



Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front
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Human Rights Watch: A Modern Day King Maker Gone Amok!

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A cursory read on Wikipedia shows “the term amok is derived from the Malay/Indonesian/Tagalog word *amuk*, meaning ‘mad with uncontrollable rage.’ It came from when the British and Portuguese were trying to take over Malaysia. Assuming the Malay people were extremely passive and easily pushed aside, they invaded the territories, somewhat successfully, but the natives rebelled, shocking the British and the Portuguese, leaving them astounded...”

The statement released by HRW on May 24, 2010 titled “Government Intimidation Undermines Poll” is nothing but a display of uncontrollable rage by HRW as the natives of Ethiopia shocked it when they rejected an attempt by foreigners to anoint a king over them. By releasing its statement, even before the indelible ink on the fingers of the Ethiopian voters is dry, HRW displayed its despise to the intelligence of the Ethiopian people to elect a party of their choice and their courage to fight against colonization and oppression.

The just concluded 2010 Ethiopian election had 32 million registered voters, 43,000 polling stations, 440,000 election officials and independent local observers (an average of over 10 people per a polling station) and 230 European and African observers.

It is unfathomable how HRW can pass an invalidating authoritative judgment on this election and accuse the EPRDF government of “pressuring, intimidating and threatening” all 32 million Ethiopian voters based on one or two anecdotal stories it allegedly gathered from anonymous sources.



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HRW also seems to send a coded message to EU election observers to join HRW in coercing the Ethiopian people. HRW said “In assessing the polls, international election observers should address the repressive legal and administrative measures that the Ethiopian ruling party used to restrict freedom of expression during the election campaign.”

EU observers have been asked by the Ethiopian people to observe the polling process. The EU observer’s leader Thijs Berman has given a press release mostly praising the election despite some minor allegations by the opposition yet to be investigated. Notwithstanding this fact, typical of the colonial viceroy mentality, here again, HRW appears to take the liberty and has invited the EU observers to corroborate its lies and defamations.

This is not the first time HRW and other so called humanitarian and environmental organizations have tried to tarnish anything African in general and Ethiopian in particular, and it will not be the last time either. We members of the Ethiopian Diaspora and supporters of EPRDF are standing guard to expose them. We will continue to counteract their propaganda and to stop their disruptive and destructive agenda.

Ethiopians are the rightful owners of their fate and the masters of their destiny. They have exercised their right by casting their vote to the party of their choice in the privacy of the voting booth. HRW should stop second-guessing their decision and belittling their intelligence. Instead HRW should do the right thing and congratulate Ethiopians for holding an exemplary election and making history. They have concluded an election with 32 million voters at 43,000 polling stations without a single violent incident. No doubt this will go down in the annals of history as a momentous Ethiopian achievement.