



War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – March 9th to 15th, 2026

Updated March 16th, 2026

Overview

For the week of March 9th to 15th, 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 23 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, Central Gonder and North Gonder Zones. Developments were also recorded in Addis-Ababa City.

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).

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- Civilian casualties were recorded in 9 woreda/city administrations across 8 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Woldia, Meket, Mehal-Sayint, Hageremariam-Kesseem, Shebel-Berenta, Bure-Zuriya, North Mecha, Wegera and Adarkay Woredas in North Wollo, South Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Central Gonder and North Gonder Zones.
 - Arrests and abductions were recorded in Woldia City of North Wollo Zone in Amhara Region and in Addis-Ababa City.
 - This week, Amhara political prisoners in Kilinto Prison faced various kinds of abuses in Addis-Ababa City.
 - According to reports, hundreds of religious leaders and clergy affiliated with the *Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church* (EOTC) have been displaced by *Tigray People's Liberation Front* (TPLF) forces from Alamata City, Korem City, Raya-Alamata, Ofla, Bala and Zata Woredas.

Northeastern Amhara (Wollo Bete-Amhara Subregion)

- As of March 10th, more than 500 priests, deacons, and other clergy members affiliated with the EOTC have been displaced from areas occupied by TPLF forces in Alamata City and surrounding areas.
 - The displacement occurred in several local administrations, including Raya-Alamata, Ofla, Bala, and Zata Woredas, as well as in Alamata and Korem cities. Sources from the EOTC Raya Diocese indicate that the displacement followed the reported occupation of over 212 churches by TPLF forces in the above-mentioned areas. According to the Diocese, clergy members were pressured to alter traditional liturgical practices. Specifically, they were reportedly required to conduct prayers in the Tigrigna language and

to pray for “*Hagere Tigray*” (the nation of Tigray) rather than the previously practiced “*Hagere Ethiopia*” (the nation of Ethiopia) prayer tradition.³

- Sources further claim that clergy members who opposed these changes were subjected to harassment and intimidation. Many reportedly rejected the imposition of the Menbere-Selama (a Tigrayan nationalist religious sect). Reports recall earlier incidents in which religious leaders in affected areas were allegedly arrested, beaten, intimidated, or forced to leave their churches, while some church compounds were reportedly occupied by militants. Observers state that these developments have contributed to growing tensions surrounding religious institutions in the region.
- In a separate development on March 10th, ENDF defections were reported in the Wollo Bete-Amhara Subregion. According to reports, three soldiers (operating under the ENDF 104th Corps) previously stationed near Genbo-Ber Mountain (Habru Woreda) defected to the 35th Division (operating under the AFNM-MC 101st Corps).
- On March 11th, numerous regime personnel defected to Fano forces in Delanta Woreda.
 - According to reports, six militia members defected to the AFNM-MC 106th Corps bringing seven Kalashnikov rifles along with ammunition. The defection followed a recent amnesty decree from the AFNM. The defectors stated that their decision was influenced by dissatisfaction with the current political and military situation. In their remarks, the defectors encouraged other regime personnel to consider accepting the amnesty call. They warned that the current system may eventually abandon those serving within it and urged others to prioritize their identity and long-term security rather than

³See March 10, 2026 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

temporary benefits. Observers note that such defections have been increasingly reported in various parts of the Amhara region, particularly as armed confrontations between Fano forces and regime security forces continue.

- As of March 12th, defections of regime security personnel to Fano forces have continued.
 - According to reports, a total of eleven ENDF personnel defected to various corps and divisions affiliated with the AFNM-MC that day alone. Reports indicate that five ENDF members, armed with radios and full military equipment, joined the 23rd Division of the Lij Eyasu Corps. The defectors previously served in the 83rd Division of the 203rd Corps (operating under the 11th ENDF Command). In a separate development, six additional ENDF personnel reportedly joined the Tewelwari Division (operating under the AFNM-MC 303rd Corps). The defectors brought five Kalashnikov rifles and one sniper rifle. The six individuals were said to be engineering personnel from the 104th Corps (operating under the 11th ENDF Command).
- As of March 14th, reports indicated further defections from regime security forces to Fano forces.
 - According to reports, three personnel from the Federal Police serving under the 2nd Company of the 3rd Regiment in the Northern Department defected and joined the 15th Division (operating under the AFNM-MC 101st Corps). The Federal Police officers reportedly made the decision to defect in protest against what they described as the regime's destructive policies and direction. Prior to their defection, the officers had been stationed at Jeneto-Ber, located at the entrance to Woldia City in North Wollo Zone. From that location, they reportedly moved toward Sirinqa town, where they joined the Fano forces.

