

The Death-Toll Increased: Aids of the west are being used for Political purposes ... case of Sidama

November 22, 2003 By Kambata Xoola

I. Sufferings in the Past and at Present.

Deliberately caused malnutrition and starvation by cruel and corrupt government of Abyssinian colonizers is claiming the lives of many thousands of Sidama people in addition to HIV/AIDS, malaria and other poverty related diseases. The nation had never experienced such an excruciating hunger combined with Political, Socio-Cultural and Economic disaster. Whereas the land of the Sidama is known to be one of the most fertile lands under Abyssinian Empire, many critics agree that TPLF/EPRDF is causing deliberate political and economic incapacitation to the people of Sidama to silence their anger over administrative status shift of their capital city 'Awassa' which in turn has caused deaths of 69-72 innocent Sidama peaceful demonstrators on May 24, 2002 by the government security forces.

'Emiye Sidamo', meaning in Amhara language, 'mother Sidama' was a saying used by Abyssinian colonisers to emphasise Sidamas' land fertility and abundance of its resources. 'Sidamo' is the term used by Abyssinian colonizers to denigrate the Sidamas as they demean other subjugated nations. They call such nations in any way they like, not by their true names. Instead, for instance, like they call Oromo people 'Gaala', Wolaita people 'Woy'lamo', Gedeo people 'Darassa' and the likes, they call Sidama People 'Sidamo'. This hideous and dreadful act of Abyssinian colonizers seems just fabrication and false allegation for any one who doesn't know Abyssinian's secret under curtain. But, it's a reality which has contributed to the country's shameful political and economic achievement.

No hunger has been at the scale of present famine recorded since the colonizers have put the Sidama land under their colonial yoke from 1889s. The land has tolerated the plunder of resources by Abyssinians for a century. At present in real term it became beyond the scope of land's resources. Thus, the people are deliberately made to starve. There are no basic necessities all over the region. The underlying cause of hunger, famine and recurrent drought is not the absence of resources and manpower in Sidama. It's because the resources serve foreigners whereas the natives are undergoing such an ordeal. It's obvious that to be healthy and productive, there should be enough to eat. Otherwise; the nation will not be productive and creative. Such are the methods TPLF/EPRDF regime has used against the nation. The nation is deprived of these important basic human rights. Many argue that this is a pre-planned program just to create irresponsible and ineffective nation who obey colonizers rather than a quest of freedom.

II Why the Sidama land is a focus and an interest of Abyssinia?

More than 50% of coffee export out of their Empire is from the Sidama land in addition to other resources the region provides to the rulers. And the land is one of the top grade coffee producers in the world. The regime of TPLF/EPRDF's mostly depends on the coffee export income for the country as a whole. Therefore, to hold upper hand over Sidamas' economic and political life, the regime has to incapacitate the natives in all aspects and gives full authority to those who are their loyalists. This

has been the same since the nation had fallen under their colonial yoke since 1890s. As a fact of this reality, the resources of the Sidama land have been and are serving the colonisers; the natives had and have no control over their resources and land.

At present the plunder of resources of the Sidama is changed to indirect act of genocide. People are obliged to pay life sacrifice in such a green land. Thousands are loosing their lives at an alarming rate in an unprecedented scale. Children and adults are starved and malnourished devastatingly. All over the Sidama an international charities are operating in a thousands of different feeding centres. People are obliged to move away from their homes to villagization centres organized to displace the Sidamas from their land. The camps which are created by TPLF/EPRDF simply serve the purposes of income generation for their political structures. Meaning; the regime shows the camps and pretend to be concerned for the people to get aid from west.

Two to three decades ago, nevertheless, the natives used to scramble over the leftover resources after being plundered by colonisers and their loyalists. The plunderers make use of resources for themselves and give the leftover ones to their loyalists. Therefore, it's become impossible to find leftover ones for other ordinary natives, as the region is becoming the most densely populated from the Abyssinian Empire. In effect, the natives are being considered beggars in their land whereas their resources serve others.

III. Aid of the West and its counter effectiveness.

The aid of the west purely serves a political purpose in today's Ethiopian unless the donors are directly involved. The aid that reaches the Sidama nation scanty primarily serves the political cadres of the TPLF's regime and distributed among the villages which obey the rule of indirect colonisation of the Sidama nation by successive Abyssinians. The current regime implements this systematic suppression and partiality through impregnable political system and 'gimgema' (strict evaluation), which intimidates and harass the natives in every localities of the Sidama. Thus, the nationalist natives are weakened and pressurized.

