



## War updates from Amhara Region, Ethiopia – December 15th to 21st, 2025

Updated December 22nd, 2025

### Overview

For the week of December 15th to 21st, 2025, fighting between the *Amhara Fano self-defense force* (Fano) and *Prosperity Party regime joint forces* (regime forces) has continued in various parts of Amhara Region in Ethiopia.<sup>12</sup>

- This week battle events and rights violations were recorded in more than 40 woreda/city administrations across 11 zonal administrations in Amhara Region.

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

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

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

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West Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam, South Gonder, Central Gonder, West Gonder and North Gonder Zones. Developments were also recorded in Horo-Guduru-Wollega and East Wollega Zones of Oromia Region.

- Civilian casualties were recorded in 11 woreda/city administrations across 7 zonal administrations in Amhara Region. These included Alamata, Raya-Kobo, Lasta, Kewet, Merhabete, Enemay, Wemberima, Dembecha-Zuriya, Ayo-Guagusa, North Mecha and Libo-Kemkem Woredas in North Wollo, North Shewa, East Gojjam, West Gojjam, Awi, North Gojjam and South Gonder Zones. In Alamata city of North Wollo Zone, a civilian casualty incident was recorded during a gunfire exchange between *Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)* forces and Federal Command Post soldiers. This week regime forces carried out numerous drone attacks in Sekela Woreda of West Gojjam Zone in Amhara Region which resulted in civilian casualties.
- Arrests were recorded in Gida-Ayana Woreda of East Wollega Zone in Oromia Region. Furthermore, abductions were recorded in Alamata, Raya-Kobo and Libo-Kemkem Woredas of North Wollo and South Gonder Zones in Amhara Region. In Alamata city of North Wollo Zone, TPLF forces abducted a prominent religious figure affiliated with the *Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC)*.
- This week opposition groups condemned the recent killing of civilians affiliated with the EOTC in Oromia Region.

## **Northeastern Amhara (Wollo Bete-Amhara Subregion)**

- On December 20th, reports indicated a wave of defections among ENDF personnel to Fano forces. According to these reports, seven ENDF soldiers defected and joined the Hawjano Division (operating under the AFNF-MC). The defectors

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reportedly included four members from the 83rd ENDF Division and three members of the Republican Guard, bringing the total number of defectors to seven. Sources further stated that the soldiers defected with their full military equipment, a development that may enhance the operational capacity of the receiving unit.

## **North Wollo Zone**

### **Raya-Kobo Woreda**

- On December 16th, regime forces carried out artillery shelling targeting the Addis-Kign and Tekulesh areas.
  - The shelling was reportedly launched from positions near the Hormat River. Reports indicated gunfire exchanges in areas such as Addis-Kign, after which regime forces began withdrawing from the area. During the exchange of fire, at least one civilian was reportedly killed. In addition to the military activity, regime forces reportedly rounded up and transported numerous daily laborers from Addis-Kign to Kobo city.
  - Subsequently, ENDF forces issued a public statement claiming that they had freed youths who were allegedly subjected to forced military training by Fano forces.<sup>3</sup> However, sources refuted this claim, confirming that the individuals taken to Kobo city were civilian daily laborers who were forcibly detained by regime forces. According to these sources, the official statement was false and constituted an attempt at propaganda rather than an accurate account of events on the ground.
- On December 16th, an intense battle took place between Fano forces and regime forces in the Karayila area.

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<sup>3</sup>See December 16, 2025 [report](#) from the FDRE Defense Force.

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- The confrontation began when regime forces launched an offensive aimed at extending their control from Bewa-Mikael toward Tekulesh, accompanied by indiscriminate artillery shelling of the surrounding areas. In response, Special Operations Units (operating under the AFNF-MC) launched a counter-offensive against regime forces that had entrenched themselves in the Karayila area. The fighting continued for approximately ten hours, from around 9 am until 7 pm. According to sources, the clashes resulted in casualties among both regime forces and civilians. These sources report that at least 30 regime personnel were killed or injured during the fighting. One fatality was reported on the Fano side.
  - Following the heavy losses sustained during the special operations, regime forces reportedly retaliated against civilians by firing mortars and artillery into residential areas. This retaliatory shelling allegedly resulted in the killing of civilians, the destruction of homes and property, and the killing of livestock. It was further reported that regime forces abducted civilian youths, as well as bajaj vehicles and minibus vehicles, under the pretext of seizing Fano property and apprehending alleged Fano trainees. These actions were reportedly carried out through coercive measures and involved serious human rights violations. Most of those abducted were said to be daily laborers, farmers, and other civilian workers. In addition, regime forces were reportedly attempting to produce propaganda materials by presenting abducted civilians as captured Fano forces.
  - On December 19th, Fano forces launched attacks against regime forces in multiple locations across Raya-Kobo Woreda.
    - The operations were carried out by the Kalakorma Division (operating under the AFNF-MC East Amhara Corps Two), targeting regime positions in Robit

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town and the Abuare area.

- In Robit, the 5th Battalion of the division entered the area at approximately 4 pm and carried out a surprise attack on regime forces stationed near the exit of Kobo city, specifically around the Woyilet Bridge. According to sources, ten regime soldiers manning the checkpoint in the eastern direction were killed during the operation.
- Additionally, Fano forces conducted an attack against regime forces in the Abuare area. As a result of this operation, six regime soldiers who were operating in the area were reportedly killed.