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- Information attributed to former security personnel suggests that internal divisions and declining morale are increasingly evident within the Federal Police institution. According to these sources, the security forces are experiencing significant internal tensions, including instances of conflict within their own ranks. They also claim that the operational capacity and morale of the force have been substantially weakened. The same sources further indicated that the overall strength of the Federal Police has been steadily declining, with many members reportedly leaving the force. Battalion leaders, fearing further deterioration of the security structure, are allegedly attempting to strengthen their position by increasing the distribution of heavy weapons to allied units. Some sources speculate that additional defections are expected in the future as more personnel become increasingly disillusioned with the situation and the impact of the conflict on local communities.
 - On March 15th, reports indicated that numerous regime military personnel defected and joined Fano forces.
 - According to reports, the group consisted of nine commando members, including several senior personnel in the regime’s 105th Airborne Commando Division. Among them were the Head of the Human Resources Department of the 105th Division, the Commander of the Shambel Division, and an information engineer serving within the unit. Their departure is considered significant due to the presence of officers holding administrative and operational roles within the division. At the time of their defection, the unit had been deployed in Wegdi Woreda on the West Wollo front, an area where regime forces have been engaged in ongoing operations. Following their departure from the regime unit, the commandos reportedly moved from their deployment area and joined units under the Mebreq Division (operating under

the AFNM-MC Nigus Mikael Ali Corps).

North Wollo Zone

Bugna Woreda

- On March 9th, Fano forces carried out an offensive against regime forces in Bugna Woreda.
 - According to reports, the operation was conducted by units under the 303rd Corps (operating under the AFNM-MC). The personnel had been dispatched to Dariya (Jaro) Kebele 06 for operational purposes, when regime forces had been moving troops from Lalibela toward Ayina-Bugna using three Casoni military transport vehicles. At approximately 4 pm, these regime forces were attacked by Fano fighters near the Jaro River. The attack resulted in significant human and material losses among the regime forces. Initial reports indicate seven regime soldiers were killed and more than ten others were wounded during the confrontation. In addition, two military vehicles were rendered unusable in the attack. The bodies of the killed and wounded personnel were later evacuated from the scene by ambulance.

Kobo City

- On March 10th, regime security forces convened a meeting with bajaj (three-wheeled taxi) drivers, during which they issued threats and warnings regarding alleged cooperation with the Fano forces, in Kobo City.
 - At the same time, civil servants were reportedly compelled to contribute money toward the construction of a Prosperity Party office building in the city, raising concerns about coercion and misuse of public authority. According to sources, security officials accused bajaj drivers of facilitating movements and

attacks of Fano fighters by providing transportation and logistical support. During the meeting, the drivers were warned not to transport individuals suspected of affiliation with the Fano movement. The officials also reportedly threatened that any driver who failed to attend the meeting would face a financial penalty of 5,000 ETB.

- Meanwhile, transportation in Kobo and several parts of North Wollo Zone has been significantly disrupted due to a severe shortage of fuel. Local residents reported that the lack of fuel has greatly limited mobility and access to transportation services. Sources further allege that corruption and mismanagement among regime officials have contributed to the fuel shortage, worsening the already strained transportation system in the area.

Meket Woreda

- On March 11th, intense fighting took place between Fano forces and regime forces in Meket Woreda.
 - The clashes were part of a coordinated offensive by units under the 106th Corps and 303rd Corps (operating under the AFNM-MC) and the 206th Corps (operating under the AFNM-GPC) against regime forces operating in the area. The fighting occurred in the Agrit area and lasted for several hours, beginning at around 6 am and continuing until approximately 5 pm. Sources indicated that the clashes began after regime forces moved into the area from Filakit-Gegera, leading to direct confrontations with Fano units.
 - In fighting with units under one unit alone, more than 35 regime soldiers were killed and more than 25 others were seriously wounded. In addition, the Fano captured a number of weapons and military supplies from regime forces. The captured materials included 11 Kalashnikov rifles, up to 1,000 rounds of

Kalashnikov ammunition, more than 500 rounds of Bren LMG ammunition, 15 hand grenades, and seven additional weapons. However, the true scale of casualties is expected to be higher than the reported figures.

- Following the clashes, regime forces carried out retaliatory extrajudicial killings against five civilians, including a schoolteacher. According to accounts, the teacher was returning home from the school where he worked when security forces encountered him and reportedly shot him dead on the spot.

Woldia City

- On the night of March 12th (extending into the early morning hours of March 13th) suspected regime militants killed a religious figure in Woldia City.
 - According to reports, the militants entered the cathedral compound at night and opened fire on the church administrator. Meleake Mihret Abba Aynalem Amare (Komos), administrator of the Woldia Debre-Selam Medhanealem Cathedral, was fatally shot within the church compound, where he had been serving diligently to ensure the uninterrupted conduct of religious services. His funeral ceremony was held on March 13th, attended by clergy members, believers, and residents who mourned the loss of the religious father.
 - Local believers indicated that Abba Aynalem was widely respected in the community for his dedication to the church and for his moral teachings. According to these sources, during his sermons he had openly urged authorities to end the ongoing bloodshed through peaceful means, emphasizing reconciliation and dialogue. In addition, he repeatedly condemned the atrocities committed against the EOTC. Community members stated that they had previously feared that his outspoken calls for peace might

expose him to reprisals from regime forces. Although no official acknowledgment has been made regarding responsibility for the killing, many local residents attributed the incident to regime security forces. In addition, the regime has reportedly detained numerous deacons, clergy members, and other church congregants who were found inside the church on the morning of March 13th. They are currently being held at the Woldia 3rd Police Station.

