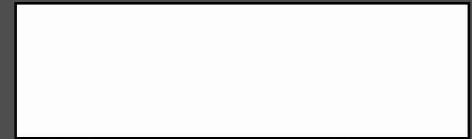


# ETHIOPIA



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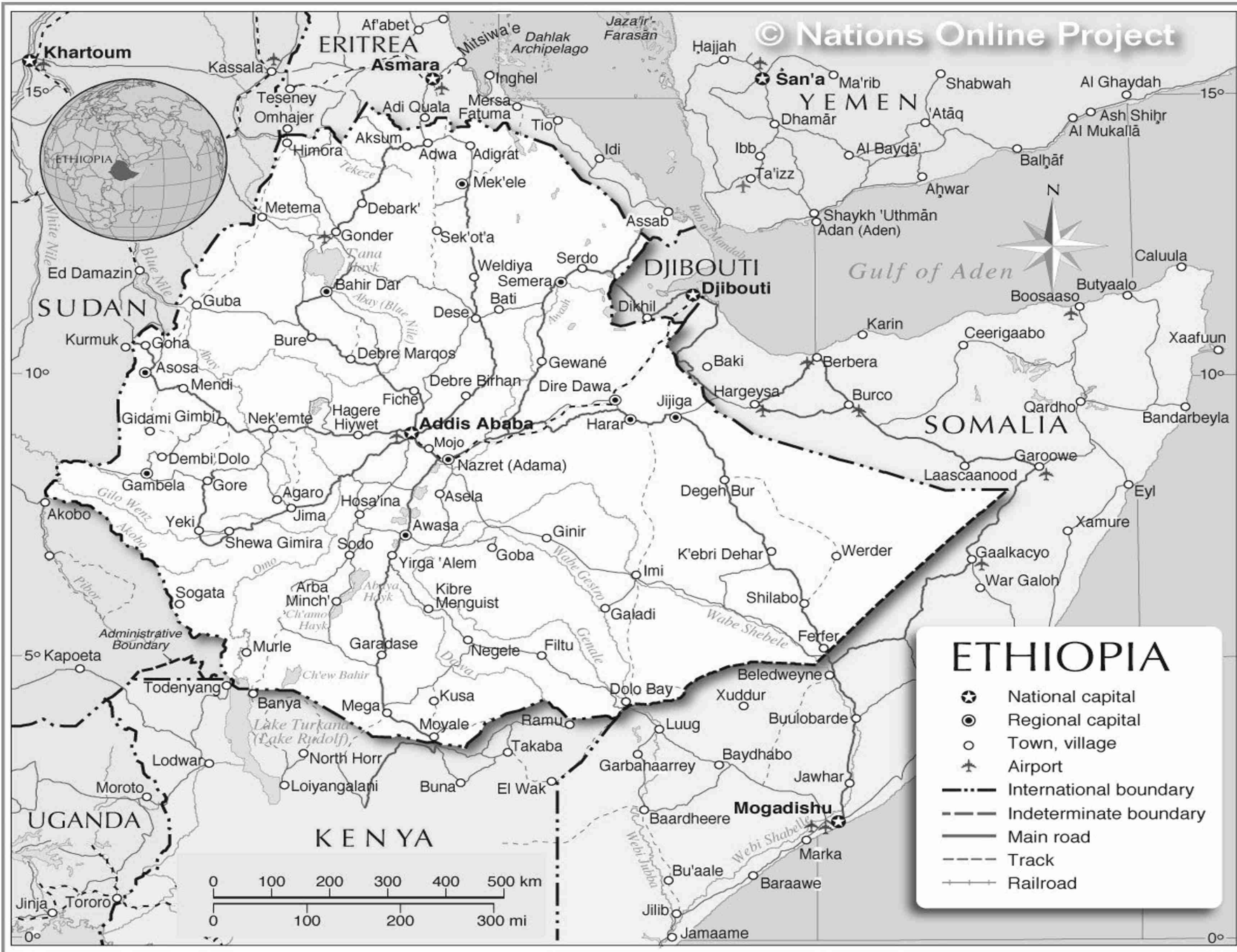
**Researcher**

**Horn of Africa/RAIO/RU**

**JULY 14, 2020**

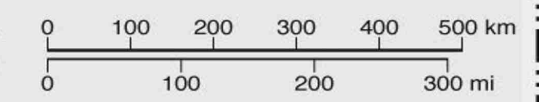
# OUTLINE

- **Overview**
- **Demographics**
- **Government of Ethiopia**
  - **Ruling Party and Leadership**
  - **State Security and Security Forces**
- **Opposition**
  - **Political vs. Armed Opposition**
- **Recent Developments**
- **Regional Violence**



# ETHIOPIA

- ★ National capital
- Regional capital
- Town, village
- ✈ Airport
- International boundary
- - - Indeterminate boundary
- Main road
- - - Track
- +— Railroad



# HISTORY: OVERVIEW

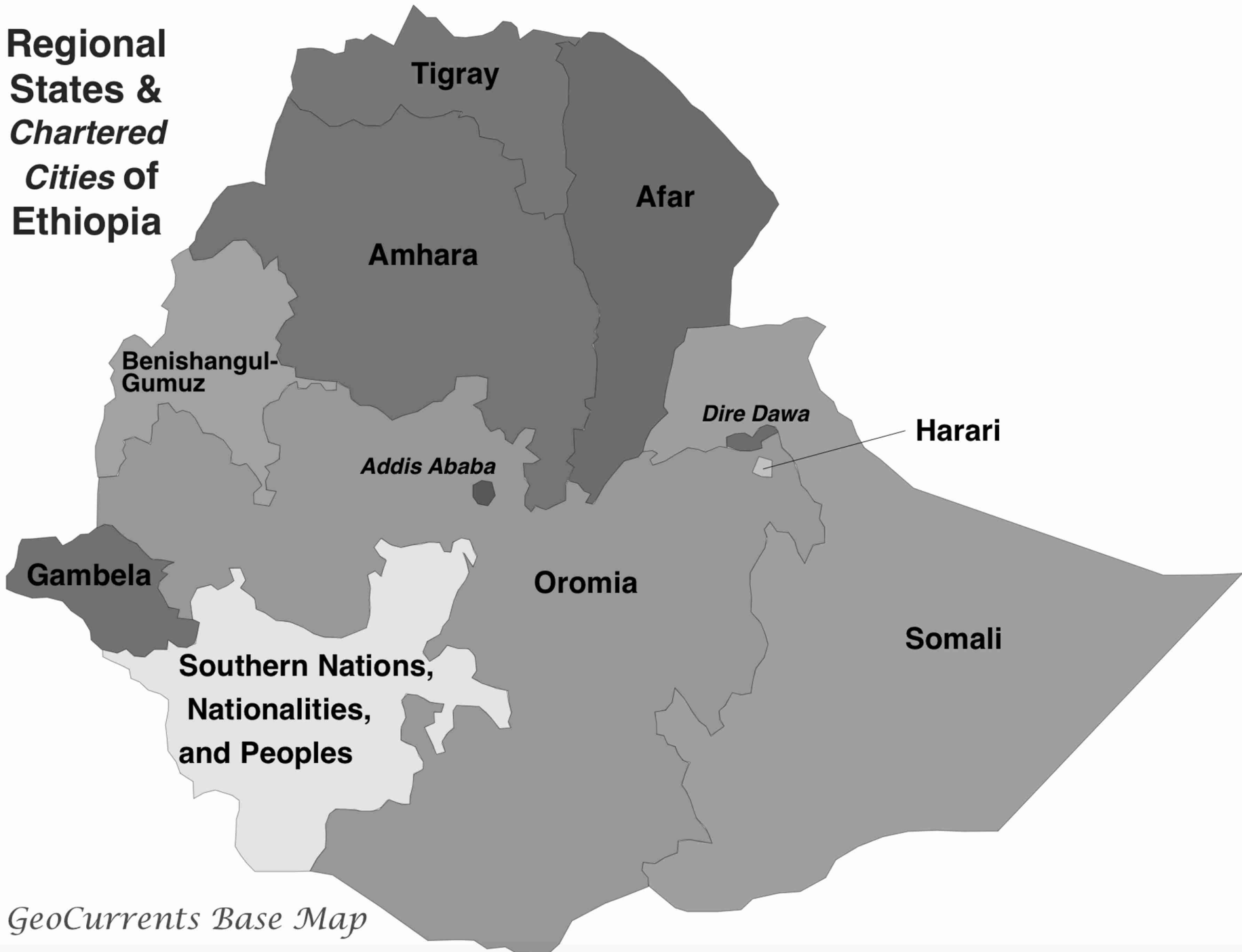
- 1930-1974: Emperor Haile Selassie
- 1974-1991: the Derg (Armed Forces Coordinating Committee)
- 1991: coalition led by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) ousted the Derg
- 1994: established nine ethnically - based regional states



