



ETHIOPIA
23 NOVEMBER 2021
SPOT REPORT

SPOT REPORT: TIGRAY FORCES ADVANCE FURTHER SOUTH 220KM FROM ADDIS

WHAT HAPPENED?

TPLF (Tigray People's Liberation Front) forces have reportedly reached the town of Showa Robit which is located on the A2 route, 220km northeast of Addis.

Prime Minister Abiy, a former soldier himself, has announced he would be in the battlefield leading federal forces from Tuesday 23rd December. No information on the specific area has been given.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The TPLF having expressed its intentions of moving towards the Ethiopian capital. Consequently, at the beginning of the month (2nd November), the Ethiopian government has declared a six-month nationwide state of emergency calling citizens to take up arms and proceeding with arbitrary arrests of anyone believed to be linked with the TPLF. Those included the controversial detention of UN local staff.

TPLF have made significant advances southwards towards the capital, including key strategic town of Kombolcha, Kemise and now Showa Robit on the A2 road. They have now allied themselves with the OLA (Oromo Liberation Army).

BE AWARE:

- The airport remains functional with no reported disruptions. However, reports from the US suggest that TPLF have access to surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft guns which can pose a threat to commercial airlines.

ADVICE:

- Monitor the situation closely.
- Expect communications blackout within Addis – be prepared to use alternative means and consider decentralizing decision making.
- Review your HRE (Hibernation, Relocation and Evacuation) plans and consider triggers to activate any action:
 - Communication breakdown
 - Advance of forces up to 100km from Addis Ababa
- Avoid travelling to affected areas and limit movement if possible.
- UK and US embassies have advised national staff in Ethiopia to leave the country - International staff in Ethiopia should consider departing the country this week.



