

Etiopia: situazione nella regione di Amhara

Rapporto tematico

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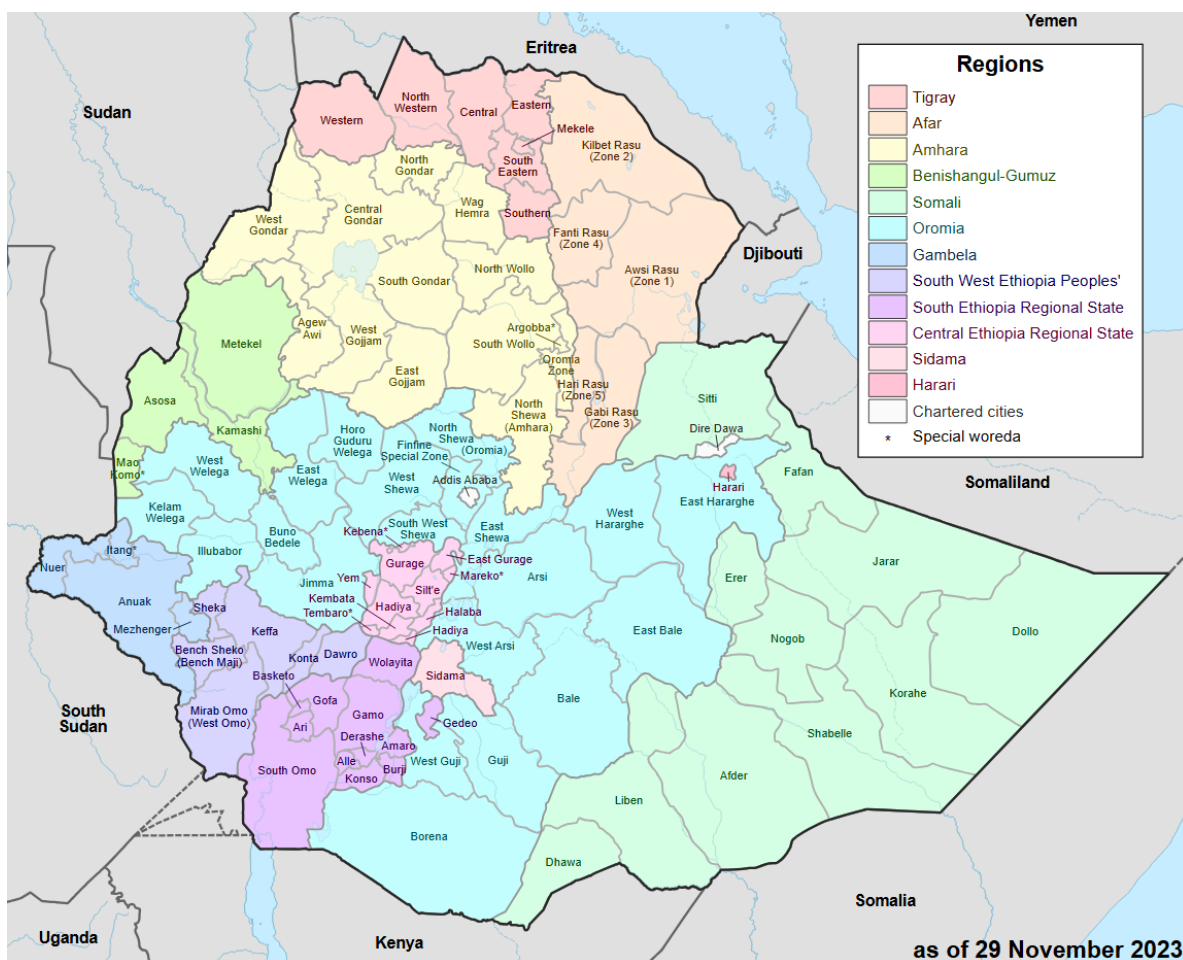
1 Introduzione

Le seguenti domande provengono da una richiesta rivolta all'analisi-paese dell'OSAR:

1. Qual è la situazione della sicurezza nella regione di Amhara?
2. Quali sono i profili a rischio particolarmente vulnerabili alle violenze, in particolare da parte di attori statali?

L'*Organizzazione svizzera di aiuto ai rifugiati* (OSAR) osserva da diversi anni l'evoluzione della situazione in Etiopia.¹ Sulla base delle informazioni fornite da esperti-e e delle proprie ricerche, l'OSAR prende posizione come segue sulle seguenti questioni:

2 Situazione nella regione di Amhara



Fonte: Danish Immigration Service (DIS), ottobre 2024

¹ <https://www.osar.ch/publications/rapports-sur-les-pays-dorigine>

2.1. Scontri armati e violenze contro la popolazione civile.

La regione Amhara è lacerata da un conflitto tra le Forze di difesa nazionali etiopi (FDNE) e la coalizione di milizie Fano. Secondo l'indice settimanale dei conflitti dell'*Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED)*, il livello del conflitto rimane elevato in Etiopia e le previsioni per i prossimi sei mesi non hanno subito modifiche (ACLED, 18 agosto 2025).

I combattimenti tra FDNE e Fano si sono estesi a tutte le zone della regione di Amhara. Sono inoltre riportati scontri tra Fano e *l'Esercito di liberazione dell'Oromo (OLA)* lungo il confine regionale tra l'Amhara e l'Oromia (UK Home Office, giugno 2025).

Il conflitto è iniziato nell'aprile 2023 con scontri sporadici di lieve entità nella regione di Amhara. Nell'agosto 2023, le milizie Fano hanno lanciato un'offensiva volta a prendere il controllo delle principali città della regione, dando avvio a un'insurrezione su vasta scala (*The Conversation*, 2 aprile 2025).

Le violenze avrebbero provocato la morte di almeno 7 700 persone tra aprile 2023 e aprile 2025. L'*Amhara Association of America (AAA)* è un'organizzazione nazionalista Amhara a scopo non lucrativo con base a Charlotte, Carolina del Nord, che ha per scopo di difendere i diritti umani del popolo Amhara in Etiopia. Secondo AAA, tra l'agosto 2023 e l'agosto 2024, sono state contate oltre 3 283 vittime civili, di cui 2 592 persone uccise e 691 ferite (UK Home Office, giugno 2025). In un rapporto pubblicato nel giugno 2024, *l'Alto Commissariato delle Nazioni Unite per i diritti umani (OHCHR)* riferisce che, nel solo 2023, circa 740 persone civili sono state uccise nella regione di Amhara. La maggior parte delle vittime sono da attribuire alle FDNE (OHCHR, giugno 2024).

Attacchi, distruzioni e rappresaglie contro la popolazione civile. Secondo *Human Rights Watch (HRW)*, durante i combattimenti tra le FDNE e Fano sarebbero stati perpetrati attacchi contro rifugiati-e e infrastrutture civili (HRW, 16 gennaio 2025). Ad Amhara, i-le civili sono vittime di atrocità dovute ai combattimenti tra milizie etniche e alle rappresaglie del governo federale contro le comunità locali (GCR2P, 15 luglio 2025). Il 10 agosto 2025, il portale di notizie etiopi *Borkena* ha riferito che le milizie Fano hanno dichiarato di aver ucciso 66 soldati governativi a sud di Gondar. Il giorno seguente, le FDNE sono state accusate da Fano di aver giustiziato otto civili, prendendoli deliberatamente di mira come rappresaglia per le loro recenti sconfitte militari (*Borkena*, 11 agosto 2025). Il 14 luglio 2025, più di otto persone, tra cui tre bambini, sarebbero state uccise e altre sei rapite durante un attacco che sarebbe stato perpetrato da Fano (*Addis Standard*, 16 luglio 2025). Il 17 aprile 2025, in Amhara, un attacco con droni delle FDNE avrebbe ucciso 100 persone nella città di Gedeb. Le forze governative hanno dichiarato che l'attacco era diretto contro Fano, ma i civili sopravvissuti hanno affermato che l'attacco era diretto contro volontari civili che stavano costruendo una recinzione in una scuola locale (GCR2P, 15 luglio 2025). Già nel 2024, le FDNE utilizzavano droni in attacchi indiscriminati che hanno ucciso centinaia di civili (OHCHR, giugno 2024; TNH, novembre 2024). Tra il 30 aprile 2024 e il 31 maggio 2025, *Amhara War Updates (AWU)* ha registrato 10 176 vittime civili dei combattimenti e delle violazioni dei diritti umani, in alcuni casi mortali (AWU, 7 agosto 2025).