Raya-Kobo Woreda

- On March 12th, reports indicated that TPLF military personnel from the Raya-Alamata area were arrested while attempting to dismantle and sell property belonging to public institutions in Chobi-Ber.
 - According to reports, six armed individuals were apprehended in Chobi-Ber while attempting to auction and transport property belonging to public institutions. The materials reportedly included students' desks from Timuga School and equipment from the Timuga Health Center. The suspects were allegedly preparing to move the items to other areas within the country after selling them. Reports further indicate that fraudulent documentation had been prepared in an attempt to present the transfer of institutional property as legal, suggesting a deliberate effort to legitimize the removal and sale of the assets. The individuals were reportedly arrested through a joint operation conducted by the ENDF before the property could be relocated.

Habru Woreda

- On March 12th, Fano forces carried out law enforcement operations against a regime intelligence operative in Sirinqa town. According to reports, the individual was reportedly a member and Shambel-level commander of RDF who had been involved in the abduction and killing of civilians in the area. The individual had

been undertaking covert intelligence operations within the town at the time of his arrest. The suspect was detained by units under the 11th Division (operating under the AFNM-MC) in Sirinqa town, located near Woldia City. Following investigations, punitive measures were taken against him.

- On March 15th, Fano forces carried out an operation against regime security forces and regime officials in Habru Woreda.
 - According to reports, regime officials had been organizing a meeting in the Kolebo and Merkota areas. The gathering was intended to promote the regime’s political agenda, including election-related mobilization efforts and messaging aimed at encouraging local youth to join regime forces. The officials reportedly presented narratives related to the regime’s efforts to secure access to the sea, which critics described as political propaganda intended to influence local support. In response, units under the 35th Division (operating under the AFNM-MC 101st Corps) carried out an offensive targeting regime officials and their assigned regime security details. As a result of the attack and the ensuing exchange of gunfire, the meeting was disrupted and eventually dispersed. The officials and security personnel involved reportedly withdrew from the area without completing the planned gathering or achieving its intended objectives. Sources further indicated that local officials had attempted to persuade residents, particularly young people, to participate in political mobilization and training programs linked to the upcoming election campaign. However, the confrontation prevented the meeting from proceeding and halted these efforts.

South Wollo Zone

Mehal-Sayint Woreda

- On March 10th, intense fighting reportedly took place between Fano forces and regime security forces in several areas of Mehal-Sayint Woreda.
 - The clashes began after regime forces, supported by militia units, launched an offensive operation using heavy weaponry, including ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns and other heavy arms. In response, units under the Amhara-Sayint-Mekdela Division (operating under the AFNM-MC Nigus Mikael Corps) launched a counter-offensive against the advancing regime forces. Fighting was reported in multiple localities, including Densa, Work-Mewucha, Wozed, and Ketet, lasting for several hours. The fighting reportedly resulted in the Fano capturing multiple areas. According to reports, more than 23 regime forces were killed and over 33 others were wounded during the fighting.
 - Residents recalled that regime forces had carried out artillery shelling targeting the Atronsa-Mariam Monastery in Kebele 032, which resulted in the deaths of five civilians and injuries to at least 25 others. Among the victims were religious leaders and worshippers.
- As of March 14th, regime forces carried out a series of violations targeting civilians at the St. Mikael Church in Work-Mawucha Kebele.
 - According to reports, ENDF soldiers established military positions within the church compound and surrounding buildings since Hedar 2018 EC. The regime soldiers constructed several fortifications within the church courtyard, including a permanent fortified position. Heavy weapons, including ZU-23 anti-aircraft artillery and mortars, have been deployed inside the church compound. Religious facilities such as the church's Bethlehem building, tax

house, and Tsiwa huts are reportedly being used for military purposes and, in some cases, as latrines. Eyewitnesses report soldiers stationed at the church committed multiple acts of violence against clergy (including priests and deacons), church servants, and civilians. These alleged abuses include physical assaults, intimidation and harassment, and robbery of people attending religious services; detentions and mistreatment of clergy who arrive after midnight to conduct traditional religious ceremonies; discouraging residents from attending church services or prayers; and robbery of offerings, including bread and wine brought for religious memorial services. Reports indicate that young women from surrounding communities have been abducted and faced sexual assaults within the church compound, including cases involving minors. These reports have caused fear among community members, including children who previously attended Sunday school but have since stopped attending due to safety concerns.⁴

- The presence of armed forces within the church has significantly disrupted religious life and community activities. Residents who raised concerns and demanded the withdrawal of soldiers from the church compound reportedly faced threats and intimidation from district officials. The situation follows earlier reports of attacks on religious institutions in the same woreda.

Hayk City

- As of March 12th, IDPs are facing severe food shortages after humanitarian assistance to camps was discontinued in villages near Hayk.
 - The displaced population consists of Amhara civilians who were displaced from various zones of the Oromia Region since approximately seven years ago and later resettled in the area. According to camp coordinators and

⁴See March 15, 2026 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

representatives, 4,507 IDPs are currently living in three shelter villages, Mekane-Eyesus, Jare Number One, and Jare Number Two, located near Hayk. Community representatives reported that humanitarian assistance provided to the displaced population has been halted since November 2025, leaving residents without sufficient food. As a result, some IDPs reportedly eat only once every twenty-four hours, while many rely on wild fruits locally known as “kurqura” to survive. The coordinators also noted that most of the displaced residents (who are Muslims) attempted to spend the month of Ramadan near mosques in nearby towns such as Dessie and Hayk to seek support from local communities. However, they claim that some displaced persons were prevented from entering the city.

