



ETHIOPIA

WHAT HAPPENED IN MAY?

Tigray leaders reported pushing back an **Eritrean offensive** and announced a mass prisoner release. The truce between federal and Tigray authorities held and aid deliveries to Tigray significantly increased. Elsewhere, authorities carried out mass arrests in Amhara region.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

After weeks of relative calm, Eritrea-Tigray clashes raised the **risk of renewed conflict** in northern Ethiopia. If war resumes, federal forces could be pulled onto the battlefield, especially in Western Tigray, hindering humanitarian operations and disrupting farming.

APRIL TRENDS

The fragile truce announced in March between the federal government and Tigray forces continued, but humanitarian aid flowing into the embattled region remained grossly insufficient. Elsewhere, violence continued and **religious tensions flared** in Amhara and the Southern Nations regions.

1 → Border clashes flared, aid to Tigray increased

Clashes erupted between Tigray and Eritrea's forces on 8 May in Badme and Rama border areas. On 30 May, Tigray authorities claimed they repelled an Eritrean offensive launched on 24 May, **killing or wounding over 300 Eritreans**.

The March truce between the federal government and Tigray held. Tigray said it **released over 4,200 "prisoners of war"** on 20 May. Federal authorities claimed releasees were civilians, not soldiers. The biggest aid convoy since the truce departed for Tigray on 27 May.

2 ↘ Mass arrests in Amhara, rebel surrender in Benishangul-Gumuz

As part of a crackdown against militia fighters, federal and allied Amhara authorities announced the **arrest of over 4,500 people in Amhara** on 23 May. Detainees included former Amhara special forces commander Tefera Mamo, over 200 people accused of illegal militia activity, and at least 18 media personnel.

Elsewhere, local officials said on 11 May that **over 1,000 rebels had surrendered in Benishangul-Gumuz region**, where ethnic Gumuz and Amhara militants have been active.

3 → Deadly violence in Oromia continued

Hostilities persisted between federal and regional forces and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) in West Arsi, West Hararghe, Guji, West Shewa, and North Shewa zones. **At least 30 civilians were killed**.

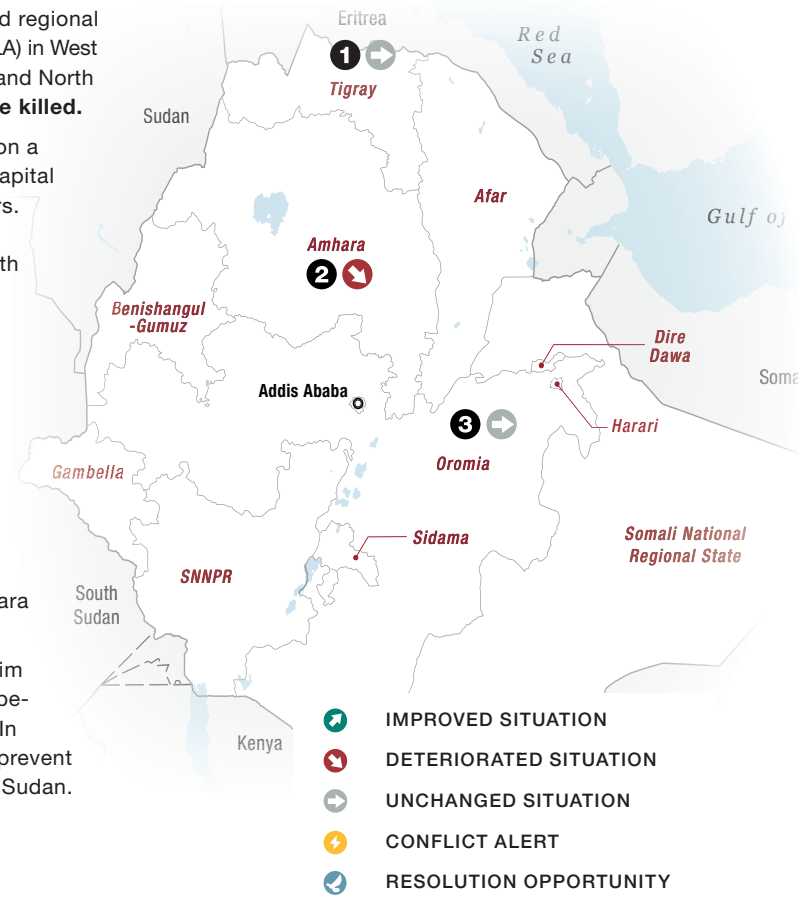
On 18 May, the OLA claimed an attack on a military camp in Sululta town near the capital Addis Ababa, allegedly killing 16 soldiers. On 21 May, the military reportedly killed **44 OLA rebels** and captured five in North Shewa's Worejarso district.

WHAT TO WATCH

Skirmishes and tensions between Tigray and Eritrea's forces carry the most risk of escalating into **full-blown war**.

Although the federal-Tigray peace process is intact, **rising federal-Amhara tensions** due to the crackdown on militias could lead to increased Amhara armed resistance to federal authorities.

Tigray's leaders may also seek to reclaim **Amhara-occupied Western Tigray**, especially if aid deliveries remain piecemeal. In turn, federal troops could re-engage to prevent Tigray's forces creating a supply line to Sudan.



TRENDS TIMELINE

