

## **WHEN A GLIMMER OF HOPE OF DEMOCRACY AND SELF GOVERNANCE FADES: The CASE OF NON-ABYSSINIAN ETHIOPIA**

By Kambata Xoola,

Impregnable democracy, galvanised and deceitful government of TPLF/EPRDF, in today's Ethiopia has put the lives of 67 million peoples at hitherto unknown economic, political, and socio-cultural crisis and unstoppable conflicts. The main cause being colonizers' poor governance and corruption in the past century, natural calamities which are caused by the leaders negligence increased the likelihood of the ordeal Ethiopian nations are undergoing under the cover of natural disaster. To protect the human rights of nations under Abyssinian empire, international community has done and is doing almost nothing apart from listening from the cruel dictators themselves in the way it suits their ears from the capital, Addis Ababa. The real picture of the nations agony in this region is not brought to the attention of international community. The people who understand the malicious act of TPLF/EPRDF's government against humanity and democracy don't like to mention this truth publicly due to certain reasons the first one may be 'vested interest' according to many critics.

A lot has been said about Ethiopian successive minority regimes since they have crashed different nations who had their distinct identity and cultural differences into today's Unitary Ethiopian empire form without the will of these nations. All nations of Abyssinian empire were obliged to ignore their culture and identity and accept the imposed Abyssinian one. This was materialised since 1890s after the Abyssinians have expanded their colonial territory. Today, in the 21st century, strategically, the colonizers are repeating the same history. Ethiopia has come to existence after the math of most nations defeat by the Menilk's army which managed to expand its colonial territory to the existing form of Ethiopian by the help of modern weapon from the west.

A number of scholars, critics, human rights activists, and concerned people who value human rights have criticised current Ethiopian regime for its poor human rights record since they came to power in 1991. Regional organisations and concerned individuals also repeatedly mentioned their concern on the issue of continued human rights abuse under the guise of democracy and self determination. Economic policies geared towards the benefits of few elites affluent to TPLF and their political party business while other Ethiopian nations in particular the Sidama, Oromo, Ogaden and the south in general are gravely starving. Where there are huge means and resources to prevent the problems of the said nations, (Non Abyssinians), they are deliberately made by the colonizers to lead agonising life relentlessly. The case of continued human catastrophe in Ethiopia is not properly addressed by all concerned international community, regional organisation and the only super power the USA. Instead, existing reality confirms that there seems to be vested interest, in particular with US and the UK in the light of these all human rights violations, indiscriminate arrest, massacre, killings and disappearances caused by the government security forces in the past decade.

## **JUSTIFICATION FOR THE VESTED INTEREST (a tip of an Ice Berg)**

On January 6/2002 in his interview with IRIN, the UK Ambassador to Ethiopia Mr Myles Wickstead has praised TPLF/EPRDF led Ethiopian regime for its good human rights record and good governance. He also added his appreciation on Ethiopian military superiority in the region. Sadly, the Ambassador witnessed the reality of this all, two months after the massacre of more than 500 innocent people indiscriminately in different regions of southern Ethiopia by the government's security forces. One such incident was the May 24/2002 massacre of the peaceful Sidama demonstrators who claimed their basic human rights which is a regional autonomy and self-determination. The March 2002 massacre of the Mazenger Kefichcho civilians was under the same situation. Killings of innocent civilians and any oppositional party members whom they think were threat to their government is a day-to-day practice in Oromia, Sidama, Ogaden and the southern regions primarily and in other parts of non Abyssinian regions secondly.

The Ambassador of UK to Ethiopian continues his praises of TPLF's government for its policies on democratisation and decentralisation of the political power and economy for which the Sidama, Oromia and Ogaden civilians have paid and paying a huge sacrifices in their precious life. The Ambassador affirms that Ethiopian government is determined to this end. In practice the truth is the opposite. Actually, these all bunches of policies which are similar to the ones in the developed world are kept in place just to deceive international community. The said policies are currently jeopardised by the changed policies of TPLF's regime which the Abyssinian colonizers are once again plotting to devastate the lives of non-Abyssinian nations under their empire. The first victims being Sidama, Oromo, Ogaden and the southern nations, all non- Abyssinians will share the same fate of tyranny.