2.2. Situazione umanitaria e accesso all'assistenza sanitaria

La situazione umanitaria nella regione di Amhara è molto preoccupante. Secondo l'Ufficio per il coordinamento degli affari umanitari (OCHA), ad Amhara ci sarebbero circa mezzo milione di sfollati. Questi ultimi devono affrontare gravi carenze di cibo, alloggi, acqua, servizi igienico-sanitari, assistenza sanitaria e servizi di protezione (OCHA, 14 luglio 2025). Già nel 2024, Stéphane Dujarric, portavoce del Segretario generale delle Nazioni Unite, aveva lanciato l'allarme sulle ostilità che infuriavano nelle regioni di Amhara e Oromia e limitavano l'accesso agli aiuti umanitari. Di conseguenza, quattro milioni di persone avevano bisogno di aiuti alimentari, nutrizionali, sanitari, idrici e igienico-sanitari (ONU, 17 gennaio 2024). Secondo l'OCHA, tra maggio e giugno 2025, le comunità sfollate in tutta la regione di Amhara continuavano a vivere in condizioni disastrose e con aiuti umanitari limitati. Circa 22 000 sfollati vivono da tre anni in tre campi collettivi nella città di Debre Berhan (OCHA, 14 luglio 2025).

Crisi sanitaria aggravata dal conflitto. Il 17 giugno 2025, l'Istituto di sanità pubblica di Amhara, citato dall'OCHA, ha confermato 2 435 casi di colera, di cui 15 mortali, con metà dei pazienti affetti da grave disidratazione. Inoltre, sette regioni sono attualmente colpite dal vaiolo delle scimmie, tra cui Amhara (OCHA, 14 luglio 2025). Secondo *Medici Senza Frontiere* (MSF), il conflitto in corso ha gravemente compromesso il sistema sanitario di Amhara. Per i-le pazienti, l'insicurezza, le restrizioni alla circolazione e la mancanza di mezzi di trasporto accessibili rendono sempre più difficile l'accesso alle cure, anche per le persone affette da malattie mortali come il kala-azar e i morsi di serpente. Le strutture sanitarie devono affrontare carenze di farmaci essenziali e disturbi nelle catene di approvvigionamento (MSF, 9 luglio 2025). Il conflitto nella regione, con la distruzione di infrastrutture sanitarie essenziali, ha creato una crisi sanitaria complessa che continua ad aggravarsi. Gli spostamenti e la migrazione degli operatori sanitari a causa del conflitto accentuano ulteriormente la carenza di manodopera. Inoltre, secondo i ricercatori Mihretie Gedfew et al., si registrano tassi particolarmente elevati di sindrome da stress post-traumatico, ansia e depressione, sia tra la popolazione che tra il personale sanitario (Mihretie Gedfew et al., aprile 2025).

2.3. Violazioni dei diritti umani e crimini di guerra

Gravi violazioni dei diritti umani e possibili crimini di guerra che persistono. L'*Associated Press* (AP) spiega che alcune persone che si oppongono al governo attuale desiderano che gli Amhara, che un tempo dominavano la politica nazionale, tornino al potere perché a loro parere sarebbero vittime di attacchi mirati (AP, 11 aprile 2025). Fano accusa il governo di commettere violenze genocidarie contro gli Amhara. L'*Amhara Fano National Force* (AFNF), costituita nel maggio 2025 e che riunisce i gruppi armati Amhara Fano, dichiara di aver preso le armi come forza di autodifesa per garantire la sicurezza del proprio popolo (*DNE Africa*, 17 agosto 2025). Secondo l'*UK Home Office*, sia le FDNE che le Fano commettono violazioni dei diritti umani nei confronti dei civili nella regione di Amhara. Anche le forze armate potrebbero aver partecipato a gravi crimini internazionali (*UK Home Office*, giugno 2025). Secondo HRW, le FDNE avrebbero commesso attacchi che costituiscono crimini di guerra contro operatori-trici sanitari-e e pazienti nella regione di Amhara. Dei soldati avrebbero anche attaccato strutture e veicoli medici, oltre ad aver ostacolato l'accesso agli aiuti umanitari (HRW, 16 gennaio 2025). Il *Danish Immigration Service* (DIS) riferisce che

attori statali etiopi hanno commesso arresti arbitrari, omicidi, atti di tortura e violenze sessuali, in particolare nel Tigrà, in Amhara e in Oromia (DIS, ottobre 2024). Secondo HRW, nel 2024 «l'impunità per le violazioni dei diritti umani è rimasta la norma» (HRW, 16 gennaio 2025). Secondo il GCR2P, le popolazioni di Amhara continuano ad essere esposte a nuovi crimini di guerra e crimini contro l'umanità a causa delle violazioni dell'accordo di cessazione delle ostilità, o CoHA, (GCR2P, 15 luglio 2025), firmato nel 2022.

3 Azioni intraprese dagli attori statali contro la popolazione di Amhara

3.1. Arresti di massa

Gli arresti di massa continuano. Nel maggio 2025, l'agenzia di stampa africana *APAnews* ha riferito che la *Commissione etiopica per i diritti umani* (EHRC) ha segnalato casi di intimidazione generalizzata, arresti senza procedura regolare e deterioramento delle condizioni sanitarie nel contesto di uno sciopero del personale sanitario etiopico. Numerose persone che lavorano nel settore sanitario sarebbero state arrestate e avrebbero subito atti di intimidazione. Anche alcuni membri del personale sanitario sarebbero stati-e costretti-e a lasciare gli ospedali e i dormitori universitari, in particolare a Bahir Dar e Gondar (Amhara). Alcune retate della polizia sarebbero avvenute nel cuore della notte (*APAnews*, 21 maggio 2025). Secondo *Amnesty International* (AI), il 28 settembre 2024 le forze armate etiopi hanno proceduto all'arresto arbitrario di migliaia di persone in tutta la regione di Amhara. Tra le persone prese di mira figuravano membri della magistratura, in particolare giudici, pubblici ministeri e accademici. Quattro membri del personale giudiziario sono stati rilasciati nell'ottobre 2024. Nel gennaio 2025, le autorità hanno rilasciato centinaia di persone, ma migliaia di altre sono rimaste detenute arbitrariamente (AI, 28 gennaio 2025). Tigere Chagutah, direttore regionale di *Amnesty International* per l'Africa orientale e meridionale, ha dichiarato nel novembre 2024 che «negli ultimi cinque anni, le detenzioni arbitrarie di massa sono state utilizzate come strumento politico per mettere a tacere i dissidenti pacifici, spesso con il pretesto delle leggi di emergenza», definendo le detenzioni di massa nella regione di Amhara una tattica ormai comune (AI, 6 novembre 2024). Gli arresti di massa avrebbero colpito in particolare le città di Bahir Dar, Dessie, Debre Berhan, Debre Tabor e Woldia. Questi arresti arbitrari, condotti dalle forze di polizia, militari e di sicurezza, hanno riguardato giovani, donne, membri rispettati della comunità, accademici, medici, professori universitari-e e investitori (AI, 28 gennaio 2025; *East African Review*, 3 ottobre 2024).

3.2. Sorveglianza di massa

Sorveglianza della popolazione e censura delle informazioni. Secondo DIS, le autorità etiopi ricorrerebbero alla sorveglianza di massa. Chiunque può destare i sospetti del governo ed essere sorvegliato digitalmente (intercettazioni telefoniche), fisicamente (tramite informatori-trici) e persino finanziariamente (controllo delle transazioni finanziarie) (DIS, ottobre 2024). Gli-le esponenti di spicco dei partiti politici, chi difende i diritti umani, i-le giornalisti-e e qualsiasi persona critica o percepita come critica nei confronti del governo sono

particolarmente presi di mira (HRW, 16 gennaio 2025; DIS ottobre 2024). In questo modo, le autorità limitano severamente la libertà di espressione attraverso la censura (HRW 16 gennaio 2025; DIS, ottobre 2024). *Freedom House* riferisce che nell'agosto 2023, a causa dell'escalation di violenza tra le FDNE e Fano, le autorità hanno limitato la connessione Internet mobile nelle città di tutta la regione di Amhara. Queste restrizioni sono state revocate solo nel luglio 2024 (*Freedom House*, ottobre 2024). Oltre alla sorveglianza, i membri delle organizzazioni per i diritti umani, i-le giornalisti-e e le personalità critiche nei confronti del governo sono vittime di detenzioni arbitrarie e atti di vessazione (HRW, 16 gennaio 2025; DIS ottobre 2024). Il governo utilizzerebbe fatti non verificati e disinformazione per screditare le voci dissidenti (RSF, 2025).

