



ETHIOPIA
16-31 OCTOBER 2021
BI-WEEKLY REPORT



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MAP- KEY EVENTS



Benishangul Gumuz Region: Benishangul Gumuz region to hold elections on December 30, 2021.

October 16, 2021, Borna Zone, Oromia Region: Thousands of children, women & elderly face malnutrition in Borana Zone.

October 26, 2021, Mekele Tigray Region: Ethiopia air raid in Mekelle killed six people, including children.

October 26, 2021, Dire Dawa: Four earthquakes occurred in the Rift Valley between Dire Dawa and Harar within a week.



POLITICS & ECONOMY

- **Benishangul Gumuz region to hold elections on December 30, 2021**

What does this mean?

The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) on October 19, announced that it has decided to hold elections in Benishangul Gumuz region on December 30.

The rest of the country has held elections on June 20, 2021. However, elections could not be held in 40 constituencies in six regional states as well as Somali, Harari regions and the southwest referendum due to security issues and procedural defects.

The electoral board explained that it presented a schedule to political parties and stakeholders after discussing with the region's administration and security bureaus. An electoral calendar is to be unveiled by the board on November 21.

- **Investigation Report Reveals crimes of TPLF Committed in Amhara, Afar Regions**

What does this mean?

A joint preliminary investigation report has been released. It was conducted by the Ministry of Justice and the Federal Police Commission on crimes committed by the terrorist TPLF in Amhara and Afar regions.

The report revealed that 483 people were killed, 165 injured and 109 raped in three zones of the regional states which the terrorist group invaded following the unilateral ceasefire declared by the federal government in June 2021.

According to Justice State Minister Fekadu Tsega, the terrorist group carried out large-scale atrocities on civilians in violation of international laws in South and North Gondar zones of the Amhara region as well as Galykoma Kebele of Afar region.



CIVIL SOCIETY

- **According to FAO: Twelve million people in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia need food assistance**

What does this mean?

International, regional and local organisations have drawn attention to the hunger situation in the Horn and East African region, as a result of climate change-related drought, a desert locust invasion, and conflict in some countries as well as economic shocks brought about by COVID-19.

According to Innocente, the caseload is of around 12 million people if we look into Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia alone. Cropping patterns of farmers especially subsistence farmers in the region feel the impact of temperatures rising.

Getting the much-needed humanitarian assistance fast to those affected by the near-constant drought situation in the region is, however, taking a back burner as the world grapples with other crises putting millions of lives at risk.



SECURITY

- **An air raid in Mekelle killed six people including children**

What does this mean?

According to a hospital official the air strike in Mekelle, on October 28, killed six people and injured 21 others. Three children were among the dead.

Government stated the attack hit a factory in Mekelle used by the TPLF. The air force “destroyed the second part of Mesfin Industrial Engineering. Dr Hayelom Kebede, research director at Mekele’s Ayder Referral Hospital, affirmed a residential area was hit and casualties were inflicted.

- **Tigrayan forces say they have taken Dessie town in Ethiopia's Amhara region, while government denies**

What does this mean?

Heavy fighting was reported around Dessie town in Amhara region on October 30. Rebellious Tigrayan forces said on Saturday they had seized the strategic town of Dessie in the Amhara region. According to Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) spokesperson Getachew Reda, the fighters pushed Ethiopian government forces from Dessie and were headed towards the town of Kombolcha. On the other hand, Legesse Tulu, the government spokesperson, stated the town was still under the control of the Ethiopian government and said claims by the Tigrayan forces were "fabricated propaganda".

- **The International Medical Corps reported that the TPLF’s incursion into Amhara and Afar rendered 1,436 health facilities dysfunctional.**

What does this mean?

Since the withdrawal of the ENDF from Tigray in June 2021, the conflict has expanded to five zones in the Amhara region (North Gondar, South Gondar, Wag Hemra, North Wollo and South Wollo) and two zones in Afar (Zone 1 and Zone 4). This expansion of fighting has created an additional 1.2 million IDPs and rendered 1,436 health facilities nonfunctional in the Amhara and Afar regions, including 271 health centers, 1,143 health posts and 22 hospitals. Out of the affected health facilities, 163 health centers, 642 health posts and 14 hospitals have been destroyed and looted of equipment and supplies.



ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Thousands of children, women and elderly face malnutrition in Borana Zone of Oromia Region**

What does this mean?

Lack of rain in Borana, Oromia regional state has led Some 6,398 children, 9,078 women and 2,226 elderly people to face severe health problems associated with malnutrition following drought. The drought has also led to the death of 7,540 cattle, up from recent report, which put the number at 4,164.

According to Reeba Odda, Secretariat of the Borana Zone Administration, some 188,864 people have received food assistance; but more than 166,000 people are still in need. Around 539,679 people are facing water shortages of whom only 177,553 have access to water distributed using water tanks.

- **Four earthquakes occurred in the Rift Valley between Dire Dawa and Harar within a week.**

What does this mean?

