

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

Ethiopia Monthly Briefing June 2022

Ethiopia Summary 20 June 2022

President Abiy Ahmed (2018-present) tells parliament that the government has established a committee to study the pre-conditions and proposed plan for its negotiations with rebel group Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). The TPLF accuses Eritrean forces of attacking its troops in the Tigrayan town of Shiraro, while United States-headquartered non-governmental organisation Human Rights Watch accuses Ethiopia's federal government of carrying out ethnic cleansing in Tigray. Malnutrition rates are on the rise as the Horn of Africa region faces the worst drought in 40 years. Ethiopia confirms plans for the third filling of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam amid increasing tension with its downstream neighbours, Egypt and Sudan. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reports that FDI inflows to Ethiopia rose by 79% to \$4.3 billion in 2021, ranking the country as one of the top FDI investment destinations in Africa. The number of active Covid-19 infections is increasing, more than three months since the government lifted the state of emergency in February.

Ethiopian government and TPLF commit to start peace talks

Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** (2018-present) announced to **Ethiopia's** parliament on 14 June that the government has established a committee to study the pre-conditions and proposed plan for its negotiations with rebel group **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)**.¹ Deputy prime minister **Demeke Mekonnen** will lead the committee and produce a report on the proposed way forward for the talks within two weeks. After the federal government produces its report, the TPLF is expected to come up with its own report, after which an announcement on the dates for talks will be made.² Abiy stated the government's commitment to peace,

"be it with TPLF... or any other entity who seeks peace".³

The Tigrayan side has called for the talks to be consistent with the "*fundamental principles for human rights, democracy, and accountability*."⁴ TPLF spokesperson **Debretsion Gebremichael** said:

*"... we have been open to good-faith peace negotiations convened by an impartial third party, consistent with the norms and principles of the **African Union [AU]** and the **United Nations [UN]**."⁵*

Both parties support the likely selection of **Kenya's** President **Uhuru Kenyatta** (2013-present) to lead the mediation talks. However, the TPLF, whilst noting its "*confidence*" and "*appreciation*" for Kenyatta's efforts, also expressed a low level of trust in the AU as a broker for peace. In a letter to the AU chairperson, **Senegal's** President **Macky Sall** (2012-present), Kenyatta, **Tanzania's** President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** (2021-present) and **United Arab Emirates** president **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** (2014-present), Gebremichael lamented the AU's "*silence*" during the conflict, labelling it as a "*betrayal*".⁶

¹ CNN, 15 Jun 2022

² News24, 16 Jun 2022

³ CNN, 15 Jun 2022

⁴ CNN, 15 Jun 2022

⁵ News24, 16 Jun 2022

⁶ News24, 16 Jun 2022

The Tigray conflict began in November 2020 and, despite the federal government and the TPLF declaring a unilateral humanitarian ceasefire in March,⁷ outbreaks of fighting have continued. On 31 May, the TPLF accused **Eritrean** forces of carrying out an attack in the **Adi Awala** area in Tigray on 24 May which was thwarted by TPLF fighters.⁸ Eritrea has deployed troops to support federal security forces, despite both sides initially denying this. In March 2021, Eritrea committed to removing its troops from Ethiopia.⁹ However, on 31 May, **Reuters** reported that “*according to internal United Nations documents and regional forces*”, Eritrean troops carried out a bombardment of **Sheraro**, a Tigrayan town near the Eritrea-Ethiopia border, noting that at least 23 rounds of ammunition were fired, with some landing at a school that was housing displaced families.¹⁰ A 14-year-old girl was reportedly killed, at least 18 people were injured and 12 houses damaged.¹¹ In response to the accusations, government communication minister **Legesse Tulu** stated “*we do not believe there will be a war from the Eritrean side*”, adding that the Eritreans may have responded to being “*provoked*” by the TPLF.¹²