### **Lasta Woreda**

- Between December 15th and 16th, Fano forces carried out a series of offensives against regime forces across multiple locations in Lasta Woreda.
  - On the night of December 15th, the Eshet Division (operating under the AFNF-MC Lasta Asaminew Corps) conducted a targeted night operation against forces under the 65th ENDF Division, which were stationed in the Sayina-Ber area. The engagement took place between 9 pm and 1 am. That day regime forces had mobilized from Lalibela city and Lalibela Airport (Shimsha) advancing in five directions including from Gumu-Beret, Abiseg-Kidanemihret, Erfa, Tekay-Mender, and Talo-Debir. In response, the Fano forces launched a counter-offensive that halted the advance and forced the regime forces to retreat back toward Lalibela and Shimsha without recovering their dead from the battlefield. According to reports, more than 15 regime soldiers were killed and another 20 sustained physical injuries.
  - The next day (December 16th), additional intense fighting occurred in the Dibiko, Girar-Amba, and Dabo-Ketema areas, where Fano forces launched

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another coordinated offensive. The fighting erupted when regime forces attempted to escort Prosperity Party officials, including members of the Lalibela City Administration, Lasta Woreda, and Bugna Woreda cabinets, from Gashena to Lalibela. The escort operation reportedly began at around 6 am, with regime forces deploying from Gashena toward Girar-Amba. In response, units from the AFNF-MC Lasta Asaminew Corps engaged regime forces in the Dibiko and Dabo-Ketema areas, eventually forcing the regime forces to withdraw from the area. According to reports, at least 32 regime soldiers were killed and more than 50 others were wounded. Additionally, a regime ZU-23 anti-aircraft weapon was reportedly struck. Following these losses, regime forces carried out retaliatory actions, including indiscriminate ZU-23 fire targeting civilian areas. These actions reportedly resulted in the burning of three residential homes and five teff grain piles, estimated to yield up to 35 quintals of grain. Furthermore, four civilians sustained injuries ranging from minor to serious in severity.

### **Habru Woreda**

- On December 17th, a fierce battle erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in areas surrounding Mersa city.
  - The fighting began when regime forces advanced toward areas in the western part of Mersa that were under the control of Fano forces, reportedly with the intention of launching an attack. In response, the Baleshiritu and Tatek Divisions (operating under the AFNF-MC East Amhara Corps One and Two) launched a counter-offensive against the advancing regime forces. The confrontation resulted in heavy casualties.
  - According to reports, at least 37 regime forces were killed during the fighting, and their bodies were reportedly left at the battlefield without retrieval or

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burial. In addition, Fano forces captured a significant quantity of firearms, ammunition and other supplies.

### **Wadla Woreda**

- On December 19th, a fierce battle broke out between Fano forces and regime forces in Hamusit town.
  - The confrontation began early in the morning when the Dejen Division (operating under the AFNF-MC Yedegaw-Mebreq Corps) launched an offensive against regime positions at approximately 5 am. According to reports, the fighting resulted in casualties among regime forces with at least 13 regime soldiers killed, while 23 others sustained serious injuries. Regime forces, which had advanced from Gashena at night were forced to withdraw after suffering significant human losses. The battle in Hamusit continued for nearly eleven hours, lasting from 5 am until around 4 pm. Reports further indicate that additional infantry units from Woldia and Ahuntegegn, supported by mechanized equipment, were deployed in an attempt to reinforce and rescue the besieged regime forces in Hamusit. However, these reinforcement efforts reportedly failed, and the units withdrew after sustaining heavy losses. Meanwhile, areas surrounding Hamusit have continued to experience recurring clashes, indicating ongoing instability and active fighting in the wider vicinity.

### **Woldia City**

- On December 19th, Prosperity Party officials convened a forced meeting with professors of Woldia University in Woldia city.
  - The meeting was organized and led by senior regime officials, including Yirga Sisay, Head of the regional branch of the Prosperity Party. University staff

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were compelled to attend the meeting until approximately 2 pm, with the officials reportedly prolonging the session and disrupting the participants' lunch break. The meeting was held under the stated theme of "the role of elites in peace building." During the discussion, several participants spoke boldly and raised concerns about the genuine grievances of the Amhara people, emphasizing the regime's inability and apparent lack of political will to provide meaningful and genuine responses to these demands.

- Sources highlighted the intervention of a staff member from the Department of Political Science and International Relations, who reportedly downplayed the cause of the Amhara people and the Fano struggle. According to sources, his remarks were perceived by many participants as aligning closely with regime narratives and reflecting a personal interest in political power. As a result, most attendees reportedly ignored or expressed frustration with his statements, showing visible dissatisfaction with his position during the meeting.

### **Alamata City**

- On December 21st, TPLF forces carried out arbitrary killings and the abduction of a religious leader in Alamata city.
  - The incident occurred on a Sunday, coinciding with the Feast of St. Mikael, a significant religious celebration for followers of the EOTC. On that day, worshippers had gathered at Koba-Eyesus Church for prayer. According to sources, tensions erupted when the TPLF militants attempted to impose the use of Tigrigna language during religious services, a move strongly resisted by the local community. The situation escalated into confrontation between the militants and federal command post forces stationed in the area. Amid this tension, the armed groups opened fire, resulting in the killing of one civilian. During the same incident, they attempted to abduct religious leaders while

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prayers were ongoing and worshippers were present inside the church.

Although this initial abduction attempt was unsuccessful, threats and intimidation created widespread fear among the congregation.

- Later that evening, at approximately 8:50 pm, TPLF forces abducted Memhir Melake Birhan Qesis Kahsay Biwota, head of the Gospel Preaching Department of the EOTC Raya Diocese, from his residence in Alamata city.

## **South Wollo Zone**

### **Were-Ilu Woreda**

- On December 13th, Fano forces engaged in armed confrontation with regime forces in Were-Ilu Woreda.
  - The clash began when regime forces affiliated with the 801st Corps of the ENDF Northeastern Command attempted to launch an attack in the Kirie area. In response, units from the 3rd (Nisir) Battalion of the Wasil Division (operating under the AFNF-MC Nigus Mikael Corps) initiated a counter-offensive, leading to sustained fighting between 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.
  - According to reports, six regime soldiers were killed and eight were wounded and were transported to a health facility for medical treatment. Following the confrontation, regime forces reportedly transferred their dead and wounded to Were-Ilu town. Additionally, the regime forces engaged in retaliatory actions including destroying crops belonging to local farmers using heavy weapons, causing damage to civilian livelihoods. No casualties were reported on the Fano side during this engagement.

