*Mr. Prime Minister Meles, your Trojan horse is crack open; take your chill-pill and cool it.*

January 6, 2012

by Esayas Temesgen

***On January 27, 2012: Ministry of Expansionist Ethiopia foreign affairs-on its website, [a week in the Horn page] writes.... ‘missing the point – Eritrea’s response to criticism’ a comment On Eritrea’s foreign affairs letter, of January 24, 2012 to the UN Security Council, regarding the incident that took in the Afar region of Ethiopia, early January, 2012, and other ongoing problems between Eritrea and Ethiopia.***

***Expansionist Ethiopia never stops its disinformation campaign and threats against Eritrea; including on his terrified citizens who lived it.***

***Here is all the hooey on the two paragraphs below, how it defends and justifies its aggression on Eritrea in particular and the region in general:***

***1-“For the regime in Eritrea, the right of Ethiopia to defend its peace and stability “carries the potential seeds of grave regional destabilization”. Eritrea gives itself the right to destabilize and create instability in Ethiopia in particular, as well as region as a whole. It cannot then claim to have the moral and political ground to reject the right of others to defend themselves. It is, as usual, trying to steal the complaints of its own victims, to bite back at those it has already bitten.”***

***On the border issue here is another lie and deception by Expansionist Ethiopia...***

***2-“The letter to the Security Council also raises, once again, the issue of the border dispute. The Eritrean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ignoring the facts of the matter, makes its usual complaint that Ethiopia is occupying Eritrean territories, refusing to accept the decisions of the Ethio-Eritrea Boundary Commission. This is no more than a now threadbare attempt to shift attention away from Eritrea’s own destabilizing activities. Ethiopia has made it known on numerous occasions since 2004 that it fully accepted the decisions of the Commission and that it was ready to engage in dialogue to implement demarcation as the basis for a peaceful settlement and a lasting solution on the border. It has also repeatedly expressed its readiness to talk on normalization of relations. The international community by now is fully aware of the reasons for the stalemate of the border dispute – the lack of willingness by Eritrea to engage in dialogue for demarcation and for normalization of relations.”***

***As they say the chicken came home to roast: ‘Missing the point,’ the point being about bulling, aggression; invasion; and disregard for international law; apparently it is Ethiopia that is missing the point not Eritrea.***

***The truth of the matter is... it is Ethiopia known for its Expansionist behavior: bulling; invading and destabilizing Eritrea and its neighbors...i.e. Somalia since its inception and still going; the Ogden [since 1948] including The Sudan. Had it not been for French government king Hailesselasse was claiming Djibouti as its territory and even had threatening to annex it.***

***-First of all the notion Eritrea “destabilizing Ethiopia” it is simply gobbledygook, it is outrageously false; actually the reverse is true; it is Ethiopia that destabilized Eritrea by dissolving its parliament and colonized it in early nineteen sixties.***

***Eritrea never attacked nor occupied Expansionist Ethiopia’s land. Rather time after time Eritrea finds itself defending from none stop threats and invasion by that nation.***

***Although Eritrea gained its independence after thirty years of brutal scorch earth war, yet twenty years into its independence, it has to defend itself from Expansionist Ethiopia invading army: The invading army of Ethiopia still seats on the land it occupied from Eritrea defying the ruling of the Eritrean Ethiopian Border Commission |EEBC|; -it Recruits mercenaries to destabilize Eritrea and threatens to overthrow the government.***

***Eritreans knows well that it is with their wit and experience that they hold off the aggression of Expansionist Ethiopia from advancing further into their territory; otherwise if they falter or slow the pursuing invading army will act up.***

***Hooking Al-Shebab with Eritrea is just a hog wash. Even if it is al-sheytan, Expansionist Ethiopia will never let go its aggressive campaign against Eritrea and Somalia. The Source is insecurity to keep a nation forcefully welded fragile existence. As such it is a futile strategy based on distraction of its neighbors. It is a failed strategy that can be traced as far as King Minilik; however it took a shape during king hailesselasse, he ratchet it up a notch with aggressive move of annexing Ogaden 1n 948 and Eritrea thereafter.***

