

Situation Report EEPA HORN No. 3 - 19 November

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Key information (in addition to what is already widely published)

Regional dimension (as confirmed per 19 November)

- Conflict has evolved from a civil internal conflict to a regional conflict with confirmed exchange of hostilities between Tigray/Ethiopia and Eritrea.
- Unverified reports state that Eritrean troops (and their officers) along the Tzorona front have defected to Tigray.
- Civil society in South Sudan expresses concern that the war in Ethiopia will negatively affect the situation in South Sudan.

Diplomacy for peace and dialogue

- The Interreligious Council of Ethiopia called on all parties [in Amharic](#) to give priority to peace and stability (translation available [in English](#)).
- Reliable source states that Kenya plans to send a delegation to Addis Ababa led by former Minister of Foreign Affairs Kalonzo Musyoka to explore cease fire and dialogue and PM Abiy would have accepted this invitation..
- The Ethiopian Reconciliation Commission came out on Facebook defending the war against Tigray.

Military capacity (as confirmed per 19 November)

- New reports that drones are being deployed to targets in Tigray, pointing to possible involvement of UAE from the Assab military base.
- Sources state that Ethiopia is making use of airports in Eritrea for deployment of troops.
- South Sudan Peacekeeping mission UNMISS reports no change in deployment of Ethiopian troops in South Sudan.
- Germany provided Ethiopian National Defence Forces with emergency health equipment; this is being discussed in Foreign Committee in Bundestag.

Damage from the war (as confirmed per 19 November)

- Airstrike in Mekelle today, 19 Nov 2020. Earlier today, 12:41 (06:41 local time), Abiy's airforce jet bombed in Mekelle city targeting civilians. Source has visited one of the targeted areas (Source from Mekelle).
- On twitter narratives appear of violent attacks (cannot be verified) on civilians in Tigray/Ethiopia.
- Social media report (cannot be verified) details of execution of 58 elderly in Zalembeza (Ethiopia/Tigray border-town) by Eritrean forces.
- Pictures of letters from employers and narratives are circulating on social media of documents requesting employers to suspend Tigrayans from their employment in Ethiopian locations. Examples: Ethiopia airlines and construction company; referred to as 'ethnic profiling'.

Situation refugees (as confirmed per 19 November)

- The Ethiopian Agency for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) expressed concern over mistreatment of Eritrean refugees in Tigray amid the fighting around the refugee camps.
- Only access to water is facilitated at this time for the 90.000 refugees in four camps near Shire (Hitsats, Shemelba, May Aini and Adu Harish).
- Fighting reported near Hitsats camp.
- In total 31.000 refugees have crossed from Ethiopia to Sudan, including soldiers defecting from Eritrea.
- UN estimates the number of refugees from the conflict has increased to 4.000 refugees fleeing to Sudan every day.
- Concerns about the prospect of famine due to the combination of the bad harvest and locust plague

Press and media (as confirmed per 19 November)

- Spokesperson Ethiopia Federal: Billene Seyoum (<https://twitter.com/BilleneSeyoum>)
- Spokesperson Tigray: Getachew Reda (https://twitter.com/reda_getachew)

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Links of interest

<https://www.eepa.be/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Statement-Amharic.pdf>; <https://www.eepa.be/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Statement-of-Interreligious-Council-of-Ethiopia.pdf>
<https://www.ena.et/en/?p=18591&fbclid=IwAR2awO3d9Kr44a9Y0vDDTgjpnh9F3rlh-wCras4DsEYvEssUck2fYDRKDHc>
<https://eritreahub.org/tigray-update-on-the-war-humanitarian-situation-and-attempts-to-end-the-conflict>
http://www.tghat.com/2020/11/18/ethiopian-reconciliation-commission-expresses-support-for-the-war-on-tigray/?fbclid=IwAR3w0RtXxmX8DH2FxE3z4HiWuv5_nVybd2pCR84E238oS6z2p_q8VtHXEs