

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Ethiopia Monthly Briefing 22 July 2022

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#### Ethiopia Summary 22 July 2022

*The Ethiopian government and the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front select their committee members for upcoming peace negotiation discussions. Protest action against the 18 June massacre of Amhara civilians in Oromia erupts in Addis Ababa and spreads to the cities of Gondar and Bahir Dar in Amhara, followed by a further massacre in the region. Both attacks are alleged to have been committed by the Oromo Liberation Army. The United Nations has added Ethiopia to its annual Children and Armed Conflict report, based on reported events and data collected from conflict areas in 2021. Al-Shabab militants attack two towns in Somalia's Bakool region, Aato and Yeed, on the border with Ethiopia. Ethiopian and Sudanese authorities agree to form a joint committee to resolve their border dispute over the al-Fashaga region. The Ethiopian government begins the third filling stage of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Ethiopia hosts the Horn of Africa Peace Good Governance, and Development Conference initiated by the Chinese government, a major investor and overall presence in the region. Ethiopia faces economic headwinds, driven by several factors including the global fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa. The Central Statistical Agency reports that Ethiopia registered an inflation rate of 34% in June. Ethiopia slightly misses its export target of \$4.6 billion for the fiscal year 2021/2022, earning \$4.2 billion in export revenues. The number of active Covid-19 infections in Ethiopia has begun to decline after a period of acceleration between April and June, from 18,890 on 21 June to 18,523 on 21 July.*

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#### Progress towards peace talks to end Tigray conflict...

The committee tasked with conducting peace negotiations with the rebel **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)** held its first meeting on 12 July, agreeing to advance peace talks while upholding **Ethiopia's** constitution.<sup>1</sup> The federal government announced on 27 June that it had selected seven committee members<sup>2</sup> after prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** (2018-present) announced to parliament on 14 June that the government had established the committee to study the pre-conditions and proposed plan for its negotiations with the TPLF (see *ARC Briefing Ethiopia Jun 2022*). Deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister **Demeke Mekonnen** chairs the committee.

The TPLF confirmed on 18 July that it had established its requisite committee and was "ready to send a delegation to **Nairobi (Kenya)**" where the peace talks are expected to take place, chaired by the **African Union (AU)**.<sup>3</sup> The TPLF had expressed its disappointment on 14 June with what it viewed as the AU's lack of support for **Tigrayans** during the conflict (see *ARC Briefing Ethiopia Jun 2022*). TPLF spokesperson **Getachew Reda** also noted on 18 July that it would be "very irresponsible for us to submit all negotiating processes to the AU", requesting Kenya's President **Uhuru Kenyatta** (2013-present) to mediate the conflict.<sup>4</sup>

The parties have yet to advance a date, location and procedure for the negotiations to resolve the conflict that has been taking place in the Tigray region since November 2020.<sup>5</sup> However, the truce between the federal government and the TPLF continues to hold, enabling the transportation of much-needed aid into Tigray.

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<sup>1</sup> Addis Standard, 13 Jul 2022

<sup>2</sup> Addis Standard, 27 Jun 2022

<sup>3</sup> Addis Standard, 13 Jul 2022

<sup>4</sup> All Africa, 19 Jul 2022

<sup>5</sup> Africa News, 18 Jul 2022

However, the government's peace process has received criticism from other quarters within the country. The **Caucus of Opposition Parties (COP)**, a coalition of ten political parties that announced its formation on 5 June,<sup>6</sup> met on 20 July with members of the diplomatic community at the **British embassy in Addis Ababa** to put forward its views on alternative options for the government's planned **National Dialogue**. At the end of 2021, the **Ethiopian Parliament** adopted **Proclamation No. 1265-2021** establishing the **Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission** to advance the National Dialogue process, which it has billed as a "*necessity to resolve the differences and disagreements through broad based inclusive public dialogue that engenders national consensus*".<sup>7</sup>

