed five bajaj auto-rickshaws belonging to local youths who supported their families through transportation work.

Gozamin Woreda

- On March 17th, Fano forces carried out an operation in Libanos Kebele. The operation targeted regime cadres and security officials while they were conducting a meeting. The gathering was reportedly intended to conduct propaganda for scheduled elections. This operation was conducted by units from the 14th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 206th Corps). The Fano reportedly disrupted and forcibly dispersed the meeting.

Shebel-Berenta Woreda

- On March 17th, Fano forces conducted an operation in Gebisit Kebele. The operation was conducted by units from the 64th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 201st Corps). During this operation, the Fano apprehended an operative identified as Mossaw Endalew following monitoring. The operative was captured while conducting espionage activities in the area.

Awabel Woreda

- On March 17th, Fano forces conducted an operation in Lumame town. The operation involved units under the 206th Corps (operating under the AFNM-TC), which is designated for special urban operations. The operation targeted Ato Dereje Yalew, a local regime official and the Deputy Speaker for Kebele 02 (Lumame). During this operation, Fano forces reportedly captured Ato Dereje, who was accused of orchestrating door-to-door campaigns to forcibly distribute election cards and arrest civilians who resisted the regime's election agendas.

West Gojjam Zone

Dembecha-Zuriya and Machakel Woredas

- On March 17th, intense fighting took place in border areas connecting Dembecha-Zuriya and Machakel Woredas.
 - The fighting began when regime forces moved in multiple directions from their bases in Amanuel and Dembecha towns toward neighboring rural localities. In response, units from the 99th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 109th Corps) fiercely confronted regime troops with combat primarily taking place in the Arbuq locality (Dembecha-Zuriya Woreda) and Debre-Kelemo Kebele (Machakel Woreda). The fighting was intense, characterized by the use of heavy weaponry, covering multiple locations and lasting the entire day. During the confrontation, regime forces reportedly cut off network communications and conducted drone surveillance in the area throughout the day. Sources reported casualties from both sides, with one confirmed death and a few injuries on the Fano side, while significant casualties reported among the regime soldiers. In addition, Fano forces captured several small firearms, though the exact quantity remains unspecified.

Wemberima Woreda

- On March 16th, firefight took place in the neighborhood of Shindi town.
 - The firefights were initiated when regime forces departed from Shindi town and attempted to move toward Wegedad Kebele to conduct operations in nearby rural villages. In response, units from the 88th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 109th Corps) began the offensive at the Korkumbe Mountain locality. The Fano mainly confronted the regime forces in the

Ashal-Medhanealem locality. Ultimately, the regime forces vacated the area overnight and returned to Shindi.

- According to reports, several regime personnel were killed and injured, including one individual in a command position.

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On March 17th, fighting took place in the Liber area.
 - The fighting began when units under the 77th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 109th Corps) conducted a nighttime operation and surprise attack on regime forces stationed near the Bir-Sheleko military training center. The operation was carried out in the early morning hours when Fano forces approached regime positions unexpectedly leading to a brief open confrontation that resulted in combatant casualties. During this operation, at least five regime soldiers were confirmed killed while more than ten others were wounded. In addition, over six small firearms were captured by Fano forces.

Dega-Damot Woreda

- On March 17th, fighting was conducted in the Dama-Markos neighborhood.
 - The firefight began when regime forces departed from Feres-Bet town and mobilized toward Dama-Markos. In response, units from the 99th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 109th Corps) confronted the regime forces in defense of their positions. As a result of the operation the Fano reportedly repelled the offensive and inflicted casualties on the regime forces.
- In a separate development on the same day, three regime personnel in Dega-Damot Woreda reportedly defected to the 99th Division surrendering

their rifles and ammunition. A similar defection was reported in South Mecha Woreda (North Gojjam Zone) where eleven commando personnel defected from Gerchech to the 11th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 102nd Corps).

Quarit Woreda

- On March 18th, fighting took place in the Biradama neighborhood. The engagement began when regime forces departed from bases in Quarit and Sekela Woredas, mobilizing toward the Biradama area. During the regime's advance, a unit from the 33rd Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 102nd Corps) confronted the advancing forces. After a firefight lasting several hours, the fighting subsided when the regime forces withdrew to their points of departure. The regime forces reportedly sustained casualties during this encounter.