- According to representatives, most of the people remaining in the shelter villages are elderly individuals and children, as many adults capable of working have left in search of livelihoods. The shelters, which were constructed seven years ago, are reportedly old and deteriorating, and residents say they have received no assistance to repair them. Displaced residents also reported growing health problems linked to food shortages, and claimed that deaths related to hunger have occurred in the camps.⁵

Wegdi Woreda

- On March 14th, intense fighting occurred between Fano forces and regime forces in Wegdi Woreda.
 - The clashes began in the early hours of the morning, following a Fano offensive at approximately 4 am. The operation was carried out by units under the Mebreq Division (operating under the AFNM-MC Nigus Mikael Ali Corps). The offensive specifically targeted regime military positions located in

⁵See March 12, 2026 [report](#) from Meseret Media.

the Makafta and Abiye-Gurba areas. During the fighting, heavy exchanges of fire were reported, while the Fano managed to advance and take control of the targeted positions. Following the engagement, regime forces reportedly withdrew from fortified positions in the area. However, troops positioned near Wegdi town later fired a ZU-23 anti-aircraft gun, reportedly using it as a ground weapon in an attempt to intimidate or disperse forces in the surrounding area.

- Sources from the area indicate that regime forces sustained significant casualties. As a result of the confrontation, the Fano reportedly captured firearms and equipment including one Bren LMG, four Kalashnikov rifles, and ammunition, along with various documents and other military materials. An unspecified number of regime soldiers were killed or wounded during the clashes. According to these accounts, the casualties were transported in two armored trucks to a school compound in Wegdi town. The bodies were later buried in four separate mass graves.

Southeastern Amhara (Shewa Subregion)

- On March 11th, four regime personnel reportedly defected and joined Fano forces.
 - According to reports, two regime personnel (one militia and one ENDF airborne commando) defected to the Rambo Division (operating under the AFNM-SPC Atse Amde-Tsion Corps). The commando brought with him a sniper rifle and a Kalashnikov rifle, while the militia brought one Kalashnikov rifle when joining the Fano units. In addition, two regime strike forces departed from Shewa-Robit City and joined units under the AFNM-SPC. The defectors stated that they had “*enough of the current system,*” which influenced their decision to abandon regime forces. According to observers, reports of

defections have increased in recent months, suggesting possible morale challenges within regime security units operating in conflict-affected areas.

- On March 12th, multiple regime military personnel defected to Fano forces.
 - According to reports, the defecting soldiers were ENDF personnel stationed in Gundo-Meskel (Dera Woreda) and joined units under the Atse Dawit Division (operating under the AFNM-SPC Atse Amde-Tsion Corps). The soldiers reportedly defected in protest against what they described as the regime’s ongoing massacres of the Amhara people, which they said were being carried out under the pretext of law enforcement operations. Prior to their defection, the soldiers were serving in the 15th Division (operating under the 6th ENDF Command). They left their positions along with their full weapons and equipment.

North Shewa Zone

Efratana-Gidim Woreda

- On March 9th, Fano forces held a wide-ranging discussion with members of the local community in Ambober and Tarma areas.
 - The discussion was attended by representatives from the Sebat-Leseba Division (operating under the AFNM-AC Atse Zera-Yacob Corps). During the meeting, the representatives presented an overview of the current status of the AFNM, outlining political and military developments the movement achieved since its establishment. They explained that the movement has now reached what they described as the final phase of the struggle for the rights and survival of the Amhara people. The leaders also elaborated on the organization’s guiding principles, objectives, and long-term vision.

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- Community members listened attentively as representatives explained the nature of the struggle and the role of local communities in supporting it. Participants expressed their views and emphasized that the fighters, whom they referred to as their own children, represent the collective defense of the people. Community members described the fighters as a source of pride and hope, noting that the security and future of the people depend on their continued efforts and sacrifices. They also expressed satisfaction with the victories achieved so far and reaffirmed their confidence in the movement.
 - At the conclusion of the meeting, the community pledged to continue standing alongside Fano forces and to support the struggle until its stated objectives are achieved. The discussions held in Ambober and Tarma were described as having further strengthened the bond between the movement and the local population.
 - On March 9th, intense fighting reportedly occurred between Fano forces and regime forces in Efratana-Gidim Woreda.
 - The clashes took place after regime forces entered Kara-Kori town from the directions of Ataye and Kemissie. In response, units under the Atse Yekuno-Amlak Division (operating under the AFNM-AC 1st Corps) carried out an offensive against the advancing regime forces. The operation targeted regime joint forces from Oromia Special Zone and Ataye town (including militia and police) and ENDF soldiers stationed in the area. These joint regime forces had previously been involved in acts of intimidation, abuses, and other forms of injustice against residents in the surrounding communities. Such actions were described by sources as contributing to political, economic, and humanitarian hardship for the local Amhara population.
 - During the fighting on the Kara-Kori front, four ethnic Oromo combatants

became separated from their units and ended up in Fano controlled territory. These individuals were provided with necessary care and protection from the moment they arrived. After being treated with what was described as disciplined and humane conduct, the four individuals were reportedly allowed to safely return to their place of origin on March 11th.

