



# ETHIOPIA

## WHAT HAPPENED IN APRIL?

**Violence erupted in Amhara** region over a federal decision to dissolve regional paramilitary groups. Meanwhile, the federal government and Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) held **peace talks** and Tigray region's newly-elected leader announced a 27-member cabinet to steer the political transition.

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The decision to dissolve regional paramilitary groups reinforced fears among many in Amhara that, by strengthening ties with Tigray and negotiating with the OLA, Prime Minister Abiy is **isolating Amhara** and could eventually return territory they claim to Tigray's administration.

## MARCH TRENDS

**Tigray's peace process advanced** as the federal parliament removed the Tigray People's Liberation Front's (TPLF) terrorist designation and federal authorities dropped criminal charges against TPLF leaders. Prime Minister Abiy announced a committee to negotiate with the OLA.

### 1 ↘ Plans to dissolve paramilitaries stoked violence in Amhara

A 6 April federal announcement on integrating regional paramilitaries into the national army and police sparked anger in Amhara amid fears this **threatens regional security**.

Some paramilitaries who refused to comply allied with a local militia and **clashed with federal soldiers, while protests spread**. The government responded forcefully; though unrest subsided mid-April, dozens were killed.

On 27 April, unidentified gunmen assassinated Girma Yeshitila, head of the ruling Prosperity Party's Amhara branch, in North Shewa Zone. The federal government on 28 April launched "decisive measures" to counter "extremist forces".

### 2 ↗ Government-OLA peace talks began in Tanzania

In an important step toward **ending the long-running insurgency** in Oromia region, Abiy announced on 23 April that peace talks with the OLA would start on 25 April in Tanzania. The OLA confirmed, noting the federal government's acquiescence to its demands for third-party mediation. The talks have support from Kenya, Norway and regional security bloc Intergovernmental Authority on Development. Fighting between security forces and the group continued, however.

### 3 → Tigray leader named cabinet amid deepening federal-Tigray ties

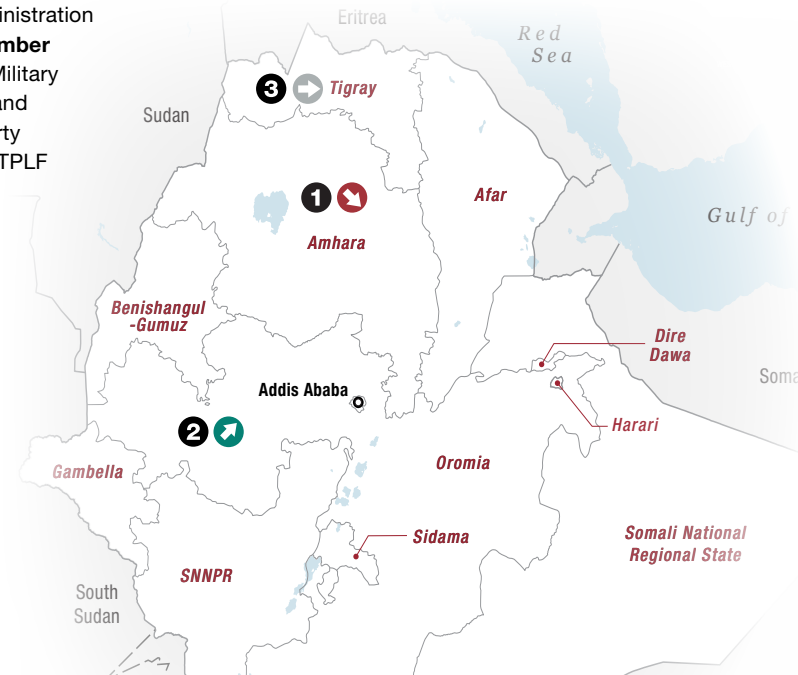
On 5 April, Tigray's Interim Regional Administration leader Getachew Reda unveiled a **27-member cabinet**, dominated by TPLF members. Military figures, meanwhile, assumed four posts and Baytona for Greater Tigray opposition party took two amid frustration with excessive TPLF control among some opposition parties.

Several federal and regional delegations visited Tigray in April as sides continued strengthening relations. On 23 April, Abiy held a ceremony for federal and Tigray leaders and mediators in Addis Ababa to celebrate the **peace deal's success**.

## WHAT TO WATCH

After the move against regional paramilitaries and amid improving federal relations with Tigray and talks with the OLA, there is likely to be **increasing Amhara resistance** to the federal government. There is a growing risk of armed rebellion.

Negotiations between the government and OLA are likely to continue. To produce agreement, a **compromise is needed** between government demands for OLA disarmament and the OLA's desire for a power-sharing arrangement via a transitional administration in Oromia.



- IMPROVED SITUATION
- DETERIORATED SITUATION
- UNCHANGED SITUATION
- CONFLICT ALERT
- RESOLUTION OPPORTUNITY

## TRENDS TIMELINE