4 Profili a rischio

4.1. Giornalisti-e

Giornalisti-e arrestati-e, detenuti-e e accusati-e di promuovere il terrorismo. Secondo HRW, le autorità hanno creato un clima sempre più ostile e restrittivo nei confronti dei media (HRW, 16 gennaio 2025). La classifica mondiale della libertà di stampa 2025 di *Reporter senza frontiere* (RSF) rivela un significativo deterioramento della libertà di stampa in Etiopia, classificando il paese al 145° posto su 180 (141° su 180 nel 2024). RSF riferisce che nella regione di Amhara continua l'ondata di violenze contro i-le giornalisti-e. I-le giornalisti-e continuano ad essere arrestati-e e detenuti-e in campi militari, accusati-e di “promuovere il terrorismo” (RSF, 2025). Nell'aprile 2025, il *Committee to Protect Journalists* (CPJ) ha riferito che almeno sette giornalisti dell'emittente privata *Ethiopian Broadcasting Service* (EBS) sono stati arrestati per aver trasmesso un documentario su una donna che affermava di essere stata rapita e violentata da uomini in uniforme militare, cosa che le autorità hanno definito “una montatura”. Secondo la polizia, i giornalisti cercavano di incitare alla violenza, minacciare l'ordine costituzionale e rovesciare il governo in coordinamento con gruppi “estremisti” della regione di Amhara (CPJ, 9 aprile 2025).

4.2. Personale giudiziario, accademico e membri di ONG

Membri della magistratura e della comunità accademica sono stati oggetto di vessazioni e arresti arbitrari. Sono stati arrestati anche membri della magistratura e pubblici ministeri. *Amnesty International* riferisce che al 6 novembre 2024, nove giudici e membri del personale giudiziario dell'Amhara erano ancora detenuti. Una persona che ha lavorato per decenni nel sistema giudiziario etiopico ha dichiarato di non aver «mai conosciuto né assistito a un tale livello di anarchia» nei suoi quasi 30 anni di servizio. *Amnesty International* riferisce inoltre di aver ricevuto un elenco con i nomi di undici accademici dell'Università di Wollo (Amhara), arrestati e detenuti arbitrariamente (AI, 6 novembre 2024). Le forze di sicurezza e di intelligence etiopi hanno inoltre intensificato le intimidazioni, le vessazioni e le minacce nei confronti dei difensori dei diritti umani e delle organizzazioni etiopi. In questo contesto, il 29 luglio 2025, HRW ha invitato le autorità etiopi a respingere le modifiche proposte alla legge sulla società civile, promulgata nel 2019, che conferirebbero al governo poteri più ampi per limitare le ONG. Tali emendamenti consentirebbero alle autorità di vietare il finanziamento

straniero dei gruppi impegnati in attività legate alla governance e alle elezioni, come pure di rifiutare la registrazione, sospendere o sciogliere tali gruppi per motivi di «sicurezza nazionale» (HRW, 29 luglio 2025).

4.3. Persone con presunti legami con Fano

Aumento dei rischi per le persone di etnia Amhara sospettate di sostenere Fano. Fano gode del sostegno della popolazione di Amhara e controlla essenzialmente le zone rurali. Il movimento recluta principalmente tra la popolazione Amhara, che sarebbe riluttante ad arruolarsi nelle forze nazionali etiopi, composte da soldati originari dell'Oromia e guidate da persone originarie dell'Oromia. Si ritiene che oltre il 75% dei giovani dell'Amhara abbia aderito a Fano (DIS, ottobre 2024). Tuttavia, un *referente dell'OSAR*, ricercatore etiope in un gruppo di riflessione indipendente specializzato in affari internazionali, spiega che, per quanto ne sa, non esiste un "ramo civile" ufficialmente riconosciuto di Fano. Tuttavia, quest'ultimo conta un numero significativo di sostenitori-trici e collaboratori-trici civili (OSAR, 25 agosto 2025). Gli Amhara in Oromia e gli Oromo in Amhara, così come coloro che vivono lungo i confini delle due regioni, sono vulnerabili agli attacchi da parte di attori statali e milizie etniche (GCR2P, 15 luglio 2025). La situazione di queste persone è ancora più preoccupante se sono sospettate di avere legami con Fano. Migliaia di persone Amhara sono state arrestate nella regione di Amhara e nella capitale Addis Abeba durante lo stato di emergenza (agosto 2023 - giugno 2024). Gli arresti sono proseguiti nella seconda metà del 2024 e nel 2025. Secondo l'*UK Home Office*, gli Amhara sono esposti a un rischio reale di grave persecuzione da parte dello Stato a causa della loro appartenenza etnica e dei seguenti fattori di rischio:

- il loro sostegno reale o percepito nei confronti di Fano;
- legami familiari con membri e/o sostenitori di Fano;
- l'appartenenza reale o percepita a gruppi di opposizione Amhara non armati;
- le loro critiche pubbliche nei confronti del governo (*UK Home Office*, giugno 2025).

L'AP riferisce che le organizzazioni per i diritti umani accusano l'esercito etiope di numerose violazioni dei diritti umani, tra cui esecuzioni extragiudiziali, attacchi con droni e sparizioni forzate di presunti simpatizzanti di Fano. Ad esempio, nel febbraio 2024 a Merawi, 30 chilometri a sud di Bahir Dar, le FDNE avrebbero fatto una retata porta a porta dopo un attacco dei Fano, radunando e giustiziando civili. La *Commissione etiope per i diritti umani* (EHRC) ha dichiarato che almeno 45 civili sono stati uccisi (AP, aprile 2025). In un rapporto pubblicato nel settembre 2023, l'OSAR aveva già segnalato arresti di massa di persone Amhara ad Addis Abeba nel contesto dello stato di emergenza, nonché discorsi di incitamento all'odio e alla discriminazione etnica nei loro confronti (OSAR, settembre 2023).

4.4. Pazienti e personale medico

Violenza nei confronti dei-delle pazienti e del personale medico. Secondo un rapporto di HRW, le forze armate etiopi hanno preso di mira il personale medico che curava i combattenti Fano feriti. Le forze di sicurezza governative avrebbero ucciso membri del personale medico e pazienti, minacciato e aggredito medici e arrestato illegalmente pazienti. I membri delle forze armate avrebbero perquisito più volte gli ospedali alla ricerca di pazienti feriti, in particolare da arma da fuoco, esplosioni o schegge di granata, considerando tali ferite come prove di partecipazione ai combattimenti o di appartenenza a Fano (HRW, luglio 2024). Gli arresti di membri del personale sanitario possono essere collegati a Fano, ma anche alle recenti manifestazioni nazionali organizzate dai professionisti sanitari etiopi che chiedono migliori condizioni di lavoro. Le ONG *Insecurity Insight*, con sede in Svizzera, HRW e *Amhara Association of America* segnalano diversi attacchi mirati contro personale medico, in particolare:

- 25 giugno 2025: a Bahir Dar, un ginecologo e ostetrico è stato arrestato
- 17 maggio 2025: Woreda di Debark, zona di Gondar Nord, regione di Amhara, otto membri del personale sanitario sono stati arrestati all'ospedale generale di Debark dalle FDNE
- 11 maggio 2025: zona di East Gojjam, nella regione di Amhara, il presidente dell'Associazione dei professionisti sanitari, che lavorava presso l'ospedale di assistenza primaria di Bichena, è stato arrestato dalla polizia nella sua abitazione
- 1° febbraio 2025: a Bahir Dar, un medico e professore è stato ucciso da sconosciuti mentre tornava a casa dopo il lavoro (*Insecurity Insight*, consultato il 3 settembre 2025; HRW, 7 luglio 2025; AAA, 3 febbraio 2025).

4.5 Situazione delle donne e delle ragazze

Violenze sessuali commesse dalle forze armate. Secondo *Borkena*, lo stupro e il rapimento sono utilizzati dalle forze etiopi come armi contro le persone Amhara, sottoponendo donne e ragazze a violenze sessuali, in particolare a stupri di gruppo e a gravi abusi fisici. Questi crimini prenderebbero di mira la comunità Amhara a causa della sua identità. Inoltre, nel maggio 2025, la stessa fonte riferisce che 200 donne incinte avrebbero perso la vita negli ultimi nove mesi, a causa della mancanza di cure mediche adeguate dovuta al conflitto nella regione di Amhara (*Borkena*, 2 maggio 2025). Nel dicembre 2024, l'OCHA ha riferito che dall'inizio del conflitto nel luglio 2023 e nell'ottobre 2024, 1 645 donne hanno chiesto aiuto a seguito di violenze sessuali nella regione dell'Amhara. Quasi la metà di loro aveva meno di 18 anni. L'OCHA sottolinea che questi dati riflettono le segnalazioni di solo una piccola parte delle strutture sanitarie, poiché il timore di stigmatizzazione, ritorsioni e problemi di accesso porta a una sottostima dei casi (OCHA, 13 dicembre 2024).