Under such a situation, the Sidama people don't think of development issues rather than day-to-day harassment, intimidation and imprisonment. The chain of political cadres which is extended from top politicians at Federal and Zone level to bottom farmers' associations' chairpersons and executives, with loyalists who have got special pay packages from the central government put enormous pressure against any one they think a member of oppositional party or potential resistant to the regime. Any steps of movements of such people are followed by an underground security forces even at farmers' associations' levels by the people who mostly have relation and clanship with political cadres from Sidama zone and with some people who are plotting against the nation and planning the purpose of repression of the Sidamas at federal level under the name of 'Sidama people's representatives'. This is obviously to deceive again the international community and human rights organisations.

Therefore, the people in this region are made to be silent and lead unproductive lives. Every one is made not to think of his/her brightest futurity apart from worrying for his/her insecurity and instability. People are made to spy on each other. Any body assigned to act in such way are rewarded by generous amount of money. No one speaks out his/her mind. This indirect and malicious act of Abyssinian rulers is a way

of incapacitating the Sidama nation so that their national interest would be out of their minds thinking of their devastating poverty and harassment. Such appalling acts are purely against international human rights of the nation, which are deliberately put in place to devastate the Sidama people under the slogan of democratic system establishment.

IV. Why deliberate sufferings caused to the Sidamas?

It is just to hold political and economic upper hand over the Sidamas and their land. Most of the Sidamas who are thought to have potential to oppose the idea of TPLF/EPRDF's domination over the Sidama people's Socio-Cultural, Economic and Political life are either imprisoned or killed. The rest are kept under house arrest while others are made to flee the country. The rest are leading a devastating life at home due to a number of reasons mentioned in the entire part of this article. The Sidamas, therefore, at present are made to develop a 'relief-mentality' that proves their complete subservience to the Abyssinians indirect colonisation. If one thinks that the problem of the Sidama's current crisis is natural, it would be complete naivety.

It would be logical and conceivable to believe if the current problems of the Sidama nation and other subjugated nations of Abyssinian Empire were solely caused by natural calamities. But, it will be inconceivable to see the people's sufferings in all ways caused by deliberate inhuman act of others who are said to be leading the country. In particular, if the act is a pre-planned to cause more difficult experiences of all kinds to the nation of given country, it's inhuman and indirect social-cultural, economic and political genocide. This fact is of reality that is under spotlight in Sidama land today without international community's recognition or silence.

I think, people of genuine mind with appropriate knowledge on the hidden face of Abyssinian colonizers may be able to judge on the trustworthiness of the TPLF/EPRDF's regime's false and deceiving manoeuvre and averted reality on the current crisis surrounding the Empire. Their lie as usual is to deceive international community on the issue of Ethiopian nation's Socio-economic and political crisis. Despite these prevailing facts, TPLF's minority government is continuing its arrogance against the Sidama nation to cause more hundreds and thousands death. Internal displacement of the people is also continuing which is causing more suffering to the people of the Sidama.

V. International Community

Sadly, the international community has continued its support of tyrant regime in the lights these inhuman acts and cruelty. I think, this may be due to both humanitarianism driven by ignorance and vested interests as many critics agree.

It will be dreadful to see such human sufferings under democracy galvanised regime supported by democratic nations of the west in the contemporary world of 21st century. Apart from the vested interest TPLF/EPRDF's regime has got with the west, there is no difference between Iraqi dictator 'Sadam Hussein' and Ethiopian counterpart 'Melses Zenawi'. Sadam caused sufferings of his nation in a clear way in contrary to the international human rights and law. His Ethiopian counterpart is causing political, economic and socio-cultural genocide of nations under his Empire

in a smartest way deceiving global community. Can I get any one to show me the difference?

VI. The Need for Immediate Action

To save subjugated nations such as the Sidamas who are suffering the consequences, we request full support of international community to thoroughly investigate and re-evaluate their aid and help to Ethiopia. The quest of freedom of the Sidama and other subjugated nations should be properly addressed by international community. Many agree; if the international community continues its support of current Ethiopian tyrant minority regime, it would be equivalent to sponsoring a continued human rights abuses by deceitful TPLF/EPRDF's regime. We urge an international community once again to act on right time to save innocent nations under Abyssinian Empire who are paying unnecessary precious life sacrifice. The time has to be today before thousands of millions are lost!

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