

CHOLERA EPIDEMIC is sweeping Ethiopian regions while the regime is busying itself with Repression and Torture to stifle Democratic Movements

By Kambata Xoola, August 31, 2006
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It is not the first time that Ethiopian regimes have prioritised their repression policies while their citizens are suffering from deliberately caused and natural calamities. Meles's regime is rather demonstrating since it came to power in early 1990s, its inhuman and brutal actions against its citizens while in the other part of the country a form of sufferings unfold with various magnitudes and intensities devastating the citizens.

Such an action reminds us the historical failures of successive Ethiopian regimes to address the needs of their citizens' in the past a half century. The drought of Wello that has been covered up by Emperor's regime in early 1970s and eventually costed many thousands lives; the 1980s excruciating famine that left Ethiopia and its citizens with incurable scare of being an example of beggars that again has been under-emphasised by the then incumbent regime yet to prove their inadequacy and failure to address such needs whenever occur.

At present, the peoples of Ethiopia are suffering water-born diseases, namely **Cholera Epidemic**, after the country suffered the worst flood catastrophe of its kind that claimed more than thousand lives and displaced hundreds of thousands from the areas worst affected since it occurred about three to four weeks ago. The Cholera is sweeping entire country without being limited to the flood affected areas.

The Cholera epidemic is terribly attacking its debilitated victims in most parts of the country including the Capital Addis Ababa, although the government Medias and its officials are undermining the seriousness of the Cholera out-break as simple water born minor problem. In practice, the epidemic has engulfed most regions of the country including, Oromia, Sidama, Ogaden, Amhara, Afar, most southern Ethiopian Zones and other parts of the country while the regime is trying to conceal this fact.

In Ethiopia where its citizens suffer deep-rooted poverty without adequate supply of potable water and proper excreta disposals, high infant and maternal mortality, very high unemployment, lack of single meal a day for its citizens that in turn pre-disposes for variety of infectious diseases without properly built natural defence mechanisms; the likelihood of Cholera's swift spread will be inevitable. To make the situation worst, the government is concealing this fact instead of trying to remedy this grave concern of the nations' of the country are facing in addition to the lingering poverty and gross human right abuses.

Meanwhile, Meles' regime is busying itself devising a strategy to suppress dissents and any democratic movements in the country; and is working day and night on external affairs of neighbouring Somalia, with aims of satisfying its ally's agendas to make the situation grave concern. The concern on internal torture and extra-judicial arrests remains palpable as is the intimidation. His regime interrogates its subjects with brutality of all types and the suppression all over the country becomes a part of daily life. That is where his and his regimes priority lies.

On the other hand, regarding the Cholera out break, WHO disseminated information circular to most NGO staffs that work in Ethiopia weeks ago, although the government hasn't officially acknowledged this information apart from telling its citizens that the diarrhoea is simple 'Water-born disease' mantra. As Meles's regime always disregards the political and basic democratic rights of its citizens, his regime's action is proving the fact that the death of helpless citizens is nothing for the incumbent regime other than simple reduction of bursting population and letting them perish in front of their cruel eyes.

On the other development:- Sidama region Meles's cadres have arranged a pre-condition to transfer an administrative status of Awassa city for which more than 75 innocent Sidama paid a precious sacrifices of lives since May 24, 2002's Awassa massacre; to the federal government. Since the attempt of the regime to shift the administrative status of Awassa from Sidama to the federal government the Sidama people are utterly infuriated and staged-out on demonstration on various occasions that ended up with

indiscriminate massacre of armless and peaceful Sidama demonstrators with live ammunition of government security forces.

The failure of Meles's regime to address such democratically and constitutionally requested Sidama nation's regional administration quest clearly shows his regime's inadequacy and failure to stick to its vows; and further reveals his deceitful and hidden agendas to satisfy his politico-economic interest under the pretext of regionalisation and democracy.

10 sliced to 19:- In the past three weeks and so, his regime split 10 Sidama districts to 19 as gesture for his deceit for that he promised Sidama people to be regionally autonomous when he was faced by furious Sidama elders in early 2006. The reality is proving otherwise. The discontents all over the region remain pervasive as is the spirit of resistance movement resulted by deliberately orchestrated disregard to Sidama basic and constitutional rights.

The Sidama people basically didn't ask Meles's regime to divide their region into pieces; but basic democratic rights of administering their region and managing their resources in a democratic manner rather than being amalgamated with various (44) nationalities who have got their distinct identity and cultures; who are being forced into single region-ship to be able to be ruled together based on the rulers convenience.

Meles's regime once again failed to address the constitutional rights of Sidama peoples' quest. The peaceful struggle of the Sidama people, however, continues unabated until they realise their full potentials.

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