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Dear Max,

Very Happy New Year 2012 and thank you Max and Stacy for being the voices of the voiceless 99%. I specifically thank both of you for educating the victim 99% (99.9% for that matter) about the dark underworld of the financial sector. Your insider analysis on what the 1% of the 1% would do next has always been rich in facts and intellect. Both of you also present the program with wit and humour and make us, we, the viewers want to watch more and more of it. It seems your previous life in the industry has given you enormous knowledge to the extent that you are able to read the minds of these minorities' next move in the financial terrorism activities/financial paedophilia as you would like to call. This is evidenced by some of the perfect predictions you made in the past. You and Stacy are doing an extremely important job for a good cause and I, being one of the millions of fans you have all around the world, would like to express my appreciation. My New Year resolution is to please keep up and intensify the struggle until the 1% of the 1% surrender or, at least, they repent their sins in some ways including through the justice system.

Having said that let me go back to the reason why I wanted to write this note. On Tuesday, 27/12/11, I watched the Keiser Report Episode No.228 that was aired at about GMT 21:30. I specifically refer to the interview you had with a certain self appointed "independent journalist" Thomas C. Mountain. With due respect, I really do not understand how you could let a certain self appointed "independent journalist" continue bashing on a sovereign country, Ethiopia. In the first place, he is a resident of Eritrea and must be very close to that country's leadership. You know, Eritrea does not allow any foreign journalist at all. This is a well known fact the world over. You said yourself that he is the only "independent journalist" in the country. Even independent journalists are not welcome as soon as they are seen to be independent in the real sense. Thomas is certainly not an "independent journalist". He is another hunch man for the Eritrean president, but hiding himself behind the "independent journalist" title that he has given for himself or got it from his master golden mouth President. As such, he would only say what he is told to say. In fact he seems to be the new face for Eritrean propaganda machinery. Secondly, he came wearing a t-shirt with Eritrean logo, with the purpose of taking this opportunity to advertise (possibly to give another face other than that of the well known pariah state) that tiny country to the world. Thirdly, he does not look Eritrean to me, but i saw him as a new recruit; he pretended to be more Eritrean than the Eritreans themselves just to show his loyalty to them. He also clearly talked using the word "we*" which means that he may have acquired Eritrean citizenship or some similar sort of arrangement. There was no sign of journalistic independence in his dialogue from the start to finish. I was also dismayed by some of the vocabularies escaping his mouth that seemed to belong to hooligans and vagabonds and not responsible

journalists. There was no sign of journalism in his utterance all throughout. You asked him about America's military expansion in East Africa but his reply was focused entirely on Ethiopia's military arms purchase, starving its own people, etc. You asked him about China's investment in Africa, but his answer was to suggest china to leave alone Ethiopia. You asked him what he knows about the involvement of Monsanto in Africa. He, instead, lectured you Eritrea's success story with malaria, strait of Babb-El-Mandeb, and no mention of Monsanto. He also told us a manufactured lie that Ethiopia was stopping food aid from starving people in the Ogaden region, so on and so forth. He forgot that there are 53 countries in Africa. Eritrea and Ethiopia are better enemies. So it is not expected that somebody from Eritrea would talk good about Ethiopia and Thomas has abundantly shown just that.

You may be aware that Ethiopia and Eritrean went to a bitter war in 1998-2000. Eritrea was the aggressor in that war and has been proved by the Border Commission in The Hague. Ethiopia could not have started the war because it did not have an army at that time. It had already dissolved its army in 1991, hoping that it did not have any enemy around. The reason for that decision was to divert the defence budget (500,000 strong at that time) to building the much needed infrastructure (education, health agriculture, communication). It was forced to building a small but effective army that was capable to defend its sovereignty that went operational in 1999. At the end of the war, the Ethiopian armed forces totally crushed the Eritrean forces but, true to its Ethiopian mercifulness and forgiving nature, it did not go further to dictate the terms of surrender hoping that Eritrea had learnt enough lesson and would choose peaceful coexistence with its neighbours, thus, giving Eritrea a second chance.. It has to be stressed, though, that Ethiopia has no problem and no enmity with the brotherly people of Eritrea. Since then, the government in Eritrea considers Ethiopia as its bitter enemy and has chosen to destabilise Ethiopia by all means including arming and training the Al-Shabab terrorist groups in Somalia. That government's trade mark is creating and disseminating mountains of lies about themselves that they may think would boost their ego and on the other hand, white lies about Ethiopia that they think could tarnish its good image. They are capable of manufacturing big fantasy lies that is hard to believe. But in this age of information, the true is there for everybody to see. Let me mention below few of them.