# DEMOGRAPHICS

- Nine Regional States: Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Benishangul-Gumuz, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), Gambella, and Harar
- Ethnic Groups: Oromo is largest (35%), Amhara is second largest (27%)
  - ❑ 80 different ethnic groups in Ethiopia
  - ❑ Total population: 105 Million (est.)
- Languages: Amharic, Oromo, Somali, Tigrigna, Sidamo, Gurage
- Religion: Ethiopian Orthodox (44%) and Sunni Muslim (34%)
- Kebeles and Woredas: regional administrations

**Regional  
States &  
Chartered  
Cities of  
Ethiopia**



# OROMO

- Two major groups
  - Borena Oromo
  - Barentu Oromo
- Gada system
  - Traditional governing structure
- Religion: Christian and Muslim communities
- Language: Oromo or Afan Oromo or Oromiffa
- Location: Oromia
  - Eastern, central and western parts of Ethiopia
  - Population: 40 million (est.)

# AMHARA

- Second largest ethnic group
- Language: Amharic
  - Related to Ge'ez
- Religion: mostly Christian
  - Orthodox Church
- Location: Amhara Region
  - Capital - Bahir Dar
  - Northern and central part of Ethiopia
  - Population: 20 million (est.)



# GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA (GOE)

- Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)
  - Coalition from Tigray, Amhara, Southern & Oromo regions
- Leadership: Abiy Ahmed
  - Hailemariam Deslagn: resigned in Feb. 2018
  - President Sahle -Work Zewde
- Legislature: bicameral
  - House of People's Representative
  - House of the Federation



# GOE: RECENT UPDATES

- November 2019: Prosperity Party
  - Membership goal: includes all ethnic groups
  - “Medemer” - merit versus ethnic alliances
  - Opposition from the TPLF and some Oromo political groups and leaders
- March 2020: August elections postponed due to COVID-19
  - Opposition from several groups and parties
  - Tigray region request to hold regional election denied

# STATE SECURITY

# GOE: ARMY

- Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF)
  - Ground Forces and Air Force
  - Age of service is 18
- Size: peak during border war (1998-2000)
  - 60,000 to 250,000
- Demographics
  - Officer core - traditionally from the Tigray ethnic group
  - PM Abyi's reforms
- June 2019: assassination of Army Chief Mekonnen



# GOE: POLICE

- Ethiopian Federal Police
  - Special police (Liyu Police)
  - Federal and regional prisons
  - Republican Guard Unit



- Anti-Terror Proclamation Act (ATP) 2009

- Broader arrest and detention authority
  - May request to detain for 28 days, up to four months (maximum)
  - January 2020: ATP amended to Proclamation to Prevent and Control Terrorism
- [Interpol- Ethiopia Federal Police](#)



# GOE: INTELLIGENCE

- National Intelligence and Security Services
  - Intelligence, border security and criminal investigations
  - Several leadership changes
  - Senior officers: several members removed for corruption
- NISS Proclamation July 2013
  - January 2020: currently under review
- Information Network Security Agency (INSA) 2011
  - Ethio Telecom: state-owned telecommunication company
  - Computer Crime Proclamation June 2016

**OPPOSITION**

# ELECTIONS

- National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE)
  - Constitutionally mandated
  - Duties: all aspects of the electoral process
  - Leadership: nine-member board
    - November 2018: appointment of Birtukan Mideksa
  - August 2019: new legislation
- Elections: 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015
  - 1995: first elections post-Derg
  - 2005: Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD)
    - Won 109 seats and boycotted parliament-fraud concerns



# OPPOSITION (PRE-APRIL 2018)

## Political Groups      Designated Armed Groups

- Medrek
- Unity for Democracy and Justice
- Ethiopian Democratic Party and All Ethiopian Unity
- Semayawi (Blue) Party
- Zone 9 Bloggers
- Regional: Gambella, Sidama

- **Oromo Liberation Front**
- Ogaden National Liberation Front
- **Ginbot 7**
- Al-Shabaab