North Gojjam Zone

North Mecha Woreda

- On March 18th, regime forces perpetrated a targeted assault against a prominent local resident in Merawi town.
 - Reports identified the victim as an entrepreneur and businessman residing in Kebele 02. He is a well-known businessman engaged in cattle breeding, dairy production, and beverage distribution in the town, providing employment opportunities for many local youth. On that day, regime militia and RDF personnel targeted his residence and place of business. Upon encountering him, the soldiers subjected the victim to a severe physical beating, resulting in a serious arm fracture. Furthermore, the regime forces looted his personal property, including his mobile phone and other belongings.

North Achefer Woreda

- On March 20th, Fano forces announced the completion of military training for a new batch of commando forces. After completing six months of intensive military training, the graduates were inaugurated into the 55th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 105th Corps).⁴

Northwestern Amhara (Gonder Subregion)

- Between March 18th and 19th, Fano forces launched a coordinated offensive across Dera, Farta, Guna-Begemidir, and Lay-Gayint Woredas.
 - The resulting clashes resulted in a staggering toll on the regime’s administrative and military infrastructure, characterized by high-level casualties and the capture of strategic logistics.
 - Prior to the escalation, top officials including Dera Woreda Administrator Estibel Guade, Dera Woreda Vice-Administrator Fantahun Dires, and Hamusit Town Mayor Temesgen Yeshiwas had abandoned their posts. Recognizing the rapid strengthening of Fano forces in the region, the officials had fled to the relative safety of Bahir-Dar City, the regional capital. While in Bahir-Dar, the officials formally expressed their refusal to return to their stations, citing a direct and certain threat to their lives. They took the significant step of submitting formal resignation letters to the regional bureau, explicitly stating that they could not govern in a climate where Fano held the military advantage. However, regional authorities rejected these resignations. Under duress and forced by superior orders, the officials were compelled to return to Hamusit on March 15th. On March 18th, when fighting erupted in Hamusit.

⁴See March 20, 2026 [update](#) from Ashara Media.

During the fighting, the three officials were killed along with more than 60 militias and RDF personnel.

- During the fighting in the zone, Nefas-Mewcha town (administrative center of Lay-Gayint Woreda) served as a central flashpoint. Fano forces overwhelmed the local garrison, capturing 16 regime officials from the Lay-Gayint Woreda administration. During the fighting both the Simada Woreda Administrator and the Wegeda Town Mayor were critically wounded and later died while undergoing emergency treatment at Nefas-Mewcha Hospital. The military leadership also took a direct hit. Identified officers confirmed killed in action include Captain Fitalew, Captain Dejene, Captain Melaku Sisay, Captain Negash, and Inspector Solomon. By the evening of March 18th, Fano forces withdrew from Nefas-Mewcha. However, during the battle they captured 40 regime trucks to transport a significant haul of military logistics and a large contingent of POWs out of the town.
- Following the Fano withdrawal, regime reinforcement units arriving from Debre-Tabor City (administrative center of South Gonder Zone) entered Nefas-Mewcha on the night of March 18th without encountering resistance. Despite the change in control, the town has transformed into a “*ghost city*.” Residents fearing that the entering forces would conduct reprisal operations targeting the civilian population, remained locked in their homes, bringing all movement and commerce to a complete standstill.
- By March 19th, the regime forces began using Nefas-Mewcha as a staging ground for heavy artillery. Units stationed within the town began an indiscriminate shelling of Amba-Maryam Kebele using ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns. Simultaneously, an effort was launched to regain control over Checheho-Medhanealem town. To support this counter-offensive, a significant military mobilization of more than 70 heavy military convoys, transporting a

mixture of mechanized weaponry and infantry, have been spotted moving from Bahir-Dar toward Hamusit and Debre-Tabor. Further reinforcements are streaming into the zone from the direction of North Wollo Zone, including from Lalibela and Gashena, as the regime attempts to stabilize a collapsing administrative front in South Gonder Zone.