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## Ambassel Woreda

- Between December 14th and 15th, fighting erupted between Fano forces and regime troops in Ambassel Woreda and surrounding areas of Delanta Woreda.
  - On the Fano side, the 23rd Division (operating under the AFNF-MC Lij Eyasu Corps) engaged regime forces stationed on Jigodo-Abala Mountain. The fighting continued into the following day (December 15th). During this period, regime troops who had been encircled around Abala Mountain and the Gishen-Mariam Monastery attempted to withdraw toward Telayen and Ziha in Delanta Woreda. Additional Fano units also participated in the fighting in these areas. As the retreating forces moved along this route, the Fano launched an offensive, striking regrouping regime units and sealing off supply and reinforcement routes. In response to the situation, the regime deployed additional reinforcements from Dessie and Kutaber toward the conflict zone.
  - As a result of these operations, the regime forces reportedly suffered an unconfirmed number of fatalities and injuries.
- On December 18th, Fano forces carried out an offensive against regime forces in Wuchale town and surrounding areas of Ambassel Woreda.
  - The operation was conducted by the 24th Division (operating under the AFNF-MC Lij Eyasu Corps). The attack began at approximately 6 am, targeting key regime military positions and strongholds within and around the town. According to sources, intense fighting ensued, involving heavy weapons, close-range engagements, and explosive detonations. During the clashes, Fano forces managed to penetrate regime defensive lines and enter Wuchale town, administrative center of Ambassel Woreda. The confrontation reportedly resulted in the destruction of military assets and significant

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casualties among regime forces. As a result of the heavy fighting, transportation along the Dessie-Woldia route was temporarily disrupted, affecting movement between the two cities. Later in the day, regime forces reportedly deployed additional reinforcements from Hayk and Mersa, enabling them to reassert control over Wuchale. Subsequently, Fano forces withdrew from the town in the afternoon. Following the de-escalation of fighting, transportation along the main road resumed later that day.

- More than 40 regime forces were killed or wounded, and various weapons were captured during the operation. On the Fano side, two members sustained minor injuries.

### **Legambo Woreda**

- On December 15th, Fano forces carried out a coordinated ambush against regime strike forces in the Buso-Giyorgis area.

The operation was conducted by the 1st (Shewangizaw) Battalion of the Aba Nadew Division (operating under the AFNF-MC Nigus Mikael Ali Corps).

The ambush targeted a regime strike unit reportedly led by Colonel Mebre Asmamaw Wassie. The engagement temporarily disrupted regime operations in the area.

- According to reports, the attack resulted in casualties among the regime forces, with five strike force personnel killed and fifteen others wounded.

- On December 19th, Fano forces carried out an offensive against regime forces in Legambo Woreda.

- The operation was conducted by the 1st (Shewangizaw) Battalion of the Aba Nadew Division (operating under the AFNF-MC Nigus Mikael Corps). The attack specifically targeted an FSR vehicle transporting regime strike force

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personnel from Amhara-Sayint toward Legambo Woreda. The ambush was conducted when the vehicle reached the Buso-Giyorgis area.

- According to reports, four regime soldiers were confirmed killed and 14 others were wounded during the confrontation (number of casualties is expected to rise).

### **Borena Woreda**

- On December 18th, intense fighting erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Borena Woreda.
  - The clashes reportedly began after regime forces launched a large-scale military offensive. The initial phase of the operation involved the deployment of the 45th ENDF Division (operating under the Northeastern Command 801st Corps). However, the division reportedly failed to secure or effectively cover the Mekaneselem area, prompting the regime to deploy the 47th Division in support of the operation. In response, the Tilahun Fentaw Brigade of the Engineer Dessalegn Assefa Division (operating under the AFNF-MC Nigus Mikael Corps), launched a counter-offensive against regime positions in and around Bili town. The fighting reportedly lasted from approximately 5 am to 11 am.
  - According to reports, at least 15 regime soldiers, including a battalion commander from the 45th Division, were killed, while the exact number of injured soldiers remains unconfirmed. However a significant number of wounded personnel were subsequently transported by ambulance to Mekaneselem General Hospital for treatment.

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## **Delanta Woreda**

- On December 19th, a fierce battle erupted between Fano forces and regime forces in Delanta Woreda.
  - The confrontation began when regime forces advanced from multiple directions with the intent of launching an attack on Fano positions. In response, the Tsinat Division (operating under the AFNF-MC Yedegaw-Mebreq Corps) carried out a coordinated counter-offensive, expanding its operational front from Yeziha toward Gishen and from Delanta toward Teri.
  - According to sources, the counter-offensive resulted in the destruction of the regime's ZU-23 weapons system on the battlefield and inflicted an unspecified number of casualties, including both fatalities and injuries, among regime forces. Following these losses, regime forces were compelled to retreat in three different directions.

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

### **North Shewa Zone**

#### **Kewet Woreda**

- XBetween December 15th and 16th, intense fighting has taken place between Fano forces and regime forces in Kewet Woreda.
  - The confrontation began on December 15th, following a coordinated offensive launched by regime forces across multiple fronts with the objective of dislodging and gaining control over Fano positions. The regime's attacks targeted several strategic areas including Shewa-Robit, Debre-Sina, and

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Mezezo. In response, the Rambo Division (operating under the AFPO-AFSPC Atse Amde-Tsion Corps) initiated counter-offensive operations including ambushes and defensive maneuvers aimed at repelling the advancing regime forces.

- During the fighting, regime forces reportedly employed indiscriminate artillery shelling alongside mechanized infantry units. Shelling was specifically reported in the Terie and Yelen areas, where civilian-populated locations were affected. According to sources, a mother and child were killed when artillery fire struck their home in Terie.

### **Merhabete Woreda**

- On the night of December 16th, regime militia personnel killed three civilians in Giret Kebele. On the night of the incident, three members of a single family residing in Zoma Got were killed by a militia member identified as Ato Nigus Taye. The victims were identified as Ato Habtamu Birlew, a father of three; his wife, Woizero Meswey Worke; and their eight-year-old child, Mitwey Habtamu. Following the incident, the alleged perpetrator reportedly fled and took refuge in an ENDF camp located in Zomo Kebele.