The coalition was formed to provide alternatives to the government's planned process, which it has labeled as "*not being inclusive*" and fraught with "*monopolisations by the ruling party*". Coalition members who attended the meeting include the **Oromo Federalist Congress**, the **Oromo Liberation Front**, **Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF)**, **Arena Tigray**, **Afar People's Party**, and **Hiber Ethiopia**. Attending members from the diplomatic community included representatives from the British, **Danish**, **Australian**, **Canadian** and **German** embassies.<sup>8</sup> The COP demands a halt to all hostilities across the conflict areas of the country, calling for international monitoring as well as a commitment to restructure the commission to enable a more inclusive environment, amongst other requirements.<sup>9</sup>

### ... against the backdrop of worsening domestic conflict...

Despite the positive move towards peace talks with the TPLF, conflict and violence appear to be on the rise in other parts of the country. Protest action against the 18 June massacre of **Amhara** civilians in **Oromia** state took place in **Addis Ababa** on 25 June, spreading to the cities of **Gondar** and **Bahir Dar** in Amhara.<sup>10</sup> On 18 June, over 400 ethnic Amhara in the **Tole Kebele** in Oromia region were killed in an attack by a group that community members have identified as the **Oromo Liberation Army (OLA)**.<sup>11</sup> The OLA has denied responsibility for the attack, placing the blame on a militia group it claims was established by the Ethiopian government.<sup>12</sup> On 4 July, prime minister Abiy Ahmed accused the OLA of carrying out another massacre in the **Qellem Wollega** zone of Oromia state. The government did not provide further details, with reports of a lack of access to information amid a communications blackout by the state.<sup>13</sup>

Protesters have accused the government of not doing enough to curb the ethnic violence.<sup>14</sup> **United Kingdom (UK)**-headquartered non-governmental organisation (NGO) **Amnesty International** called on the Ethiopian government on 21 June to investigate the "*callous massacre*".<sup>15</sup> Abiy said on 7 July that the government was "*quite sad*" it was not able to prevent the massacres of the Amhara people, also lamenting the loss of life in the defensive by government security forces:

*"Daily police officers die, security forces die."*<sup>16</sup>

The conflicts in Ethiopia are increasingly gaining global attention and action. In a report released on 11 July, the **United Nations (UN)** has added Ethiopia to its annual **Children and Armed Conflict** report, based on reported events and data collected from conflict areas in 2021. The UN will focus on Ethiopia in next year's report, amongst countries including the **Central African Republic**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Mozambique** and **Somalia** as key conflict hotspots in the **African** region. The report describes Ethiopia as a "*situation of concern*", citing clashes between the

<sup>6</sup> Addis Standard, 6 Jun 2022

<sup>7</sup> Ethiopian Legal Brief, 3 Mar 2022

<sup>8</sup> Addis Standard, 20 Jun 2022

<sup>9</sup> Addis Standard, 6 Jun 2022

<sup>10</sup> Al Jazeera, 5 Jul 2022

<sup>11</sup> Amnesty International, 21 Jul 2022

<sup>12</sup> BBC News, 19 Jul 2022

<sup>13</sup> Al Jazeera, 5 Jul 2022

<sup>14</sup> Al Jazeera, 5 Jul 2022

<sup>15</sup> Amnesty International, 21 Jul 2022

<sup>16</sup> Associated Press, 7 Jul 2022

**Ethiopian National Defence Force** and federal police forces, the TPLF and other parties, including militias and regional forces. UN secretary general **António Guterres** noted reports of:

*“the killing and maiming of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, abductions, and the denial of humanitarian access”.*<sup>17</sup>

**International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia** chair **Kaari Betty Murungi** briefed the **UN Human Rights Council in Geneva (Switzerland)** on 30 June at the commission's first appearance since its inception in December. The Human Rights Council established the commission with a mandate to investigate alleged violations and abuse of a range of international human rights and refugee laws committed by parties to the conflict that erupted in Ethiopia in November 2020. The commission noted that it had received reports of the killings that took place in western Oromia.<sup>18</sup>