United States (US)-headquartered non-governmental organisation **Human Rights Watch** on 16 June accused the Ethiopian government of carrying out “*a largely invisible campaign of ethnic cleansing*” which has seen the abduction and arrest of women, children and the elderly since the conflict began.¹³ The organisation alleges that many of them have since died from “*disease, starvation, or torture*”. It estimates that several hundreds of thousands of Tigrayans have been targeted in such ways because of their ethnicity.¹⁴ This is the latest in a spate of allegations of violence that have been levelled against both sides of the conflict by humanitarian organisations. In December, the **United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council** voted to establish a commission of experts to investigate allegations of human rights violations since the start of the fighting.¹⁵

The humanitarian toll of the conflict continues to worsen, with the inhabitants of the Tigray region increasingly hard hit. Around 90% of the estimated population of seven million in Tigray are in need of humanitarian aid. This was the main driver of the TPLF’s commitment to the ceasefire, although the amount of aid reaching the region remains inadequate.¹⁶ However, in a positive development, the **Associated Press** reported on 27 May that the largest convoy of aid following the ceasefire was en route to Tigray, carrying 215 trucks of food aid.¹⁷

In April, the UN **World Food Programme** alerted that 20 million people in Kenya, **Somalia** and Ethiopia risk starving in 2022 alone as the **Horn of Africa** region faces its worst drought in 40 years.¹⁸ Moreover, the current **La Niña** weather occurrence is expected to last until at least August, potentially continuing into 2023, which is expected to exacerbate the drought conditions in the region.¹⁹ The continuing conflict between **Russia** and **Ukraine** has also contributed to high fuel prices and worsened food insecurity. Notably, the **African Development Bank** estimates that wheat imports account for 90% of **Africa’s** \$4-billion trade with Russia and nearly half of the continent’s \$4.5-billion trade with Ukraine.²⁰

United Kingdom-headquartered NGO **Save the Children** on 16 June lamented the “*soaring*” malnutrition rates in east and south-eastern Ethiopia, stating that around 185,000 children are

⁷ Al Jazeera, 14 Jun 2022

⁸ All Africa, 31 May 2022

⁹ Al Jazeera, 17 Apr 2021

¹⁰ Reuters, 31 May 2022

¹¹ Al Jazeera, 31 May 2022

¹² All Africa, 31 May 2022

¹³ Human Rights Watch, 16 Jun 2022

¹⁴ Human Rights Watch, 16 Jun 2022

¹⁵ The Africa Report, 17 Dec 2021

¹⁶ News24, 16 Jun 2022

¹⁷ Associated Press, 27 May 2022

¹⁸ Al Jazeera, 1 Jun 2022; Financial Times, 3 May 2022

¹⁹ Voice of America News, 11 Jun 2022

²⁰ Al Jazeera, 29 Mar 2022

estimated to be plagued by the “*most deadly form of malnutrition*”.²¹ The organisation states that around 30 million people countrywide are in need of humanitarian assistance, with 12 million of these being children. The **Somali** region in eastern Ethiopia has seen malnutrition rates increase by 64% over the past 12 months, with a 43% increase between January and April alone.

Violence and security challenges extend beyond Tigray...

Outside the Tigray region, the government has been continuing its crackdown on rebel militias operating in the country. In neighbouring **Amhara**, federal government forces intensified a crackdown on Amhara soldiers and the youth militia group **Fano**, which has supported the TPLF in its conflict with the state.²² On 23 May, local media sources reported that government forces had carried out sweeping arrests of over 4,000 people in Amhara. According to Amhara state security official **Desalegne Tase**, over 200 of these are accused of carrying out killings for the Fano group.²³ However, at least 19 journalists as well as some activists are also reported to have been caught up in the arrests²⁴ as the Ethiopian government’s treatment of journalists and actors in the general civic space continues to worsen (see *ARC Briefing Ethiopia Jan 2022*).