South Gonder Zone

- On March 18th, Fano forces launched a multi-pronged offensive operation against regime forces across multiple woredas within South Gonder Zone.
 - The offensive commemorated the second anniversary of the death of Fano commander Major General Wubante Abate. The operation involved units from multiple divisions under the Maj. Gen. Wubante Abate Corps (operating under the AFNM-BC), Kefyalew Dessie Corps (operating under the AFNM-GPC), and the AFNM-MC. The operation resulted in heavy regime casualties and the seizure of a vast arsenal of military logistics. More than 14 Prosperity Party officials were either killed or captured during the fighting.⁵
 - The total material gains for Fano forces across all fronts included: 651 regime joint forces confirmed killed and 418 combatants captured (POWs); 1,104 Kalashnikov (AK-47) rifles, six DShK HMGs, 20 Bren LMGs, 65 SVD rifles, and seven RPGs; 500,000 assorted rounds of ammunition, more than 500 grenades, and 64 radio communication devices; and 15 patrol trucks and 29 multi-purpose vehicles (including cars and trucks).
- As of March 20th, a wave of high-level defections were reported across South Gonder Zone.

⁵See March 21, 2026 [report](#) from BBC Amharic (see English translation [here](#)).

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- The defections followed a statement issued by the South Gonder Zone Communication Secretariat, framed around the Eid al-Fitr holiday, asserting that peace and security in the zone was steadily improving, which was met with intense indignation from woreda-level officials. Many viewed the assertion as a cynical dismissal of the heavy toll their ranks suffered in recent clashes with Fano forces. As a result, more than seven prominent officials from Estie, Ibnat, Mena-Mequetewa, and Simada Woredas abandoned their posts. While some had initially sought refuge in military camps within Debre-Tabor City, they eventually fled these areas. Many of the officials had attempted to submit formal resignation letters, but their requests were rejected by zonal-level authorities. Fearing possible lethal reprisal measures, the officials deserted their posts and their whereabouts remain unknown.
 - In relation, officials were reportedly detained en masse in Estie Woreda and Mekane-Eyesus town. Accused of leaking intelligence to Fano forces, the detainees were reportedly being held in military camps awaiting possible executions. The crackdown ignited severe tension between political cadres and the military command, prompting many civil servants to abandon their positions and instead seek protection from Fano forces. Simultaneously, nine regime joint security personnel defected in Estie Woreda, surrendering to the Guna Division (operating under the AFNM-BC).

Lay-Gayint Woreda

- On March 18th, Fano forces carried out an offensive against regime forces in Nefas-Mewcha town.
 - The operation involved units under the Kefyalew Dessie Corps (operating under the AFNM-GPC) and Lasta Asaminew Corps and Yedegaw-Mebreq Corps (operating under the AFNM-MC). The Fano forces took control of

strategic points and seized Checheho-Medhanealem town while moving into the center of Nefas-Mewcha. Fighting was reported in Ascha-Mikael, Urael, Gebeya, and other areas including the “*China camp*.” By the afternoon, the Fano regained full control of Nefas-Mewcha. The retreat of regime forces toward Amba-Maryam Kebele turned into a rout; Fano units pursued and captured the fleeing soldiers and political cadres.

- Among those captured or killed were the town mayor, the prison center chief commander, and seven other top officials while over 100 militia and riot dispersal forces surrendered. In addition, the Fano captured over 200 AK-47 rifles, ten Bren LMGs, three DShK HMGs, ten heavy military trucks, and four Isuzu trucks with ammunition.

Guna-Begemidir Woreda

- On March 18th, a fierce confrontation erupted in Kimir-Dingay town.
 - The engagement began in the early morning hours after units under the Teraraw-Ras-Guna, General Haile Zewubante, and Guna Divisions (operating under the AFNM-GPC and AFNM-BC) infiltrated the town under the cover of night. The battle was characterized by frequent use of high-caliber weaponry. The regime forces attempted to defend their positions using ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns, while Fano forces countered with synchronized DShK HMG and mortar fire. The fighting spanned across the neighborhoods of Menehariya, Kumbel-Zaf-Gebeya, Abbo, Mikael-Sefer, and Gasay-Mewcha. The operation resulted in a significant disruption of the regime’s local political infrastructure since Kimir-Dingay was being used as a hub for political cadres from Mena-Mequetewa and Ibnat Woredas.
 - As a result of the operation, the Fano captured a large quantity of logistics

including five patrol trucks, one FSR truck, and 13 Icom radios.