### ... and regional clashes ...

Clashes with its neighbours are also claiming the federal government's attention. On 20 July, **Al-Shabab** militants attacked two towns in Somalia's **Bakool** region, **Aato** and **Yeed**, on the border with Ethiopia, as well as the Somali town of **Washaaqo** further inland.<sup>19</sup> This led to clashes between the militants and the **Liyu Police**,<sup>20</sup> the counter-terrorism force created by the Ethiopian government in the Somali region in 2007 when an armed conflict between the insurgent ONLF and the government escalated.<sup>21</sup> Al-Shabab spokesperson **Abdulaziz Abu Mus'ab** claimed the capture of both Yeed and Aato. The attack came on the same day that Somalia's new prime minister, **Hamza Abdi Barre**, promised to ramp up the fight against Al-Shabab in the country, pledging a “forceful and comprehensive” fight against the insurgents.<sup>22</sup>

Tensions are also simmering between Ethiopia and **Sudan**. The Sudanese government accused Ethiopian forces on 26 June of executing seven of its soldiers and one Sudanese civilian, which the Ethiopian government denies.<sup>23</sup> The conflict between Ethiopia and Sudan is rooted in a disagreement over colonial-era demarcations that failed to clearly establish the borders between both countries around the **al-Fashaga** region. Tensions ratcheted up in late 2020, culminating in Sudanese forces taking over the **Khor Yabis** area, which had been under Ethiopian use for 25 years, and leading to an increasing number of skirmishes along the border.<sup>24</sup> The Sudanese evicted thousands of Ethiopians from the region. In response, the Ethiopian government deployed federal forces to the region, resulting in the death of several people in clashes between Ethiopian and Sudanese troops.<sup>25</sup> On 29 June, Sudanese armed forces captured the **Jabal Kala al-Laban** area of the contested region following clashes with Ethiopian forces.<sup>26</sup> **African Union Commission** chair **Moussa Faki Mahamat** noted that he is following with “deep concern” the “military tension” between both parties, and urged the parties

*“to continue to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the border dispute under the auspices of the AU Border Program”.*<sup>27</sup>

Prime minister Abiy Ahmed announced on 5 July that he had met Sudan's **Sovereign Council** head **Abdel Fattah al-Burhan** (2021-present) in Sudan on the sidelines of an **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)** summit in Nairobi, where they agreed to establish a joint committee focused on resolving the border dispute between the countries.<sup>28</sup> The government of

<sup>17</sup> United Nations General Assembly Security Council, 11 Jul 2022

<sup>18</sup> UN News, 30 Jun 2022

<sup>19</sup> Voice of America, 20 Jul 2022

<sup>20</sup> Liyu means “special” in Amharic

<sup>21</sup> [Human Rights Watch, 28 May 2012](#)

<sup>22</sup> Voice of America, 20 Jul 2022

<sup>23</sup> Al Jazeera, 27 Jun 2022

<sup>24</sup> Relief Web, 13 Apr 2022

<sup>25</sup> Crisis Group Africa, 24 Jun 2021

<sup>26</sup> Al Jazeera, 29 Jun 2022

<sup>27</sup> African Union, 29 Jun 2022

<sup>28</sup> Sudan Tribune, 17 Jul 2022

Sudan on 17 July reopened the **Gallabat** border crossing between the two countries, which had been closed since the tensions flared up.<sup>29</sup>

Ethiopia's actions continue to cause concern among countries downstream from the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)**. **Egyptian** media outlets reported on 12 July that the Ethiopian government had begun the third filling of the GERD.<sup>30</sup> Ethiopian authorities had confirmed on 11 June that they would go ahead with these plans despite tensions and stalled negotiations with downstream neighbours Egypt and Sudan over the use of the dam (see *ARC Briefing Ethiopia June 2022*).<sup>31</sup> The Ethiopian government has attempted to get the **United States (US)**, on side regarding the GERD dispute, with Ethiopia's ambassador to the US, **Seleshi Bekele**, meeting the US special envoy to the **Horn of Africa**, ambassador **Michael Hammer**, on 20 July to discuss a range of matters including the GERD project. US president **Joseph Biden** (2021-present) met with Egypt's president **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** (2014-present) on 17 July, affirming support for Egypt's water security and noting the *"imperative of concluding an agreement on the filling and operation of the GERD without further delay"*.<sup>32</sup>