### **Mida-Woremo Woreda**

- On December 17th, fighting took place between Fano forces and regime forces in Mida-Woremo Woreda. The 3rd (Nihib) Battalion of the Atse Dawit Division (operating under the AFPO-AFSPC Atse Amde-Tsion Corps) engaged in fighting against the regime's 101st ENDF Airborne Division in the Berna-Bode Mountains of Yegovia-Gobabit Kebele. The confrontation reportedly began at approximately 3 pm. During the course of the fighting, regime forces launched more than 11 mortar strikes, which caused damage to crops belonging to farmers in surrounding areas.

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## **Tarmaber Woreda**

- On December 15th, Fano forces carried out a series of coordinated ambushes targeting regime forces in Tarmaber Woreda.
  - According to sources, in response to regime movements from Tarmaber and Debresina toward Mezezo, units of the Rambo Division (operating under the AFPO-AFSPC Atse Amde-Tsion Corps) prepared ambush positions at approximately 4 am, engaging units under the ENDF 104th Airborne Division which reportedly sustained inflicted heavy losses. Fighting also extended into the Mezezo area, specifically around the Belbala-Gebriel area, where further clashes were reported.
  - Sources indicated that more than 16 regime soldiers were killed during the engagements. In addition, a significant number of wounded soldiers (including some in critical condition) were reportedly evacuated by ambulance to Debre-Birhan and Debresina Hospitals.

## **Menz-Mam-Midir Woreda**

- On December 15th, fighting broke out between Fano forces and regime forces in Menz-Mam-Midir Woreda amid regime offensives to take control of Kewet Woreda. According to sources, clashes began when regime units deployed from Molale advanced toward Eban and Bash. As these forces advanced, they encountered resistance from the 3rd Battalion of the Rambo Division (operating under the AFPO-AFSPC Atse Amde-Tsion Corps). Sources indicated that regime forces sustained casualties during the fighting. These engagements were reportedly part of a broader series of coordinated operations by the regime targeting Fano units in and around Kewet Woreda.

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## **Hageremariam-Kessem Woreda**

- On the night of December 17th (extending into the early morning hours of December 18th), an intense battle occurred between Fano forces and regime forces in the Gorfo area.
  - The fighting began when regime forces launched a night-time advance which led to fighting beginning at around 2 am and continued until approximately 5 am, resulting in heavy exchanges of fire. In response, Fano units (operating under the AFNF-AC) mounted a counter-offensive.
  - The confrontation reportedly resulted in significant human and material casualties on both sides. On the Fano side, two fighters were killed while six others sustained physical injuries. On the regime side, an unknown number of ENDF personnel, militia, and strike forces were reportedly killed or injured during the fighting.<sup>4</sup>

## **Minjar-Shenkora Woreda**

- On December 19th, intense fighting erupted between Fano and regime forces across multiple locations in Minjar-Shenkora Woreda.
  - The first confrontation occurred in the early morning at approximately 5 am. In response, units under the Ras Behailu Brigade of the Nebelbal Division (operating under the AFNF-AC Kessem Corps) launched a preemptive offensive on the advancing units in the Civilen area. As a result, regime forces reportedly suffered severe casualties, were forced to retreat, and evacuated their dead and wounded using three ambulances.
  - During the subsequent withdrawal, regime forces regrouped with additional units. However, they faced another ambush by the division's General Tefera

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<sup>4</sup>See September 18, 2025 [report](#) from Ethio Focus News.

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Mamo Brigade in the Ber area, where they reportedly sustained further significant losses. The intensity of the fighting compelled the regime forces to halt their movements and evacuate their dead and wounded from the area.

- Following these developments, Fano units launched additional attacks on retreating regime forces at several key locations, including Arerti-Wolesu, Balchi, and the Shenkora River checkpoint. Across these successive engagements, regime forces were subjected to unexpected and repeated attacks, resulting in their forced withdrawal from multiple positions and a broader retreat from the contested areas.

## **Southwestern Amhara (Gojjam Subregion)**

### **East Gojjam Zone**

#### **Sinan Woreda**

- On December 16th, fighting took place in Rebu-Gebeya town.
  - The firefight was initiated by Fano forces which conducted an offensive against regime forces stationed in the town. This operation was reportedly carried out by the Sinan-Abajime unit, part of the 24th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 206th Corps).
  - In this operation, Fano forces reportedly inflicted significant fatalities and injuries among regime soldiers and captured a significant quantity of firearms and ammunition.

#### **Enarj-Enawga Woreda**

- On December 16th, intense fighting was reported in Debre-Werk town.

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- The firefight was initiated by units from the 74th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 201st Corps), which launched an offensive against the regime presence. The Fano forces entered Debre-Werk in the early morning from multiple directions, followed by a heavy offensive on regime army positions. This offense compelled the regime army to swiftly abandon the town and seek shelter in the nearby Tebamt mountainous area. Consequently, Fano forces managed to take control of key locations, including the police station. Upon breaking into the police station, Fano forces reportedly released more than 100 detainees. The regime army responded with indiscriminate shelling using heavy weaponry from Tebamt toward Debre-Werk until the Fano forces eventually withdrew. This exchange of fire reportedly continued until at least midday, with casualties reported on both sides. During the hours of active combat, civilians remained indoors, and there was no significant movement in the streets. Around midday, the fighting subsided as Fano forces withdrew from the town just as regime reinforcements arrived from neighboring bases.
  - Approximately five casualties, including both killed and injured, were reported among the Fano combatants. On the regime side, more than 50 regime soldiers were killed and another 17 sustained physical injuries, while an unspecified number of others were captured. In addition, the Fano forces captured a significant quantity of firearms, military equipment and ammunition.