5 Attacchi di gruppi armati non identificati contro operatori umanitari

Recrudescenza degli attacchi contro operatori umanitari. Il Consiglio delle organizzazioni della società civile etiopie, citato nell'ultimo rapporto del Dipartimento di Stato americano sulla situazione dei diritti umani in Etiopia (USDOS), ha segnalato un aumento degli attacchi contro operatori umanitari nella regione dell'Amhara (USDOS, 12 agosto 2025). Il 14 agosto 2025 si è verificato un incidente legato alla sicurezza nella regione di Cheneq. Tre membri del personale della *Croce Rossa etiopie* (ERCS) sono stati rapiti da individui armati non identificati mentre tornavano da una missione di consegna di ambulanze. Rilasciato il 15 agosto, uno di loro, Ato Honelegn Fentahun, è deceduto poco dopo il suo arrivo al pronto soccorso (IFRC, 20 agosto 2025). TNH riferisce che nel luglio 2024 quattro collaboratori di ONG sono stati rapiti da individui armati. Yared Melese, un dipendente dell'*Action for Social Development and Environmental Protection Organisation* (ASDEPO), è deceduto. Si trattava del sesto membro del personale umanitario ucciso tra gennaio e luglio 2024 nella regione di Amhara (TNH, 19 settembre 2024).

6 Fonti

ACLED, 18 agosto 2025:

ACLED's Weekly Conflict Index provides a singular measure of conflict intensity in every country in the world. It is updated every Wednesday and leverages the conflict indicators identified in ACLED's annual Conflict Index — deadliness, danger, diffusion, and fragmentation — to create a single score for each country that can be used to track its conflict evolution each week.

Ethiopia

Conflict level: high

6-month forecast: consistent.

Source: ACLED, Weekly Conflict Index, 18 agosto 2025: <https://acleddata.com/platform/weekly-conflict-index>.

Addis Standard, 16 luglio 2025:

More than eight people, including three children, were killed, and six others were abducted in an attack allegedly carried out by “Fano militants.” According to residents and officials from the Chilga district, the attack took place on Monday, **July 14, in Godo Kebele, Chilga district, Central Gondar Zone of the Amhara Region.** Several homes were reportedly set on fire by the attackers. Source: Addis Standard, Over eight killed, including three children, in ‘brutal attack’ allegedly carried out by Fano militants in Central Gondar, 16 luglio 2025: <https://addisstandard.com/over-eight-killed-including-three-children-in-brutal-attack-allegedly-carried-out-by-fano-militants-in-central-gondar/>.

Amhara Association of America, 3 febbraio 2025:

*Last Sunday night Bahir Dar University Medicine and Sciences College and Tibebe Ghion **Medical Researcher Dr. Andualem Dagne was shot and killed** while returning from his place of work to his home **by unknown assailants** according to Bahir Dar University, the professional's killing has saddened both the university and residents of **Bahir Dar city**. Source: Amhara Association of America, DW Amharic – Renowned medical professional killed in Bahir Dar, 3 febbraio 2025: <https://www.amharaamerica.org/post/dw-amharic-renowned-medical-professional-killed-in-bahir-dar>.*

Amnesty International, 28 gennaio 2025:

*On **28 September 2024**, **Ethiopia's army and Amhara regional security forces arbitrarily rounded up thousands of people across Amhara region** and brought them to four mass detention centres. Members of the judiciary, including judges, as well as prosecutors and academics were among the people targeted.*

The arrests took place amid fighting between Ethiopia's military and Amhara armed groups, which continues.

***Four judiciary workers were released in October 2024. In January 2025, authorities released hundreds of people**, including three judges, women, elderly people and people suffering chronic health issues. **Thousands remain arbitrarily detained**. Source: Amnesty International, Ethiopia: Urgent international action needed to end mass arbitrary detentions in the Amhara Region, 28 gennaio 2025: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/01/ethiopia-urgent-international-action-needed-to-end-mass-arbitrary-detentions-in-the-amhara-region/>*

Amnesty International, 6 novembre 2024:

Amnesty International research has found that since 28 September 2024 the task force has filled four makeshift detention camps across the Amhara region with thousands of civilians.

*"Ethiopia has entered a new era of disregard for national, regional and international human rights obligations. **Over the past five years, arbitrary mass detentions have been used as political tools to silence peaceful dissent, often under the guise of sweeping state of emergency laws,**" said Amnesty International's Regional Director for East and Southern Africa Tigere Chagutah*

"What is now being witnessed in the Amhara region shows that mass and arbitrary detentions have become a routine tactic" Amnesty International's Regional Director for East and Southern Africa Tigere Chagutah

***Members of the judiciary and prosecutors have also been arrested**, particularly those who challenged executive interference in political cases, according to four interviewees.*

*A judge who spoke with Amnesty International on condition of anonymity confirmed that **nine judges and court staff from across the region remain detained**, while four others were released on 20 October.*

"The majority of detained individuals [judges and court staff] were taken from court, while a few were arrested at home," said a source within the judiciary. "All arrests are directly related to

the detainees' professional duties, with most serving as judges on criminal benches," the source added.

*Similarly, a senior prosecutor told Amnesty International that at least **13 prosecutors have been detained across the region**. In both cases, **detainees have not been brought to court and have been held for between two weeks to a month without due process**.*

*An individual that served in the justice system for decades said, "I've **never experienced or witnessed this level of lawlessness in my nearly 30 years of service in the justice system**".*

***Others arbitrarily arrested are members of the academic community across the region. Amnesty International received a list of 11 academic staff members detained from Wollo University**. A credible source stated that, after over a month in arbitrary detention at the Choris a makeshift camp, these individuals were finally brought before a court this week.*

*"This wave of arbitrary mass arrests has also targeted those who **challenged executive interference in the judiciary, as well as a large number of academics**. Alongside a recent surge in harassment of human rights defenders and journalists, these tactics are deeply alarming," said Tigere Chagutah. Source: Amnesty International, Ethiopia: End the month-long arbitrary detention of thousands in Amhara Region: 6 novembre 2024: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/11/ethiopia-end-the-month-long-arbitrary-detention-of-thousands-in-amhara-region/>.*

AP, 11 aprile 2025:

The Amhara, **Ethiopia's second-largest ethnic group, once dominated national politics**. Many among the rebels **want to see them in power again**. But they also **claim the Amhara are under attack, citing ethnic-based violence** in parts of Ethiopia where they are a minority.

Fighting has escalated since mid-March, with the Fano launching an offensive across Amhara. The military has claimed it "crushed" the offensive and **killed 300 Fano fighters**, but reports of clashes persist. [...] Rights groups have accused **Ethiopia's military of abuses including extrajudicial killings, drone strikes against civilians and enforced disappearances of alleged Fano sympathizers**. Human Rights Watch last year said it had documented attacks by Ethiopian soldiers and allied militias in at least 13 Amhara towns since August 2023. The **bloodiest known episode was in February 2024 in Merawi**, 30 kilometers (18 miles) south of Amhara's regional capital, **when Ethiopian troops went door-to-door rounding up and executing civilians following a Fano attack**, according to Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. The state-appointed human rights commission said **at least 45 civilians were killed**. "The Ethiopian authorities have taken no meaningful steps to hold perpetrators accountable," said Haimanot Bejiga, a researcher for Amnesty International. Source: AP, Is Ethiopia at war again? A look at the rebellion in one of its most powerful regions, 11 aprile 2025: <https://apnews.com/article/ethiopia-amhara-fano-insurgency-rebels-6108686ebbf1458f71269380346fc>.

APAnews, 21 maggio 2025:

*The **Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC)** has announced **widespread intimidation, arrests, and deteriorating healthcare conditions as strikes by the country's health workers enter its second week.***

*The EHRC confirmed reports of arrests, intimidation, and **staff being forced to vacate hospitals and university dormitories** across cities such as Addis Ababa, Hawassa, Jimma, **Bahir Dar, and Gondar.***

*The EHRC cited the **arrests of numerous professionals**, including residents and interns, and described the forced evictions of medical staff from hospital campuses as troubling.*

*The striking health professionals told APA ongoing intimidation **including midnight raids by police, arrests without due process, and harassment for participating in the strike.** Source: APAnews, Ethiopia's striking health workers targeted in mass arrests, 21 maggio 2025: <https://apanews.net/ethiopias-striking-health-workers-targeted-in-mass-arrests/>.*

AWU, 7 agosto 2025:

***Between April 30th, 2024 and May 31st, 2025**, AWU recorded battle events and human rights incidents across 172 distinct woreda/city administrations in 25 zonal administrations in 5 regions (Amhara, Oromia, Addis-Ababa city, Central Ethiopia and Somali) over which AWU recorded 33,122 battle-related casualties (predominantly combatants) and **10,176 civilians were victimized (in some cases, fatally).** Source: Amhara War Updates (AWU), Summary of Amhara War Updates for May 2024 to May 2025, 7 agosto 2025: <https://www.amharaamerica.org/post/summary-of-amhara-war-updates-for-may-2024-to-may-2025>.*