### ... as Ethiopia hosts regional peace conference

Against the backdrop of domestic and regional conflict, Ethiopia hosted the **Horn of Africa Peace Good Governance, and Development Conference** from 20-21 June. The conference was initiated by the **Chinese** government, which is a major investor and overall presence in the region (see *ARC Briefing Ethiopia Jun 2022*). China is increasingly focusing on stepping up its diplomacy and peace building efforts in the region, where it has significant interests, a move away from its longstanding policy of non-interference in countries' internal political matters.<sup>33</sup> The conference was attended by ministers and senior government officials of Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, **South Sudan**, Somalia, **Uganda** and **Djibouti**, as well as the Chinese foreign affairs ministry's special envoy for Horn of Africa affairs, **Xue Bing**.

Bing said China wants to play a larger role in the region, *"not only in trade and investments but also in the area of peace and development"*, noting that this is China's first time to play a role in the area of security".<sup>34</sup> Bing stated that the conference did not discuss *"a specific conflict (or) dispute"*.<sup>35</sup> Instead, the **Forum on China-Africa Cooperation** released a statement noting that the participants had committed to pursue peaceful settlement through dialogue and negotiation in an effort to ease the security situation in countries of the region, making clear that they *"oppose unilateral sanctions as well as external interference in the internal affairs of the countries of the region"*.<sup>36</sup>

Ethiopia is also expected this year to host the **Africa-Russia Summit**, last held in **Sochi (Russia)** in 2019 and since delayed owing to the global **Covid-19** pandemic.<sup>37</sup> Notably, Ethiopia was one of six **African** countries that did not submit a vote on the **UN General Assembly's** resolution on 2 March to condemn Russia's invasion of **Ukraine** on 24 February (see *ARC Briefing Ethiopia March 2022*). Ethiopia is also one of the four countries, including Egypt, Uganda and the **Republic of the Congo**, which will host Russia's foreign minister, **Sergey Lavrov**, on a working visit to Africa from 24-28 July.<sup>38</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Sudan Tribune, 17 Jul 2022

<sup>30</sup> Al-Monitor, 18 Jul 2022

<sup>31</sup> Zawya, 12 Jun 2022

<sup>32</sup> United States White House Briefing Room, 16 Jul 2022

<sup>33</sup> Foreign policy, 29 Jun 2022

<sup>34</sup> South China Morning Post, 23 Jun 2022

<sup>35</sup> Yahoo Finance, 23 Jun 2022

<sup>36</sup> Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, 23 Jun 2022

<sup>37</sup> Borena, Jul 2022

<sup>38</sup> Addis Standard, 21 Jun 2022

### Inflationary pressures weigh on consumers...

Ethiopia is also facing economic headwinds, driven by several factors including the global fallout from the Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the continuing drought in the Horn of Africa, the worst in 40 years.<sup>39</sup> The government introduced a fuel price hike on 7 July, a major blow to the country's population already under strain from inflationary pressures. Fuel pump prices increased 30% to Birr 48.83 (\$0.92) and diesel increased by almost 40% to Birr 49.02 (\$0.93) with the new pricing regime set to continue until 6 August.<sup>40</sup> The government plans to gradually reduce its substantial fuel subsidies, with the trade ministry noting:

*"the government is covering 75 percent of the (price) difference while it was decided that the remaining 25 percent would be transferred to consumers".<sup>41</sup>*

Acute fuel shortages in Ethiopia on 5 July had motorists waiting as long as eight hours to fill their cars.<sup>42</sup> The trend of fuel shortages is playing out across the continent as more countries are impacted by a surge in oil prices triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.<sup>43</sup> Local fuel price increments are also causing significant discontent amongst the population, raising the risk of social unrest in the country.