- On March 21st, fighting took place between Fano forces and regime forces in Zebera Kebele. The fighting was initiated by units under the Teraraw-Ras-Guna Division (operating under the AFNM-GPC). The target was a regime convoy traveling from Kimir-Dingay town to Debre-Tabor City. The engagement resulted in seven regime soldiers killed and ten others sustaining various degrees of injury.
- On March 22nd, Fano forces carried out an offensive against regime forces in Arba-Minch Kebele. The operation was carried out by units under the Teraraw-Ras-Guna Division (operating under the AFNM-GPC) targeting a regime military convoy traveling from Kimir-Dingay toward Debre-Tabor City. The fighting occurred in Arba-Minch, when Fano forces utilized heavy shelling to target regime transportation vehicles. The intensity of the assault resulted in total casualties for the regime forces involved, with all soldiers on the convoy reported as either killed or critically injured.

Farta Woreda

- On March 18th, fighting took place in Gasay town.
 - Regime joint forces and political cadres from Andabet, Estie, Simada, and Sedemuja Woredas gathered to finalize a military plan to regain control of the region. In response, units under the Guna Division (operating under the AFNM-BC) launched a strike before the regime could implement its military campaign in Gasay, located near Debre-Tabor City. The operation resulted in heavy casualties among the regime's ranks and scattered the regime's leadership. As a result, the Fano captured DShK HMGs, Bren LMGs, and over 120,000 rounds of assorted ammunition.

Dera Woreda

- On March 18th, a fierce engagement took place in Hamusit town.
 - Units under the Wubante Abate Tewelwari, Tana-Gelawdewos, Nebelbalu-Fogera, and Guna Divisions (operating under the AFNM-BC) launched a night assault on a regime military camp. Regime joint forces stationed in Hamusit sustained significant losses as a result. The fighting spread to surrounding kebeles of Wenchet-Mikael, Yizet, and Bombat, where regime forces had tried to establish defensive perimeters.
 - Across the Gasay and Hamusit fronts, over 251 regime forces were confirmed killed and over 135 riot dispersal forces were captured, alongside ten patrol trucks and 28 other transport vehicles. The regime forces' retreat was described as chaotic with numerous fallen soldiers remaining on the battlefield well into the evening. As a result, the Fano captured ten high-ranking military commanders and dozens of riot dispersal forces.

Central Gonder Zone

East Belessa Woreda

- On March 16th, a massive military confrontation between Fano forces and regime forces in Guhala town and surrounding areas.
 - This escalation followed the regime's entry into East Belessa Woreda on March 15th, an operation conducted under heavy drone surveillance with the specific objective of establishing an electoral presence and beginning voter registration for the upcoming campaign. In response, units under the AFNM-BC carried out a counter-offensive. The battle was exceptionally prolonged and intense, beginning at 4 am local time and raging until 10:30 pm.

Utilizing a combination of heavy weaponry including mortars and DShK HMGs alongside aggressive close-quarters combat, Fano forces dislodged the regime troops. Within less than twelve hours of the primary engagement, regime forces and their accompanying political cadres were forced to abandon Guhala, retreating to the Chewchawit military camp. In the wake of their retreat, regime forces positioned on the surrounding heights particularly in Chewchawit began an indiscriminate shelling of Guhala. Utilizing mortars and ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns against the urban center, the bombardment resulted in the destruction of two civilian homes and left four civilians with physical injuries.

- The conflict was not limited to the town itself; prior to the engagement in Guhala, units under the Gondere-Begashaw Division (operating under the AFNM-BC) conducted a series of ambushes against regime convoys attempting to reach Guhala on March 15th. These attacks occurred across several key areas within East Belessa Woreda, including Werhala, Marzeneb, Sahir, Alange, and Fenta Kebeles. These transit-route engagements reportedly resulted in heavy casualties for the regime forces, further isolating their remaining positions in the region.

Gonder-Zuriya Woreda

- On March 17th, intense military confrontations erupted between Fano and regime forces, spanning a wide area in Gonder-Zuriya Woreda.
 - The fighting spanned from Giragn-Ber to Dengola and Dinzaz Kebeles. Units under the AFNM-BC launched a coordinated offensive to intercept a regime convoy that was escorting political cadres dispatched to East Belessa Woreda. The initial surprise offensive quickly devolved into fierce, close-quarters combat that lasted for six hours. As a result of the engagement, regime forces

suffered heavy casualties, and several woreda officials were among those wounded during the fighting.