### **Enemay Woreda**

- Between December 15th and 16th, regime forces deployed in Enemay Woreda targeted essential civilian infrastructure within the Hulet-Amba-Dibisa and Zebich-Eyesus Kebeles. Over this period, regime troops entered these rural areas and perpetrated abuses against civilians, specifically targeting farmers with no known militant affiliations. The regime army was also implicated in looting of

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private property during house-to-house searches. Furthermore, these units destroyed educational and public facilities, including the destruction of kindergarten teaching materials, the looting of various equipment, and the damaging of local water supply infrastructure.

### **Aneded Woreda**

- On December 18th, a brief exchange of gunfire took place in the vicinity of Jama town. This military engagement was reportedly initiated by Fano fighters to facilitate the defection of soldiers from the regime army. The regime forces responded with gunfire in an attempt to prevent the soldiers from defecting. Ultimately, the skirmish concluded with two soldiers joining the Fano.
- On December 20th, regime forces which had recently deployed in Jama town, withdrew and retreated to Amber, the woreda center. According to sources, Fano units prepared to launch an offensive on the regime army stationed there and upon receiving intelligence regarding the Fano movement, the regime troops fled as the Fano fighters approached their position. Sources reported that regime troops looted properties as they withdrew from Jama, specifically seizing grain crops from farmers and merchants, as well as household materials and other assets from civilians. Following the departure of the regime forces, Fano forces regained control of Jama.

### **Shebel-Berenta Woreda**

- On December 20th, fighting was conducted in Suha-Tefases Kebele. The firefight was initiated by the regime army which advanced from bases located in Mergech, Yedoha, and Bichena. Combined units from the 64th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 201st Corps) engaged in a fierce confrontation to repel the regime forces. During this engagement, Fano forces reportedly expelled the advancing army after inflicting casualties.

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## **West Gojjam Zone**

### **Wemberima Woreda**

- On December 16th, fighting took place in the vicinity of Shindi town.
  - On that day, regime army units that had departed from Shindi overnight advanced toward Heret Kebele. In response, units from the 88th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 109th Corps) launched an offensive against the advancing troops. The offensive led to a heavy firefight in which Fano forces managed to push the regime army back within a short period. During this military engagement, the regime army persistently utilized heavy weaponry; this indiscriminate shelling resulted in the destruction of a kebele administration office and a private residential home.
  - According to reports, the regime soldiers sustained casualties during the firefight. Following the offensive the regime soldiers attacked a 15-year-old civilian who was working near their home. As a result, the civilian sustained critical physical injuries.

### **Jabi-Tehnan Woreda**

- On December 16th, Fano forces conducted a targeted operation in the vicinity of the Birsheleqo military camp. This engagement was reportedly carried out by a unit from the 77th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 109th Corps). During the mission, Fano forces intercepted regime vehicles that were transporting new recruits destined for the Birsheleqo military training center. According to reports, a convoy of five vehicles transporting recruits was intercepted. Furthermore, a significant number of the recruits appeared to be under the age of 18.

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## **Dembecha-Zuriya Woreda**

- On December 17th, intense firefights took place across various locations within Dembecha-Zuriya Woreda.
  - The fighting reportedly began when the regime army departed from Dembecha and Gelila town to advance toward surrounding rural areas. Primary combat took place in the localities of Wamba, Tigre-Debdebo also known as Gulamado, and Aderakab. Fano units, specifically under the 54th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 201st Corps), engaged in a fierce confrontation with the advancing regime army. The engagement was characterized by its expanded geographic coverage and prolonged duration, beginning at approximately 8:30 am in the morning and continuing until 6:00 pm in the evening. Despite the resistance from Fano units, the regime army reportedly entered several rural kebeles. Upon arrival, the regime army units stationed themselves at Wadan-Tsion Primary School, which resulted in the destruction of educational facilities and its equipment. During these encounters, Fano forces reportedly inflicted considerable casualties. Tensions continued to escalate into the following day as the regime army persisted in bringing reinforcements from Dembecha and Gelila.
  - Civilian casualties were also reported in connection with the fighting in these locations. Regime troops executed four civilians from Dembecha-Zuriya and Dega-Damot Woredas in reprisal for their military setbacks. The deceased victims were identified as Ato Almaw, who was killed while guarding livestock; Muluken Belay, a farmer killed during his crop harvest; Alehegn Andarge, an individual suffering from mental illness; and Aba Dagna, a monk serving the local church.
- On December 19th, fighting took place in Gelila and surrounding areas.

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- This military engagement was a continuation of an earlier battle in response to regime army offensives. Units from the 109th Corps and 201st Corps (operating under the AFNF-TC), reportedly launched a counteroffensive against regime troops recently deployed in Gelila and its surroundings. After days of combat, Fano forces reportedly pushed the regime army out of Gelila on December 19th.
  - During this operation, Fano forces reportedly inflicted considerable human and material losses. Reports indicated that the regime army engaged in looting and destruction of civilian properties before withdrawing. Affected properties included hotels, shops, residential homes, and motor vehicles.
  - Between December 20th and 21st, regime troops recently deployed to Wad-Addisalem Kebele withdrew from the area. Sources reported that the troops departed without any engagement with Fano forces.

### **Sekela Woreda**

- On December 20th, intense fighting was conducted in Agut Kebele.
  - The firefight was initiated by units from the 44th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 105th Corps), which launched an offensive in Agut and nearby rural areas. Sources reported that fighting began in the afternoon at around 2 pm and continued for four to five consecutive hours until the evening. The intensity of the combat resulted in heavy material and human losses. Sources reported that Fano forces swept the regime troops from the center of Agut, after which the troops reportedly took shelter in a nearby church.
  - While the exact extent is unknown, sources reported that the firefight resulted in casualties on both sides. The regime army conducted drone surveillance throughout the day in Agut and surrounding areas, and conducted a drone

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strike at around 10 pm. During the fighting, civilian residents were forced to stay indoors, while many others had previously fled to neighboring areas.

