

## **Ethiopia – the Land where the Rule of the Jungle Prevails over the Rule of Law**

Firstly, I would like to strongly condemn the TPLF regime for its irresponsible and provocative military attacks it carried out inside sovereign Eritrea. In these reckless military aggressions, the TPLF regime claimed to have destroyed what it calls “terrorist groups armed by Eritrea”. The TPLF regime never accepts responsibility for its misguided and oppressive social, political and economic policies and reckless actions. Instead of dealing with the consequences of its divisive and oppressive policies wisely, it has a chronic habit of shifting the blame onto Eritrea and diverting the attention of the Ethiopian people and that of the international community.

Secondly, the fact that Eritrea could have retaliated militarily but chose to take a legal and diplomatic action clearly demonstrates the wisdom and maturity of its leadership and for that I would like to commend the government of Eritrea (GOE). The EPLF and the GOE have a well-recognised and clean track record regarding terrorism and kidnapping. Let alone the GOE, even the EPLF did not resort to terrorism during the darkest hours of the 30 years of the armed struggle for independence, because terrorism goes against everything Eritreans believe in.

Furthermore, as recently disclosed by Wikileaks, the assessment of the US Ambassador regarding the kidnappings of tourists in Ethiopia was as follows:-

*“Despite the GSE’s lack of transparency in communication with the British and French Embassies and despite the questions lingering around possible linkages between the GSE and the ARDUF, there is no indication at this time that Eritrea was involved in any way with the kidnapping, and in fact, the GSE appears overall to have played a proactive role in facilitating the release of the abductees”.*  
(GSE – Government of the State of Eritrea)

It is, therefore, undeniable fact Eritrea has got nothing to do with the abductions and Ethiopia’s excuse for the attack is flimsy.

In 1962, Haile Selassie annexed Eritrea in violation of the UNSC Resolution and international law and abolished its parliament, multiparty democracy, trade union, education system and national languages, igniting the armed struggle for independence. He was so arrogant and stubborn to recognise that Eritrea’s case could not be addressed by using the rule of the jungle but the rule of law. We all know what happened to Haile Selassie when he got the taste of his own medicine, the rule of the jungle upon his throne. However, the EPLF chose the rule of law over the rule of the jungle and in 1993, 99.9% of Eritreans chose for independence in a referendum when the rule of law prevailed over the rule of the jungle, and Eritrea declared its independence and received international recognition.

In the 1980s, the Dergue used to refer to the TPLF as bandits; however, the Ethiopian people in Tigray, referred to the TPLF as freedom fighters. The Dergue was too arrogant and stubborn to admit that Ethiopia had deep rooted social, political

and economic problems that could only have been solved through negotiations and political reform. Instead, the regime chose to use conflict to subjugate and terrorise the Ethiopian people into submission and the outcome was inevitable.

The conflict bred more conflict and the regime, which once boasted that it had the biggest and well equipped army in sub-Saharan Africa, miraculously collapsed and subsequently the TPLF got hold of power in 1991.

The table has turned round and history is repeating itself, this time, however, it is the TPLF regime calling other minority ethnic groups fighting the regime “terrorists”. Note the term “bandits” is no longer valid for this era and terrorism is the new terminology used to justify provocative military attacks against sovereign states.

The only terrorist organisation in the Horn of Africa that is terrorising people in their millions forcing them to flee from their villages to seek refuge elsewhere is the TPLF regime. It's only a matter of time before the TPLF regime in spite of all the material and financial support it enjoys from the West is also replaced by another regime hopefully this time God willing, by one that will uphold international law and allow the rule of law to prevail over the rule of the jungle in Ethiopia.

The question that naturally springs to my mind is, why has the TPLF regime decided to take such reckless and provocative military attacks against Eritrea now after 12 years of no war no peace situation? In my opinion, this is because Meles Zenawi has selfish personal motives for trying to ignite a conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea. He desperately wanted Eritrea to retaliate militarily so he can declare war on Eritrea. War with Eritrea would justify declaring a State of Emergency in Ethiopia so he can purge his opponents both in his party and in the opposition parties, stay in power indefinitely as well as abort the plans the US has for Ethiopia.

**And this is the plan** - the US is seriously and actively seeking a replacement for Meles Zenawi before the next election and Meles Zenawi knows that his sell-by-date is rapidly approaching expiry date like that of Mubarak of Egypt. He also knows that the only way he can prolong his stay in power is by igniting war between the two sisterly countries. The US is reportedly grooming some key individuals within the opposition parties by giving them “appropriate leadership training” in some of the prestigious educational institutions in USA.

This is what a credible political analyst in the region disclosed recently:-

*“Some Ethiopian opponents are convinced that the United States may have already begun to discuss the succession of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. The United States has already reportedly begun to check two options for what could follow after Prime Minister Meles Zenawi: he could either rapidly designate his own successor to prepare him for his role or he could establish government of national unity before the end of his term. Such is the belief of Ethiopian opponents who have had contacts with American diplomats in Addis Ababa or in Washington”.*

*“ These diplomats have had talks with the faction of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) headed by Kemal Gelchu, with the Ginbot 7 group led by Berhanu Nega and with Daoudlbsa, the leader of another faction of the OLF who was discreetly invited to Washington at the end of last year. Several economic (higher inflation, rampant corruption) and political (the recent sidelining of 300 officers including Tigrayan generals) factors have led the U.S. officials to deem that Ethiopia is not immune to uncontrolled social explosions, even if the EPRDF governing coalition has the situation well in hand.”*

*“Hence the idea that Meles Zenawi take the initiative to open his government to some opponents such as Birtukan Mideksa or Seye Abraha, who are currently undergoing training at Harvard University. Failing that, the U.S. delegates reportedly suggested that MelesZenawi should plan the period after he is no longer in power and prepare his successor, whether it be Tewodros Adhanom the current minister of health, Arkebe Oqubay (advisor to the Prime Minister) or former Chief of Staff of the Ethiopian army, the former General Tsadkan Gebre-Tensae who now works for the UN in South Sudan. But Meles Zenawi is not believed to have favoured either scenario”*

Ethiopia is the host country of the AU Headquarters and member of the UN. Also, almost every regional and international organisation has an office in Addis-Ababa. The TPLF regime must adhere to international law. No regime be it big or small, rich or poor, strong or weak should be above the law. The rule of law must prevail over the rule of the jungle. Ethiopia should accept the final and binding ruling of the EEBC and allow for the physical demarcation of the border to take place so normalisation of relations between the two sisterly countries can commence.

The UN should stop its double standards and parroting the US. Instead the US should condemn the TPLF regime and take strong punitive measures against the regime for the provocative military action it took against a sovereign state and member of UN. **This is what Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's spokesman Martin Nesirky said on March 16, “Ban urged both sides for restraint.”** This is exactly what the US said.

The US and Ethiopia have set the precedence for other countries to take the law into their hands and carry out military attacks across their borders to destroy what they call “terrorist groups”. I would not be surprised if Sudan carries out similar attacks in South Sudan, Uganda in Congo, Rwanda in Burundi, Libya in Chad and Nigeria in Niger. Then we will hear about Pakistan attacks in Afghanistan, India in Pakistan, Turkey in Syria, Iran in Iraq and the whole world would be in chaos for the US to manage and the “Hope” that the Obama Administration should have brought would bring hopelessness, kill “The Dream” and bring a nightmare.

For more detailed information regarding Eritrea’s innocence of the accusations that Eritrea supports terrorist organisations you can read this :-

[Open letter to Ambassador Susan Rice](#)

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