- On March 20th, Fano forces carried out an offensive against regime forces in Gonder-Zuriya Woreda.
 - Units under the Gondere-Begashaw and Tiquir Anbessa Divisions (operating under the AFNM-BC) conducted a joint operation against a regime logistics convoy. The Fano intercepted the convoy, which was transporting military provisions and two ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns from Maksegnit to Degoma town. The primary assault took place within Dinzaz and Dengola Kebeles, where regime forces suffered losses. Specifically, more than 16 regime soldiers were confirmed killed in the engagement, and an additional nine sustained critical injuries. In the wake of the ambush, the regime responded by launching indiscriminate ZU-23 bombardment across surrounding areas and mobilized reinforcements from Maksegnit.
 - On the same day, Fano units launched a surprise offensive in Wegera Woreda. This operation targeted a regime militia unit escorting election campaign coordinators who were attempting to conduct voter registration in the area. Following the deaths of several militia members during the skirmish, the campaign coordinators were forced to flee their assigned zones, abandoning their electioneering efforts while carrying away their remaining registration materials.

Gonder City

- On March 21st, Fano forces carried out an offensive on a regime military installation in Gonder City.

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- The operation was carried out by the Tadilo-Birhan Division (operating under the AFNM-BC) targeting a regime military installation. The operation targeted a RDF camp located in Gubrit, situated at the base of Loza-Maryam Mountain. The assault, which commenced at approximately 9 pm local time, resulting in significant losses for the regime units stationed there. Among the high-profile casualties was the Tseda sub-city militia commander, identified as Abebe, who was confirmed killed alongside several other regime personnel. In addition to the fatalities, the Fano forces captured seven militiamen along with their full military kits and equipment, and more than 21 Kalashnikov rifles.

Alefa Woreda

- Between March 22nd and 23rd, intense fighting was reported in Alefa and Takusa Woredas.
 - The fighting was initiated by regime forces which deployed mechanized and infantry units to recapture Shawra town. The heavily equipped joint forces were deployed from Gonder City and Takusa Woreda, launching intense ZU-23 anti-aircraft shelling in Dikul-Arba and Beg-Menkir Kebeles. In response, units under the Qwara-Omedla, Adwa, Karamara, and Begemidir Divisions (operating under the AFNM-BC and AFNM-GPC) carried out counter-offensives in Amichuwiha Kebele. The Fano counter-offensive began at approximately 9 pm local time on March 22nd. The regime forces suffered immediate and heavy casualties, including the death of a key ZU-23 operator. In a controversial defensive maneuver, the besieged regime forces reportedly retreated into local church compounds, utilizing the sacred structures as military entrenchments and mounting their anti-aircraft guns within the premises to shield themselves from the Fano assault.

Areas Outside Amhara Region

Addis-Ababa City

- On March 16th, political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, detained in connection with their Amhara identity and documented in multiple case records, appeared before the Federal High Court Lideta Division, specifically the 1st and 2nd Constitutional and Anti-Terrorism Criminal Branches in Addis-Ababa City.
 - Under the case of Tigabu Gizachew, defendants Tigabu Gizachew, Biruk Lakew, and Alemitu Bedlu, were brought from Kilinto and Kaliti detention facilities to the hearing. The court had scheduled the session to hear prosecution witnesses; however, due to the absence of those witnesses, the hearing was adjourned. The court rescheduled the proceedings for April 2nd, at which time the defense is expected to present its evidence.
 - Under the case of Tewodros Tamray, the hearing was initially set for the presentation of defense witnesses. However, the defendants requested a postponement, stating that they had not been provided with copies of the case file in advance. The court granted the request and rescheduled the defense hearing for May 18th to 22nd. It was also alleged that the 1st and 16th defendants did not appear in court because they were prevented from wearing shoes and were subjected to physical abuse by police. Furthermore, the 2nd defendant was absent due to illness.
 - Under the case of Feleke Tadesse, the first defendant, Feleke Tadesse, was present in court. The second defendant was absent, reportedly due to detention at Abba Samuel High Security Prison in connection with alleged involvement in a recent incident at Kilinto Police Station. The fourth defendant was present, having appeared from outside custody. Regarding the third defendant, who is

not in custody, police informed the court that they were unable to locate him at his registered address and requested additional time. The court granted a final extension and scheduled the next hearing for May 30th, noting the difficulty of proceeding to a verdict without complete information on all defendants.

