



ETHIOPIA

WHAT HAPPENED IN OCTOBER?

Federal and allied forces made **significant battlefield gains in Tigray**, intensifying the violence and raising the risk of atrocities against civilians. **Warring parties met in South Africa for talks**. Meanwhile, violence remained rampant in Oromia.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

With fighting continuing and thousands of civilians caught in the crossfire, pressure grew for an immediate cessation of hostilities. Absent such progress, Crisis Group warned of the **danger of atrocities against civilians** by federal and Eritrean troops in coming weeks.

SEPTEMBER TRENDS

The Tigray conflict continued to escalate as hostilities expanded to new fronts. **Eritrean forces once more became embroiled in the fighting**, with some clashes also occurring in Amhara-controlled Western Tigray. Violence increased in Oromia region.

1 ⚡ Ethiopian-Eritrean advances in Tigray raised risk of atrocities

The federal coalition continued their **advance into Tigray**, notably capturing Shire city on 17 October and Alamata and Korem towns on 18 October. Federal-Eritrean forces pushed toward Aksum and Adwa cities, where fighting raged in areas surrounding the latter.

Ethiopian-Eritrean gains raised the **risk of major atrocities against civilians**.

On 17 October, Addis Ababa said that the military plans to seize all federal facilities in Tigray.

2 🕊 African Union held peace talks in South Africa

On 16 October, Tigray authorities reiterated their readiness for a cessation of hostilities but demanded Eritrea's withdrawal from Tigray, **improving the prospects of a deal** if Tigray's leaders conceded to other federal demands.

Amid mounting international pressure, **Tigray and federal negotiators met in South Africa** on 25 October for African Union-led peace talks, which were extended on 30 October.

The return to talks was a welcome move, with **the main objective being achieving a truce** in the context of the ongoing Ethiopian-Eritrean military offensive in the region.

3 🚁 Drone strikes in Oromia left scores dead

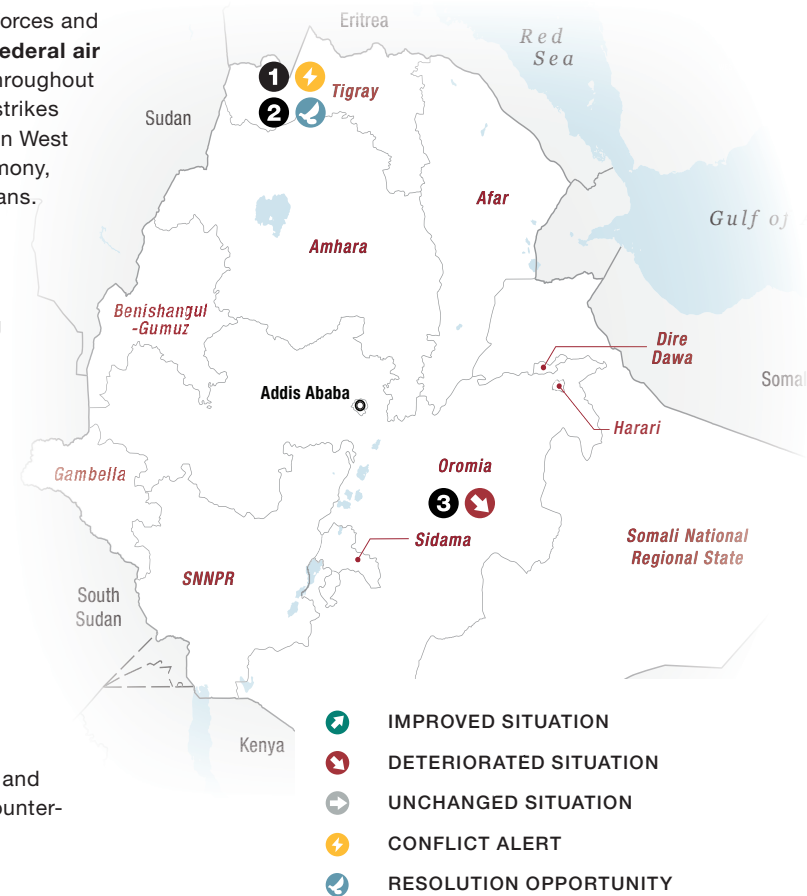
Amid ongoing clashes between security forces and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), **the federal air force conducted multiple airstrikes** throughout the month. One of the deadliest drone strikes occurred on 23 October in Cobi district in West Shewa Zone at an OLA graduation ceremony, killing at least 50 people, including civilians.

Meanwhile, **Amhara militias known as Fano reportedly killed at least 43 civilians** in five attacks in East Wollega and Horo Guduru Wollega Zones during October.

WHAT TO WATCH

A cessation of hostilities deal struck between federal and Tigray leaders on 2 November provides for Tigray's forces to disarm within a month as federal authority and services are restored in the region. Although the agreement promises to bring desperately needed respite to Tigray's civilians, its aggressive disarmament plan is fraught with risks.

Oromia will likely see more violence, including on civilians, as federal troops and Oromia security forces ramp up their counter-insurgency campaign.



TRENDS TIMELINE