1. Thomas unashamedly told us that Eritrea has reduce malaria disease by 80%. Of course, we would be the happiest to see malaria totally eradicated from Eritrea. But that is not the case. In fact the only country that has significantly reduced malaria cases is Ethiopia simply because the health sector is headed by a highly committed world renowned malaria researcher, Dr Tedros Adhanom (http://www.diretube.com/georgetown-university-law/presentation-of-award-dr-tedros-adhanom-g-eyesus-minister-of-health-ethiopia-video_c0d9f77b0.ht). His contribution to malaria research and global policy around malaria has also earned him numerous prizes including this one

(<http://www.malariapolicycenter.org/blog/?p=364>). For this and other improvements in the health sector, the Minister of Health in Ethiopia has been awarded the Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Foundation International Award in March of this year (http://www.aigaforum.com/news/Dr_Tewodros_Award_2011.php). The award was given to him in recognition of his outstanding leadership and achievement in tackling infectious diseases in the country. Eritrea was nowhere to be mentioned in this category as Thomas wants us to believe. Another testimony to Ethiopia's success story in the health sector is that of the Yale School of Public Health paper that chose it as the "Model for Health Care Leadership" (<http://medicine.yale.edu/ysph/news/archive/2011/ethiopia.aspx>). Dr Tedros' exceptional commitment and dedication to global health in general, and the Ethiopian health sector in particular, has also earned him the Chair for the Geneva-based Global Fund PMNCH (The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health) (http://www.who.int/pmnch/media/press_materials/pr/2009/pmnch_20090709_congrat_tedros/en/index.html).

2. Thomas almost cries to get across his grand white lies of genocide in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia. But, the truth is that there has never been genocide in Ethiopia. It is only the evil minded in Eritrea, including Thomas himself, that think of genocide. The Ethiopians and Ethiopian people are self confident and God-fearing people and can never think of doing such evil things to humanity. Simply, the word genocide does not even exist in the dictionaries of the Ethiopian languages except to refer to that act in a phrase. The Prophet Mohammed's, peace be upon him, words are testimony to this when he said to his followers that "Ethiopians are a just people and Ethiopia is a country of justice". And has been so for centuries. Ethiopia has been the first to show to the world some 1600 years ago how to respect the rights and dignity of people with different religions and cultures (human rights in other words). So Thomas, claiming to be a journalist, has not done his homework and cannot lecture us about human right abuse in the Ogaden. But this doesn't mean that there is no problem in the area. Of course, there is. But it is a very insignificant problem. You see in any area, a single armed bandit can create havoc if he/she goes on shooting spree on civilians. That is the problem, few armed terrorists going to villages and terrorising and then claiming as if it has been committed by government security forces. It has also to be stressed that it remains to be a daunting challenge for the Ethiopian forces to control the over 1,000 km bordered with lawless neighbouring Somalia.
3. Terrorism has become a business model for some. For instance in 2009, a group of Ethiopian Somali students residing in the UK went to Nairobi for holidays. There, they were hooked by the terrorist group ONLF and told, hard to believe, fictitious drama of crimes and tortures supposedly committed in the Ogaden region by the Ethiopian Security Forces. The young students, unsuspectingly, without verification and with all their innocence believed on the story they were told and produced a