***Consequently this hoop-la that Prime Meles unleashing is not different from his predecessors: Hailesselasse in the sixties was associating Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, the second president of Somalia with Saleh Sabee the pioneer leader of the Eritrean liberation movement, as the common Enemy of Expansionist Ethiopia. The same was with Colonel Mengestu; he was linking President Mohamed Siad Baree with The Eritrean People’s Liberation Front The gallant |EPLF|.***

***Another customary lie by Expansionist Ethiopia is its assertion of a direct contrast to the UN preliminary report that has vindicated Eritrea; That on January 16, 20012 ‘UN cleared Eritrea, over the Kenyan allegation of Eritrea ‘arming Alshebab of Somalia.’***

***It also talks about the border ruling “that it has accepted the EEBC ruling.” This is also another lie; the opposite is true. It has reneged on the Eritrean Ethiopian Border Commission ruling. If Ethiopia is serious, to start - it should vacate Badme.***

***Whereas Eritrea out of its way- being judicial with standard international norm, did ask for investigation ‘To the Afar incident;’ and the Afar Revolutionary Democratic Unity Party, [ARDUP] in its part claim that it has “the hostages it took during the shootout with the Ethiopian army,” Expansionist Ethiopia to cast-off and mock Eritrea’s genuine suggestion, and not to face up to the |ARDUP| statement, tells us that there must be something it is hiding.***

***Why is it then Eritrea to be blamed for all its internal and external problems that Expansionist Ethiopia encounters as a result of its aggression?***

***Expansionist Ethiopia is known for suppressing the truth, intimidating and arresting international journalist, who went to Ogden and other regions to investigate all kinds of human right violations: mass killing, torture, arrest etc...***

***Very recently, actually last month it has sentenced a Swedish journalist for just doing that in the Ogden region.***

***Sooner or later it is going to catch up with it, a country exclusively dependent of foreign aid can’t get away for long biting the donors fingers.***

***The irony is... Eritrea directly or indirectly has played a role as a catalyst to bring two previous leaders and this very gutless one to power. It is also true that Eritrea was indirectly responsible for the fall of King Hailesselasse; and directly responsible in bringing down the Colonel Mengestu’s regime. I am afraid history is about to repeat itself.***

***Awet n’ hafash!***

***The article below is an eye - opening information about the ongoing Expansionist Ethiopia’s aggression across its border and on its own citizens.***

The case of two Swedish journalists imprisoned in Ethiopia sheds light on a harsh campaign of repression.

By [NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/opinion/editorialsandoped/oped/columnists/nicholasdkristof/index.html?inline=nyt-per)

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 What’s He Got to Hide?

Top of Form

Bottom of Form



Damon Winter/The New York Times

Nicholas D. Kristof

IN a filthy Ethiopian prison that is overridden with lice, fleas and huge rats, two Swedes are serving an 11-year prison sentence for committing journalism.

Martin Schibbye, 31, and Johan Persson, 29, share a narrow bed, one man’s head beside the other’s feet. Schibbye once woke up to find a rat mussing his hair.

The prison is a violent, disease-ridden place, with inmates fighting and coughing blood, according to Schibbye’s wife, Linnea Schibbye Steiner, who last met with her husband in December. It is hot in the daytime and freezing cold at night, and the two Swedes are allowed no mail or phone calls, she said. Fortunately, she added, the 250 or so Ethiopian prisoners jammed in the cell protect the two journalists, pray for them and jokingly call their bed “the Swedish embassy.”

What was the two men’s crime? Their offense was courage. [They sneaked](http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/dec/27/ethiopia-jails-swedish-journalists-terrorism) into the Ogaden region to investigate reports of human rights abuses.

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, Ethiopia’s increasingly tyrannical ruler, seemed to be sending a signal to the world’s journalists: Don’t you dare mess with me!

So the only proper response is a careful look at Meles’s worsening repression. Sadly, this repression is abetted by acquiescence from Washington and by grants from aid organizations.

Those Swedish journalists will probably be released early because of international pressure. But there will be no respite for the countless Ethiopians who face imprisonment, torture and rape.

