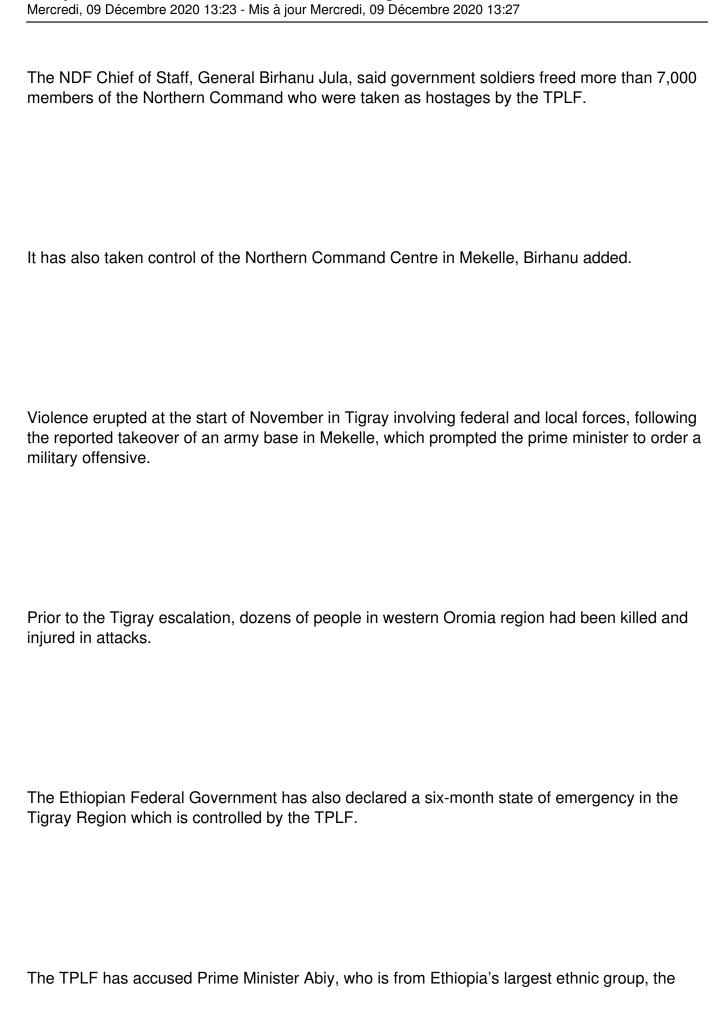
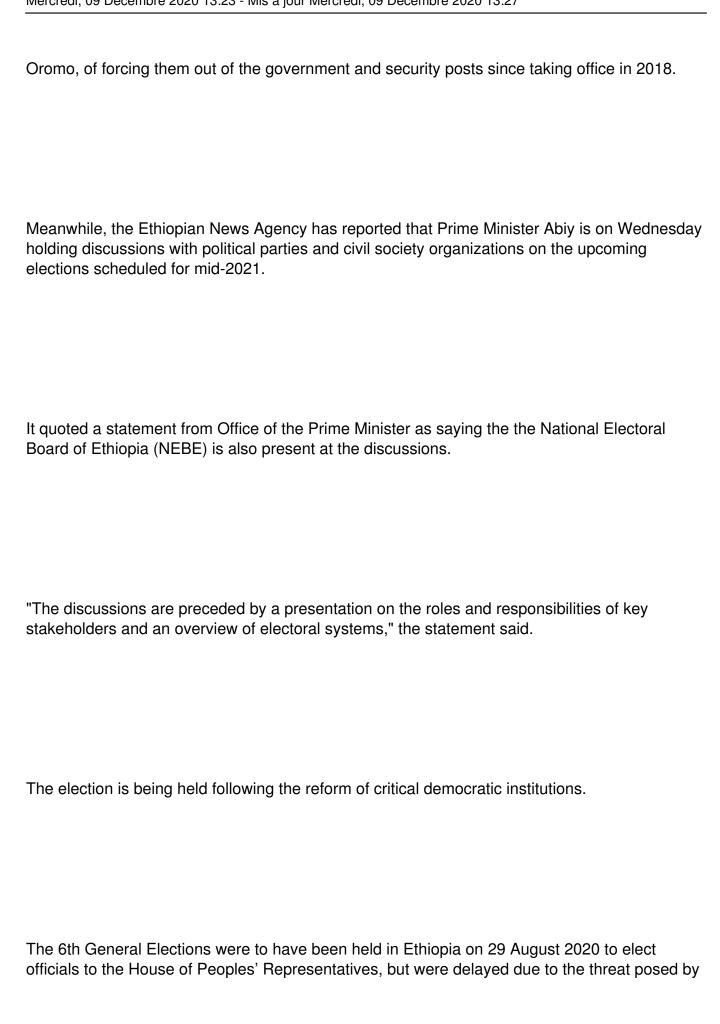
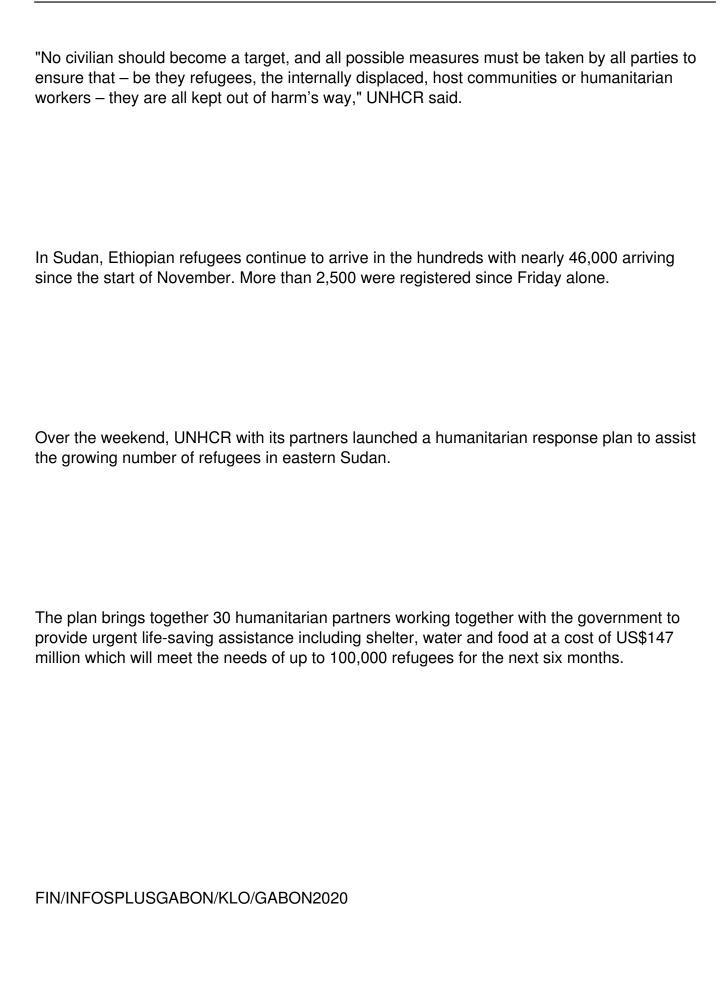
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, December 9 (Infosplusgabon) - A leader of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), whose forces have been defeated by the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (NDF), has surrendered to government forces, the State of Emergency task force announced on Tuesday.
The state-owned Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) reported that "one of the nine central committee leaders of the TPLF, Keria Ibrahim, has surrendered to Federal forces".
ENA said Keria held one of the key federal government posts as former Speaker of the House of Federation "until her resignation to join the clique in Mekelle". She had disagreed with the government to postpone elections planned for August due to the coronavirus pandemic and resigned in June.
The Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced on Saturday that the army had seized control of Mekelle, the capital of the Tigray region in the north of the country, and freed some of its officers held hostage during the three-week-long military assault.





COVID-19 pandemic.
In another development, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is appealing to the federal authorities in Ethiopia for urgent access in order to reach Eritrean refugees in the Tigray region who are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance and services.
In a statement, it said concerns are growing by the hour.
"The camps will have now run out of food supplies – making hunger and malnutrition a real danger, a warning we have been issuing since the conflict began nearly a month ago. We are also alarmed at unconfirmed reports of attacks, abductions and forced recruitment at the refugee camps," UNHCR said.
It reiterated its call for safety and security of refugees saying with the current difficulties in communication and security hampering access it is not possible to verify current conditions in the camps.



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