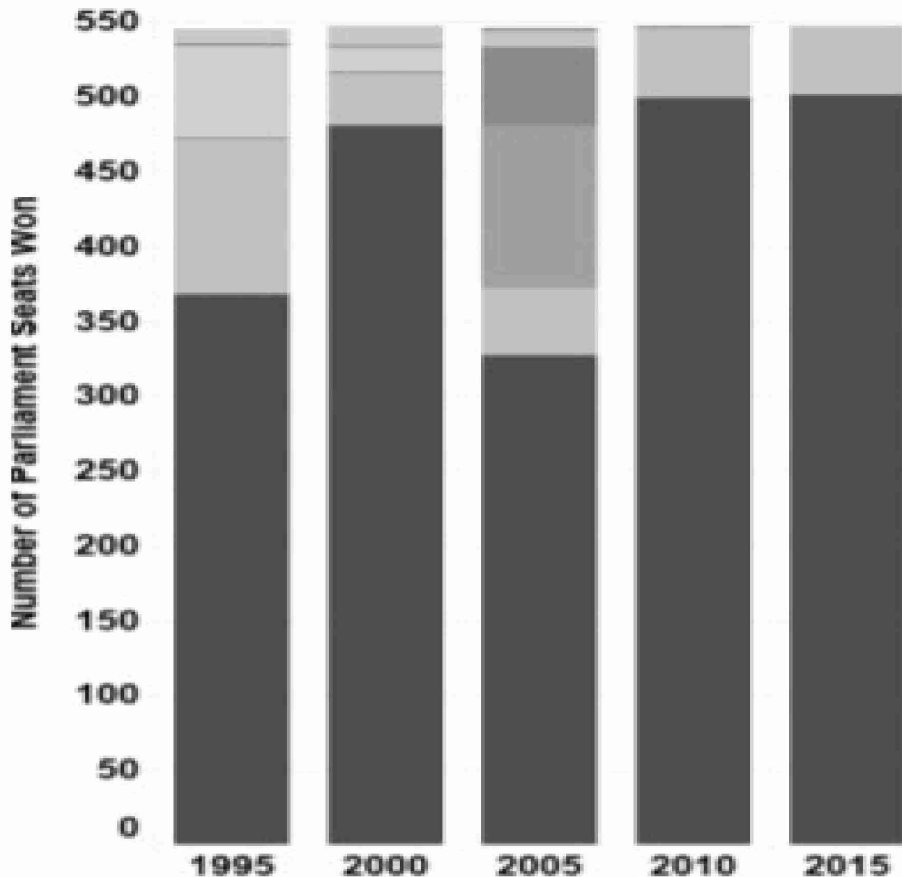
# 2005 AND 2010 ELECTIONS

- May 2005 elections: largest protests against GOE
  - Opening of political system: access to state media, debates, rallies
  - Nov. 2005: public protests turned violent
    - ❑ Issues with voter intimidation, mistreatment of opposition members (detention, harassment)
    - ❑ CUD boycott of parliament
    - ❑ 131 opposition leaders, journalists and civil society member arrested and over 200 people killed
- May 2010 elections: less opposition seats in parliament
  - Medrek: won a single seat among 487 candidates

# 2015 ELECTIONS

## Party Name

- Independent
- MEDREK: Ethiopian Federal Democratic Unity Forum
- OFDM: Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement
- Other opposition parties
- UEDF: United Ethiopian Democratic Forces
- CUD: Coalition for Unity and Democracy
- EPRDF-affiliated parties
- EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front



➤ 100 percent of vote to EPRDF

- Monitoring, harassment, arrest of legal opposition groups
- Arrests: Semayawi Party, Medrek, Zone-9 bloggers

# GINBOT 7

➤ Established on May 15, 2008

➤ Leadership

- Berhanu Nega
- Andargachew (Andy) Tsege

➤ Formerly based in Eritrea

➤ July 2015: Patriotic Ginbot-7

- Merged with Ethiopian People's Patriotic Front (EPPF, Arbegnoch Ginbar)



# OROMO LIBERATION FRONT (OLF)

- Leadership: Chairman Dawud/Daud Ibsa
- Ideology/Mission: right to self determination
  - Oromo Liberation Army (OLA): “low-level guerrilla campaign” (Source: Jane’s)
  - 2020: OLF - political body vs. OLA - “fighters”
- Structure
  - Executive Council - National Council
  - Regional and local organizations
- Area of Operations
  - Asmara, Eritrea
  - South, west, east and central Ethiopia
  - Ethiopia - Kenya border

# ACTIVITIES

- Late 1990s - Early 2000s
  - Small-scale bomb attacks e.g. September 2002 bomb attack in Addis Ababa
- Mid 2000s
  - 2007 - resumption of hostilities
- Late 2000s
  - 2010 - Kenya security forces in Eastern Province
  - June 2011 - listed as terrorist organization by GOE
  - Ethiopia COI Query Response: Master Plan, OLF members *(See pages 25-26 for list of OLA activities, Asylum Research Consultancy, September 7, 2016 )*
- 2019-2020: OLF (Daud Ibsa) vs. OLA faction (OLA “in the bush”)

# OTHER OROMO GROUPS

- Oromo Federation Congress (August 2012)
  - Merger of Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement and Oromo People's Congress
  - 2015: Bekele Gerba arrested with 22 other OFC officials
- Oromo Democratic Front (2013)
  - Lencho Lata: former OLF member
  - 2015: left Ethiopia
- Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO)
  - Member of the EPRDF coalition
- 2018 mergers
  - Nov. 2018: Oromo Democratic Front and Oromo Democratic Party
  - Sept 2018: Oromo Federalist Congress and Oromo Liberation Front (Daud Ibsa)

# OROMO AND OLF

- Dissent and/or protest
  - Protest may equate criticism and/or opposition of GOE
  - Range of community members: business people, medical and education professionals, civil society members
  - Protestors and students
- Actions
  - Refusal to join ruling party, “inherit” suspicion based on family member, dissention
- Arrests and/or Detention
  - Local or federal police, military or intelligence
  - Kebele, Woreda detention centers including Maekelawi detention center
  - Conditional release



# RADIO, TV, NEWSPAPERS

## SOCIAL MEDIA

- State-run television and radio
  - Fana Broadcasting Corporate
- Journalists
  - At least 75 journalists in exile
  - Detained journalists e.g. Eskinder Nega
- Actions
  - Reported suspicion of surveillance
  - Jamming signals of international radio stations e.g. Voice of America
- Internet and Social Media
  - Internet “blackout”
  - Zone 9 bloggers
- March 2020: Hate Speech and Disinformation Prevention and Suppression Proclamation