Mojana-Wadera Woreda

- On the night of March 8th (extending into the early morning hours of March 9th) Fano forces carried out an offensive on regime forces in Mojana-Wadera Woreda.
 - The operation was conducted by units under the Rambo Division (operating under the AFNM-SPC Atse Amde-Tsion Corps). Sources indicate that the target of the attack was an ENDF airborne commando unit that had been operating in the area surrounding the intersection of Asofe and Sasit, located outside Sela-Dingay town in Feres-Megalebia Kebele. The unit was accused by local residents of conducting repeated night-time raids, robberies, and other abuses against civilians while operating under the cover of darkness. According to reports, the operation took place at around midnight. During the surprise attack, more than eight members of the airborne unit were reportedly killed, while several others sustained serious injuries.
 - In a related development, four members of the ENDF's 104th Airborne Division defected during the same period to Fano forces. The defecting soldiers were received by the Rambo Division and were provided with safe passage and protection after joining the group.

Hageremariam-Kessesem Woreda

- Between March 9th and 10th, intense fighting occurred between Fano forces and regime forces in Hageremariam-Kessesem Woreda.

– The confrontation was initially launched by units under the Hailemariam Mamo Division (operating under the AFNM-AC 2nd Corps). According to reports, the Fano forces initiated the offensive on March 9th, beginning at around 10 pm, under *Operation Shewa Unity*. The attack targeted regime military positions and installations in Hageremariam town. During the initial phase of the operation, which lasted approximately five hours, the Fano forces reportedly inflicted significant losses on regime troops, forcing them to retreat from their defensive positions. As a result, the Fano took temporary control of Hageremariam, holding it for several hours until dawn. However, by the early morning hours of the following day (March 10th), regime forces regrouped and launched counter-offensives after mobilizing reinforcements from nearby areas. These attacks were reportedly supported by mortar fire, a tactic frequently employed during previous clashes in the area. In response, the Fano resisted the renewed assault and engaged in further fighting. Regime forces reportedly advanced from three fronts including Yekur, Yirmata-Hager, and Hageremariam. These advances were met with counter-offensives by Fano units. On another axis, the Fano repelled regime forces that attempted to attack from four different directions, preventing them from regaining full control of the area. Sources also indicated that the regime deployed elements of the 112th ENDF Division, supported by mortars, tanks, and other military units, including airborne, and naval forces. Despite this large-scale deployment, the Fano mounted sustained resistance.

– Following the clashes, reports emerged of attacks affecting civilians. According to sources, regime forces killed a priest identified as Qes Memhir Hayiu Nigussie, a resident of Agurameda area in Gorfo town, in front of his residence. In another incident, a mortar shell reportedly struck the home of a farmer in Medebut Got of Gorfo town, destroying the farmer's house and

killing several domestic animals. Regime forces conducted approximately 25 mortar strikes in the area on that day alone. Witnesses indicated that ambulances and pickup trucks were seen transporting bodies of soldiers killed during the clashes, while additional ambulances were reportedly mobilized to evacuate at least 11 wounded soldiers.

Southwestern Amhara (Gojjam Subregion)

- Between March 8th and 11th, the regime enforced a total shutdown of networks, including a blackout of telephone and internet services in several woredas in East Gojjam and West Gojjam Zones. Areas affected by the blackout included Debre-Elias, Machakel, Dembecha-Zuriya, Gozamin, Awabel, Enarj-Enawga, and Sinan Woredas. Sources noted that the network blackout has led to severe socio-economic disruption in the affected areas.
- On March 13th, the AFNM announced the graduation of a massive commando force, marking a significant milestone in its operational capacity. According to reports, this commando force consists of over 2,000 soldiers and was established through the integration of fighters from the Shewa, Gojjam, and Wollo Bete-Amhara Subregions. These personnel completed a rigorous six-month intensive training program and the graduation ceremony was attended by representatives from all subregions.⁶

East Gojjam Zone

Machakel Woreda

- On March 9th, fighting took place in the vicinity of Embulie Kebele.

⁶See March 13, 2026 [update](#) from Mereb Media.

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- The firefight was reportedly initiated when regime forces departed from Amanuel and Dembecha towns and deployed toward the Embulie area. In response, units under the 99th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 109th Corps) carried out a counter-offensive against regime forces to defend their position. The Fano ultimately repelled the attack, and regime forces retreated toward their points of departure. Reports indicate that during the firefight and the subsequent withdrawal, residential areas were targeted by HMG fire. The shelling destroyed several civilian properties, including transport vehicles, and resulted in civilian casualties.

Shebel-Berenta Woreda

- Between March 9th and 11th, heavy fighting took place in the Arate and Kutquat localities.
 - The fighting was initiated when regime forces, supported by heavy mechanized weapons, launched an offensive against Fano positions. The regime forces, mobilized from neighboring bases such as Bichena and Yedoha towns, led and coordinated by local militia commanders. The regime launched this heavy offensive with a large deployment of ground and mechanized forces. In response, units under the 64th Division of the 201st Corps (operating under the AFNM-TC) and units from the AFNM-AC confronted the regime forces in a counteroffensive. The combat, which began on March 9th, continued over three days, with daily confrontations lasting numerous hours. Over three days of combat, Fano forces defended their positions and managed to repel the regime offensive. Eventually, the regime ground and mechanized forces withdrew from their positions and retreated toward their point of departure.
 - Sources reported casualties from both sides, though regime forces suffered a greater number of casualties and material losses. During the combat and in its