Borkena, 11 agosto 2025:

***Ethiopian Defense Force allegedly executed at least eight civilians in Antsokia Gemza district of North Shoa.** In a statement released on Monday, "Shewa Teklay Gizat Command" of Fano forces said the civilians were taken out of their homes and executed in the locality of "Fecho Megenteya." **Daily laborers and elders among those executed**, the group announced. The Fano group accused government forces of deliberately targeting civilians. They claim that the government forces are **retaliating to the defeat they suffered by massacring civilians.** "It is not possible to stop Fano's struggle by massacring civilians," Fano said. Government forces went home to home, knocked on doors, dragged the residents and executed them in a shocking manner, according to Fano forces account as reflected in the statement they released. The statement also indicated that a father and son, and siblings are among the victims. **The Ethiopian Defense Force has been denying that it is not targeting civilians in the war against Fano forces.** However, **reputable human rights organizations both in the country and abroad have been reporting recurring extrajudicial killings and drone attacks against civilians in the Amhara region of Ethiopia over the past two years.** Source: Borkena, Ethiopian Defense Force Allegedly Executed Eight Civilians in North Shoa, 11 agosto 2025, <https://borkena.com/2025/08/11/ethiopian-defense-force-allegedly-executed-eight-civilians-in-north-shoa/>.*

Borkena, 10 agosto 2025:

Government forces have reportedly suffered more casualties in some areas. **The Fano forces in South Gondar claimed to have killed 66 government soldiers.** According to Ethio Focus, the battle was in the Kwasa Michael area of and Mesk Wuha areas of Semada in South Gondar. From the Fano side, four reported killed including a commander. The Ethiopian Government has not remarked about it. Source: Borkena, Fano Forces Claim They Killed Over 60 Government Forces in Gondar, 10 agosto 2025: <https://borkena.com/2025/08/10/ethiopia-fano-forces-claim-they-killed-over-60-government-forces-in-gondar/>

Borkena, 2 maggio 2025:

The **ongoing conflict and related challenges in the Amhara region** have had a devastating impact on maternal healthcare, with the regional health bureau reporting to Ahadu Radio that **200 pregnant women have tragically lost their lives in the past nine months alone due to lack of adequate medical attention.** Source: Borkena, Amhara Conflict Severely Disrupts Maternal Care, Leaving 200 Mothers Dead in Nine Months, 2 maggio 2025 : <https://borkena.com/2025/05/02/ethiopia-amhara-conflict-severely-disrupts-maternal-care-leaving-200-mothers-dead-in-nine-months/>.

Borkena, 23 aprile 2025:

The Abiy Ahmed regime has **weaponized rape and abduction against the Amhara, subjecting women and girls of all ages to horrific sexual violence, including mass rape and severe physical abuse.** These crimes are perpetrated by forces **recruited and financed by the current regime**, targeting the Amhara community **based on their identity.** Source: Borkena, The Plight Of Amhara Women And Girls: A Call For Justice, 23 aprile 2025: <https://borkena.com/2025/04/23/ethiopia-the-plight-of-amharawomen-and-girls-a-call-for-justice/>.

CPJ, 9 aprile 2025:

Ethiopian authorities should drop terrorism investigations into **at least seven journalists from the privately owned Ethiopian Broadcasting Service (EBS) who were detained over what authorities said was a fabricated documentary,** the Committee to Protect Journalists said Wednesday.

Police arrested the journalists over a March 23 episode of “Addis Meiraf,” which has since been taken down, **in which Birtukan Temesgen said she was abducted and raped by men in military uniforms** when she was a student in 2020.

“Arresting journalists on terrorism allegations is a disproportionate response to concerns over lapses in journalistic ethics, particularly as EBS has already faced regulatory sanction,” said CPJ Africa Program Coordinator Muthoki Mumo.

Police said the journalists sought to incite conflict, threaten the constitutional order, and overthrow the government in coordination with “extremist” groups in Amhara region, according to court documents, reviewed by CPJ. Source: Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), At least 7 journalists detained in Ethiopia on terror allegations, 9 aprile 2025: <https://cpj.org/2025/04/at-least-7-journalists-detained-in-ethiopia-on-terror-allegations/>.

DIS, ottobre 2024:

Ethiopian state actors have committed human rights abuses, including arbitrary arrests, killings, torture, and sexual violence, particularly in Tigray, Amhara and Oromia. The government extended the State of Emergency (SoE) declared in August 2023 in Amhara and used it nationwide to suppress dissent, with widespread arbitrary detentions and human rights abuses. Human rights organisations in Ethiopia face significant threats, including detentions and harassment of their members, severely impacting their ability to operate and monitor violations. The government has severely restricted the freedom of expression, with numerous journalists detained and media platforms controlled or censored.

Surveillance of citizens in Ethiopia takes multiple forms: digitally, via wire-tapping, physically, via informants and possibly also financially, via the monitoring of financial transactions.

The authorities are most likely to surveil prominent members of political parties, but may also surveil lower-ranked members if they become the object of interest to the authorities. The interviewed sources confirmed that digital mass-surveillance for any signs of anti-government activity is a common practice: The authorities tap ordinary phone calls, including encrypted calls on WhatsApp. The authorities have presented intercepted WhatsApp calls in court as evidence. Furthermore, the authorities monitor online activity on social media.

One source described the **widespread use of informants or ordinary citizens that are assigned to physically follow any person that they suspect of something in order to monitor this person's daily activities. The system is called 'one-to-five' system.**

« The conflict in Amhara is marked by the presence of both state and non-state armed actors. State armed groups active in the region include the Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF), the Federal Police, the Amhara Police, the Amhara local militia, and the Amhara Anti-Riot Force. **Among the non-state armed groups are the Fano, which is a movement of decentralised groups. It is difficult to distinguish between the state-affiliated 'Amhara militia', 'Amhara Special Forces' and 'Amhara Fano militia'. Moreover, Eritrean forces have trained and supplied weapons to Fano during the Tigray war. Reportedly, Fano forces are still being trained in Eritrea. The movement is initially fragmented with a decentralised structure and membership is informal, although it has become a well-organised military wing over the past 8 months to 1 year. Its use of violence previously made Fano unpopular amongst Amhara people. The signing of the CoHA and the government's plan to disband the regional Special Forces led to rise of Amhara nationalism and hence the popularity of Fano increased.** According to Mehari Maru, many Amharas may side with Fano in the conflict as Fano has proved a resistance to ENDF. Landinfo finds that Amharas are reluctant to join the Ethiopian national forces as these forces are primarily composed of soldiers from Oromia and managed by people from Oromia.

Moreover, drone attacks, mass arrest and targeting of civilians by the federal government has generated increased public support towards Fano. According to the EHRDC, more than 75 % of youth in Amhara have joined Fano. Since the war in Amhara erupted, the Fano militia aim at fighting the federal government. The militias have been able to control many rural areas in the Amhara region, while the militia generally conduct ambush attacks against the ENDF and political opponents in urban areas and challenge the federal government through

its hit-and-run tactics. Conversely, government forces mostly control towns and main roads. [...] » Source: Danish Immigration Service (DIS), Ethiopia; Security situation in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray regions and return, october 2024, pp. 1, 22-23, 28-29: <https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2116704/coi-ffm-report-ethiopia-security-situation-october-2024.pdf>.

DNE Africa, 17 agosto 2025:

*Amhara Fano, a major rebel group in Ethiopia's Amhara region **has accused the government of waging a "genocidal war" against the Amhara people**, in a response to the U.S. State Department's latest human rights report on the country.*

*The group said **that beyond the extrajudicial killings, torture, and arbitrary detentions mentioned in the U.S. report, the government and its allies have engaged in mass displacement, ethnic cleansing, weaponised sexual violence, and collective punishment by depriving people of essential services.***

***"These actions meet internationally recognized definitions of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide,"** the statement said.*

*The AFNF, a unified organisation of Amhara Fano armed groups formed in May 2025, said it took up **arms as a self-defence force to ensure the safety of its people**. "We emphasize that our forces operate under strict codes of discipline and in adherence to international humanitarian law," it stated. Source: DNE Africa, Amhara Fano rebels accuse Ethiopian government of 'genocidal war' in response to U.S. report, 17 agosto 2025: <https://africa.dailynewsegypt.com/amhara-fano-ethiopia-government-genocide/>.*

East African Review, 3 ottobre 2024:

*In the past few days, the Ethiopian government, led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, has escalated its campaign of **mass arrests across the Amhara region, with a special focus on cities such as Bahir Dar, Dessie, Debre Berhan, Debre Tabor, and Woldia**. This Oromo Prosperity Party led mass arrest campaigns is affecting people from all walks of life, **including young individuals, women, respected community members, academics, doctors, university professors, and investors**. Sources report that **police, military, and security forces are conducting these arrests arbitrarily, without warrants or formal charges, sparking growing concerns over human rights violations**. Source: East African Review, Ethiopia: Indiscriminate Mass Arrests in Amhara Region Spark Outrage, 3 ottobre 2024: <https://www.eastafricanreview.com/2024/10/03/ethiopia-arbitrary-arrests-amhara-human-rights/>.*

Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, 15 luglio 2025:

*In Amhara, an **ENDF drone strike on 17 April reportedly killed 100 people in Gedeb town in East Gojam zone**. **Government forces stated the attack was targeting Fano militia in the area, but survivors said the strike targeted civilians who were volunteering to build a fence at a local school.***

*In Amhara and Oromia, **civilians are facing atrocities due to fighting between ethnic militias and the federal government's retaliation against local communities**. Amharas in Oromia and*

Oromos in Amhara, as well as those along the borders of both regions, are vulnerable to attacks by ethnic-based militias. Identity-based killings may amount to crimes against humanity, while targeted attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure may amount to war crimes.