- On December 21st, heavy combat was reported in Agut and surrounding areas. Sources indicated that the fighting was intense, involving close-quarters confrontations and HMG fire. In the evening the regime reportedly carried out drone strikes in the areas of Ambeskama and Fendika Bridge. Throughout the day, regime and Fano forces engaged in fierce clashes, and sources confirmed casualties on both sides, with substantial losses reported among regime forces. Eventually, the regime army brought in reinforcements from neighboring bases, which allowed them to rescue encircled troops and regain control over the Agut area.

## **Awi Zone**

### **Jawi Woreda**

- On December 17th, a firefight took place in Jahimala Kebele and surrounding neighborhoods within Jawi Woreda.
  - The regime army had reportedly mobilized overnight from nearby bases. Arriving at Jahimala Kebele a few hours before dawn, fighting erupted early in the morning as the regime army attempted to move in and in response units from the 66th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 105th Corps) engaged them. Reports indicate that the firefight expanded to other locations, specifically the Yilala area. Despite this resistance, the regime army ultimately managed to enter Jahimala, where they reportedly encamped within the premises of Jahimala School and on the outskirts of the kebele.
  - During the day's confrontation, over 20 regime soldiers were killed and several others were injured.

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## **Guagusa-Shikudad Woreda**

- On December 19th, an exchange of fire was reported in Tilili town. On that day, the regime had scheduled a meeting with residents of Tilili, which was attended by high-ranking military and regional state officials. While the meeting was in progress, Fano forces reportedly launched a mortar attack on the town. Regime troops responded with heavy artillery fire toward Fano positions. The 44th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 105th Corps) reportedly conducted this shelling to disrupt the regime-orchestrated meeting. According to reports, the Fano offensive disrupted the gathering, prompting participants to disperse quickly and causing regime officials to retreat to Injibara.

## **Ayo-Guagusa Woreda**

- On December 20th, a firefight took place in the vicinity of Ehudit.
  - On that day, regime army troops departed from Ehudit and reportedly mobilized toward the Debeke area. In response, units from the 88th Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 109th Corps) waited in position for the advancing army and launched a preemptive attack, resulting in the killing and injury of soldiers on the front lines. This engagement lasted less than an hour. During the firefight, Fano forces reportedly pushed regime forces back to their point of departure and inflicted further casualties. When the Fano forces launched their preemptive strike, the regime forces responded with HMG fire and indiscriminate shelling.
  - This indiscriminate shelling reportedly resulted in civilian casualties. According to sources, three civilians were injured during the mortar shelling. Children were among the victims injured in the shelling.

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## North Gojjam Zone

### North Mecha Woreda

- On December 12th, regime forces extrajudicially executed a civilian in Ambomesk Kebele.

On that day, regime troops apprehended Ato Achenef Teshome while he was harvesting crops on his farmland in the Kwaja area. He was then forcibly taken to his residence under the accusation of concealing a firearm. According to reports, the soldiers conducted a thorough search of the victim's home. After failing to locate any weaponry, the soldiers attempted to extort the victim, demanding a cash payment equivalent to the market value of a firearm. When the victim maintained his innocence and stated his inability to pay, the soldiers subjected him to physical torture, inflicting multiple stab wounds to his chest and abdomen. Reports indicate that when the victim did not immediately succumb to his injuries, the soldiers shot him three times at close range. Following the execution, the soldiers reportedly abandoned the body on the street before leaving the area. The troops were observed celebrating the killing and claiming to have neutralized a Fano fighter in active combat. The victim was highly regarded by his community as a model citizen, making a living as a farmer. He was a married man and survived by his eight children.<sup>5</sup>

- On December 20th, a firefight was conducted in the vicinity of Merawi town. The fighting followed an offensive by Fano forces in the Qurt-Bahir area, which targeted regime troops, specifically recently deployed militia and riot dispersal units. This operation was reportedly carried out by units from the 22nd Division (operating under the AFNF-TC 102nd Corps). The skirmish reportedly resulted in casualties among regime soldiers, with Fano forces claiming they cleared the area after

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<sup>5</sup>See December 19, 2025 [update](#) from Ashara Media.

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inflicting considerable human losses.

## **Northwestern Amhara (Gonder Subregion)**

### **South Gonder Zone**

#### **Lay-Gayint Woreda**

- On December 16th, Fano forces carried out a surprise ambush against a military convoy in the vicinity of Shit Mountain. The convoy was transiting from Nefas-Mewcha town towards Arb-Gebeya town (Tach-Gayint Woreda), when it was attacked by units of the Gebriye Division (operating under the AFPO-AFGPC). The assault reportedly inflicted heavy casualties on the regime forces. Following the initial ambush, a period of intense close-quarters combat ensued, lasting approximately half an hour.
- Between December 19th and 20th, a series of intense military engagements unfolded between Fano forces and regime forces in Lay-Gayint Woreda.
  - On December 19th, a fierce confrontation erupted in Zagoch Kebele as joint regime forces including militia, riot dispersal units, and regular END units conducted a covert operation, deploying under the cover of darkness to target and encircle units under the Anbesaw-Gayint Division (operating under the AFPO-AFGPC). The assault commenced across the villages of Safda, Grava, and Damda, with primary fighting occurring throughout the night. In response, the Fano forces broke through the encirclement established by the joint regime forces, and both belligerent groups reportedly sustained heavy casualties during these protracted nocturnal engagements.
  - The conflict continued into the night of December 20th, shifting focus to Yitba-Gebriel Kebele where regime joint forces conducted an offensive at 9

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am local time. In response, the Fano forces conducted a counter-offensive inflicting severe casualties on the regime's ranks. Those sustaining physical injuries were subsequently transported to Nefas-Mewcha Hospital for medical attention. Furthermore, the Fano forces seized numerous firearms and substantial quantities of ammunition.