Abyssinized loyal affiliates from other parts of the empire who are knowingly or unknowingly serving the interest of Abyssinia under cover will share the same fate at the end of the day after they have fully served their agendas of strategic political, economical and socio-cultural domination. No one would exonerate them from judgement once the right time comes!!. This writer doesn't know what the UK Ambassador to Ethiopia would respond to any appropriate query if he is requested by some one in the lights of these evidences.

Secondly, the United States of America is leading the war against international terrorism with its allies. According to many critics, therefore, the attention of the world community goes with the heart beat of Americans whatever the situation in the rest part of the world is. The human rights violations of the third world has not received enough attention from that time onwards. If the leaders of a given country are thought to have geo-political importance in the fights against terrorism, there should be a link between the government of needed country and the US and its allies such as the UK. The aid of any kind bilaterally and laterally will be encouraged to flow into and reach those leaders. People will be killed by live ammunition, which were presumably purchased by the aid money given by the US and others. Various nations in Abyssinian empire are terrorised by the same weapon by the security forces and labelled terrorist if they resist their aim of oppression and rampant human rights

violations. It would be worthwhile to see the report of HRW, US 2002 on African human rights review. It's read as follows;-

"For example, in the case of Ethiopia, the US had rarely spoken out and exerted no meaningful pressure when abuses including excessive force against demonstrators, silencing of dissent, and the violent repression of minorities in restless regions..were perpetrated by the government. On the contrary, the government was rewarded with generous aid packages. In the walk of September 11, exchange between Ethiopia and the US increased, but, were focused exclusively on anti-terrorism rather than any human rights concerns. In one of the only three telephone calls to African leaders reported prior to launching the strike against Afghanistan, president Bush spoke with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia on October 5, thanking him for his offer to cooperate in the campaign on terrorism and their sanctuaries. Main streaming human rights consideration was not on the agenda, (Human rights Watch African Overview, P30 and 31)". Or visit (<http://www.hrw.org/wr2k2/africa.html>)

In the lights of these continued support from the west and prevailing indiscriminate human rights violations, how democracy and democratic system could mature? If the dictators are given 'go ahead' by the world's mighty nations such as the US, how Ethiopian nations could govern themselves and think about development and prosperity rather than day-to-day intimidation and harassment by Abyssinian colonizers and their loyalists? Where Slavery is outdated phenomenon in the world, how the mighty nations encourage the slavery of Ethiopian nations such as Sidama Oromo and the likes by Abyssinian colonizers? How could the people's of Habashsha empire could come out of poverty, which is caused by the successive Abyssinian dictators under such a situation? Regions such Sidama, Oromia and others are not allowed to exercise their regional autonomy which the constitution grants them. Who does one think responsible for the crisis in Ethiopian empire? It's only colonizers.

In addition to the existing crisis in the regions, the TPLF led Ethiopian government has drastically changed its policy of decentralization and democratisation, which was praised by the UK Ambassador only a year ago. This change is putting the lives of non-Abyssinian Ethiopian nations under unprecedented tyranny once again. Additionally, such violations of constitutional rights of nations, further leads to unstoppable bloodshed and conflicts in the regions.

Therefore, this writer thinks and believes that people should be allowed to exercise their international basic human rights and SELF-DETERMINATION as it has been stated in the constitution. International community, regional organizations and in particular mighty nations who are praising the regime and sponsoring the regime to massacre innocent civilians will have duty and responsibility, and moral obligation to safeguard the lives of Ethiopian Non-Abyssinian nations which is jeopardised by the policies of TPLF/EPRDF regime.

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