aftermath, civilian casualties and property destruction were reported, as regime forces reportedly conducted retaliatory actions against civilian population. The use of heavy artillery including rocket launchers, mortars, and ZU-23s, led to indiscriminate shelling that killed several farmers, including a pilgrim identified as Ayalew Shenkut. In addition, at least two civilians suffered critical injuries. In addition to human casualties, regime forces carried out deliberate destruction of private property and looting of local resources. At least three residential houses were destroyed, while livestock and essential goods were seized from the community. Specific instances of looting included the theft of 16,000 ETB worth of merchandise from one resident and an additional 36,000 ETB worth of goods from another resident. Severe physical beatings were also inflicted on at least three civilians who sustained injuries.

Debre-Markos City

- On March 12th, Fano forces conducted a surprise operation in Debre-Markos City. The operation was carried out at around 7:45 pm in the evening when units under the 206th Corps (operating under the AFNM-TC) suddenly infiltrated and targeted regime forces. This occurred while a transport vehicle carrying regime security personnel departed from Debre-Markos and headed toward Leklekita Kebele. In parallel, Fano forces also conducted a targeted operation on the residence of a local militia commander in the Abma Sub-city.

Enbise-Sar-Midir Woreda

- On March 13th, fighting took place in the neighborhood of Merto-Lemariam town. The fighting was initiated by regime forces when they departed from Merto-Lemariam and mobilized toward the Segno-Gebeya area. In response, units under the 74th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 201st Corps) confronted

regime forces while they were advancing through the area. During this confrontation, at least 12 regime soldiers were killed, including a battalion leader, and eight others were wounded, forcing the remaining troops to retreat.

West Gojjam Zone

Bure-Zuriya Woreda

- On March 12th, fighting took place in the neighborhood of Bure town.
 - The firefight was initiated by Fano forces while regime forces were traveling along the route from Bure town to the Wundigi area. In the early morning hours of that day, units from the 77th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 109th Corps) conducted an ambush against a moving regime unit. The operation lasted for a brief period and resulted in the disruption of the movement of the regime. During this operation, Fano forces reportedly halted the regime's advance and subsequently compelled them to return to Bure.
 - In a separate development, sources reported that two armed individuals were found killed in the neighborhood of Bure. Sources reported that these individuals were killed by regime forces, who then propagated the claim that they had killed Fano members.

Jabi-Tehnan Woreda

- On March 13th, intense fighting took place in Jiga town.
 - The firefight was initiated by Fano forces during the overnight hours of March 12th (extending into the early morning hours of March 13th) when they launched an offensive against the regime presence in the town. Units from the 77th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 109th Corps) launched this

operation using launchers and grenades against established regime positions. The firefight began at around 3 am and lasted for more than two hours, subsiding shortly before dawn. The Fano reportedly breached regime fortifications and inflicted casualties among the soldiers.

- According to reports, over 80 regime forces were killed and several others were injured, while the Fano forces seized over 40 firearms. Regime forces reportedly transported bodies of killed and injured soldiers toward Finote-Selam City in three vehicles under the escort of heavy artillery.

North Gojjam Zone

North Mecha Woreda

- On March 14th, fighting took place in Birakat town.
 - The fighting was initiated by units from the 11th Division (operating under the AFNM-TC 102nd Corps) which launched an operation against regime forces entrenched in Birakat. The offensive began at 3 am leading to an open confrontation that lasted until the morning hours. During the confrontation, Fano forces overwhelmed the regime army breaching fortifications. In the operation, more than 40 regime forces were killed, including a local militia commander, and an unknown number of others were injured. The Fano also captured over five firearms. Concurrently, there was high tension in the neighborhood of Mehal-Genet town (Gerchech), as Fano forces deployed toward regime forces in the town.
 - In a separate development, reports indicate that on the evening of March 14th, regime soldiers killed a civilian in Merawi town. The victim, an individual in his 30s, had reportedly been detained by regime militias and killed near Qidus

Selassie Church. After killing him and leaving him on the street, the regime soldiers removed his identification card.

Northwestern Amhara (Gonder Subregion)

Central Gonder Zone

Wegera Woreda

- On March 10th, regime forces launched a series of mortar strikes targeting Dara Kebele.
 - The attack was launched in the evening hours by regime forces stationed in Gedebye town. The shelling resulted in civilian casualties and property losses. Several mortar rounds landed directly on residential structures, killing at least four civilians. Of the deceased, three individuals were members of the same family who were inside their home at the time. Two additional civilians sustained physical injuries during the bombardment.
- On March 14th, Fano forces launched a successful offensive against regime forces in Dara Kebele.
 - The operation was conducted by the Gondere-Begashaw Division (operating under the AFNM-BC) in Dara, located between Gedebye and Dabat towns. The regime suffered heavy casualties during the assault, including the death of an unidentified high-ranking military leader. Following the engagement, Fano forces seized a significant cache of weaponry and supplies, including one Bren LMG, seven Kalashnikov rifles, numerous hand grenades, and various tactical gears such as chest rigs and belts. In response to the ambush, the regime

deployed reinforcements from both Gedebye and Dabat to Dara to support their embattled units.