Addis Ababa University Professor Atalay Ayele confirmed that four earthquakes occurred in the Rift Valley between Dire Dawa and Haremaya. The largest of which measured 4.5 on the Richter scale and affected the city of Dire Dawa and Harar. The professor pointed out that only four were heard and that there were ten in total.



HEALTH & MEDICAL

- **COVID-19: As of 31 October 2021, 365,167 people have tested positive (from 3,696,597 tested).**

What does this mean?

From these, 339,742 people recovered from the viruses and 6,459 people died. Numbers continue to rise.

Ethiopia is the fourth country with the highest number of COVID-19 cases in Africa, next to South Africa, Morocco, and Tunisia.



MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

- All foreign travelers above the age of ten coming through international airports need a certificate of negative RT PCR test done up to 120 hours or five days before arrival. If positive entry is not allowed.
- Children less than or equal to 10 years of age are exempted from the RT PCR test certificate requirement.
- After the traveler's temperature and any COVID-19 symptoms have been checked at the airport's health control desk, the traveler's address will be registered; there is a duty to self-quarantine at home for 7 days.
- A traveler that does not bring a certificate of negative RT PCR test from the country he/she comes from has the duty to give a sample of RT PCR test should have his address registered and self-quarantine at home until the result of the test is known.

If the result of the test is negative, the traveler will self-quarantine at home for 7 days; if the laboratory test result is positive, he shall obtain medical care and follow up in accordance with the COVID-19 medical manual.

- The above requirement does not apply to transit passengers.
- All Diplomatic and Service (including United Nations and African Union) passport holders, including their immediate families, are advised but not required to have a certificate of negative PCR-COVID-19 test before arrival to Ethiopia. However, anyone (diplomatic and service passport holder including their immediate families) who come to Ethiopia without negative PCR COVID-19 test result, is required to stay in quarantine for fourteen (14) days at home.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- The conflict in Tigray region is expected to continue.

What does this mean? With escalations of violence and activities reported in Amhara state and crossing of Tigrayan fighters into neighbouring Afar region, the conflict is expected to continue.

- In western Oromia, and Benishangul Gumuz region government security forces are expected to take action against Shene and Gumuz militants.

What does this mean? Shene (Oromo Liberation Army) has been declared a terrorist organisation by the government on 1 May. It is feared that Shene will retaliate against civilian targets in the areas they are operating. After some months of security improvement, Gumuz militants have reportedly started killing civilians in Benishangul Gumuz region.

- Ethio-Sudan Border Tension will likely continue to escalate until the dispute is formally settled.

What does this mean? Since December 2020, the border dispute between the two countries has caused violent border clashes in the al-Fashaga area and is likely to continue as long as tensions remain.



SOURCES & LINKS

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- <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/tigrayan-forces-seize-strategic-town-ethiopia-amhara-region-spokesperson-2021-10-30/>
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ABOUT SPEARFISH

Our Background

Developed over the past 10 years, our bespoke services and tools enable companies and NGOs to reduce risk, respond to critical incidents, and meet their Duty of Care and safeguarding standards for staff and contractors.

Led by Lord West, the former UK Minister for Security and Counter Terrorism, our team has a vast amount of corporate, international development, and military experience. We have an in-depth understanding of local and global security threats. This high-level security expertise, enhanced by our localised footprint, sets us apart from other providers.

Spearfish has also established Spearfish West Africa and Spearfish South Asia. Having a permanent team across both these regions ensures a continuous and stable presence. We are closer to client operations which, in turn, provides a more direct level of support for security planning, operations management and incident response.

Our UK head office adds capacity to our advisors, leveraging our international experience to inject a deeper pool of knowledge to supplement pragmatic workable solutions for our clients. Spearfish ensures the highest international standards to our customers, delivered by our local experts.



What we do

Spearfish not only takes into consideration the location of a client, but also makes sure we understand the type of organisation that we are working with.

Our Support reinforces and compliments your organisation's processes and needs. We empower and enable you to deliver effectively, using an approach that is sensitive to context. Our facilities and transparent cost structure enable a high level of cases with cost control. Each product is grouped into three tiers to give a scalable level of service. Each product is grouped into three tiers to give a scalable level of service. We also offer a subscription service which includes, location specific news alerts and Newsletters, Interactive and access to our online Security Risk Assessment Library and Interactive live Map.

Key services

- Risk Analysis and Design**
Our bespoke analysis methodologies help you understand the local environment and put the appropriate plans and contingencies in place to facilitate delivery in complex environments.
- Environmental Training**
Different environments require varied levels of preparedness. Our Travel Safety and HEAT courses, both Virtual and Practical, focus on the skills required to stay safe in a country of interest.
- Operational Support**
Our embedded consultants provide an enduring solution to your risk management needs, allowing organisations to meet their duty of care obligations in a cost-effective way.
- Crisis Response**
Our Crisis Management services enable you to prepare for, and respond to, incidents and to keep your crisis management processes fit for purpose.



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No two companies are identical and much of our training involves a combination of these services to best suit our client.

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