# PROTESTS 2015-2018



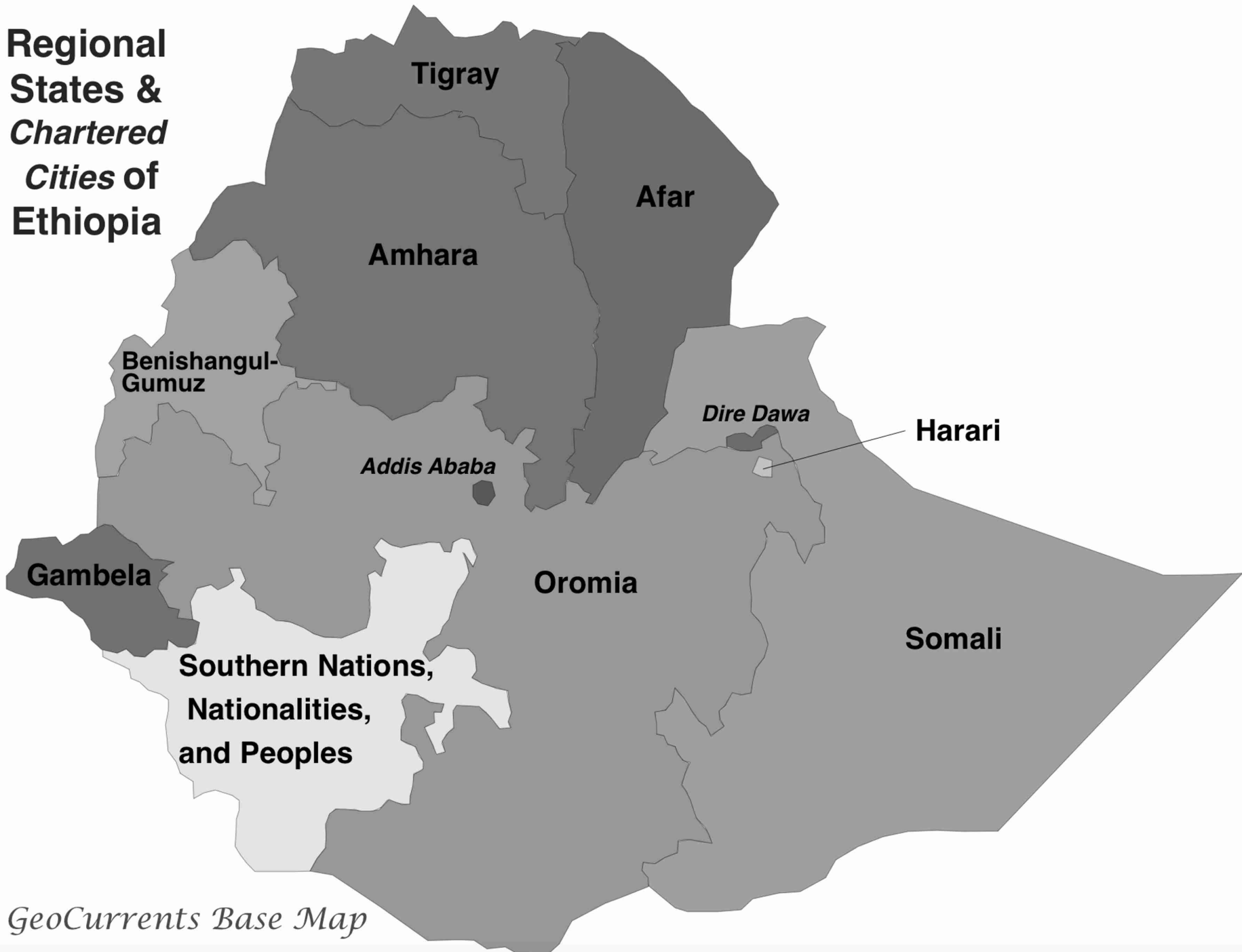
# 2015 PROTESTS

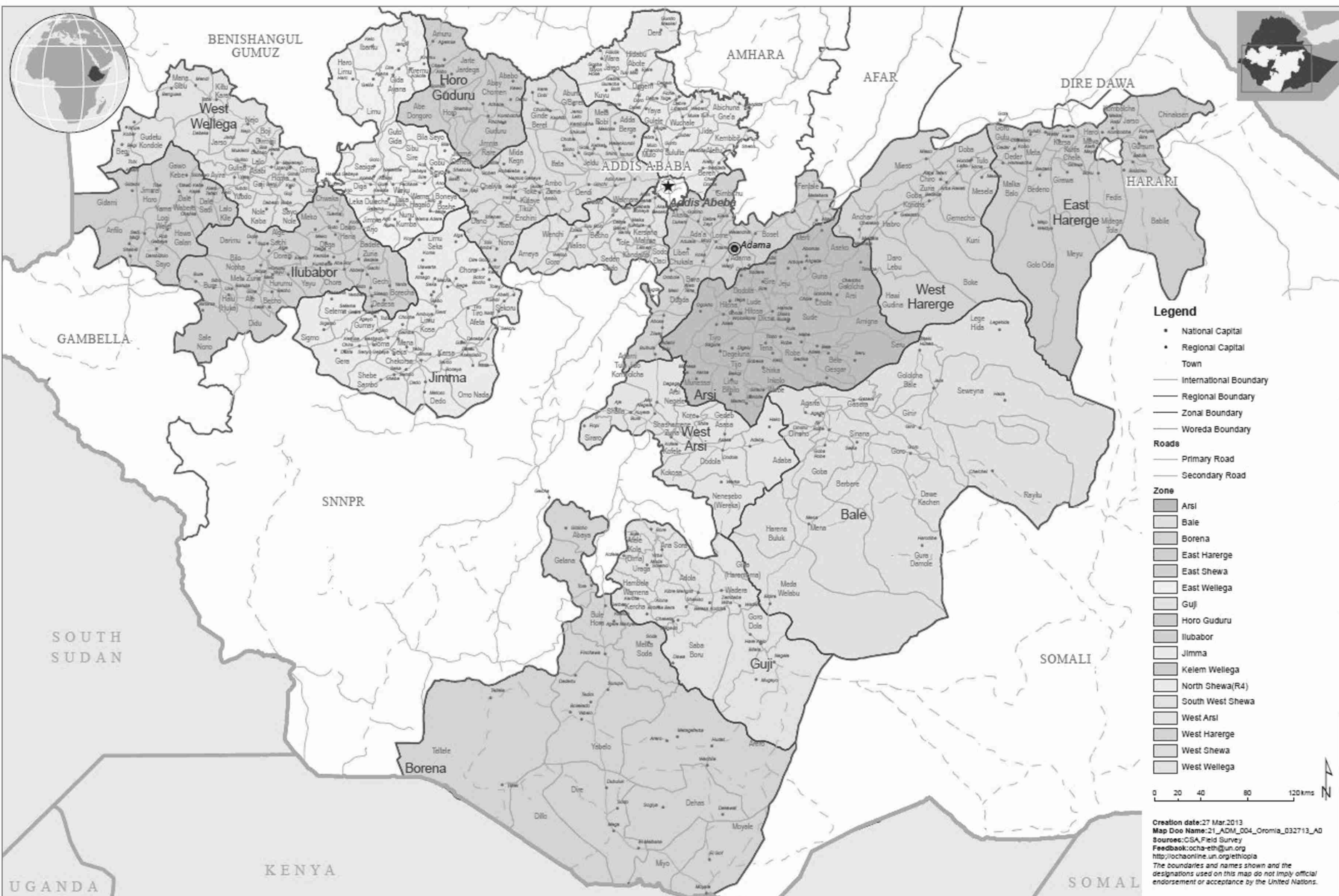
- March and April 2011: large - scale arrests in Oromia and Addis Ababa
- April - June 2014: student protests at Jimma University
  - Integrated Regional Development Plan for Addis Ababa (Addis Ababa Plan)
- Nov. 2015 - Jan. 2016: began in Ginchi - protests also included farmers
  - Protests spread throughout Oromia
  - GOE canceled the Addis Ababa Plan
- Ethiopian Human Rights Project – March 2016

