

Crisis in the Afar region - Fighting between Issa (Somali clan) and Afar between Mille and Adayto

11th June 2008

It has been reported that an outbreak of fighting in Adayto/ Mille central to the region as of Wednesday 11th June 2008.

On Wednesday, Issa began systematically attacking Afar settlements near the Awash River in Mille Woreda. Afar immediately called for assistance and on Thursday morning almost 6,000 Afar came from all woredas in Zone 1, from Afdeera, from Zone 4 and Zone 5. Woreda leaders were there with logistic support. Afar pushed the Issa from their occupation of places in Mille Woreda and were fighting just above the town of Adayto. Issa had the advantage of heavy weapons - Bren and grenades. Afar by mid afternoon ran out of bullets.

They had to immediately evacuate back so Issa re-took the land.

Afar were eager to push the Issa back as they are daily facing animal raiding and killing. It is now quite clear that this conflict could start at any time.