Populations in Tigray, Afar and Amhara also remain at risk of further war crimes and crimes against humanity due to violations of the CoHA [Cessation of Hostilities Agreement]. Source: Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, Ethiopia: populations at risk, 15 luglio 2025: <https://www.globalr2p.org/countries/ethiopia/>.

HRW, 29 luglio 2025:

Ethiopian lawmakers should reject proposed amendments to the civil society law that would grant the government sweeping powers to restrict nongovernmental organizations, Human Rights Watch said today. *Ethiopia's partners should denounce the draft law, which is yet to be introduced to parliament, and make clear that any legal revisions should adhere to international human rights standards.*

The draft amendments would enable federal authorities to prohibit foreign funding to groups engaged in governance and election-related work and deny registration to, suspend, or dissolve organizations on vague "national security" grounds without judicial oversight and the right to appeal. The proposal has been put forward ahead of elections scheduled for June 2026.

"The proposed amendments to Ethiopia's civil society law would dismantle the very reforms Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government had enacted," said Laetitia Bader, deputy Africa director at Human Rights Watch. *"Adopting these amendments would be a deadly blow to the country's civil society and civic space."*

The amendments were put forward when Ethiopian authorities were already cracking down on civic space and independent rights groups. In the past year, Ethiopian security and intelligence forces increased their intimidation, harassment, and threats against Ethiopian human rights advocates and organizations. If adopted, the draft amendments would reverse gains reflected in the 2019 law, introduced after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took office. The amendments resemble the country's draconian 2009 civil society law, which imposed a broad range of restrictions on civil society groups, onerous bureaucratic hurdles, harsh criminal penalties, and intrusive surveillance. The 2009 law forced most independent human rights groups to close or severely reduce their activities. Source: HRW, Ethiopia: Proposed Legal Changes Threaten Civil Society, 29 luglio 2025: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/07/29/ethiopia-proposed-legal-changes-threaten-civil-society>.

HRW, 7 luglio 2025:

On the afternoon of June 25, police in the regional capital of Ethiopia's conflict-affected Amhara region arrested Dr. Daniel Fentaneh, a gynecologist and obstetric resident at Bahir Dar University Teaching Hospital, confiscating his phone and laptop.

Daniel had been a key figure in recent nationwide protests by Ethiopian healthcare professionals demanding better working conditions, adequate pay, and legal protections against harassment and political intimidation. He shared healthcare workers' challenges and

demands on the popular and since-deleted Facebook page he administered, “Dr. Debol”. Source: HRW, Ethiopian Doctor Arrested After Health Worker Strike, 7 luglio 2025: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/07/07/ethiopian-doctor-arrested-after-health-worker-strike>.

HRW, 16 gennaio 2025:

*Fighting between the Ethiopian military and militias in the Amhara region resulted in **hundreds of civilian deaths and injuries, including attacks against refugees and civilian infrastructure such as hospitals**. The government renewed a sweeping state of emergency for the Amhara region, but its provisions were applied throughout Ethiopia; mass arrests persisted once it expired.*

Authorities harassed, surveilled, and detained journalists, human rights defenders, and outspoken figures, creating an increasingly hostile and restrictive reporting environment.

***Impunity for human rights abuses remained the norm.** While the government developed a transitional justice policy, accountability efforts for past and ongoing abuses have been inadequate and lacked transparency and independent oversight. Ethiopia’s international partners continued to normalize their relationships with the Ethiopian government with little regard for ongoing abuses.*

***Ethiopian forces also committed widespread attacks amounting to war crimes** against medical professionals, patients, and health facilities **in the Amhara region**. Soldiers beat, arbitrarily arrested, and intimidated medical professionals. Soldiers also **unlawfully attacked medical transports and interfered with the delivery of humanitarian assistance**. Source: Human Rights Watch (HRW), World Report 2025 - Ethiopia, 16 gennaio 2025: <https://www.ecoi.net/en/document/2120077.html>.*

HRW, luglio 2024:

*By early November 2023, the Ethiopian military had taken control of the town. **Soldiers seized the hospital’s ambulance, accusing doctors of using it to provide treatment to Fano fighters**. They also began regularly harassing staff, including Solomon, threatening them and repeatedly searching the hospital as well as the residences of hospital staff. Despite this, he and his colleagues continued to treat patients. In December, Solomon began receiving threatening phone calls from unknown callers whom he believed were government soldiers, questioning his relationship with Fano. He later found out the military had placed his name on a list of individuals suspected of giving treatment to Fano fighters. Fearing for his life, he fled the town, adding to the **growing number of healthcare professionals who have stopped medical practice in the region or relocated beyond the front lines**. [...]*

***Government security forces, including Ethiopian military, police and militia, have killed health workers and patients, threatened and assaulted doctors, wrongfully arrested patients, looted and destroyed medical supplies, and misused healthcare facilities**. They have targeted ambulances, including in at least one apparent drone strike. They have repeatedly **raided hospitals in search of patients with injuries**, in particular gunshot, blast or fragmentation wounds, **which the military considers to be proof of participating in fighting or having Fano-fighter affiliation**. Source: HRW, “If the Soldier Dies, It’s on You”: Attacks on Medical Care in Ethiopia’s Amhara Conflict, 3 luglio 2024: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/07/03/if-soldier-dies-its-you/attacks-medical-care-ethiopias-amhara-conflict>.*

IFRC, 20 agosto 2025:

Ato Honelegn Fentahun was on duty when he lost his life. On 14 August, a security incident occurred in the Cheneq area of Janamora Woreda, North Gondar Zone, Amhara Region. Three ERCS staff members including Ato Honelegn Fentahun, were abducted by unidentified armed individuals while returning from delivering an ambulance. They were released on 15 August, but upon release, Ato Honelegn Fentahun required immediate medical attention and was transported to hospital, where he tragically passed away shortly after arrival. Source: IFRC, Statement: IFRC mourns the loss of Ethiopian RC staff member : 20 agosto 2025: <https://www.ifrc.org/article/statement-ifrc-mourns-loss-ethiopian-rc-staff-member>.

Insecurity Insight, senza data (consultata il 3 settembre 2025):

« **17 May 2025:** In Debark woreda, North Gondar zone, Amhara region, **eight health workers were arrested** from Debark General Hospital by the ENDF.

11 May 2025: In East Gojjam zone, Amhara region, the **president of the Health Professionals Association**, who worked at Bichena Primary Hospital and had expressed his support for the recent demonstrations, was **arrested from his home by police**. » Source: Insecurity Insight, Ethiopia, senza data (consultato il 3 settembre 2025): <https://insecurityinsight.org/country-pages/ethiopia>.

Mihretie Gedfew et al., aprile 2025:

In Ethiopia's Amhara Region, the ongoing conflict has gravely undermined healthcare delivery and infrastructure, creating a complex and worsening public health crisis. The destruction of essential healthcare infrastructure, including hospitals, clinics, and supply chains, has had a devastating impact on the region's health services. [...]

Moreover, the displacement and migration of healthcare professionals due to the conflict further intensify workforce shortages, causing significant disruptions to healthcare service delivery. [...]

Researches indicates higher rates of post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression among populations affected by conflict and displacement. Healthcare workers are also deeply affected, experiencing burnout and psychological distress as they operate under intense and challenging conditions in conflict zones. [...] Source: Mihretie Gedfew et al., Armed conflict and treatment interruptions: A systematic review and meta-analysis in Amhara, Ethiopia, aprile 2025: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0033350625000605>.