# 2016 PROTESTS

- January 2016: protests continue with broader list of grievances
- July 2016: Amhara region - Bahir Dar and Gondar
- GOE response: security crackdown in both regions
  - Security forces, including military killed, arrested, detained large groups of people (Human Rights Watch 2016)
  - Students, teachers, business people, healthcare workers, people providing assistance or shelter to protestors
  - Leadership from other Oromo political parties
- October 2, 2016: 50 killed during Irreecha festival
- October 9, 2016: State of Emergency Proclamation
  - Ended August 2017

**Regional  
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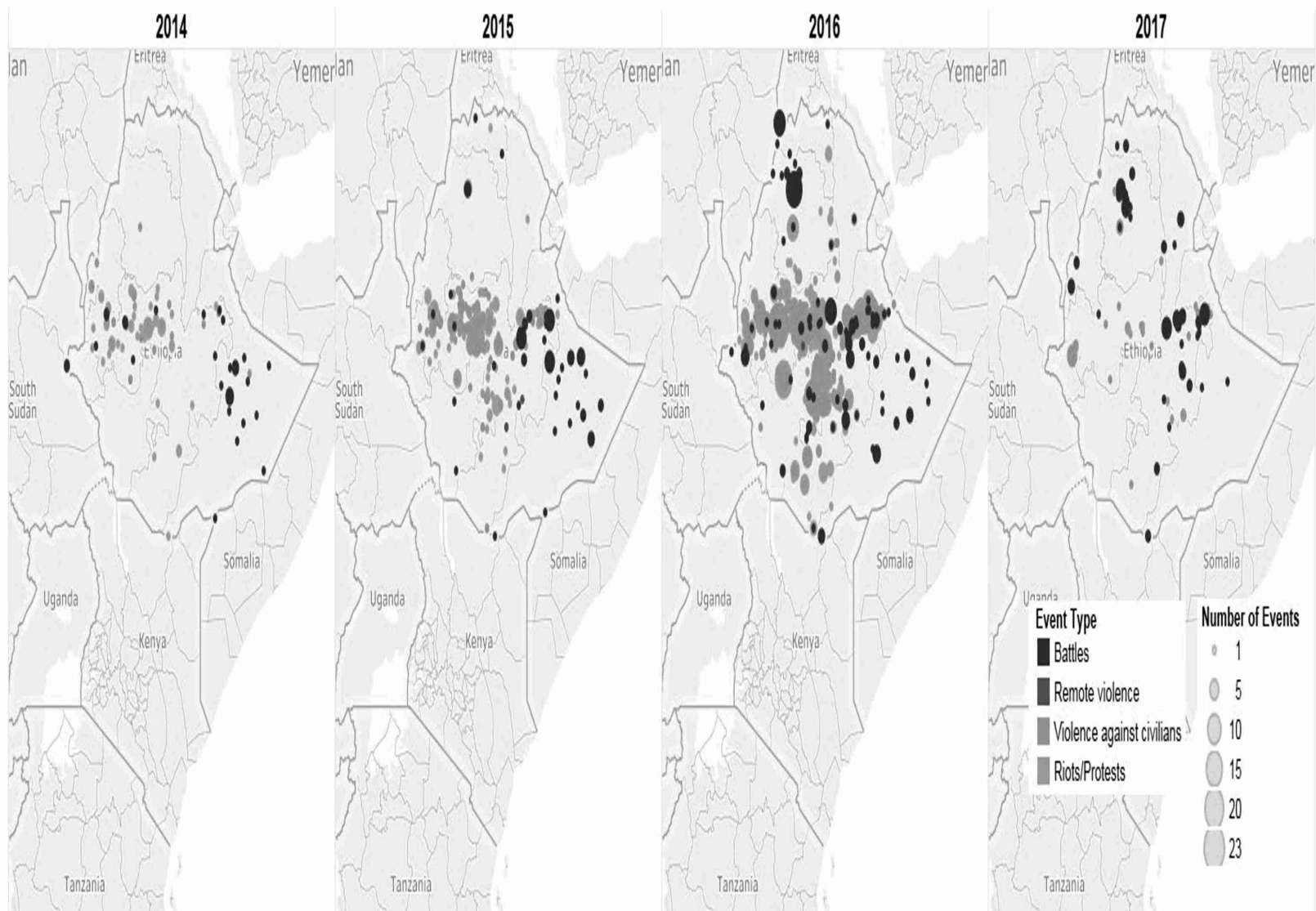
- Legend**
- National Capital
  - Regional Capital
  - Town
  - International Boundary
  - Regional Boundary
  - Zonal Boundary
  - Woreda Boundary
  - Roads
    - Primary Road
    - Secondary Road

- Zone**
- Arsi
  - Bale
  - Borena
  - East Harerge
  - East Shewa
  - East Wellega
  - Guji
  - Horo Guduru
  - Ilubabor
  - Jimma
  - Kelem Wellega
  - North Shewa (R4)
  - South West Shewa
  - West Arsi
  - West Harerge
  - West Shewa
  - West Wellega

0 20 40 80 120 kms

Creation date: 27 Mar 2013  
 Map Doc Name: 21\_ADM\_004\_Oromia\_032713\_A0  
 Sources: CSA Field Survey  
 Feedback: ocha-eth@un.org  
 http://ochaonline.un.org/ethiopia  
 The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Figure 1: Number of Conflict and Riots/Protests by Location in Ethiopia, from 1 January 2014 - 8 July 2017



# PROTESTS: 2017 - APRIL 2018

- Renewed protests and student strikes: spread to other regions including Gurage in SNNPR
- October 2017: 35-day-long “evaluation session”
- February 2018: resignation of Hailemariam
  - Six-month State of Emergency
- April 2018: PM Abiy Ahmed
  - Internet black out lifted
  - Maekelawi detention center closed



**APRIL 2018-PRESENT**

# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (2018)

- Release of Andargachew (Andy) Tsege (Ginbot 7) from death row (May 2018)
- Pardoning of Jawar Mohammed (Oromo Media Network) and Berhanu Nega (Ginbot 7) (June 2018)
- Meskel Square Grenade Attack (June 2018)
- Resolution to remove ONLF, OLF and Ginbot 7 from “terror list” (June 2018)
- Ethiopia and Eritrea Summit and signing of peace treaty (July 2018)

# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (cont'd)

- OLF declared a ceasefire (July 2018)
- Exiled leadership of OLF returns (September 2018)
- Soldiers march on PM Abiy Palace(October 2018)
- Return of 1,500 OLF fighter led to unrest and arrests in Addis Ababa (September 2018)
- Government offense against “Oromo rebels” (January 2019)

