

A friend sent me a copy of an “Editorial” posted on Asmarino.com, a website run by Tesfaldet Meharena, a known anti-Eritrea operative. His website is full of erroneous hearsays, fabrications and insulting articles and materials on Eritrea, its leadership and its people. I have never met the man but have spoken to him several times on the phone and it was after hearing him misrepresenting-more like outright lying-on one of his pal talk sessions about a year back about one of our conversations that I decided that he was not quite all together there. How can a grown man lie about something that can be verified so easily? Someday, I will write about that conversation and present the several email exchanges that we had about the subject, as his readers need to know what he is real like.

In the past, he has doctored my presentations and misrepresented my views about the administrative detentions of the 11 government officials in Eritrea. In a future article, I will revisit that issue and Tesfaldet Meharena’s 10 year long assault on the Eritrean people, my writings on his website and more. Tesfaldet Meharena is one of the people that has petitioned US State department and other institutions to withhold humanitarian and development aid from Eritrea. There are allegations that he has used the names of Eritreans who had signed a petition on his website in 2001 without their permission.

When the UN adopted the US sponsored resolution to sanction Eritrea, he was elated. When Eritreans around the world were organizing the massive 22 February 2010 demonstrations, he was busy threatening and intimidating Eritreans from participating. They ignored him and showed up in the hundreds of thousands in the USA-in San Francisco and Washington, DC, in Geneva, Switzerland and in Melbourne, Australia. The turnout was massive and totally destroyed his 10 year long misrepresentations about the Eritrean Diaspora, their unity, and their unwavering support for the people and Government of Eritrea. Most of all, the fact that it was Eritrean youth, in the hundreds and thousands that were leading the demonstrations has also caused him even more pain, as he has campaigned to isolate the Eritrean Diasporan youth from Eritrea. He failed miserably.

Today, he is back with a desperate misrepresentation about Eritrea and Somalia. Asmarino’s latest piece is entitled “UN Traces Missiles that Hit Belarusian Aircraft to Eritrea”. In that Editorial, Asmarino omits essential paragraphs and adds information that is not there in its attempt to deceive its readers. This is not the first time that it has done that. In the past, Asmarino and its partners have manufactured evidence, a Bank deposit slip, in a desperate attempt to blemish the incorruptible reputation of the President of Eritrea. Asmarino produced a report on rape in Eritrea and it turned out to

be a doctored version of a report that was published by the BBC on rapes in South Africa. I could go on and on and list the 10 year long insult of its reader's intelligence but that would take too long and today, I will just address the latest deception.

Except to deceive, why else would he bring a 3 year old report and pretend it is new information? It is really quite simple. It is a diversionary tactic. Asmarino is desperate and so is Meles Zenawi, the lawless, genocidal leader of the minority regime in Ethiopia. The 10 year long deceptive ploys that they have concocted against the State of Eritrea, its leadership and its people have failed...and failed miserably. Making things worse for the beleaguered minority regime is the latest report from the UN Monitoring Group which points fingers at Ethiopia as being the main suppliers of arms to Somalia. Not only has Meles Zenawi embarrassed himself and his partners at IGAD and the African Union with his unsubstantiated allegations and blatant lies against Eritrea, he has compromised the credibility, integrity and neutrality of the African Union and the United Nations.

Meles Zenawi is worried because the unsubstantiated US/UN allegations against Eritrea refuse to stick. After all the shenanigans and boisterous announcements and pronouncements, he and his skirted friends are left with egg on their faces and he is left holding the bag. To make matters worse, even the hostile anti-Eritrea western media are reporting that the evidence against Eritrea is "thinning" and the UN is launching its own investigations-again. So it comes as no surprise to see the minority regime's mercenaries like those at Asmarino and Awate running around like chickens with their heads cut off. Quack ...quack...quack..., because they know the end is near.

Let us get back to his latest deception. The Asmarino Editorial said:

"....Below is a report by Matt Schroeder on how the UN traced the downing of a Belarusian aircraft to two SA-18 Igla shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles provided by Eritrea. But before we do that, we would like to put this finding within its proper context to underscore how much the Eritrean regime has become a threat both to its people and the region..."

Tesfaldet's idea of putting it "within its proper context" is an amateur, childish attempt to associate Eritrea with a totally unrelated issue about the attack on an Israeli flight. Sometime ago, believing there is currency to be gained, Tesfaldet and his cohorts wrote a story about Iran using Eritrean bases in Assab-presumably to antagonize Israel. That turned out to be a total fabrication, but not before it got the attention of the Israelis and the fabricated story was regurgitated by the western media led by Joseph Greibosky, a

member of the evangelical cartel and a friend of Ethiopia's Meles Zenawi, who authored an article about it without ever checking its veracity. As for Eritrea being a threat...yes, Eritrea is a threat...A threat of a good example!

