

CPJ: Working to Undermine Third World Governments' Reputation

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The so called Committee for Protecting Journalists (CPJ) is nothing but a neo liberal intervention organization that works closely with its western-based human right groups to discredit those governments like that of Ethiopia, whose pattern of politics is unacceptable to them.

CPJ, established under the pretext of monitoring and defending press freedom globally, is a propaganda tool dedicated to protect the supremacy of the west over the rest of the world.

CPJ focuses on cases outside of the west like in African and Latin American countries, China, Russia, and other countries, though it claims its tasks are monitoring and defending press freedom globally.

The CPJ rarely reports cases of assaults on some confidentiality, including the prolonged detention of the several journalists who resisted subpoenas in criminal cases, identified as the US trend in the aftermath of 9/11 and through the invasion of Iraq.

In the last one month WikiLeaks has released details on the slayings of several journalists by U.S. forces. But the Committee for Protecting Journalists has covered none of the new details on these killings, or the dozens of other attacks on the press which have recently been exposed in the last month.

The Committee, which failed to report the dozens of attack on the press within its doorstep (the US) and in other western countries who exert their utmost pressure for the establishment of a western satellite governments in many countries in the world, alleged recently that the Ethiopian government incarcerated two Swedish journalists for doing

“**journalistic jobs**”, when the journalists in question were in fact convicted criminals who were caught red-handed along with terrorists by crossing Ethiopia’s territory without legal permit.

Since CPJ is never governed by the universal principles of impartiality and neutrality, it didn’t try to prove its claim—the two Swedish journalists were jailed for “**doing their jobs**”—by giving genuine opportunity to the Ethiopian government to provide its own views concerning the allegations in which it was accused of.

The Committee has neither tried to prove its allegation by tangible evidences or facts nor it cared to follow any of the normal standards for monitoring cases of press freedom abuses or human rights situations.

The truth was that the two Swedish journalists, Martin Schibbye and Johan Persson, who entered illegally in the country with assistance of the executives of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), which is outlawed and listed as one of the terrorist organizations by the government, were sent behind bars after being convicted of the charges filed against them by a legal court. Besides, the defendants themselves admitted to the court to have violated the country’s immigration law.

The defendants were charged with the violation of the sovereignty of the country by entering in its territory without a legal permit and cooperating with a terrorist organization, ONLF based on the country’s laws. After being accorded a fair and free trial, the two journalists (defendants) were found guilty of the charges filed against them by the country’s court, and were sent behind bars.

Every legal procedure was also strictly observed throughout the process of the trial the defendants as per the country’s law demands and as per standard of international law, a fact which could not be disproved or denied by the CPJ and its allies, human right groups.

Contrary to this truth, the Committee for Protecting Journalists has claimed the convicts' act (entering in the sovereign nation with out having legal permit with the assistance of terrorists) as an act of doing a "**legitimate**" job.

If the Committee is abiding by the principle of impartiality it shouldn't have dared to reach at a conclusion that the convicts were doing "**legitimate job (journalistic)**" since a job accomplished by violating the sovereignty of a sovereign nation could not be considered as **legitimate**.

Because making an entry into a sovereign state with out receiving legal permit from that country is regarded universally as an act of crime, which is punishable by law in any nation in the world. This was indeed one of the charges (violating this universally accepted law) that the Swedish journalists were convicted of.

Besides, it was beyond the breach of immigration law in which the Swedish journalists committed against Ethiopia. They were found to have cooperated with the National Ogaden Liberation Front (ONLF), which is listed as a terrorist organization by the Ethiopian government.

Moreover, doing journalistic job doesn't license reporters around the world to gather news information by violating the sovereignty of a sovereign nation. Or no journalism ethic neither allows reporters to gather news information in a foreign nation by breaking the laws of that nation.

So what are the legal grounds and ethical standards that could support the allegation by the Committee for Protecting Journalists' and the likes that the convicts were imprisoned for "**doing legitimate job**"?

The Committee for Protecting Journalists' only rule that it strictly observes for releasing any allegation is to be sure that the allegation is not opposing to the views of its masters, the west. This has become the typical characteristics of the CPJ.

It never fails to concoct all kinds of press freedom abuses against the Ethiopian government, and to exaggerates minor cases or downplay or distort tangible facts, as it did in the case concerning the imprisonment of Swedish journalists. .

CPJ along the so called human rights groups have continued trumpeting their opinion as they did in the past by disseminating their mendacious allegation against the Ethiopian government which say no to their political prescriptions under the pretext of protecting human rights.

Ever since Ethiopia has openly declared that all its doors for the political manipulation by the outside forces were sealed, the Committee for Protecting Journalists and its allies have launched a non-stop condemnation campaign against its government.

It has issued dozens of reports and statements of allegations at various times and occasions in the past against the Ethiopian government with its evil intention of isolating it from the international community, though it hasn't been successful as its allegations are nothing but full of lies that couldn't be substantiated by proven facts.

Reports or statements issued in the last couple of years by the Committee and the likes about human rights/press freedom abuses by the Ethiopian government were nothing but heresays and full of bias.

The New York City-based CPJ's major duty particularly after the 9/11 incident is to monitor and defend the interest of the west with a strong support from the latter by stifling the press freedom in those nations which are considered as opposing to the west's pattern of politics through distortion of the actual facts.

There is no an open prejudice for the CPJ has against the Ethiopian government as such as this allegation that the Swedish journalists “**were prosecuted for doing their jobs**”, when in fact it was obvious for the international community that they were convicted of

the charges filed against them in a court of law in an open proceeding witnessed by observers and resident diplomats.

So, it would not be wrong to say that the Committee is dedicated to advance its hidden political agendas through its repeated slanderous statements intended mainly to undermine the reputation of the governments of developing nations like that of Ethiopia under the disguise of “**protecting journalists**”.