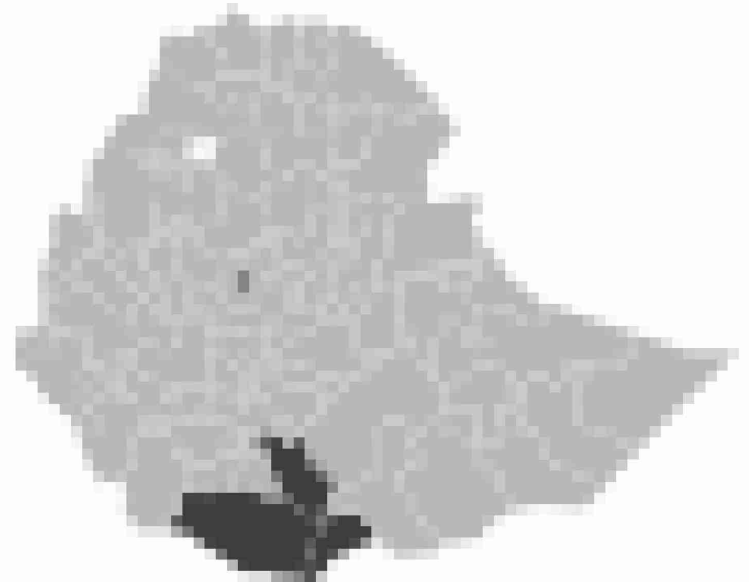
# POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS (POST 2018)

- June 2018: National Movement of Amhara/Amhara National Movement Party
  - Based in Bahir Dar: seat of Amhara regional government
- May 2019: Ethiopian Citizens Party for Social Justice
  - Patriotic/Ginbot 7, Unity for Democracy and Justice, Semayawi Party, All Ethiopian Democratic Party, Gambella Regional Movement and Ethiopian Democratic Party
- May 2019: Ethiopian Unity National Front (National Front)
  - Two national and seven regional political organizations
- January 2020: Oromo Federalist Congress, Oromo Liberation Front and Oromo Nationalist Party coalition
- March 2020: Balderas for True Democracy and AEUP coalition
  - Chairman: Eskinder Nega

# **REGIONAL VIOLENCE**

# SOMALI and OROMIA

- Unresolved grievances between Oromo and Somali ethnic groups
  - Land/border disagreements
  - access to water issues
- 2017- 2018 clashes: one million internally displaced persons (IDPs)
  - June - August 2018: renewed clashes in Jijiga
  - March 2018 and December 2018: Moyale attacks
- February 2019 peace deal and displacement continues



# SOMALI and OROMIA



## ➔ DISPLACEMENT <sup>(1)</sup>

**427,000**

people displaced  
(some 306,000 in East and  
121,000 in West Hararge)

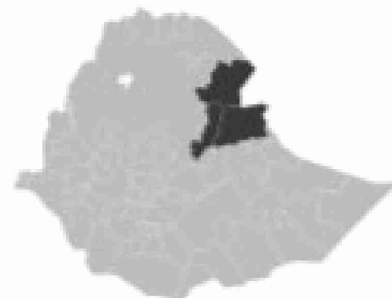
## ➔ RETURN <sup>(1)</sup>

**155,000**

people returned to areas  
of origin  
(86,000 in East and 69,000  
in West Hararge)

(1): According to the Regional Government

- March 2019: government-supported IDP returns
- May 2019: Guji, Borena Moyale - clashes continued
- June 2019: 700,000 people displaced
- January - March 2020: ethnic fighting between Afar, Somali and Oromo (Eastern Oromia) communities



# BENISHANGUL-GUMUZ and OROMIA

- Benishangul-Gumz: large pop. of Amhara and Oromo
  - Berta and Gumuz considered indigenous to this region
  - Kamashi Zone and East Wollega /West Wollega
- June 2018: violence among various ethnic groups
- October 2018: over 100,000 fleeing violence, 60 people killed







The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: 27 November 2018

Ref. number: 01\_IDP\_Benishan\_Wellega\_21112018\_A4

Sources: CSA, UNCS, Field Survey

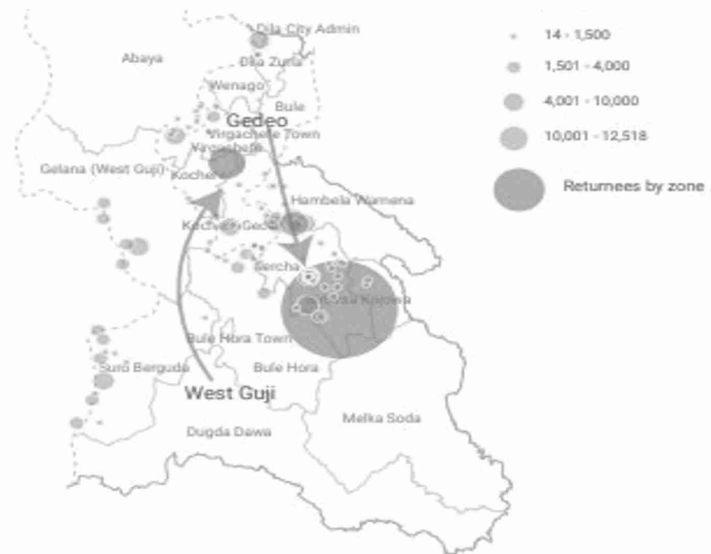
Feedback: [ocha-eth@un.org](mailto:ocha-eth@un.org)

[www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/ethiopia](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/ethiopia) [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