MSF, 9 luglio 2025:

Since mid-2023, ongoing conflict has severely affected the already fragile healthcare system in the region [Amhara]. Insecurity, movement restrictions and lack of affordable transportation are making it increasingly difficult for patients with life-threatening conditions like kala-azar and snakebite to access timely and adequate medical care.

Health facilities are under growing strain, facing shortages of essential medicines and disrupted supply chains. Mobile outreach services, which once played a key role in reaching remote patients with kala-azar, have been scaled back or suspended due to security concerns.

Due to the insecurity in the area, MSF had to suspend outreach health promotion and information activities. Additionally, MSF was forced to halt life-saving ambulance referrals for highly critical patients to Gondar University Hospital, exacerbating the challenges faced by those in need of urgent care. Source: MSF, Insecurity and movement restrictions to Healthcare in Amhara: Patients Struggle to Reach Lifesaving Treatment, 9 luglio 2025: <https://msf.or.ke/news-and-resources/news/insecurity-and-movement-restrictions-healthcare-amhara-patients-struggle>

OCHA, 14 luglio 2025:

Displaced communities across Amhara face dire living conditions. An estimated 22,000 displaced people have been sheltering in three collective sites in Debre Berhan city for the past three years. Living conditions are dire, and humanitarian assistance has been limited.

An estimated half a million people are currently displaced across the region. According to the Amhara Disaster Prevention and Food Security Commission, nearly 90% are living with host communities, while the remainder reside camps and sites across the region, with the largest concentrations in Debre Berhan and Jara - hosting approximately 22,000 and 10,000 people, respectively.

The displaced face acute shortages of food, shelter, water, sanitation, healthcare, and protection services. Food distributions are irregular and insufficient, and recent arrivals are currently excluded due to a lack of registration.

The Amhara Public Health Institute confirmed 2,435 cholera cases and 15 deaths, as of 17 June, with half of the patients experiencing severe dehydration.

Ethiopia confirmed its first mpox case on 24 May 2025. As of 27 June, 24 confirmed cases, including one death, have been reported from 312 laboratory tests. Of these, 20 individuals have recovered, while three patients are still receiving treatment in the Amhara and Oromia regions. Seven regions are currently affected: Oromia, Amhara, Southwest Ethiopia Peoples Region, Addis Ababa, Central Ethiopia Region, Sidama and Harari. Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Ethiopia - Humanitarian Update (May-June), 14 luglio 2025 : <https://shorturl.at/RzF6B>.

OCHA, 13 dicembre 2024:

Since the conflict began in July 2023 in Amhara Region, and as of October 2024, the regional Public Health Institute (APHI) reported 1,681 survivors, including 1,645 women and 36 men, that sought help for sexual violence in 32 health facilities. Nearly 47 per cent of these survivors are under 18. However, this data only reflects reports from a small fraction of health facilities, with under-reporting due to fear of stigma, retaliation, and access issues. The absence of the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) further complicates efforts to assess the full scale of GBV incidents. Source : OCHA, Ethiopia, Situation Report, 13 dicembre 2024: <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-situation-report-13-december-2024>.

OHCHR, giugno 2024:

3. Overall, 594 incidents of human rights violations and abuses impacting 8,253 victims (of whom at least 343 were women) were recorded in 2023, a 55.9 percent increase from 2022. **State actors were allegedly responsible for 70 percent of the violations** (415 incidents), while non-state actors accounted for 22.3 percent (133 incidents) of which 25 incidents were specifically attributed to the Eritrean Defence Forces. **Out of the victims, a total of 1,106 people were killed in Amhara (740) and in Oromia (366) in 160 incidents during the reporting period. The use of drones by the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF/Ethiopian Airforce) resulted in disproportionate levels of civilian casualties, with 18 registered drone strikes that caused 248 civilian deaths and injured 55 between 4 August and 31 December 2023.** Following the declaration of the state of emergency, high numbers of arbitrary arrests, predominantly of ethnic Amhara people in different parts of the country, were documented. Cases of sexual violence, including conflict related (CRSV), were also recorded but remained generally underreported. Source: OHCHR, Update on the human rights situation in Ethiopia, luglio 2024: <https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2111158/OHCHR-Update-HR-situation-in-Ethiopia-in-2023.pdf>.

OSAR, 25 agosto 2025:

« Un mouvement qui bénéficie du soutien de la population amhara et qui contrôle essentiellement les zones rurales. Pour le Danish Immigration Service (DIS), le mouvement recrute principalement parmi la population amhara, qui serait réticente à rejoindre les forces nationales éthiopiennes, car celles-ci sont principalement composées de soldats originaires d'Oromia et dirigées par des personnes originaires d'Oromia. Plus de 75 % des jeunes de l'Amhara auraient rejoint le mouvement. Les Fano contrôlent les zones rurales de la région, alors que les forces fédérales contrôlent les villes et les routes principales (DIS, octobre 2024). Selon TNH, les Fano sont un groupe ethno-nationaliste qui prétend représenter les Amharas et semblent bénéficier d'un large soutien populaire. [...]

Selon la personne de contact B, il n'existe pas de « branche civile » officiellement reconnue du Fano. Cependant, le mouvement compte un nombre important de partisan·e·s et de collaborateurs·trices civil·e·s, tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur de la région.

Fonte: Organizzazione svizzera di aiuto ai rifugiati (OSAR), Etiopia : struttura e funzionamento del movimento Fano, 25 agosto 2025 :

https://www.osar.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/Herkunftslanderberichte/Afrika/Aethiopien/250825_ETH_membership_FANO.pdf.

OSAR, settembre 2023:

Arrestations massives de personnes civiles d'origine amhara à Addis-Abeba. Près de 3000 personnes, surtout des jeunes garçons, auraient été arrêtées et détenues dans des centres de détention informels. Selon Africa news, qui cite des témoins et des avocats, la déclaration de l'état d'urgence dans la région d'Amhara a été suivie d'arrestations de masse de plusieurs milliers de personnes dans la capitale, Addis-Abeba. Africa news fait un parallèle avec la précédente déclaration d'état d'urgence lors du conflit au Tigré pendant laquelle des milliers de Tigréen-ne-s avaient également été arrêté·e·s dans tout le pays. Selon la CEDH, citée par Africa news, les arrestations de personnes civiles d'origine amhara sont « généralisées ». Selon les témoins, alors que l'état d'urgence ne concerne en principe que la région d'Amhara, celui-ci semble également être en vigueur dans la capitale, avec des suspects détenus dans des postes de police

et des écoles. Selon un avocat consulté par Africa news, ce sont près de 3000 personnes qui ont été arrêtées dans la capitale, la plupart étant des jeunes garçons. De son côté, **le gouvernement n'a admis avoir arrêté que 23 personnes** (Africa news, 14 août 2023). Selon AI, les personnes détenues par le gouvernement à Addis Abeba ont été envoyées dans des centres de détention informels, y compris des écoles (AI, 18 août 2023). La CEDH confirme également qu'il y a eu à Addis-Abeba des arrestations généralisées de personnes civiles d'origine amhara. De nombreuses familles et ami·e·s de personnes détenues ont alerté la CEDH, mais à la mi-août 2023, cette dernière n'avait pas encore été autorisée à se rendre dans les centres de détention pour contrôler les conditions de détention (EHRC, 14 août 2023).

Augmentation des discours de haine à l'encontre de certains groupes ethniques comme les Amharas. Arrestations massives de personnes civiles amharas. Opposants politiques visés dans la région d'Amhara. La **Commission internationale d'experts des droits de l'homme sur l'Éthiopie a indiqué avoir enregistré des détentions arbitraires à grande échelle qui ont particulièrement ciblé les personnes d'origine amhara**, mais également l'utilisation généralisée de **discours de haine et d'incitation à la discrimination ethnique et sexuelle**. La Commission a noté une augmentation de l'ethnisation du langage à l'encontre de groupes tels que les Oromos, les Tigréen-ne-s et, à partir d'avril 2023, les Amharas. Au mois d'août 2023, de **hauts conseillers du gouvernement ont inventé un nouveau terme, jawisa, qui se traduit par bandit ou charognard, pour désigner les membres de la milice Fano**. Pour la Commission, les autorités s'en prennent maintenant aux opposants politiques dans l'Amhara. La Commission fait état de nombreux rapports crédibles de violations dans la région d'Amhara, y compris la détention arbitraire massive de personnes civiles amharas, depuis l'imposition de l'état d'urgence (CDH, 14 septembre 2023). Source: OSAR, Éthiopie : état d'urgence et situation des personnes d'origine ethnique amhara, 26 septembre 2023 : https://www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Publikationen/Herkunftslaenderberichte/Afrika/Aethiopien/230926_ETH_situation_Amhara.pdf.