SPOT REPORT

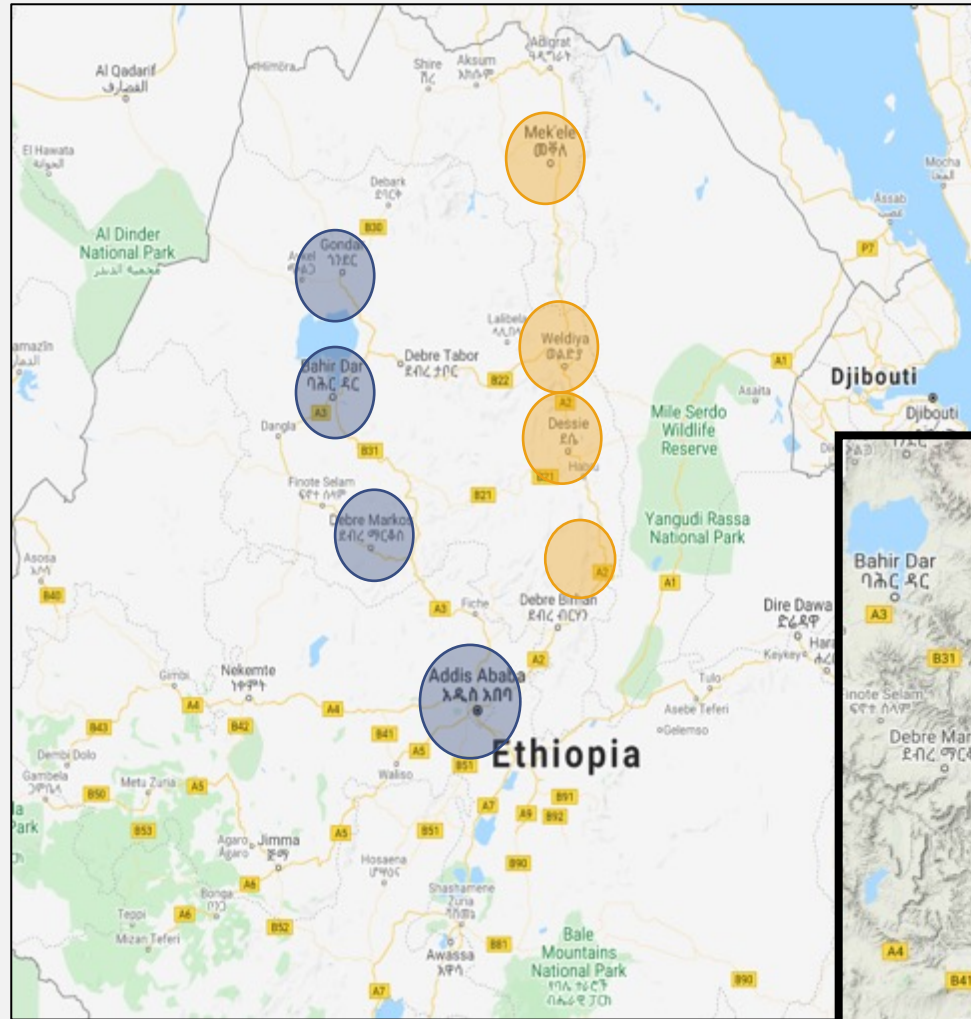
Situation – 22nd November

The conflict in the Tigray region has started in November 2020 over political disagreement – and has significantly escalated at the beginning of the November.

[Check our first Ethiopia sport report from 4 November](#)

	Mekelle	The TPLF is in control of Mekelle since June 2021. In the past few weeks they have captured strategic cities.
	Dessie	
	Kombolcha	The conflict continues to escalate with the TPLF and OLF (both declared terrorist organisation by the Ethiopian government) capturing Shewa Robit.
	Kemise	
	Shewa Robit	They are allegedly heading to Debre Birhan down the A2 route to Addis.



*reports of the groups' advance are conflicting



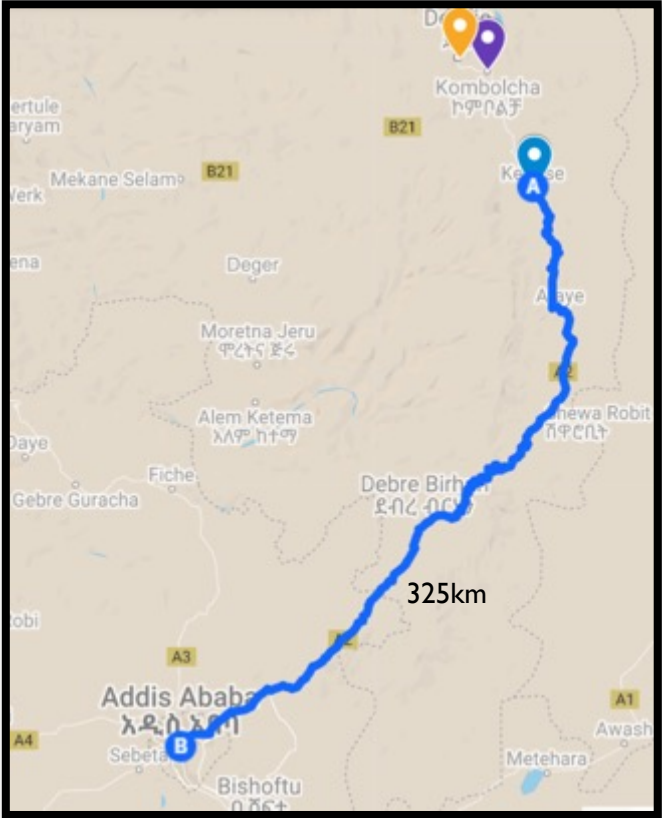
-  Controlled by Federal forces
-  Controlled by TPLF



