



# ETHIOPIA

## WHAT HAPPENED IN MAY?

Talks between the federal government and Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) **ended without agreement**. Authorities denied the Tigray People's Liberation Front's (TPLF) request to restore its legal registration as a political party. Security operations in Amhara raised human rights concerns.

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

While government-OLA negotiations were an important step toward ending the long-running insurgency in Oromia, both sides' **uncompromising stances** impeded progress and violence continued. The decision on the TPLF's political party status marked a **setback in otherwise improving federal-Tigray relations**.

## APRIL TRENDS

**Violence erupted in Amhara** region over a federal decision to dissolve regional paramilitary groups. Meanwhile, the federal government and OLA held **peace talks** and Tigray region's newly elected leader announced a 27-member cabinet to steer the region through an interim period.

### 1 ↘ Govt-OLA talks ended without agreement amid uncompromising stances

Talks in Tanzania between the federal government and OLA ended without agreement on 3 May. The parties **failed to reach consensus** on key issues. The OLA demanded greater political influence via a power-sharing arrangement until elections. The government rejected this proposition, which threatens the power of current Oromia leaders, and insisted on disarmament.

On 17 May, the OLA accused the government of launching an **"all-out offensive"** after talks concluded, with fighting reported in parts of central, west and southern Oromia.

### 2 ↘ Authorities refused to restore TPLF's political party status

On 13 May, the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) **denied the TPLF's request** to restore its legal registration as a political party, cancelled in January 2021 after war broke out. The NEBE said the TPLF can submit a re-registration request, meaning legally it would become a new political party. The TPLF and Tigray's Interim Regional Administration denounced the decision.

On 23 May, thousands of **displaced Tigrayans protested**, demanding outside forces from Eritrea and Amhara withdraw to allow their return home.

### 3 → Human rights body criticised security operations in Amhara

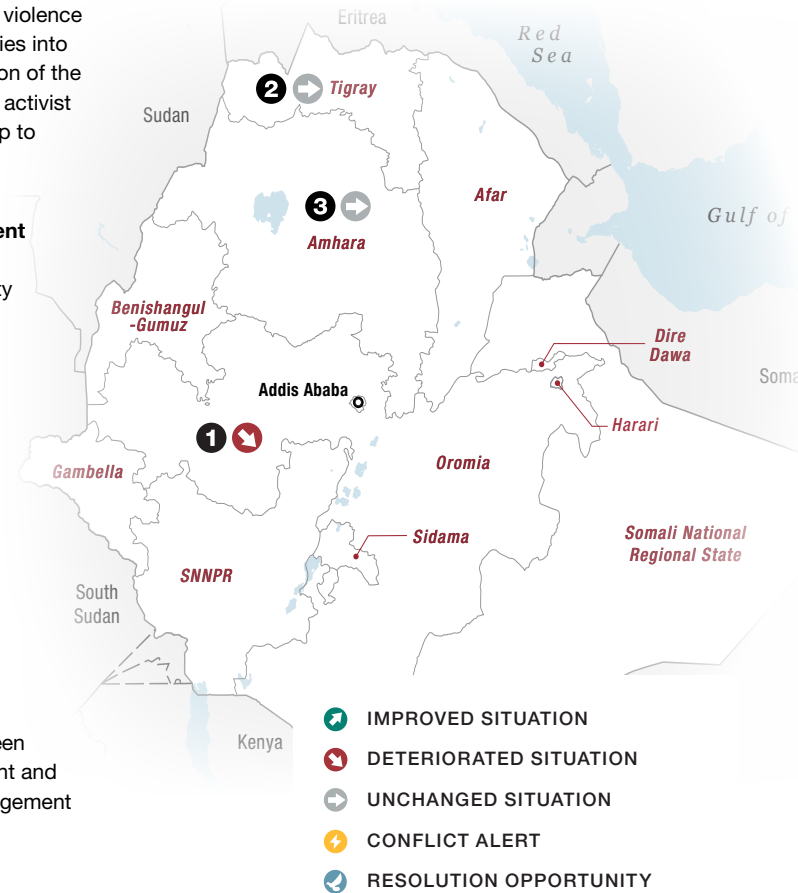
**Tensions eased** in Amhara following April violence over plans to integrate regional paramilitaries into federal security structures, though suspicion of the federal government persisted. On 20 May, activist Eskinder Nega formed a new militant group to resist the federal government.

On 9 May, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission accused the **"law enforcement campaign"** in Amhara, launched after the late-April assassination of a ruling Prosperity Party official, of "arbitrary arrests, inappropriate treatments of people in custody [and] disproportionate use of force".

## WHAT TO WATCH

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

Negotiations between the government and OLA may continue, though renewed fighting makes this less likely. To produce agreement, **compromise is needed** between government demands for OLA disarmament and the OLA's desire for a power-sharing arrangement in Oromia.



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

## TRENDS TIMELINE