RSF, senza data (consultato il 19 agosto 2025):

« Propaganda seeking to control the **narrative on the war is pushed by both opposition militias and the authorities, which create disinformation on social media** that is then picked up by the media. The government's determined efforts to take control of the narrative have included creating a **"fact-checking" platform**. Made to look like a media outlet, it is actually used as a conduit to **relay the government's message, and uses unverified facts and disinformation to discredit dissenting voices**. Meanwhile, the Media Regulatory Authority (EBA) is a government tool that does nothing to promote quality independent journalism.

The upsurge in abuses committed against journalists, especially the journalists murdered during the war in Tigray continues in the Amhara region. Many journalists were killed in unclear circumstances during the Tigray war. **Numerous reporters whose coverage of the Tigray and Amhara conflicts were not aligned with the government line have been detained on serious charges such as "promoting terrorism" and are sometimes held for months in military camps in the heart of the desert.** Multiple journalists are still in prison due to their coverage of the conflicts. Unable to continue practicing their profession, some have left the country.» Fonte: Reporters senza frontiere (RSF), Etiopia, senza data (consultato il 19 agosto 2025): <https://rsf.org/en/country/ethiopia>.

The Conversation, 2 aprile 2025:

Ethiopia is in the grip of a civil war between federal government forces and the Fano, a loose alliance of ethnic-based militia in the Amhara region.

This conflict in Ethiopia's north erupted less than a year after the devastating Tigray war, which ended in 2022.

*The **Amhara** are one of Ethiopia's largest ethnic groups and played a leading role in the making of the Ethiopian state. Amharic serves as the country's working language.*

*The **Amhara conflict** began as minor sporadic clashes with government forces in April 2023. This rapidly escalated into a full-scale insurgency by August when Fano forces launched a full blown attack in an effort to control the region's major cities.*

The violence since has displaced more than 100,000 people and left 4.7 million children out of school.

The death toll from the conflict is piling up. In March 2025, the government claimed to have killed more than 300 Fano fighters. Source: The Conversation, Ethiopia's civil war: what's behind the Amhara rebellion?, 2 aprile 2025: <https://theconversation.com/ethiopias-civil-war-whats-behind-the-amhara-rebellion-252425>

The New Humanitarian, 12 novembre 2024:

*For the past 20 months, **Ethiopia's Amhara region has been torn apart by a bloody conflict between federal forces and a coalition of militia known as Fano**, who demand full Amhara control of all territory they regard as part of their homeland.*

*It's a war in which the **Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF)** has been accused of extreme human rights abuses, and indiscriminate drone strikes by the military have killed hundreds of civilians.*

*The **conflict is largely waged in the rural highlands, but Fano has also managed to penetrate urban areas** – raids that have triggered a violent response by the security forces. Source: The New Humanitarian, Who is Fano? Inside Ethiopia's Amhara rebellion, 12 novembre 2024 : <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2024/11/12/who-fano-inside-ethiopia-amhara-rebellion>.*

The New Humanitarian, 19 settembre 2024:

*In late July, **Yared Melese, a 30-year-old NGO worker**, checked into a hotel in North Wollo zone, part of Ethiopia's troubled Amhara region. He had gone to assess humanitarian needs on behalf of Action for Social Development and Environmental Protection Organisation (ASDEPO), an Ethiopian non-profit.*

*That night **he and three colleagues were abducted by armed men**. The kidnappers let the others go but demanded a ransom for Yared's release. Mediation by local elders failed. On 9 August, it was confirmed that Yared was dead.*

*Yared was the **sixth humanitarian worker to be killed this year in Amhara**, where government forces are fighting local militias known as Fano. The UN also counts eight incidents of kidnap involving UN or NGO staff, nine incidents of robbery, and four where UN vehicles have been commandeered. Source: The New Humanitarian, Aid workers risk death and kidnap in Ethiopia's*

troubled Amhara region, 19 septembre 2024: <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news-feature/2024/09/19/aid-workers-risk-death-kidnap-ethiopia-troubled-amhara-region-fano>.

UK Home Office, giugno 2025:

Sources estimate that there have been **at least 7,700 conflict deaths between April 2023 and April 2025 in Amhara region**, which represents 0.03% of the estimated 23 million population. Both government forces and Fano have committed human rights abuses/violations against the Amhara.

In **August 2023**, in response to the deteriorating security situation, the **government declared a State of Emergency (SoE) which continued until June 2024**. **Thousands of Amhara were arrested and detained during the SoE, in Amhara and other regions, and Addis Ababa, some were released**. Arrests of those suspected of links **continued into the second half 2024 and 2025**, with the federal government **targeting those suspected of links with the Fano**.”

Ethnic Amhara are unlikely to face a real risk of persecution or serious harm from the state on the grounds of ethnicity only. Factors likely to increase risk include:

- **actual or perceived support of Fano militias**
- **familial links to Fano members and/or supporters**
- **actual or perceived membership of unarmed Amhara opposition groups**
- **public criticism of the government**

Sources estimate that there have been **at least 7,700 conflict deaths between April 2023 and April 2025 in Amhara region**, which represents 0.03% of the estimated 23 million population. **Both government forces and Fano have committed human rights abuses/violations against the Amhara.**

1.2.1 Both federal security forces and Amhara armed groups, principally Fano militias, have been connected to human rights abuses including attacks on civilians and may have been involved in core **international crimes**.

3.2.4 Fighting between the ENDF and Fano militias has spread to all areas of Amhara region. The majority of battle incidents were recorded in North Shewa, East Gojam, West Gojam, South Gondar, West Gondor, Awi, Oromo special region, and North Wello zones. Fano are concentrated in and control rural areas but skirmishes often happen with ENDF for control of towns and they carry out opportunistic attacks in the cities, particularly targeted at politicians and officials (see Areas of control).

3.2.5 Additionally, Fano and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) have clashed along the Amhara and Oromia regional border and in North Shoa in the Oromo special zone (see Areas affected by the conflict).

3.2.6 The number of civilian casualties caused by the conflict in Amhara region is unclear because of limited reliable reporting. However, the Armed Conflict Location & Events Data Project (ACLED) documented **2,346 events of political violence** (battles, explosives/remote violence, violence against civilians and protests and riots) **resulting in 9,096 fatalities** (combatants and civilians) **between 1 April 2023 and 30 April 2025**. ACLED also recorded 446 events where civilians had been targeted resulting in over 1,811 fatalities. The US-based Amhara

Association of America (AAA), which advocates on behalf of the Amhara, claimed that there were over **3,283 civilian casualties** (2,592 deaths and 691 injuries) **between 4 August 2023 and 4 August 2024 in Amhara**. Most of the civilian casualties resulted from 'indiscriminate' attacks by the ENDF, including extensive use of drones and heavy artillery weapons. Source: UK Home Office, Country Policy and Information Note Ethiopia: Amhara and Amhara opposition groups, giugno 2025:

https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2127107/ETH_CPIN_Amhara_and_Amhara_opposition_groups.pdf.

UN, 17 gennaio 2024:

Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, United Nations:

"We, along with our partners, are supporting the Government in its efforts with extremely limited funding in a very challenging operating environment, particularly **amid active hostilities in Amhara and Oromia**. However, our humanitarian colleagues stress the **need to scale up the response to support 4 million people in these regions with food aid, nutrition, water and sanitation as well as health services**. They tell us that the main issue is **lack of funding and insecurity**." Fonte: UN, Ethiopia Humanitarian Situation, 17 gennaio 2024:

<https://media.un.org/unifeed/en/asset/d316/d3165163>.

USDOS, 12 agosto 2025:

On August 14, the VOA reported a **humanitarian worker, Yared Melese, was kidnapped for ransom and later killed by an unidentified criminal group operating in Dawunt Woreda of the North Wello Zone in the Amhara Region**. Additionally, 14 aid workers reported being kidnapped during the year. **The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council reported a surge in attacks targeting humanitarian workers in Amhara Region, Oromia Region, and elsewhere across the country**. Fonte: US Department of State (USDOS), 2024 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Ethiopia, 12 agosto 2025: <https://www.ecoi.net/en/document/2128504.html>.

In qualità di principale organizzazione di sostegno alle persone rifugiate in Svizzera e associazione ombrello delle organizzazioni attive nell'ambito dell'esilio e dell'asilo, l'Organizzazione svizzera d'aiuto ai rifugiati (OSAR) si impegna per una Svizzera che accolga le persone rifugiate, le protegga efficacemente, rispetti i loro diritti umani e fondamentali, promuova la loro partecipazione alla società e le tratti con rispetto e apertura. Nella sua funzione, l'OSAR rafforza e difende gli interessi e i diritti delle persone bisognose di protezione e promuove la comprensione delle loro condizioni di vita. Grazie alla sua comprovata esperienza, orienta il discorso pubblico e esercita un'influenza sulle condizioni sociali e politiche.

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