I’m in Davos, Switzerland, for the annual meeting of the [World Economic Forum](http://www.weforum.org/), and so is Meles. I’ve been pursuing him for the last few days, trying to confront him and ask him about his worsening pattern of brutality.

He has refused to see me, so I enlisted [my Twitter followers](http://twitter.com/nickkristof) to report Meles sightings. I want to ask him why he has driven more journalists into exile over the last decade than any other leader in the world, [according to the Committee to Protect Journalists](http://www.cpj.org/africa/ethiopia/) in New York City.

Meles has done genuine good in fighting poverty. He has some excellent officials under him, [including a superb health minister](http://www.everywomaneverychild.org/resources/accountability-commission/commissioners/tedros-adhanom-ghebreyesus), and Ethiopia’s economy is making progress in health and agriculture. Ethiopia is full of aid organizations, and it has a close intelligence and military relationship with the United States government.

Yet since 2005, when an initial crackdown left 200 protesters dead and 30,000 detained, Meles has steadily tightened his grip. [A Human Rights Watch report this month](http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/01/16/ethiopia-forced-relocations-bring-hunger-hardship) noted that the government is forcibly removing tens of thousands of people from their rural homes to artificial villages where they risk starvation. Those who resist endure arrests, beatings or worse.

“The repression is getting worse,” notes [Tamerat Negera](http://www.tadias.com/12/07/2009/ethiopian-editors-close-paper-and-flee/), who fled to the United States after the newspaper he edited was closed down in 2009. “His vision seems an attempt to root out any dissent.”

Meles has criminalized dissent, with [a blogger named Eskinder Nega](http://www.cpj.org/blog/2012/01/standing-with-ethiopias-tenacious-blogger-eskinder.php) now facing terrorism charges, which could mean a death sentence. His true crime was calling on the government to allow free speech and end torture.

Appallingly, the Meles regime uses foreign food aid to punish his critics. Ethiopia is one of the world’s largest recipients of development aid, [receiving about $3 billion annually](http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2010/10/19/development-without-freedom-0), with the United States one of its largest donors. This money does save lives. But it also “underwrites repression in Ethiopia,” in the words of Human Rights Watch.

Families and entire areas of the country are deliberately starved unless they back the government, human rights groups have shown. In Ethiopia, the verb “to starve” is transitive.

Look, I’m a huge advocate of smart aid to fight global poverty. But donors and aid groups need to ensure that their aid doesn’t buttress repression.

The Meles regime, run largely by a coterie from his own minority Tigrayan ethnicity, has been particularly savage in the Ogaden region, where it faces an armed uprising. When Jeffrey Gettleman, a colleague at The New York Times, went to the Ogaden in 2007, he found a pattern of torture and rape. The government then [arrested Gettleman and two colleagues](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/22/world/africa/22cnd-ethiopia.html?hp), detaining them for five days in harsh conditions.

The two Swedish reporters illegally entered the Ogaden and met a rebel group to examine that human rights wasteland. In December, [they were sentenced to 11-year terms](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/28/world/africa/ethiopia-2-swedish-journalists-sentenced.html).

Steiner, Schibbye’s wife, said of the harsh conditions: “Eleven years in an Ethiopian prison is equal to life, because you do not survive that long.”

[Amnesty International says](http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR25/011/2011/en/368804d9-61cb-417a-842e-bbd246761903/afr250112011en.pdf) that in the last 11 months, the government has arrested at least 114 Ethiopian journalists and opposition politicians. It described this as “the most far-reaching crackdown on freedom of expression seen in many years in Ethiopia.”

Prime Minister Meles, you may have dodged me in Davos, but your brutality toward Swedish, American and Ethiopian journalists will not silence the world’s media. You’re just inviting more scrutiny.

*I invite you to comment on this column on my blog,* [*On the Ground*](http://www.nytimes.com/ontheground)*. Please also join me on* [*Facebook*](http://www.facebook.com/kristof) *and* [*Google+*](https://plus.google.com/102839963139173448834/posts?hl=en)*, watch my* [*YouTube videos*](http://www.youtube.com/nicholaskristof) *and follow me on* [*Twitter*](http://twitter.com/nickkristof)*.*