documentary of the story entitled “Silent Cry” (<http://www.ethiopianreview.com/content/11624>). They spread it all over the world and made a lot of money out of it. While the producers wanted to build schools and clinics with the proceeds in the areas of the victimised people, the terrorists refused and absolutely wanted a share of the money. A disagreement between the authors of the drama (the terrorists and the London student producers) erupted. This led to revelation that the whole story of accusing Ethiopia was entirely based on the crimes and atrocities of civilians by the terrorists themselves and not Ethiopia. But the damage on Ethiopia’s good image was already made for crimes that it did not commit. Two years later, the London students visited Ethiopia and freely travelled in the Ogaden region where the atrocities were alleged to have taken place. This time they would have the opportunity to verify what had really happened and who the real culprits were. Now that they found out the truth, they decided to do a follow up documentary, “Silent Cry – Discovering the Undisclosed Tragedy”, with which they want to expose the terrorists and also reverse the damage done on Ethiopia. I hope, it will soon come to you. In any case, anyone including foreign tourists and journalists can freely travel to any point in Ethiopia unhindered including the Ogden region. On the contrary, it is not even possible to travel to the capital city of pariah state Eritrea let alone to move around inside the country. It is just unthinkable.

4. He also mentioned about ethnic cleansing in the Ogaden region. I really don’t understand how Thomas can be so cheap to tell us such big lies. Of course, he must have sold his conscience for less than 30 dinars. In today’s inflation that won’t do him much though. But, as I mentioned earlier, the world is watching and there is nowhere to hide. Ethiopia is probably the most scrutinised country in the world. So if such horrendous action had taken place, the world would have been on its neck by now. Why would Thomas believe that a country that has a constitution that gives its citizens to exercise all their rights including succession would do ethnic cleansing? The constitution is not even the government’s constitution rather it is the constitution of all nations and nationalities in the country. It has assured and guaranteed all people rights and limitations. Development is also taking place in all areas at an equal and fast paced speed. There is no centre and periphery this time around. Every nation and nationality is now a centre and no area is allowed to be underdeveloped. Investors are free to invest in any area and place of their choice though. Speaking of ethnic cleansing, what can Thomas tell us about the Red Sea Afars and the Kunama tribes, both in Eritrea?
5. The self-styled “independent journalist” does not do justice to journalism when he tries to make us believe that Ethiopia occupied Somalia and caused half a million refugee, and then was kicked out by Al-Shabab, etc. It is all gibberish. If he does not know the truth, let me briefly remind him. After years of fighting in Somalia, the clan leaders finally agreed to form a Transitional Somalia Government (TSG) that was

supported by the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU) and the Inter Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), a sub regional organisation for the Horn of African countries. TSG did not have any military power to resist the threat coming from the Council of Islamic Court (CIC), the predecessor to the Al-Shabab. CIC controlled most of the central and southern parts of Somalia including the capital city Mogadishu while the TSG had its seat in a provincial town. CIC's initial success led them to believe that they could wipe out Ethiopia and, therefore, declared Jihad on Ethiopia. It also threatened to wipe out the, by then, legal TSG. The TSG fearing its annihilation by the ruthless CIC combatants filed a request for military support with the AU, IGAD and Ethiopia. Following the request made by the TSG and The AU, Ethiopia accepted to support but abundantly made it clear that it would not stay longer than necessary. AU assured that its mission in Somalia would be replaced by peace keeping forces from other African countries. So, Ethiopia, being an Anker of peace and stability in the region dispatched a contingency. The mission as I see it was motivated by two reasons. First it was to give support to the TSG, train their army, and bring stability and security in Somalia. Second it was a good opportunity for the Ethiopian forces to limit the capacity of the CIC to go on Jihad against Ethiopia which really is a self defence. Both missions were accomplished and CIC disintegrated. But, the indecisiveness of those countries who pledged to send peace keeping forces to Somalia led to long delays and Ethiopia stayed longer than necessary. The TSG army was also to blame as they were not able to effectively pick the training. Then the remnants of the CIC re-organised themselves as Al-Shabab and started claiming that the Ethiopian army is an occupier and that Ethiopia, perceived to be a Christian country, was occupying an Islamic nation. This propaganda worked well at that time as it helped created anger among the Somali public. Consequently, there was a conference on how to bring peace and security in Somalia that took place in Djibouti. This conference was dominated by the Al-Shabab (including the current president in Somalia) and conference participants claimed that the problem was none other than Ethiopia. They said, if Ethiopia leaves Somalia today, the country would have peace, security and stability the following day. At that point, Ethiopia being an observer said that if Ethiopia was the problem, then it would withdraw soon. Then the current Somali government was set up right there and then. That is how Ethiopia withdrew from Somalia and not flushed out by Al-Shabab as suggested by Thomas. He must have been in his dreams to think so.

