

# **INEXCUSABLE MISTAKE & INESCAPABLE DISASTER FOR REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: the case of Ethio-Somalia**

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## **I. THE STATE OF MELES'S REGIME AND WHY HE IS IN SOMALIA**

Aspiring a new world order, the one based on justice, fairness and peace; peace that benefits equally the large and the small, the strong and the weak; a peace that embrace all regions of the world and reach all citizens is the foundation for any democratic country's basic human rights. Any governance based on this philosophy is fully considered to be a democratic. If this is the case, it will be possible to dream an ideal world where people are treated equally regardless of their regions, colours, ethnicity, political beliefs, and religions.

At present time on paper levels, at least some of these are parts of today's global nations' including Ethiopian dictatorial regime that slaughters its armless and non-combatant citizens and other repressive regimes in all parts of the world. The problems mainly emanate from the lack of implementations mechanisms and depriving the rights of criticizes to decide on their issues and choosing their own ways of lives rather than being dictated by the power-monger authoritarian dictators without consultations and their will.

### **I. 1. Meles's Regime**

Enjoying his donor's tacit politico-strategic support and financial reward packages under the pretext of supporting the poor; Meles's regime is still making the lives of many thousands of Ethiopian's very difficult. While he is striving to satisfy his unquenchable thirst for innocents bloods, many millions are starving to death without a single bread (forget a meal) a day. Thousands are languishing in prison without justice. Others are made victims of Kangaroo courts from federal levels to the regions that are neither independent nor efficient to meet international standards. To divert the attention of its donors that is initiated due to serious oppositions, repeated killings of civilians, emphatic resistances despite blatant killings of innocents by his security forces, internal and external discontents that made his regime restless; Meles has to change his malicious political tactics from internal to the issues of neighbouring fragile Somalia.

At present time, his regime is crushing Somalia whose people are striving to secure law and order in a lawless nation that has been forgotten for about decade and a half by the global community including Ethiopia, under the pretext of protecting its sovereignty and supporting the transitional government of Somalia. Historically, Ethiopia and Somalia fought bitter wars more than two times in the past 50 years for which Ethiopia had upper hands on two occasions; since Haile-Silassie I, and in 1970s with Mengistu Hailemariam's socialist regime. During these two wars, none of Ethiopian leaders attempted to cross Somalia border despite their convincing victories. After they have

fully secured their borders sovereignty, both Meles's predecessors respected international borders and didn't show an act of aggressions. Neither had they invaded other country under whatever the pretexts.

The later is not only invading the country, he is also bombarding its infrastructures since 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2006 causing further humanitarian disaster. Ethiopian regime's military was in Somalia for the past at least at least 6 month under the pretexts of supporting the weakest Somalia Transitional Government (TG) that was only controlling just one of the major cities, (Baidoa) and its vicinity until 27<sup>th</sup> of December 2006. Ethiopian regime remained adamant and kept denying its military presence in Somali apart from military advisers that support and trains TG's military personnel that proved wrong since the fighting erupted in the last two weeks.

## **II. UNCERTAIN FUTURE AND DIVERGENCY OF OPINIONS**

The bombardment forced the Islamic Union Council (IUC) to retreat and finally leave the country for invading Ethiopian army as Meles vowed to end the war shortly and decisively, on December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2006's news briefings. Winning the war became possible for Meles's regime. But it will be equally possible to predict unknown; as the IUC called for Jihadist global movements to come and support them to protect their country from the invading Ethiopian army, notably, 'African Zionist' (according to them). No one can predict what the future hold in that fragile part of the world, particularly, in Somalia.

Another fear is that the opinion of Muslim community that amounts at least 45% of Ethiopian population. ICU called for Jihad and many Ethiopians fear that an internal conflict may arise any time in the future within Ethiopia with external logistic support and ideological, religious and brotherhood unity. If that is the case, it will be a catastrophic failure for Mele's regime.

There are also mixed feelings among Ethiopians in Diaspora and in the country at this very critical moment. Some think and believe that Meles is using the bloods of innocents internally as well as externally simply to grip on power. Others think that Meles's regime is a minority regime that neither represent Ethiopia nor concerns them. Therefore, they think, it is the issues of Tigrian Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) that is on power. His regime is also being blamed for labelling legally elected opposition party (CUD) leaders 'criminals' to keep them in prison without independent judiciary systems. Thus, they believe, the issues of the war are not their concern.

From loyalist affiliates and others those who really think that Ethiopia's sovereignty is under threat, as a result of government owned Media's daily bombardments, the decision to take action against Somalia might be right and justifiable. However, no one internally knows that Meles's air forces are destroying Somalia. Otherwise, the majority of Ethiopia nations hold their values of not invading any another country under whatever the pretext.

The Diaspora also shares the same views on the invasion of Somalia by the Ethiopian regime. A Pro-TPLF/EPRDF led government think that the government has got full right to attack Somalia under whatever the case. Other Ethiopians such as people from Amhara

ethnic background (as their officially elected CUD leaders are arrested without justifiable cases), however, think in terms of real territorial integrity and thus hesitate to officially condemn or sympathise the acts of Ethiopian dictator. Most Ethiopians in Diaspora including myself are fled persecution and believe that the rights of Ethiopian nations are at a grave concern let alone to suggest about Ethiopia's invasion of Somalia. This is simply because the peoples of Ethiopia from various nationalities think and believe that they don't have any power to decide on issues apart from receiving an order of the regime. Therefore the war is neither theirs nor responsible for its consequences. However, all Ethiopian nationalities believe that the worst yet to unfold.

### **III. AN UNPREDICTABLE CONSEQUENCE FOR THE REGION & ETHIOPIA**

Without slightest doubt, Meles's regime won the war as the IUC is on its embryonic stage. If it was an internal affair, it's possible to suppress any political dissents as is the case in Ethiopia and many African dictatorial countries. If it is an external, the issue differs significantly. Nevertheless, no one wins the hearts and minds of individuals', groups of peoples' and their values' unless the generation is fully wiped out of the map. Or, unless the peoples of given country are fully being convinced of the underlying cases for whatever the actions. This argument is proving right all over the globe including in Iraq. People think that power only is solution for problems.

To see the invasion from Somalia people's perspectives, no one from Diaspora as well as from the country are happy for the Ethiopian invasion of their country. Every suggestion of Somali nationals within the country and from all over the world, is bitter and suggest of their 'grave concern for their country's sovereignty and futurity' as Ethiopia is their century old foe.

The technical and financial supports and go ahead given to the Ethiopian authoritarian Meles's regime that slaughters its armless and helpless civilians in day lights, by the US government, and the silence of other Western powerful nations, once again proves the failure of international community to act on time to avoid further regional unrest that contributes to the wider global instability by giving pretexts for dictators to crash helpless citizens under the slogan 'war on terrorism'!. The US and other powerful nations failed poor of the world on various occasions including Rwandan genocide, Latin American unrest that claimed the lives most vulnerable groups of society in various countries, majority of Africans who languish helplessly such as the Ethiopian nations and Darfur massacre.

Therefore, an invasion of Somalia by the Ethiopian dictatorial regime is both illegal and unjustifiable that leads the region to unstoppable bloodshed and endless discontents. Therefore, the need for an urgent and unequivocal action by the UN and AU to stop a looming danger for the region before its gets worst, will be paramount important.

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