### **Libo-Kemkem Woreda**

- On December 14th, regime forces perpetrated an act of sexual violence against a minor in Arnogarno Kebele.
  - According to reports, members of the regime's regular army allegedly broke into a residence during the night and subjected a ten-year-old girl to gang rape. Following the alleged assault, the victim was reportedly left bleeding on a nearby street. Upon discovering the severely injured victim, the mother's attempts to seek aid were allegedly interrupted by the soldiers involved. Fearing that the incident would be disclosed, the soldiers reportedly forcibly removed both the mother and the critically injured girl to a military camp. The victim reportedly sustained severe injuries and was described as being in critical condition with a low prognosis for survival.

### **Fogera Woreda**

- On December 16th, Fano forces conducted a surprise attack against regime forces in Fogera Woreda.
  - The operation was carried out by units of the Nebelbalu-Fogera Division (operating under the AFNF-BC) took place at Gumara River and primarily targeted regime riot dispersal units, which reportedly sustained heavy casualties during the initial engagement. Following this surprise attack, a

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fierce and extensive close-quarters combat ensued, stretching across a significant territory from Gumara River to Nech-Afer, Kehet, and Gulena-Sheleqo. The fighting in Gulena-Sheleqo was particularly intense, lasting for approximately an hour, during which riot dispersal forces that had entered the area reportedly suffered further heavy casualties.

### **Estie Woreda**

- On the morning of December 18th, widespread fighting took place in Mekane-Eyesus town and surrounding areas of Estie Woreda.
  - Regime forces initiated an offensive, deploying from Mekane-Eyesus specifically targeting the Estie-Densa Brigade, a component of the Guna Division (operating under the AFNF-BC). These regime units were dispatched to various locations including Mikre, Qoma-Fasiledes, Guasa Kebeles, and into the Guna Mountain range, while Fano units infiltrated Mekane-Eyesus. Fano forces launched a counter-offensive against the central command of regime forces believed to be stationed within Mekane-Eyesus. The fighting spanned multiple locations including Mabi-Abbo Mountain, Dengolet, areas known as 01 and 03, the center of Mekane-Eyesus, Deskua, Qidame-Gebeya, Achiqan, Sholekt, and Tinafa Kebeles. The Fano assault led to the capture of Mekane-Eyesus after which surviving regime personnel, including militia, riot dispersal forces, and police units, retreated to Mabi Mountain. Fano forces subsequently encircled the retreating units and initiated an attack, leading regime forces to respond defensively through indiscriminate firing of mortars and DShK HMGs towards Mekane-Eyesus.
  - Reports indicate 37 regime joint forces killed, and an additional 33 sustaining physical injuries ranging from minor to critical in severity. On the Fano side, one fatality and three critical injuries were reported. In addition, the Fano

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forces seized firearms and ammunition. Furthermore, Fano forces facilitated the escape of 56 political prisoners detained in Mekane-Eyesus.

### **Ibnat Woreda**

- On December 20th, a significant military engagement took place in Gela-Metatebiya Kebele.
  - Units under the Etege Tehaytu Division (operating under the AFPO-AFGPC) launched an offensive against regime forces which were caught entirely off guard, as they were reportedly en route from Qualisa to Ibnat town. Their journey was abruptly intercepted when the Fano carried out an ambush within Gela-Metatebiya. The initial ambush rapidly transitioned into a fierce and sustained close-quarters combat.
  - As a result of the surprise attack and the subsequent close-quarters battle, the regime forces sustained heavy casualties.

## **Central Gonder Zone**

### **Gonder-Zuriya Woreda**

- On December 18th, a fierce engagement reportedly occurred in Ferenj-Wiha and Qey-Dingay Kebeles.
  - The fighting began with a surprise offensive conducted by the Tiquir-Anbesa Division (operating under the AFNF-BC). This operation targeted regime joint forces escorting regime political cadres. The initial surprise attack quickly escalated into intense close-quarters combat, which continued for approximately one hour.

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- According to reports, the fighting resulted in significant casualties for the regime forces, including a prominent official identified as the woreda militia secretariat. A considerable number of injured regime personnel were subsequently transported to Maksegnit Hospital for medical treatment.

## **West Gonder Zone**

### **Metemma Woreda**

- On December 14th, intense fighting took place between Fano and regime joint forces around Mesheha Kebele.
  - Fano forces conducted a counter-offensive that resulted in widespread casualties and significant material losses for regime units, with the aftermath observed on December 15th showing mountainous areas littered with fallen regime troops. The engagement involved a range of regime forces, including units from the regular army, riot dispersal forces, militia, and peace-keeping units. On the Fano side, units from the Wawa Gobe Melke, Arbegnoch, Remetu Dejen, Zeray, Tekeze and Atanaw Wassie Divisions (operating under the AFNF-BC). The fighting extended across several locations, including Mogese, Ashamit, Lasta, Bibiko, Wedigemzo, Wedianbeso, and Mesheha Kebeles, all leading towards or encompassing Mesheha. Fano forces interdicted regime reinforcement columns dispatched to assist the beleaguered units in Mesheha.
    - \* A column of regime reinforcement forces deployed from Abrahajira, administrative center of West Armachiho Woreda, was ambushed by Fano forces before it could reach Mesheha.
    - \* Another column of reinforcements, deployed from Metemma-Yohannes town via Nega-Wiha Kebele, was ambushed by Fano forces in

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Wedianbeso Kebele, also preventing its arrival at Mesheha. These ambushes were pivotal in isolating the main regime forces engaged in Mesheha.

- \* Within Mesheha, the 86th, 96th, and 98th Divisions (operating under the 504th ENDF Corps), bore the brunt of the Fano offensive. These divisions, reportedly composed largely of newly trained soldiers led by Colonel Solomon, encountered highly experienced Fano fighters. The engagement in Mesheha and its immediate outskirts, including areas like Wedianbeso, Enkoy-Wiha, and Kirkrit, was characterized by close-quarters combat involving Kalashnikov rifles, explosives, and machetes. Regime forces initially stationed in Mesheha were reportedly given opportunities to surrender but opted for confrontation. Some elements of the 78th Division fought within Mesheha, while others positioned themselves in mountainous areas outside. Fano forces infiltrated regime military dugouts despite the regime's utilization of heavy artillery. Accounts state that all regime forces fighting within long-lasting military dugouts were completely eliminated with none escaping unscathed.
- More than 253 regime joint forces were confirmed killed and an additional 58 sustained physical injuries ranging from minor to critical in severity. Furthermore, 55 were reportedly captured, including a DShK HMG operator who was seized along with his weapon. On the Fano side there were five confirmed fatalities and an unspecified number of physical injuries ranging from minor to critical in severity. In terms of material gains, Fano forces reportedly seized a substantial amount of weaponry from the regime, including 83 Kalashnikov rifles, four Bren LMGs, one DShK HMG, and 15,000 rounds of ammunition.