The federal government is also contending with other clashes across the country. On 1 June, 19 people were killed in clashes between **Benishangul Gumuz** regional state special forces and militant forces from the rebel **Gumuz People’s Democratic Movement** which operates in the area. Hostilities in the region have ramped up in recent months, with insecurity growing as targeted attacks become more common (see *ARC Briefing Ethiopia Apr 2022*). The **Metekal** zone in particular has faced significant insecurity since 2019 as conflict spread from areas bordering Amhara. In April, the UN estimated that around 182,500 people have been displaced by the fighting.²⁵

On 15 June the government imposed a curfew on **Gambella** city in response to a ramp-up in attacks in the city and heavy fighting between Ethiopian troops and rebel groups such as the **Gambella Liberation Front (GLF)** and the **Oromo Liberation Front**. This came after an attack by the rebels on the city on 14 June left 20 people dead.²⁶ On 18 June, the **Ethiopian Human Rights Commission** accused federal government forces of executing residents of Gambella who were suspected of participating in a rebel attack on the city earlier in the week.²⁷ A video also circulated on social media of alleged government security forces repeatedly shooting at an unarmed man in Gambella City after the rebel joint forces of the GLF and the **Oromo Liberation Army** earlier announced that they were undertaking a joint operation in the city.

...as tensions with neighbours escalate

Ethiopia is also experiencing increased tensions with neighbouring **Egypt** and **Sudan** over the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)** hydropower project situated on the **Nile River**. GERD director **Kifle Horo** conceded on 1 June that a third filling of the GERD by Ethiopian authorities may affect the country’s downstream neighbours. However, he noted that this would not prevent the building and completion of the GERD. The Sudanese foreign ministry expressed its surprise at Kifle’s lack of concern about potential damage,

*“despite his recognition of the possibility that both Sudan and Egypt would be affected by the third filling process, which indicates that Ethiopia wants to move forward with its previous unilateral positions”.*²⁸

²¹ Save The children, 16 Jun 2022

²² BBC, 28 May 2022

²³ Reuters, 23 May

²⁴ The guardian, 30 May 2022

²⁵ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 30 Apr 2022

²⁶ teleSUR, 15 Jun 2022

²⁷ The New Arab, 18 Jun 2022

²⁸ The Africa Report, 1 Jun 2022

On completion, the dam is expected to be Africa's largest hydropower project, producing 6,000 megawatts of electricity and helping Ethiopia to provide electricity to much of its population which currently lives off-grid.²⁹ The Ethiopian government has been engaged in talks with Egypt and Sudan, which are concerned about their water security in light of Ethiopia's electricity generation plans for the Nile.³⁰ The parties have thus far failed to make progress in negotiations over Ethiopia's operation and management of the GERD, which began generating power from the project on 20 February (see *ARC Briefing Ethiopia Jan, Feb 2022*). However, on 11 June, the Ethiopian government indicated, through its ambassador to the United States, **Sileshi Bekele**, that it is interested in resuming negotiations with Egypt and Sudan regarding the GERD.³¹

Ethiopian foreign ministry spokesperson **Dina Mufti** confirmed on 11 June that the government would be going ahead with plans for the third filling of the dam this year (after filling it in June 2020 and June 2021), noting that *"tripartite talks will continue"*.³² Meanwhile, Sudanese officials are reported to have expressed concern that the third round of filling of the GERD will greatly impact the country's water security. According to the **East African**, a note from Sudan's ministry of irrigation and water resources reveals the government's concerns about the lack of safety precautions for the filling process, as well as the impact thereof on Sudan's **Roseires Dam** situated on the Nile.³³

Tensions also continue to rise in the border conflict between Ethiopia and Sudan over the disputed **al-Fashaga** district. The dispute is rooted in a disagreement between both sides over colonial-era demarcations that failed to clearly establish the borders between both countries around the al-Fashaga. It has since developed deep-rooted elements of ethnic tensions and resource nationalism. While both countries have long claimed the land, an agreement reached in 2008 between Sudan's President **Omar al-Bashir** (1989-2019) and Ethiopia's former prime minister, **Meles Zenawi** (1995-2012), gave Sudan administrative control of the land, while it is freely cultivated by Ethiopian farmers. However, this agreement was not formally ratified.³⁴ In late 2020, tensions between Ethiopian and Sudanese inhabitants around the border ratcheted up, culminating in Sudanese forces taking over the **Khor Yabis** area, which had been under Ethiopian use for 25 years.³⁵ The Sudanese government evicted thousands of Ethiopians from the region. In response, the Ethiopian government deployed federal forces to the region, resulting in a number of people dying in clashes between Ethiopian and Sudanese troops.³⁶ Mufti stated that while Sudan *"has encroached Ethiopia's territory illegally"*, Ethiopia continues to favour a diplomatic resolution to the situation:

*"Our hope is that Sudan will stop its illegal encroachment. Sudan's act is not in the interest of the people of Sudan and the region [Horn of Africa] as well."*³⁷

Both conflicts will be on **China's** agenda for discussion when the country hosts its first Horn of Africa **Peace Conference in Addis Ababa** on 20-21 June.³⁸ The Horn of Africa region plays a vital role in China's **Belt and Road Initiative**, where it has invested in critical infrastructure including roads, railways, telecommunications and energy.³⁹ The Chinese government states that it wants to support the countries in the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, to resolve the long-standing conflicts plaguing the region. China's ambassador to Sudan, **Ma Xinmin**, has billed the conference as an *"initiative from China to enhance stability, development and good governance in this important region"*.⁴⁰

²⁹ Al Monitor, 7 Jan 2022

³⁰ The Guardian, 23 Apr 2022

³¹ Africa News, 10 Jun 2022

³² Zawya, 12 Jun 2022

³³ The East African, 16 Jun 2022

³⁴ Addis Standard, 20 May 2022

³⁵ Relief Web, 13 Apr 2022

³⁶ Crisis Group Africa, 24 Jun 2021

³⁷ Addis Standard, 10 Jun 2022

³⁸ Addis Standard, 9 Jun 2022

³⁹ African Studies Quarterly Volume 19, Issue 3-4, October 2020

⁴⁰ All Africa, 9 Jun 2022

Ethiopia's FDI Inflows soar

Despite the challenging security situation in Ethiopia, investors have continued to take a long-term view of the country. According to the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**, FDI inflows to Ethiopia rose by 79% to \$4.3 billion in 2021, ranking the country as one of the top FDI investment destinations in Africa.⁴¹ On 3 June, US-headquartered beverage company **Coca Cola** inaugurated a new \$100m "mega factory" in **Sebeta City**, near **Addis Ababa**. The factory can produce 70,000 racks of 24 bottles per day and is expected to create 30,000 new jobs for the country. This is Coca Cola's fourth factory in Ethiopia and will lift the company's total manufacturing capacity in the country to 100 million cases per year.⁴² On 12 June, the **Tadash Steel Manufacturing Industry** opened a Birr 5.8 billion (\$111.1m) steel factory in the town of **Dukem** in **Oromia** state. The plant has the capacity to melt 450 tonnes of iron ore per day and is expected to create 700 jobs.⁴³

Ethiopia's agriculture ministry expects the country's wheat production to increase by 70% this year, to a harvest of 2.4 million tonnes of wheat up from 1.42 million tonnes produced in 2021. This growth is supported by a national programme which the government implemented to wean the country off its reliance on wheat imports by 2023. This need has been exacerbated by the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, countries from which Ethiopia imports 15% and 27% of its wheat, respectively.⁴⁴ Meanwhile, coffee exports have reached record-breaking levels in the last 11 months, according to the **Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority**. The sector earned Birr 906m (\$17.4m) from 248,000 tonnes of coffee exported during the period.⁴⁵ The government is focused on boosting productivity in the country's agriculture sector, with Abiy noting that authorities have provided loans to the private sector in the amount of Birr 267 billion (\$5.1 billion) during the 2021/22 financial year.⁴⁶

On the downside, the **Somaliland** government announced on 10 June that Ethiopia will not take up a 19% stake in the **Port of Berbera** after it failed to meet certain conditions necessary under an ownership agreement made in 2017 between Ethiopia, the **Somaliland Port Authority** and **Dubai**-based logistics company **DP World**.⁴⁷ The agreement was for rebuilding the port of Berbera, which is essential infrastructure in the trade relationship between the Horn of Africa and the **Middle East**. Somaliland's finance minister, **Saad Ali Shire**, said one of the conditions included Ethiopia's financial contribution for the construction costs of the port. The Ethiopian government was also required to build a road from the Berbera port to the border. Government spokesperson Dina Mufti said the government was looking into this development.⁴⁸