East Dembiya Woreda

- On March 12th, fierce fighting erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Robit town. Regime joint forces including ENDF and riot dispersal forces launched a coordinated military offensive from multiple directions (from Qoladiba and Chuahit) toward Robit. In response, units under the Begemidir Division (operating under the AFNM-GPC) carried out a counter-offensive leading to fighting beginning early in the morning. As a result, the regime forces sustained heavy casualties and were forced to retreat to Chuahit and Qoladiba, carrying their dead and wounded.
- Between March 12th and 13th, there was intense fighting between regime forces and Fano forces in East Dembiya Woreda.
 - The escalation began on March 12th, when the regime deployed troops from three directions including Tseda, Chuahit, and Qoladiba. However, the offensive was met with significant resistance on all fronts by units under the Atsewochu and Begemidir Divisions (operating under the AFNM-GPC), resulting in heavy regime casualties. In Jibara Kebele, regime forces were intercepted while advancing from Tseda, leaving over 40 regime soldiers dead. Simultaneously, the Fano conducted an ambush in Weynatana Kebele, inflicting more than 35 additional casualties through deaths and critical injuries, forcing a general retreat of the regime's initial assault teams.
 - The conflict intensified the following day (March 13th) as the regime mobilized mechanized and infantry reinforcements to launch a multi-pronged offensive advancing from Tseda, Maksegnit, Enfranz, Chuahit, and Qoladiba towards the Robit area. The resulting battle lasted the entire day and was

characterized by intense fighting. During the height of the fighting RDF personnel reportedly defected, abandoning their military operations to join the Fano side. In response, the Northwestern ENDF Command based in Azezo dispatched special commando units to intervene and halt the defections.

East Belessa Woreda

- On March 14th, fierce fighting took place between Fano forces and regime forces in Guhala town. The fighting began in the early morning hours as regime forces deployed a combination of joint military forces and political cadres toward Guhala and Arbaya in order to reclaim lost territory. In response, units under the Nisir-Belessa Division (operating under the AFNM-BC) engaged the advancing forces. As the battle intensified and lasted for several hours, the regime was forced to dispatch additional reinforcements from Maksegnit town to support their offensive in the Guhala area.

Takusa Woreda

- On March 15th, fighting broke out between regime forces and Fano forces near Chandiba town. Advancing from Chilga Woreda, the regime forces launched an offensive to seize Fano-held territories, a move reportedly aimed at securing the region for the upcoming national elections scheduled for June. In response, units under the Begemidir Division (operating under the AFNM-GPC) initiated a counter-offensive early in the morning to defend the town.

Kinfaz-Begela Woreda

- On March 15th, a significant escalation in hostilities occurred as regime forces launched a coordinated offensive against Fano forces in Kinfaz-Begela Woreda.
 - In this operation, regime forces integrated advanced aerial support, utilizing

drone surveillance to coordinate a multi-pronged push into both East Belessa and West Belessa Woredas via the strategic corridors of Degoma and Kinfaz-Begela. The fighting in Kinfaz-Begela Woreda was particularly intense. Despite the regime's aerial advantage, their joint forces encountered a formidable defensive wall from Fano fighters. The ground-level resistance was so severe that the regime's infantry was eventually forced into a tactical retreat, failing to secure their primary objectives in that specific sector. However, the regime found more success on the eastern front. Advancing through Degoma town, the regime joint forces managed to penetrate into Arbaya town, administrative center of East Belessa Woreda. In response, Fano forces carried out an offensive operation in nearby Dengora Kebele. Fano units ambushed a convoy of regime military trucks transporting reinforcements toward the newly captured town. The surprise nature of the strike left the regime's logistics chain in disarray and resulted in heavy casualties among the soldiers on board the transport vehicles.

- Simultaneously, the conflict expanded into West Belessa Woreda. Regime units stationed in Maksegnit town deployed heavy artillery, specifically ZU-23 anti-aircraft guns used in a ground-support role, to launch a sustained bombardment against Guhala town.

North Gonder Zone

Adarkay Woreda

- On March 11th, unidentified militants carried out an assault in Waldebba Sequar Kidanemihret Monastery. The attack resulted in the deaths of two monks, Abba Weldesenbet and Abba Weldetinsaye. A third monk, Abba Gebremaryam, sustained injuries and was subsequently admitted to Zerima Hospital for treatment.

Areas Outside Amhara Region

Addis-Ababa City

- As of March 7th, reports emerged regarding alleged abuses against Amhara political prisoners and prisoners of conscience at Kilinto Prison, as well as the reported disappearance of an unknown number of detainees in Addis-Ababa City.

- According to reports, detainees held in “*Zone One*” of Kilinto Prison were subjected to severe physical beatings, torture, and other forms of inhumane treatment. Observers indicate that these alleged abuses represent an escalation in the treatment of prisoners, particularly those identified as Amhara political detainees. Reports indicate that the incidents began on March 5th, when prison authorities confiscated the personal belongings and medication of political prisoner Eskinder Shifferaw. Sources claim that this action marked the beginning of a series of confrontations between prison authorities and detainees.