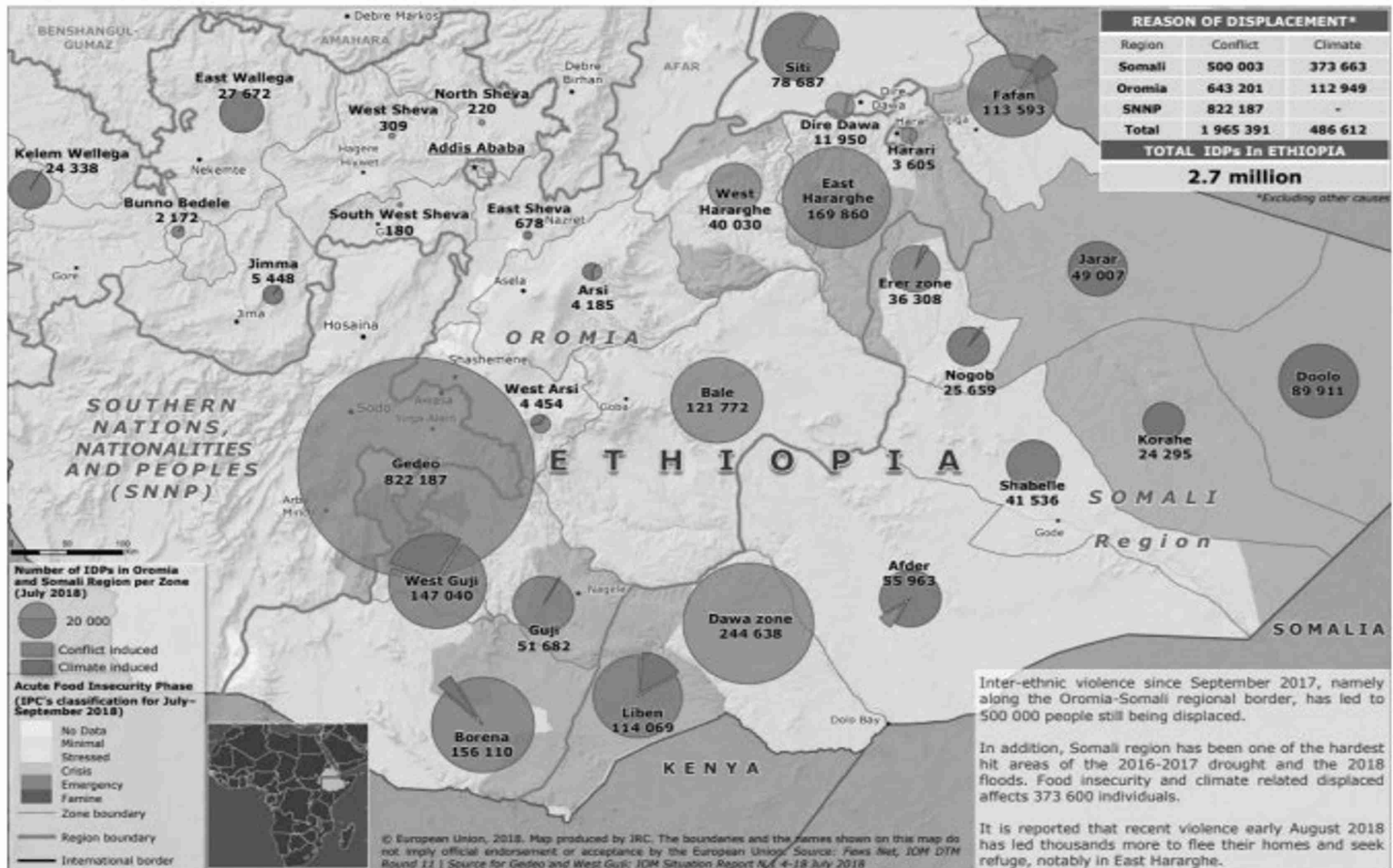
- May 2019: West Wellaga security situation limiting access to humanitarian aid
- May 2019: reports of government enabled returns to “sub-standard sites”
- January - March 2020: fighting between Gumuz, Amhara in Benishangual Gumiz and Amhara regions
- January - March 2020: fighting between Gumuz and Oromo in East and West Wollega in Oromia

# SNNPR and OROMIA

- Inter-communal violence along borders of Gedeo (SNNPR) and West Guji (Oromia)
  - History of land disputes and border demarcations issues
- Close to one million displaced and 75 deaths
  - April and June 2018: escalation of violence
- May 2019: West Guji clashes
  - Safety of IDPs
- January - March 2020: increased GOE presence in West Guji



# Ethiopia | Drought, conflict and displacement in Oromia, Somali and SNNP regions as of 9 August 2018



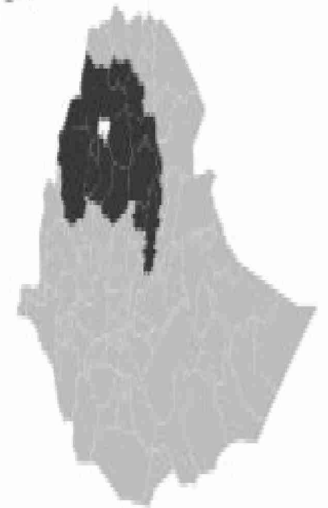
Source: Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) – DG ECHO

## Change and Continuity in Protests and Political Violence PM Abiy's Ethiopia, ACLED, October 2018

# AMHARA

- February 2019: 90,000 IDPs (60,000) displaced in Central and West Gondar zones
  - Qemant/Qimant communities
- June 2019: assassination of regional leader Ambachew Mekonnen and two advisors in Bahr Dar
  - Addis Ababa: Military Chief Seare Mekonnen killed by bodyguard
  - Reportedly led by Brig Gen. Asaminew Tsige - Amhara regional security chief
- GOE Response: arrests of 250 people, including 56 from NAMA
- GOE states similar assassination attempt of local governor in Benishangul-Gumuz

# AMHARA (cont'd)



- January 2019: inter-communal conflict continues
  - Sept. 2018-Oct. 2019: spike in violence between Amhara and Qemant/Qimant communities
- GOE limited response
  - “Fanno”, regional police and kebele officers
- January - March 2020: fighting between GOE and local “militia”
  - March 2020: communication access issues and limited movement in the region

# TIGRAY

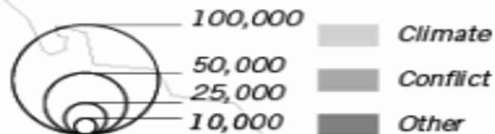
- Inter-communal grievances between the Tigray and Amhara regions
  - Welkait and Raya territories
- October - November 2019: Welkait clashes
  - Proxy conflict: Tigray, Amhara and Qemant/Qimant
  - North-western Amhara region
  - Last quarter of 2018: 200 Qemant/Qimant killed
- Former TPLF leadership in Tigray Region
  - Former NISS chief: Getachew Assefa
- Eritrea and Ethiopia Peace Agreement

# Forced from their homes

## Kamashi

Between October and December 2018, around 62,000 people fled Kamashi Zone in Benishangul-Gumuz state following ethnic violence after the killing of three local police officers.

Internally displaced people per woreda (district) and causes



## Amhara/Tigray

Amhara's claim to Wolkait and Raya territories is a source of tension. Tigray security forces have repressed protesters in Raya, while Amhara protesters and militia have killed Tigrayans.

## Bahir Dar

Dozens of people were killed in fighting during an alleged foiled coup by a rogue state militia in Ethiopia's Amhara region in June 2019.

## Jijiga

Inter-communal violence in Jijiga led to the displacement of 140,000 people in just a few days in August 2018. Local Somalis targeted non-Somalis from highland Ethiopia and attacked churches.

## Moyale

In late 2018, violence in Somali Region's Dawa Zone, including in and around Moyale town, displaced up to 150,000 people. In 2017, nearly one million people were displaced.

## Western Oromia

In January 2019, the federal government announced it had launched military operations in western Oromia as part of a counter-insurgency campaign against the Oromo Liberation Front.