Covid cases on the increase

The number of active **Covid-19** infections in Ethiopia has been on the rise over three months after the government lifted the state of emergency in February.⁴⁹ According to the **African Union CDC**, the country is experiencing a fifth wave of infections.⁵⁰ The number of active Covid-19 cases in Ethiopia's population of 118 million as of 19 June was 18,335, up from 7,824 a month earlier.⁵¹ As of 19 May, Ethiopia had recorded 484,138 Covid-19 infections and 7,523 Covid-19-related deaths since the **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared the pandemic on 11 March 2020.⁵²

⁴¹ UNCTAD, 9 Jun 2022

⁴² Africa News, 3 Jun 2022

⁴³ Ethiopian monitor, 12 Jun 2022

⁴⁴ Times Live, 17 Jun 2022

⁴⁵ Ethiopian Monitor, 16 Jun 2022

⁴⁶ Ethiopian Monitor, 14 Jun 2022

⁴⁷ The East African, 11 Jun 2022

⁴⁸ The Citizen, 11 Jun 2022

⁴⁹ Reuters, 7 Nov 2021

⁵⁰ Ethiopian Monitor, 16 Jun 2022

⁵¹ Our World in Data, accessed 20 Jun 2022

⁵² Worldometers, accessed 20 Jun 2022

As part of the government's public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the health ministry has administered at least 29.4 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines.⁵³ As of 18 May, 13.1% of the population had received full vaccination against Covid-19. The government had aimed to fully vaccinate 20% of its population by end-March.⁵⁴

Visitors to Ethiopia who are not fully vaccinated are required to present a negative PCR test, no older than 120 hours (five days) before arrival in Ethiopia. This does not apply to those who are transiting through the country.²⁵ Passengers who have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19 for over 14 days and can present evidence of this are exempted from the requirement to have a negative PCR test. Accepted vaccinations are a single dose of **Johnson and Johnson**, or two doses of **Astra-Zeneca**, **Sinopharm**, **Sinovac**, **Moderna** or **Pfizer**.⁵⁵ Travelers who present a certificate of recovery from Covid-19, no older than 90 days, diplomats, or those who can provide evidence of being fully vaccinated against Covid-19, tourists or those attending a conference in the country, are exempt from the requirement to isolate at home for seven days on arrival.²⁶

Planner

20-21 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) Horn of Africa** peace conference

Chronology

16 Jun 2022 **Gambella (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. A video circulates on social media of alleged government security forces repeatedly shooting at an unarmed man in **Gambella City** after the rebel joint forces of the **Gambella Liberation Front/Army** and the **Oromo Liberation Army** earlier announced that they were undertaking a joint operation in the city;

16 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. **Amante Geshi**, a senior official from the **Benishangul Gumuz** regional investment office, alleges that 114 investors and recipients of \$38.9 billion from the **Development Bank of Ethiopia** have absconded with the funds intended for mining and agricultural projects;

16 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Ethiopian Monitor*. The **Office of the National Council for the Coordination of Public Participation on the GERD** reveals that the Ethiopian public has contributed over Birr 984m (\$18.9m) to the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)** in the last 11 months, through the sale of bonds;

15 Jun 2022 **Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR) (Ethiopia)** *All Africa*. The **SNNPR Agriculture Bureau** reveals that armyworms have settled on and affected 334,760 hectares of land in seven zones and three special woredas of the state;

15 Jun 2022 **Amhara (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Five people are killed in a grenade attack at **Buanbua Weha Sub City Fourth Division** police station in **Dessie**, a town in the **Amhara** region;

14 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Reuters*. Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** says federal government has formed a committee to negotiate with forces from the rebellious **Tigray** region, in the first public confirmation of a key step towards peace negotiations;

13 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Ethiopian Monitor*. Ethiopia's minister of mines, **Takele Uma** and his **Equatorial Guinea** counterpart, **Gabriel Mbaga Obiang**, sign a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on the development of their respective countries' mining and petroleum sectors;