Hyper-inflationary pressures are placing immense strain on consumers as Ethiopia registered an inflation rate of 34% in June. However, the **Central Statistical Agency** reported on 6 July that this was down from 37.2% in May. Food price inflation decelerated to 38.1% in June, from 43.9% a month earlier while non-food price inflation increased to 28.4%, an increase of 0.4% from May.<sup>44</sup> The government has set the ambitious goal of reining in inflation to 11.9% in the upcoming fiscal year.<sup>45</sup>

The **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** announced on 19 July around \$55m in additional funding to support food security in Ethiopia. The fund aims to respond to the country's food aid needs and assist in building its resistance to future food security shocks.<sup>46</sup> The **UN World Food Programme (WFP)** announced on 19 July that the **United Arab Emirates** had donated \$60m to enable the organisation to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance in the worst hit areas of the country, particularly the northern Tigray region.<sup>47</sup> On 15 July the government of **Japan** also announced a \$6.5m donation to support WFP's emergency food provision efforts in Ethiopia's Somali region until end-2022.<sup>48</sup> The WFP warned on 23 June that 20 million people in Ethiopia faced threat from conflict and hunger as the organisation's food and nutrition support declined.<sup>49</sup>

### ... and government falls slightly short of export target

The government continues to focus on improving the country's economic growth trajectory through building up its local industries. The trade ministry announced on 15 July that Ethiopia had generated over \$4.2 billion in export revenues in the 2021/2022 fiscal year against a targeted \$4.6 billion, and a 13.8% increase from the previous year's export revenues. The agriculture sector accounted for around 72% of total export earnings, with the remainder from the mining, industry and electric energy sectors.<sup>50</sup>

Ethiopia is also realising its goal to become a net electricity exporter. **Ethiopian Electric Power's** communications director **Moges Mekonnen** announced on 20 July that the company has generated \$95m from electricity exports in the 2021/2022 fiscal year. This was driven by electricity exports to

<sup>39</sup> Al Jazeera, 1 Jun 2022; Financial Times, 3 May 2022

<sup>40</sup> Africa News, 6 Jul 2022

<sup>41</sup> ENCA News, 7 Jul 2022

<sup>42</sup> Bloomberg, 5 Jul 2022

<sup>43</sup> Bloomberg, 5 Jul 2022

<sup>44</sup> Central Statistical Agency, 6 Jul 2022

<sup>45</sup> Quartz Africa, 5 Jul 2022

<sup>46</sup> All Africa, 19 Jul 2022

<sup>47</sup> Addis Standard, 20 Jul 2022

<sup>48</sup> World Food Programme Twitter account, 15 Jul 2022

<sup>49</sup> UN News, 23 Jun 2022

<sup>50</sup> China Daily, 17 Jul 2022

neighbouring Djibouti and Sudan,<sup>51</sup> despite the latter's increased tensions with Ethiopia over the GERD project (see above).

Ethiopia is also benefiting from increased public spending on capital investments. The **Addis Ababa City Administration** announced on 17 July approval of a Birr 100.5 billion (\$1.9 billion) budget for the city under the budget year 2022/2023, an increase of 41.6% from the previous year. The city aims to prioritise spending on infrastructure, water, road, entrepreneurship, and industrial sector projects.<sup>52</sup>

The planned roll-out of Ethiopia's second telecommunications network is set to go live in August.<sup>53</sup> Kenya-headquartered **Safaricom** is a major shareholder in the venture, having committed to invest \$300m in 2022 and up to \$8.5 billion in its Ethiopian unit over the next decade.<sup>54</sup> Improved connectivity bodes well for job creation and economic growth.