The Israelis don't need Tefaldet Meharena's amateur "intelligence". They can look into his belly and tell him what he ate three days ago. If there was any evidence to show any links between Eritrea and the missiles that fired at the Israeli plane in Kenya, the Israelis would have had no qualms about confronting Eritrea. Only a desperate individual would go to such lengths to connect dots where there are none. Self aggrandizement is an affliction that seems to affect Tesfaldet Meharena and his mercenary lot. These are folks who call themselves "Professionals and Intellectuals". These are folks who present themselves as experts on everything. Today, they are intelligence experts trying to advise Israel and the world.

In order to prove its allegations against Eritrea Asmarino, it posted a couple of articles by Matt Schroeder. Notwithstanding the fact that the articles are old, two and three years old (2007 and 2008), Asmarino's Editorial purposefully omits a paragraph which would annul their entire allegation against Eritrea. After posting Schroeder's 2007 and 2008 blog, Asmarino neglects to let the readers know that there is more. Here is how Asmarino leaves the story:

"...In March 2007, the Islamists fired two advanced SA-18 missiles at a Belarussian cargo aircraft as it was departing from Mogadishu International Airport. One of the missiles hit the plane, causing it to crash and killing all eleven people on board. UN investigators later concluded that the missiles used in the attack were part of a consignment of six SA-18s acquired from Eritrea. This summer, the UN traced another SA-18 found in Somalia back to a batch of Russian missiles that were shipped to Eritrea in 1995. The Eritrean government denies allegations that it provides missiles and other weapons to the ICU..."

Asmarino's Editorial neglected to post the paragraph that is linked to the blog written by Matt Schroeder. Let us take a look at what Schroeder wrote in his next blog:

"...Using the serial number from an SA-18 "found in Somalia,"* investigators were reportedly able to trace the SA-18 to a consignment of Russian Iglas manufactured in 1995 and "...shipped to Eritrea in the same year through the state company 'Rosvooruzhenie,' according to a letter from Russia's UN mission to the Monitoring Group. The letter also indicates that the original contract for the missiles required the recipient to seek permission before re-transferring the missiles and that "[t]he

Eritrean side did not request this permission from us. The letter concludes with a caveat: since the serial numbers are painted on the missile, “a [unauthorized] remarking is possible” and a “visual examination” by Russian specialists is required to definitively establish a linkage between the missile and the batch sold to Eritrea in 1995. (*The UN report does not indicate how and from whom the missiles were acquired)

Obviously, they were unable to “definitively establish a linkage”, because had they been able to do so, Susan E. Rice would have been the first to stand at the UN press podium to announce her catch.

In addition, if the UN Monitoring Group had such evidence against Eritrea, they would have published it in their March 2010 report. As Asmarino and Meles Zenawi know, the latest Report is damning for Ethiopia, the illegitimate Transitional National Government of Somalia (TNG) and the African Union forces that are there to “prop up” the TNG. On Eritrea, the UN Monitoring Group was still talking about allegations-no concrete evidence.

So, why this outrageous exercise in futility?

In my opinion, it is a result of pure desperation and frustration, signs of delirium, a condition associated with mental illnesses, including depression (helplessness and hopelessness) and psychosis (loss of contact with reality).

After manufacturing “Dispatches”, “Alerts” and endless “analysis” from runaway disgruntled diplomats, reporters sans couth, pedophiles, rapists...and going nowhere but backwards, it can be quite depressing. It should be recalled that both Saleh Gadi of Asmarino.com’s sister site Awate.com, and Tesfaldet Meharena were in Addis Ababa recently and had a lengthy meeting with Meles Zenawi. They now have nothing to show for their combined 10 year vilification and defamation campaign.

Asmarino ends its amateur Editorial with this statement:

“...one shouldn’t try to find logic behind dogma...”

I suppose Asmarino’s 10 year long deceptions are supposed to be logical. Allow me to end with this from Fyodor Dostoyevsky, a Russian novelist and writer; it accurately depicts Asmarino’s logic:

“...Man has such a predilection for systems and abstract deductions that he is ready to distort the truth intentionally, he is ready to deny the evidence of his senses only to justify his logic... ...”

If you stop every time a dog barks, your road will never end...

Nikid tiray!

Sophia Tesfamariam