⁵³ Our World in Data, accessed on 20 Jun 2022

⁵⁴ Xinhua, 13 Mar 2022

⁵⁵ UK Gov, accessed 20 Apr 2021

10 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Reuters*. Senior **Ethiopian** official says his country is interested in resuming talks with **Egypt** and **Sudan** on **Africa's** largest hydroelectric power plant, the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam**;

10 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Ethiopian Monitor*. The **Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority** grants an air transport service licence to privately owned **Air Express Africa Plc**;

9 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. The **Federal High Court of Ethiopia** overrules a decision by judges at the Federal first instant court which had allowed the release of journalists **Solomon Shumye**, **Meaza Mohammed** and **Temesgen Desalegn** on Birr 10,000 (\$191.59) bail each;

9 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. The **Chinese** government sets 20-21 June for its first **Horn of Africa** peace conference focused on brokering the end of a number of conflicts taking place in the region;

8 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *The East African*. **Prime Minister's Office** press secretary **Billene Seyoum** says government is committed to the ongoing mediation process, under the auspices of the **African Union**, which aims to find a political solution to the conflict in the **Tigray** region;

8 Jun 2022 **Tigray (Ethiopia)** *Telegraph*. Former **United Nations** undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs **Mark Lowcock** says **Ethiopia** managed to block a declaration of famine in the **Tigray** region in 2021;

7 Jun 2022 **Benishangul Gumuz (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Benishangul Gumuz's** regional state commissioner announces that 19 people were killed on 1 June in clashes between Benishangul Gumuz regional state special forces and militants from the **Gumuz People's Democratic Movement**, a rebel group operating in the area;

31 May **SSNPR (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. An influx of armyworms destroys 3,363 hectares of land in four zones of the SSNPR: **Bench Sheko**, **West Omo**, **Konta** and **Dawro Zones**;

28 May 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *IDMC*. New report from **Switzerland**-based **Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre** finds conflict and violence triggered over 5.1 million displacements within **Ethiopia** in 2021 – triple the number reported there in 2020 and the highest figure recorded for any country in a given year;

26 May 2022 **New York (United States)** *Human Rights Watch*. Human rights organisation **Human Rights Watch** calls on the **European Union** and its member states to establish “*clear human rights benchmarks to underpin relations with the Ethiopian government*,” including an end to mass arbitrary detentions, as well as for Ethiopia to allow independent monitors to meet with detainees and provide basic services and access for humanitarian workers in areas under conflict;

26 May 2022 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *The Guardian*. Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** carries out a state visit to **Nigeria**, hosted by President **Muhammadu Buhari**, with the two leaders agreeing to hold a **Joint Ministerial Commission** meeting in Addis Ababa in June;

26 May 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. The ministry of trade and regional integration says the government has lost Birr 124 billion (\$2.3 billion) in its efforts to stabilise fuel prices and align the current fuel trading system with international standards;

25 May 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *The Reporter*. Lead consultant overseeing liberalisation process says foreign banks seeking to operate in **Ethiopia's** banking sector will be required to do so in partnership with local banks;

25 May 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Ethiopian Airlines Group** CEO **Mesfin Tasew** announces that the company is acquiring seven additional Boeing 777 freighters to add to its cargo fleet;

23 May 2022 **Amhara (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Authorities arrest more than 4,000 people in northern **Amhara** region, as part of a wider crackdown against militia fighters, critics and the press;

22 May 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Reuters*. Authorities in northern **Amhara** region arrest four employees of a **United States**-based online media outlet, while the whereabouts of two others is unclear, in the latest round of arrests involving media;

21 May 2022 **Gambella (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Gambella** regional state police commissioner says four people died during an attack by unidentified individuals on the **Okugo Refugee Camp**, which hosts **South Sudanese** refugees;

20 May 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **SNNPR Police Commission** commissioner **Alemayehu Mamo** announces that the commission has arrested over 300 people on suspicion of carrying out violence in **Derashe special woreda** in the SNNPR;

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