### Covid cases decline

The number of active Covid-19 cases in Ethiopia has begun to decline after a period of acceleration between April and June.<sup>55</sup> While the country entered a fifth wave of infections in June, this appears to have been short-lived.<sup>56</sup> The number of active Covid-19 cases in Ethiopia's population of 118 million as of 21 July was 18,523, slightly down from 18,890 a month earlier.<sup>57</sup> As of 21 July, Ethiopia had recorded 491,508 Covid-19 infections and 7,564 Covid-19-related deaths since the **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared the pandemic on 11 March 2020.<sup>58</sup>

As of 10 July, 33.3% of the population (38.3 million people) had received full vaccination against Covid-19. The government had aimed to fully vaccinate 20% of its population by end-March.<sup>59</sup>

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. 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**.<sup>60</sup> 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.

<sup>51</sup> The Star, 22 Jul 2022

<sup>52</sup> Walta Media and Communication Corporate, 18 Jul 2022

<sup>53</sup> Business Daily Africa, 7 Jul 2022

<sup>54</sup> Capital Ethiopia, 7 Feb 2022

<sup>55</sup> Worldometers, accessed on 22 Jul 2022

<sup>56</sup> Ethiopian Monitor, 16 Jun 2022

<sup>57</sup> Our World in Data, accessed 20 Jul 2022

<sup>58</sup> Worldometers, accessed 22 Jul 2022

<sup>59</sup> Xinhua, 13 Mar 2022

<sup>60</sup> UK Gov, accessed 22 Jul 2022

## Planner

24-28 Jul 2022 (Africa) **Russia's** foreign minister, **Sergey Lavrov**, will pay a working visit to **Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda** and the **Republic of the Congo**

## Chronology

20 Jul 2022 **Yeed and Aato (Somalia)** *Voice of America*. **Al-Shabaab** militants attack the **Somali** towns of **Aato** and **Yeed**, on the border of **Ethiopia**, following Somali prime minister **Hamza Abdi Barre's** promise to ramp up the fight against al-Shabaab in the country;

20 Jul 2022 **Tigray (Ethiopia)** *Committee to Protect Journalists*. **United States**-based non-governmental organisation **Committee to Protect Journalists** calls on the regional authorities of **Tigray** to release five employees of **Tigray TV** who were taken into custody on 8 July on charges of "collaboration with the enemy";

20 Jul 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*, **The Caucus of Opposition Parties**, a coalition of ten political parties that announced its formation on 5 June, meets with members of the diplomatic community to discuss its views on alternative options to the government's planned **National Dialogue**;

20 Jul 2022 **New York (United States)** *Satenaw News*. **Ethiopia's** ambassador to the **United States (US)**, **Seleshi Bekele**, and US special envoy to the **Horn of Africa** ambassador **Michael Hammer** meet to discuss political and social developments in Ethiopia including humanitarian support in conflict areas, the upcoming **National Dialogue**, and Ethiopia's exclusion from the **African Growth and Opportunity Act**;

19 Jul 2022, **Tigray (Ethiopia)** *All Africa*. **Tigray People's Liberation Front** confirms it has established a peace negotiation committee and will be "ready to send a delegation to **Nairobi**" where the peace talks are expected to take place;

14 Jul 2022 **Washington (United States)** *Reuters*. **IMF** calls on creditor committees for **Chad, Ethiopia** and **Zambia** to quickly reach agreements with authorities to restructure the countries' debts, saying this could unlock IMF financing programmes and disbursements for them;

13 Jul 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Police arrest **National Disaster Risk Management Commission** head **Mitiku Kassa** amid allegations of corruption;

12 Jul 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Reuters*. An undisclosed source says **Ethiopia's** creditors' committee is set to meet on 18 July, moving the country a step closer towards restructuring its debts under a common framework set up by the **Group of 20** economies;

12 Jul 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *AFP*. Government commissions a **United Nations** agency to rebuild some of the destroyed infrastructure in **Tigray** region as part of a project funded by the **World Bank**;

11 Jul 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Bloomberg*. Inflation drops to 34% in June from 37.2% in May - the first decrease in four months - as food prices increased at the slowest pace since August;