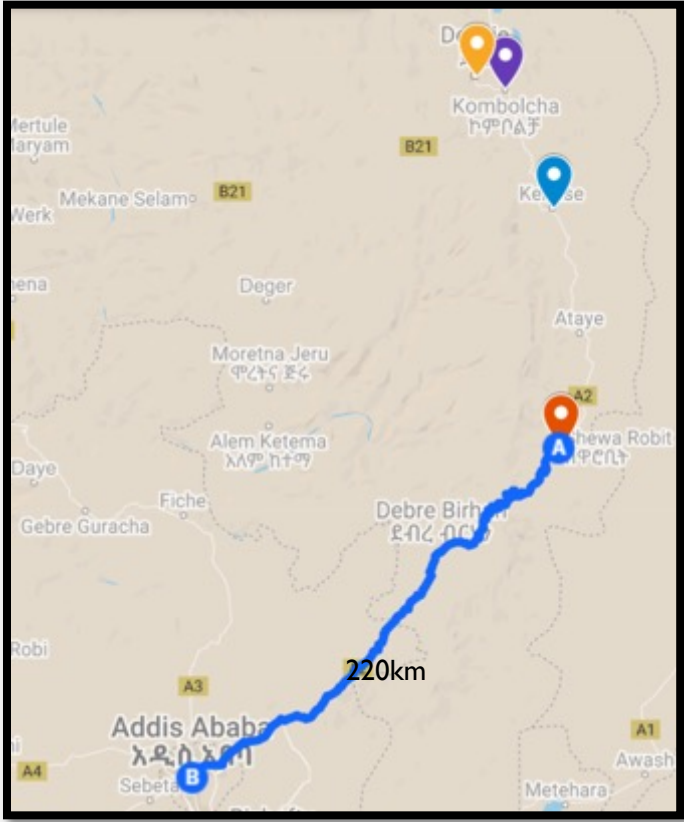
SPOT REPORT

	Mekelle
	Dessie
	Kombolcha
	Kemise
	Shewa Robit

Situation as of 4th November



Situation as of 23rd November



*reports of the groups' advance are conflicting



SOURCES & LINKS

- <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20211101-ethiopian-forces-battle-tigrayan-rebels-for-control-of-key-town>
- <https://www.cfr.org/blog/one-year-ethiopias-tigray-conflict-no-closer-political-solution>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/18/us-warns-pilots-of-possible-surface-to-air-fire-in-ethiopia>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/23/ethiopias-abiy-vows-to-lead-army-from-the-battlefront>
- <https://www.dw.com/en/un-says-16-local-staff-detained-in-ethiopia/a-59770619>



Our Background

Developed over the past 10 years, our bespoke services and tools enable companies and NGOs to reduce risk, respond to critical incidents, and meet their Duty of Care and safeguarding standards for staff and contractors.

Led by Lord West, the former UK Minister for Security and Counter Terrorism, our team has a vast amount of corporate, international development, and military experience. We have an in-depth understanding of local and global security threats. This high-level security expertise, enhanced by our localised footprint, sets us apart from other providers.

Spearfish has also established Spearfish West Africa and Spearfish South Asia. Having a permanent team across both these regions ensures a continuous and stable presence. We are closer to client operations which, in turn, provides a more direct level of support for security planning, operations management and incident response.

Our UK head office adds capacity to our advisors, leveraging our international experience to inject a deeper pool of knowledge to supplement pragmatic workable solutions for our clients. Spearfish ensures the highest international standards to our customers, delivered by our local experts.



What we do

Spearfish not only takes into consideration the location of a client, but also makes sure we understand the type of organisation that we are working with.

Our Support reinforces and compliments your organisation's processes and needs. We empower and enable you to deliver effectively, using an approach that is sensitive to context. Our facilities and transparent cost structure enable a high level of cases with cost control. Each product is grouped into three tiers to give a scalable level of service. Each product is grouped into three tiers to give a scalable level of service. We also offer a subscription service which includes, location specific news alerts and Newsletters, Interactive and access to our online Security Risk Assessment Library and Interactive live Map.

Key services

- Risk Analysis and Design**
Our bespoke analysis methodologies help you understand the local environment and put the appropriate plans and contingencies in place to facilitate delivery in complex environments.
- Environmental Training**
Different environments require varied levels of preparedness. Our Travel Safety and HEAT courses, both Virtual and Practical, focus on the skills required to stay safe in a country of interest.
- Operational Support**
Our embedded consultants provide an enduring solution to your risk management needs, allowing organisations to meet their duty of care obligations in a cost-effective way.
- Crisis Response**
Our Crisis Management services enable you to prepare for, and respond to, incidents and to keep your crisis management processes fit for purpose.

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No two companies are identical and much of our training involves a combination of these services to best suit our client.
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