## Gedeo/Guji

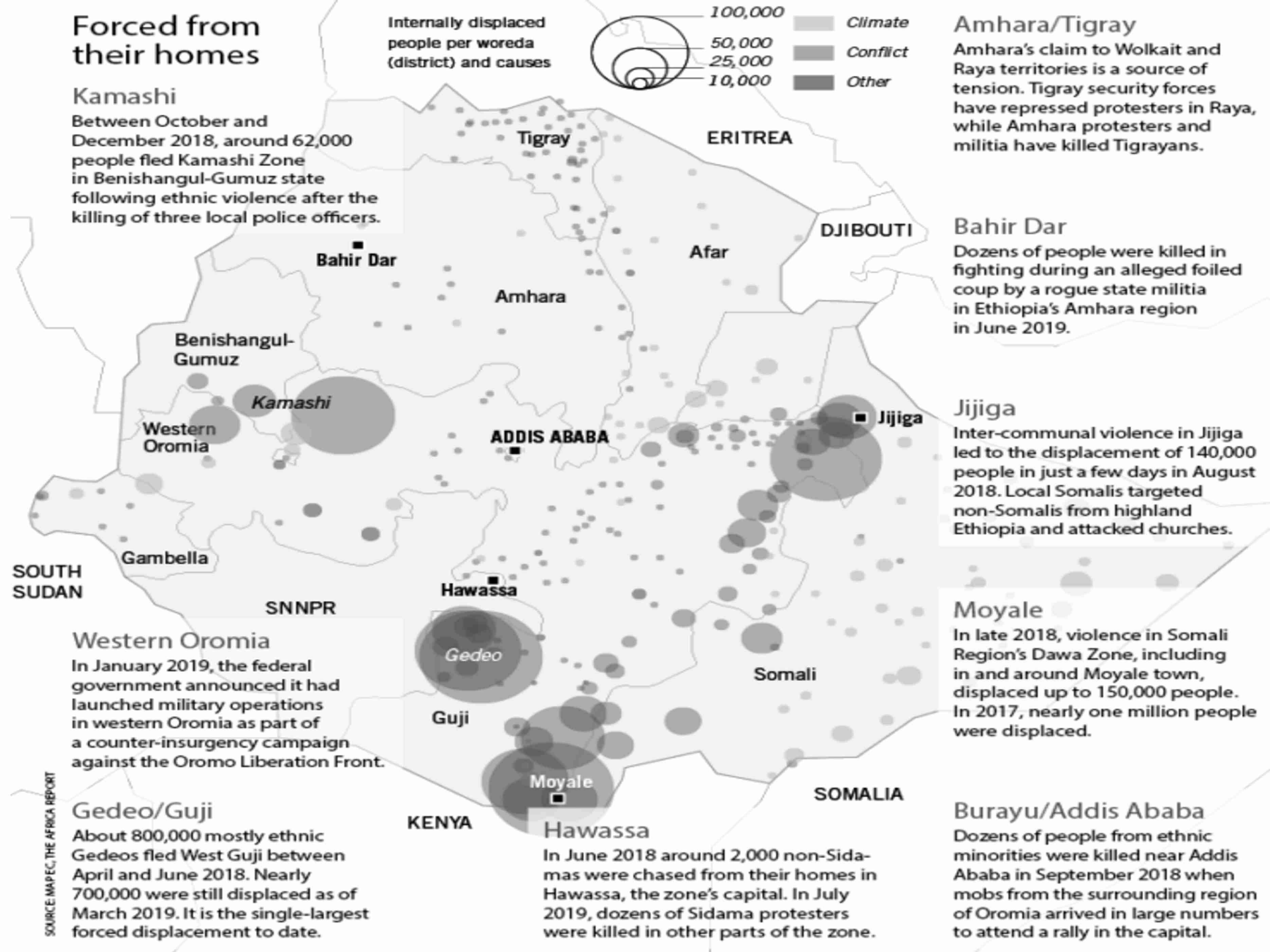
About 800,000 mostly ethnic Gedeos fled West Guji between April and June 2018. Nearly 700,000 were still displaced as of March 2019. It is the single-largest forced displacement to date.

## Hawassa

In June 2018 around 2,000 non-Sidamas were chased from their homes in Hawassa, the zone's capital. In July 2019, dozens of Sidama protesters were killed in other parts of the zone.

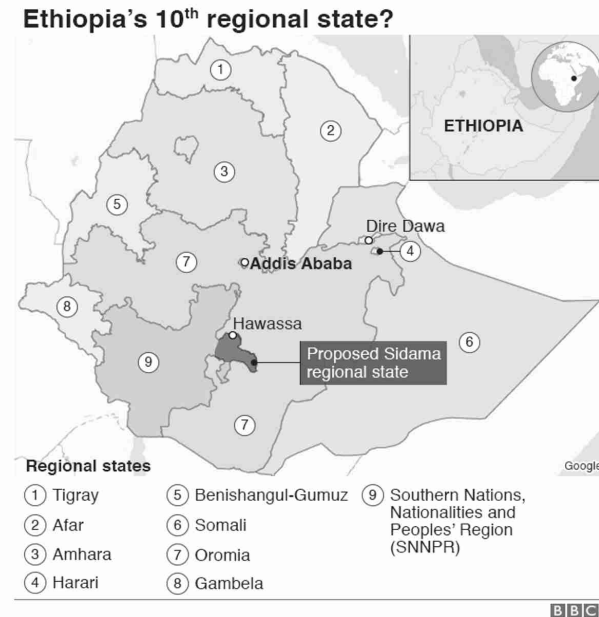
## Burayu/Addis Ababa

Dozens of people from ethnic minorities were killed near Addis Ababa in September 2018 when mobs from the surrounding region of Oromia arrived in large numbers to attend a rally in the capital.



# SIDAMA

- Sidama: 5<sup>th</sup> largest ethnic group in Ethiopia
  - SNNPR: over 50 ethnic groups
  - Pop.: two million in SNNPR
- July 2019: calls for own regional state
  - Delays lead to protests: 25 people died
- November 2019: vote for referendum passed
- Next steps: establish Sidama Regional State





# CURRENT UPDATES: OROMIA

- January 2019: GOE command posts in established in Oromia, Amhara, Harar and SNNP regions
- Oromia: GOE response to new faction of the OLF
  - OLA: splintered from the military wing of the OLF
  - Rejected peace agreement between the GOE and OLF
  - Violence mainly in western and southern parts of Oromia
- October 23 2019: Jawar Mohammed
  - 86 people killed in two days and
  - Qeerroo
- Jan. & Feb. 2020: OLF related arrests
  - 75 “supporters” including Chaltu Takeele
  - West and East Guji zones in Oromia reports of arbitrary arrests and detention



# CURRENT UPDATES

- December 2019: deployment of federal police to 45 public universities
- February 2020: bomb attack in Ambo during a rally in support of the PM
  - 30 injured - GOE states OLA links
- February 2020: several reports of political parties members unable to host meeting, press conferences
  - Including Eskinder Nega and OLF supporters

# CURRENT UPDATES



- June 29 2020: musician Hachalu Hundessa killed
- Arrest of Jawar Mohammed and Bekele Gerba of the OFC
  - Eskinder Nega
- 239 killed and over 3,500 arrested
- July 2020: internet shutdown
  - Two men arrested on July 12, 2020

**THANK YOU**  
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**ERITREA COUNTRY PAGE**

**My Contact Info**

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