6. Somalia refugees are a result of Al-Shabab and not Ethiopia. The Ethiopian armed forces are professionals. They have enormous confidence in themselves. They know what to do, where to do and when to do with absolute precision. They are one of the most disciplined armed forces in the world and have been confirmed by the top generals of the US armed forces. They well know that the only reason they took the job is to protect civilians no matter where. That is the reason they go to war – to protect the civilians. They never panic. It is when combatants panic that they lose

their discipline and make mistakes including looting and terrorising civilians. In fact, they don't even enter towns unless there is no other way. By doing so, they make sure they avoid fear among civilians that would result in people leaving their homes. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) would have been the first to accuse Ethiopia if that was the case. Mind you, the number of Somali refugees while the Ethiopian army was in Somalia was very low. It is during the current regime in Somalia that is bogged by Al-Shabab that the number has escalated. Thomas also talked about the Ethiopian army levelling Somali cities and towns. Amazing! How can a highly disciplined army that is committed to the safety and security of civilians in their homes and natural environment (I repeat no matter where) be engaged in criminal act? If this had taken place, the generals that were responsible would have been indicted for war crimes by the international crime justice in The Hague. Would it sound exaggerated if I say that they are "soldiers of angels"? They only go after to punish the wrong doers. Thomas, the new face of Eritrean propaganda machine, must have noticed this himself during the Ethio-Eritrean war that gave his government a second chance if at all he was there in those days.

7. History does not tell us of two or more conflicting neighbouring countries preferring a third neighbouring country that also share borders with both of them to mediate their disputes and bring the only peace keeping force to the conflict area. But history is in the making now. Both North Sudan and the newly independent South Sudan chose Ethiopia to mediate the dispute they have over the Abeye area (the place of contention). Both also requested Ethiopia to bring an army of at most 4200 for peace keeping purposes and not the 10,000 mentioned by Thomas. Even all of the 4200 have not yet been mobilised. The procedure had to follow the normal channels, i.e. the UN was the body to send peace keeping forces on the request of the disputing parties. Accordingly the UN Security Council unanimously accepted the deployment of the Ethiopian forces. If there is any expense to be incurred, it would be covered by the UN and not by the US. Both Sudanese people's choice of Ethiopia over others is not without a reason. All parties, the two disputing countries as well as the UN very well know the track record of Ethiopia's peace keeping missions elsewhere. For instance, they have brought peace, security and stability in Rwanda, Burundi and Liberia. It has also helped bring peace and security in Darfur (of course political solutions remain). The parties know that the Ethiopian Peace keeping forces are committed to peace and security and nothing more nothing less. Most importantly, they are impartial and fair to all parties. They have even been seen helping those in needs with their own money and also helping the farmers in their fields when time permits.
8. I was flabbergasted to hear that Libyan Ghadafi had good intentions for Africa and Africans. In fact, he was a thorn in the throat. He untirelessly tried to undermine the OAU (Organisation of African Unity) earlier, and the AU later. The only thing he did was bribe the leaders of few African countries that could support his grand

ambition of moving the African Union headquarter from Addis Ababa to his birth place, Sirte. When he miserably failed on that front, he tried his best to see that the AU fails and disintegrates. He also was responsible in arming and financing rebels against all countries who did not subscribe to his wish list. We have seen this with the IRA in Northern Ireland, The Red Brigades in Italy and the Baader- Meinhof in Germany that rocked Europe in the 1970's and 1980's. Ghadafi's support for terrorism couldn't be any different on the African soil. The president of the Sudan has said it all why he did what he did to give support to those that toppled him, just to mention an example (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-16349870>). Ghadafi handsomely rewarded to those like minded supporters of his lunatic ideas. One such like minded supporter is the president of Eritrea without whose life line would have been difficult to sustain. It is even said that Eritrea had dispatched army to fight the war in Libya in support of Isayas's Godfather Ghadafi. It won't surprise me if that army has been wiped out by the NATO bombings. But, I totally disagree to the way he was treated and murdered. The war was illegal. The reason to go to war in Libya being protecting civilians in Benghazi was as zany (to borrow a word from Mitt Romney – the Republican hopeful for the US presidency) as the smoking gun in Iraq. We don't even know who shot the first bullet in Benghazi. Was it the Alkaida terrorists or the government security forces? The army cannot be blamed for being there as it has to guarantee the peace and security of citizens. It can't sit idle either while being shot at. Why did the British Prime Minister suggested to bring out the army to the streets of London during the recent UK riots? Definitely, they wouldn't come out to make friends other than suppress irregularities. In any case, most of the financial support he gave to Africans is for building mosques and spreading Islam. As such, he has been a curse rather than a blessing. He could have done better with his money to alleviate poverty in Africa rather than putting his money in rich country banks and loose it altogether as it did. He could have made history to be remembered as a benevolent leader rather than being remembered as the leader that prolonged poverty in Africa resulting from the armed conflicts he financed. Praise to Ghadafi is grossly misplaced but no wonder as this comes from none other than the like minded Eritrean government.

