

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY THE REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE OF IRELAND ON 21 MAY 2025

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COI QUERY RESPONSE

ETHIOPIA - FANO

In April 2025 the *Associated Press* comments on: "...Fano, a loose collection of groups taking on Ethiopia's military in one of its most populous and powerful regions."¹

This document also states that: "The extent of the Amhara fighting has been difficult to measure since the Fano emerged during anti-government protests in 2016."²

This report also states that: "Fighting has escalated since mid-March, with the Fano launching an offensive across Amhara."³

It is also noted in this report that: "Rights groups have accused Ethiopia's military of abuses including extrajudicial killings, drone strikes against civilians and enforced disappearances of alleged Fano sympathizers."⁴

In April 2025 *Agence France Presse* states that: "The Fano, a largely autonomous group with no central command, have been increasing their attacks against security forces and managed to briefly seize towns in Amhara several times. Armed conflicts are currently roiling Ethiopia's two most populated regions, Amhara and Oromia."⁵

The *Ethiopia Peace Observatory* in April 2025 notes that: "From 19 to 28 March, ACLED records 79 battle events between Fano militias and government security forces, mostly ENDF. The majority of these battles were reported in the West Gojam zone, followed by the East Gojam and South Gondar zones. The end of April will mark the second year since the start of the conflict between Fano militias

¹ Associated Press (11 April 2025) Is Ethiopia at war again? A look at the rebellion in one of its most powerful regions, p.1

² *ibid*, p.1

³ *ibid*, p.1.

⁴ *ibid*, p.2

⁵ Agence France Presse (3 April 2025) 'Many killed' in restive central Ethiopia: local official

and the government in the Amhara region. Due to their organizational structure, which is based on birthplace, and the absence of a common ideology, Fano militias have found it challenging to unify under a single command. This fragmentation has resulted in rivalry among Fano militia leaders, each vying to become the leader of the Fano. Such competition has occasionally resulted in conflicts between the militias. This and the prolonged war, which is affecting the daily life of Amharas, have weakened popular support for Fano militias..."⁶

Agence France Presse in March 2025 that: "The Fano are a long-standing "self-defence" militia for the local community in Amhara, which has around 23 million inhabitants. The group supported federal forces in their civil war against Tigrayan rebels in 2020-2022. But they felt betrayed by the subsequent peace agreement, which did not hand them control over parts of Tigray they consider "ancestral lands" of Amhara. They also opposed federal government efforts to disarm them. The Fano are a decentralised collection of groups with no unified command. They enjoy "widespread support from within the region and the Amhara diaspora..."⁷

The *Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect* in March 2025 notes that: "The UN and international human rights groups have documented violations and abuses by the federal government, including mass arbitrary arrests, drone strikes targeting civilian areas, killings of civilians during searches for Fano members and systematic targeting of health facilities, workers and patients in Amhara region amid ongoing clashes."⁸

A report issued in February 2025 by the *International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies* comments on the: "...continuous fighting between the federal forces and the local Fano militia."⁹

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Ethiopia Peace Observatory (2 April 2025) *Ethiopia situation update*

⁶ Ethiopia Peace Observatory (2 April 2025) Ethiopia situation update, p.2

⁷ Agence France Presse (28 March 2025) Why is Ethiopia's Amhara region embroiled in conflict?

⁸ Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (14 March 2025) Ethiopia, p.2

⁹ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (11 February 2025) Ethiopia: Civil unrest, DREF Final Report, p.2

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