- Under the case of Temesgen Getinet, the defendants were present, and the defense was scheduled to present witnesses. However, the defense requested an adjournment. The court granted the request and scheduled the witness hearings for May 26th to 28th.
- Under the case of Dereje Yibeyin, the court indicated that it was not prepared to deliver a verdict on the scheduled date and postponed the decision to March 20th.
- Under the case of Tade Bekele, although the hearing was set for the presentation of defense witnesses, the defendant requested a postponement due to the absence of those witnesses. The court rescheduled the case for April 23rd.
- Under the case of Fikadu Terefe, the hearing focused on the submission of documentary evidence by the defense, which was provided in writing. The court set April 3rd, as the next date to allow for the prosecution’s response.
- Under the case of Mahlet Misganaw Tiku, the defendant, a 17-year-old minor, appeared in court charged under Article 3(2) of the anti-terrorism law. She is reportedly among detainees alleging mistreatment while in custody at the Federal Police Criminal Investigation Bureau. Her legal counsel indicated that an objection to the charges would be filed. The court scheduled the next hearing for April 6th.⁶

- On March 18th, significant legal and health-related developments were reported

⁶See March 17, 2026 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

involving individuals charged under terrorism provisions in Addis-Ababa City.

- The Federal Supreme Court overturned a prior bail decision granted to Dr. Sisay Awgichew, while concerns intensified over the deteriorating health of Ato Yohannes Buayalew, who was hospitalized for the second time in Addis-Ababa.
- The Supreme Court reversed an earlier ruling by the Federal High Court, which had ordered Dr. Awgichew’s release on bail set at 100,000 ETB. This initial decision was issued on February 23rd (Yekatit 16 EC). However, despite the High Court’s ruling, Dr. Awgichew was re-arrested by police immediately upon his release from detention. According to defense counsel, the bail process had been actively pursued through legal channels. Nevertheless, during the latest hearing, the Supreme Court nullified the lower court’s decision and effectively revoked Dr. Awgichew’s right to bail. It was also recalled that, in earlier proceedings related to the conflict in the Amhara Region, amendments to the charges against him included provisions restricting eligibility for bail under terrorism-related accusations. Legal representatives further indicated that a submission had been made to the court arguing that “*new circumstances*” warranted reconsideration of bail, particularly because the specific legal provisions under which Dr. Awgichew was charged did not explicitly prohibit bail. Despite this argument, the Supreme Court upheld the decision to deny bail.⁷
- In the same case, serious concerns were raised regarding the health conditions of several co-defendants, including Ato Yohannes Buayalew, a member of the Amhara Regional Council, as well as media professionals Genet Asmamaw and Meskerem Abera. Their lawyers informed the court that all three individuals were facing severe health challenges. Ato Yohannes, who had been

⁷See March 18, 2026 [report](#) from DW Amharic (English translation [here](#)).

detained at Kilinto Prison, was hospitalized for the second time following a worsening medical condition. Reports indicate that his illness originated during a previous period of detention in Awash-Arba and had progressively deteriorated. Sources indicate that he had difficulty accessing adequate medical care while in custody, and that prison authorities demanded a court order before transferring him to a hospital. Sources stated that his condition had become critical and potentially life-threatening. They reported that his eventual hospitalization occurred only after a court directive was issued. According to medical assessments shared by the family, there is concern about damage to the nerve connecting his hand and neck. Doctors reportedly warned that without timely and appropriate treatment, he could face permanent disability, including the possible loss of function in his hand.

Metekel Zone (Benishangul-Gumuz Region)

Dangur Woreda

- On March 17th, fighting took place in Bambajha Kebele.
 - The engagement began when Fano forces launched a sudden operation against regime forces stationed in the area. The operation was reportedly conducted by units from the 66th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 105th Corps). This offensive led to an open confrontation that lasted for several hours. The fighting eventually subsided when the regime brought in reinforcements from neighboring bases. Upon arrival, these forces reportedly targeted and destroyed property belonging to civilian residents in Bambajha.
 - According to reports, at least 35 militias were killed and more than 15 were wounded, while the Fano captured several firearms.

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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