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## **Adagn-Hager-Chaqa Woreda**

- On December 19th, a protracted and fierce engagement took place between Fano and regime forces in Dengel-Hamus-Gebeya town.

Regime forces initiated their advance from multiple strategic locations, including Gonder city, Dikul-Arba Kebele, Negade-Bahir town, and Genda-Wiha town, which engaged the Fitawrari Gebeyehu Division (operating under the AFNF-BC). These units converged, with Adagn-Hager-Chaqa serving as a key deployment or staging area, preceding their direct engagement within Dengel-Hamus-Gebeya. Concurrently with the commencement of hostilities, the regime took the significant step of blocking telecommunication services across the affected area. The fighting was sustained and relentless, continuing throughout the entire day. The conflict had immediate and detrimental effects on the civilian population, as at least five residential homes belonging to farmers in the vicinity were reportedly destroyed by regime forces during the course of the fighting.

## **North Gonder Zone**

### **Dabat Woreda**

- On December 14th, Fano forces conducted a series of offensive operations against regime forces in Qola-Wegera Subworeda.
  - A fierce engagement reportedly occurred in Arebur-Hamusit Kebele, where the Ayalew Birru Division (operating under the AFNF-BC) launched a counter-offensive. This action targeted regime forces that were reportedly en route to Ajire-Janora. The Fano operation reportedly inflicted heavy casualties on the regime forces, compelling them to retreat from their intended advance.

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- Concurrently, in a related development, the Ras Dejen and 2nd Chenna Divisions (both operating under the AFNF-BC) conducted an offensive against regime forces stationed in Enqash-Anora Kebele. This engagement also reportedly resulted in significant casualties for the regime forces operating within the kebele.
  - In Enqash-Anora, regime forces engaged in indiscriminate shelling using heavy weapons. This shelling reportedly resulted in the destruction of unharvested crops belonging to local farmers.

## **Areas Outside Amhara Region**

- On December 17th, opposition party Enat issued a statement addressing the killing of religious leaders in Oromia Region.<sup>6</sup>
  - In its statement, the party noted that what it described as a campaign of violence targeting followers of the EOTC which had moved beyond Arsi to Wollega Subregion. The statement indicated that the party was able to confirm that senior EOTC figure, Melake Edom Kesis Duguma Ufa of the Horo-Guduru-Wollega Diocese, and Qesis Dessalegn Nemomisa were abducted on November 30th, near the entrance to Shambu while traveling to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity. According to the statement, the church leaders were killed by their abductors on December 13th. Their bodies have not yet been recovered, and they were reportedly denied burial in their places of origin. The statement further expressed concern that the perpetrators are being portrayed merely as “*militants*,” despite what it described as a pattern of violence spanning the past seven years, which the party said raises serious questions and confusion.

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<sup>6</sup>See December 17, 2025 [statement](#) from Enat Party.

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- Based on information received from local sources, the party stated that it had learned the killings were allegedly carried out by OLA forces operating in the Shambu area. The statement also suggested that there may have been individuals residing in the town who may have colluded with the assailants.
  - The party emphasized that the killing of church leaders and believers was not an isolated or spontaneous act, but rather part of a systematic campaign of ethnic and religious cleansing. It further argued that, as in previous similar incidents, the absence of meaningful efforts to pursue the perpetrators and ensure accountability, and the continued denial or minimization of such killings, points to a highly organized and carefully executed pattern of violence. The statement also provided background information on the victims, noting that Qesis Duguma was a father of six, while Qesis Desalegn was a state employee and a father of two.
  - While acknowledging the lack of effective protection or advocacy for individuals targeted because of their faith and religious service, the party strongly condemned what it described as acts of ethnic and religious cleansing being carried out amid widespread insecurity. The party further called on followers of the EOTC to remain vigilant and take precautionary measures, warning that such acts could occur at any time or place.

## **Horo-Guduru-Wollega Zone (Oromia Region)**

### **Abe-Dongoro Woreda**

- On December 19th, a heavy confrontation took place in the Gerchi area.
  - The fighting was reportedly initiated by regime joint forces, which departed from Tulu-Wayu town. In response, Fano forces subsequently encircled the regime troops leading to intense fighting. The Hussien Yeshaw Division

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(operating under Wollega Fano) was reportedly involved in this engagement.

Ultimately, the regime troops withdrew from the Gerchi area and retreated to their point of departure.

- Sources report numerous casualties among regime troops and the capture of several soldiers, firearms, and ammunition.
- On December 21st, joint regime forces moving through the Gerchi area, reportedly burned down several civilian residential homes. Sources indicated that the destruction was carried out as an act of reprisal following military losses in the area a few days prior.

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

### **Gida-Ayana Woreda**

- Between December 20th and 21st, joint regime forces reportedly conducted mass abductions of Amhara civilians in Ali and Shashober Kebeles.
  - On December 20th, regime troops, particularly regional militia and riot dispersal forces, infiltrated Ali and Shashober and carried out indiscriminate mass arrests. Sources reported that over 100 civilians were detained, including children, pregnant women, and elderly individuals.
  - The following day (December 21st), regime troops apprehended over 15 civilians from Andode-Dicho Kebele in the Shashober area. The detainees were subsequently transported to Gida town, administrative center of the woreda.

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## About the Amhara Association of America (AAA)

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

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