

Politics > EHRC reports 39 killed in Benishangul Gumuz

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 **By Staff Reporter**

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The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) announced on July 16, 2021 that 39 people have been killed in Benishangul Gumuz since last week, after armed groups attacked two kebelles in restive Bulen woreda.

In its latest statement, the commission indicated that it has been in close discussions with Officials of Benishangul Gumuz, following the death of at least 31 people in Bulen District in two incidents.

According to the statement, armed groups in Emaji Kebelle of Bulen woreda first killed 16 people between July 9 and 10. In what the commission describes a retaliatory attack by armed groups, an additional 15 people were killed the following day, while they were attending the funeral ceremony for those killed on July 10, 2021.

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With the commission deeply concerned, following the July 15th report, it revealed that it has received a report where eight more residents were killed in Denbe Kebelle, while over 4,000 residents have been forced to flee to seek shelter in Minjinga (Belojingafoy) woreda.

The EHRC explained that it learnt of the latest attacks from residents of the area. “Although the gunfire can still be heard near the woreda where they are sheltered, as of the date of publication of this statement [Friday, July 16] security forces are yet to reach the area,” the commission’s statement reads.

EHRC has also extended its calls for an urgent intervention to ensure the protection of persons currently displaced from their homes and are sheltering in Minjinga woreda, and reiterated the importance of bringing perpetrators to justice in order to ensure the full protection, security and safety of residents.

