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A Response to "To Avoid Another Conflict in the Horn of Africa, Now is the Time to Act" by Former Ethiopian President Mulatu Teshome Wirtu on Al Jazeera

By: Yemane Abselom (wedi abselom)
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For decades, global news reporting has been dominated by Western media outlets such as the BBC (British), VOA (American), and DW (German). While these outlets claim to uphold principles of free and independent journalism, their coverage often aligns with Western political and economic agendas. When Al Jazeera emerged, there was hope that it would provide an alternative voice—one that would prioritize the interests of the Middle East and the Global South. Its early reporting on Iraq and Afghanistan, which exposed Western propaganda and war crimes, won it widespread respect.

However, telling the truth comes at a cost, and it appears that those financing Al Jazeera were unwilling to continue paying that price. Over time, its editorial stance has drifted closer to that of Western media, sacrificing journalistic integrity in the process. The publication of Mulatu Teshome's article—an unsubstantiated attack on Eritrea and its leadership—further underscores this decline. Al Jazeera cannot hide behind the disclaimer, "The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect Al Jazeera's editorial stance." As a media institution, it has a responsibility to fact-check the content it publishes. Allowing blatant misinformation to appear on its platform only accelerates its slide into irrelevance.

The Changing Landscape of News

The digital age has democratized access to information. When a plane crashed in Toronto recently, a passenger was on TikTok within minutes, sharing a firsthand account of the incident. When Israel launched its war on Lebanon, independent journalist Rania Khalek provided

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