- The situation reportedly escalated on March 7th, when prison officials allegedly singled out prisoners identified as Amhara and subjected them to widespread beatings and abuse. Prison security personnel, including an officer identified as Inspector Amare, used disproportionate force against inmates and reportedly deployed smoke bombs inside detention areas. Witness accounts claim that prison doors were then closed while the gas remained inside, causing serious injuries to several detainees. Sources report that the following political prisoners were severely beaten and subsequently transferred to another section of the prison:

1. Eskinder Shifferaw;
2. Mekonnen Tesfa;

3. Dr. Daniel Teshu; and

4. Biniyam Terefe.

– Sources indicate that the whereabouts of more than eleven detainees are unknown, raising fears of enforced disappearance and concerns about their safety. Their names were identified as follows:

1. Melkamu Wubante;

2. Habtamu Fentahun;

3. Lakew Habtu;

4. Yilak Gedamu;

5. Biniyam Getachew;

6. Asnake Bekele;

7. Tadesse Ababo;

8. Melkamu Bitew;

9. Salamlak Mihret;

10. Mulugetta Belete; and

11. Demeke Ayichew.

– Additional reports indicate that prison authorities targeted religious practices of Orthodox Christian prisoners. A designated prayer area used by inmates for worship within the prison compound was reportedly destroyed. In addition, prisoners' personal belongings, including blankets used for sleeping, were burned.⁷

- On March 10th, regime security forces arrested a social activist in Addis-Ababa City.

⁷See March 9, 2026 [report](#) from Ethio 251 Media.

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- Bekalu Misganaw, who was known for advocating for the rights of residents of Dire-Dawa City. Bekalu had previously gained public attention for exposing alleged attempts by city officials to privatize public assets, including a railway yard that had supported many young people in the city. His activism previously led to his imprisonment for two years. After his release, family members said he had withdrawn from public activism and spent most of his time at home. According to sources, police officers took him for questioning to a police station in Addis-Ababa on the evening of March 10th. The following day (March 11th), officers escorted him home, searched the house, and then took him back into custody before transferring him to Dire-Dawa. Sources close to Bekalu describe him as a respected community activist known for opposing corruption and advocating for public interests in the city.⁸
 - On March 11th, Abiy Ahmed announced three new appointments to the leadership of the Addis-Ababa City Police Commission, a move that has reportedly raised security and human rights concerns among residents and observers in Addis-Ababa City.
 - According to reports, the Prime Minister appointed Asirat Denero, a Lieutenant-General, as the new Police Commissioner of the city. Two additional officials were also appointed as deputy commissioners. One of the deputies was reportedly transferred from the Prime Minister’s Office to serve in the new position. The appointment of Asirat Denero has drawn particular attention due to his previous service within the ENDF. Some observers have raised concerns regarding allegations of human rights violations during security operations in Metekel Zone (Benishangul-Gumuz Region), where the military had previously been deployed to address security crises. Critics claim

⁸See March 12, 2026 [report](#) from Meseret Media.

that operations conducted in the area were associated with atrocities against civilians, particularly members of the Amhara community.

- The new appointments have generated a range of reactions among analysts and local observers. Some interpret the selection of a senior military officer to lead the city’s police force as an indication that the regime may be anticipating potential protests or security challenges in the capital. Others have expressed concern that the appointment of officials perceived as politically loyal to the ruling administration could worsen repression and impunity. Overall, observers have voiced concerns that the leadership changes within the Addis-Ababa Police Commission structure may have implications for civil liberties, public security, and the protection of human rights in the city.
- As of March 12th, reports have emerged regarding preparations by the OPP administration for a new draft policy relating to the political and administrative status of Addis-Ababa City within the Oromia Region.
 - According to reports, the proposed draft aims to redefine governance and ownership arrangements concerning Addis-Ababa and surrounding areas. The draft is reportedly expected to be presented for political discussion in April 2026. Preliminary information suggests that the draft draws lessons from different administrative arrangements both within Ethiopia and internationally. Among the examples reportedly referenced are governance structures in Hawassa, as well as models from countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, and Bolivia, along with urban governance experiences in cities like Johannesburg and Cape Town.
 - Sources claim that the draft may include provisions affecting political participation and property rights in Addis-Ababa and neighboring cities such as Nazreth (Adama) and Debre-Zeyit (Bishoftu). Some reports suggest that

these provisions could potentially restrict certain political rights, such as the ability to vote or run for office, for residents who are not considered indigenous to the region. However, the exact contents of the draft remain unclear and have not yet been officially published. The reported proposal has generated significant debate and concern among various observers, activists, and community representatives. Critics argue that such policies could institutionalize political exclusion and deepen ethnic and political tensions in the capital and surrounding areas.⁹

- These concerns also emerge in the context of previous allegations of forced displacement, property destruction, and human rights abuses against ethnic Amhara and other communities in parts of Oromia Region, including areas surrounding Addis-Ababa. Several researchers and advocacy groups have documented incidents of displacement and violence affecting non-Oromo communities in the region, although interpretations of these events vary among scholars and political actors.
- Some commentators from Amhara political and intellectual circles have also framed the issue in historical terms. They argue that Addis-Ababa, historically referred to as “*Barara*” before the establishment of the modern capital under Emperor Menelik II in the late nineteenth century, has long-standing historical connections to Amhara political authority. These observers contend that if the city is not recognized as belonging equally to all Ethiopians, historical claims regarding the city’s earlier political control may become part of the broader debate.

⁹See March 12, 2026 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

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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