11 Jul 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Burkina24.com*. Foreign affairs minister **Olivia Rouamba** receives **Rwandan** ambassador **Hope Tumukunde Gasatura** to discuss bilateral cooperation and reviving cooperation between the two countries;

11 Jul 2022 **New York (United States)** *UN General Assembly Security Council*. The **United Nations (UN)** adds **Ethiopia** to its annual **Children and Armed Conflict** report, based on reported events and data collected from conflict areas in 2021;

7 Jul 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *AP*. Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** says his government's police and soldiers are dying on a "daily" basis as the country grapples with insurgencies in **Oromia** and elsewhere;

6 Jul 2022 **Oromia (Ethiopia)** *AFP*. Parliament sets up a commission of enquiry into the recent massacres of civilians in **Qellem Wollega** administrative zone of **Oromia**;

5 Jul 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Reuters*. Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** and the military leader of neighbouring **Sudan** say they have reached an agreement to peacefully settle all issues, following the most recent flare-up connected to a border dispute late last month;

1 Jul 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Capacity*. Telecommunications company **Safaricom** says it may delay the launch of services in **Ethiopia**, originally expected in April, until the end of 2022;

30 Jun 2022 **Geneva (Switzerland)** *UN Human Rights Council*. **International Commission of Human Rights Experts** chair **Kaari Betty Murungi** briefs the **Human Rights Council** in the Commission's first appearance since its creation in December;

30 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *UN*. **United Nations**-appointed rights investigators announce that they have launched a probe into an alleged massacre of at least 200 people in **Oromia** region;

30 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. The **Ethiopian Human Rights Commission** calls for the immediate end to the Ethiopian government's detention of around 9,000 **Tigrayans** held "illegally and unconstitutionally" in camps in the town of **Semera** (**Afar** region) since December 2020;

27 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. The federal government announces that it has selected seven members of a committee, chaired by deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs **Demeke Mekonnen**, tasked with carrying out negotiations with the **Tigrayan** rebels for a resolution of the conflict which has been taking place in the Tigray region since November 2020;

27 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Justice minister **Gedion Timotios** announces the ruling **Prosperity Party (PP)**'s conditions for peace negotiations with the **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)**, stating that the **African Union (AU)** must act as broker to any talks;

27 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Al Jazeera*. **Sudan** recalls its ambassador to Ethiopia for consultations following the alleged execution of seven Sudanese soldiers and a civilian captured by Ethiopian forces;

26 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Reuters*. **Sudan's** armed forces accuse the **Ethiopian** military of executing seven Sudanese soldiers and one civilian captive, threatening "an appropriate response";

26 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. A statement from 23 Ethiopian diaspora organisations alleges that prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** intends to conduct a referendum in **Wolkait**, with the intention to cede the area to the **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)**;

23 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Anadolou Agency*. **United Nations (UN)** high commissioner for human rights **Michelle Bachelet** calls on Ethiopian authorities to launch a probe into mass killings in the **West Wollega** zone and displacement of 2,000 people from **Tole** village;

23 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Opposition party **National Movement of Amhara (NaMA)** issues a statement rejecting the **United States (US)** characterisation of the **Wollega** massacre, which was published by the US Department of State on 21 June;

22 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *VOA*. President **Abiy Ahmed**'s spokesperson, **Billene Seyoum**, denies claims made by **European Union** officials that **Tigray** is unable to deliver humanitarian aid due to fuel shortages in the region;

21 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Ethiopia is announced as one of four countries, including **Egypt**, **Uganda** and the **Republic of the Congo**, which will host **Russia**'s foreign minister, **Sergey Lavrov**, on a working visit to **Africa** from 24-28 July;

20 Jun 2022 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Foreign Policy*. **Horn of Africa Peace Good Governance, and Development Conference** takes place in Ethiopia, initiated by the **Chinese** government, which is a major investor and overall presence in the region;

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### Getting in touch

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