9. Why is Thomas concerned in the Ethiopian affairs instead of his own when none of the questions put to him were specific to Ethiopia? He spoke of Ethiopia blocking food aid to the starving population in the south of the country. The only food aid that was blocked was in Somalia and it was blocked by the Al-Shababa (<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/africa/Clinton-Appeals-to-al-Shabaab-on-Food-Aid-126805563.html>). It is well known fact that following the drought, there were about 4.5 million in need of food aid in Ethiopia. The government of Ethiopia (GOE) did not try to hide it either. Following the early warning system, GOE had even requested donor countries on the need much earlier (January 2011). As usual, donors did not respond to the request in time. But this time around, the GoE had a

reserve food of about 500m tones. So it did not wait until donors deliver the requested food aid and, therefore, they immediately dispersed from the existing reserves to those in need. By doing that, they averted starvation. The same was done to the Somali refugees inside the Ethiopian border. So there was no single starving individual. Your guest may have confused the situation with that of the Al-Shababa in the case of the blockage and to that of the 1985 famine in the case of starvation. The £60m or so that the British government gave to Ethiopia was the one already pledged at the beginning of the year in response to the request made at that time. I, therefore, urge him to update his knowledge on this issue and applaud the government in Ethiopia instead of fictitiously condemning it on baseless and unfounded information. At least, Secretary of State Hilary Clinton has done.

10. Thomas unashamedly paints Eritrea as the “island of food”. My God, how dare he undermine the intelligence of your viewers? He has definitely gone nuts if he believes so. To believe and keep it for him-self is OK, but to tell the world that is more informed about the facts in Eritrea than the Eritreans themselves who are prisoners of their own government is sickening and ludicrous. Sometimes in 1999, the research made by the US Embassy in Eritrea revealed that it can only produce 20% of its needs under a given year with the perfect of weather. The rest, 67% should come from Ethiopia and the 13% from other countries. The UN also reported few months ago that over 60% of the Eritrean population could already be starving but that the government is hiding it. This is further corroborated by the Eritrean Opposition television news that Indian expatriate teachers at the Mai-Nefti College in Eritrea have not been paid for months until now for lack of money. Most of the youth have been leaving the country in search of a better life to the neighbouring countries and beyond. Over 60,000 Eritreans (some of them members of the armed forces) have already crossed the border to Ethiopia and are in various refugee camps. Some of these refugees (those that are legible) are even enrolled at Ethiopian universities up to the level of PhDs. Many Eritreans have been killed and other stolen of their body parts (such as kidneys) by the Egyptians in the Sinai desert while attempting to cross to Israel. Many more have perished in the Mediterranean Sea while crossing to Europe from Libya. All this is in search of a better life as there is abject poverty in Eritrea. The daily flow of refugees to Ethiopia, as we speak, to is still by the 100s. Therefore, portraying poverty stricken Eritrea as “an island of food” is pure fantasy. I know that we are all poor for now. But in the tradition of George Orwell, “some do better than others”. Just now, Eritrea does not. This doesn’t mean that they are not capable of reversing the current situation though. But they need a government that would allow this to happen.
11. He makes it even more complicated than already is when he tells us that Eritrea would bring peace as well as economic development to Africa. Honestly, it is laughable. Is it not Eritrea that opened war with all its neighbours in its short life as a country? The first victim was Yemen on the other side of the Red Sea. When this

venture did not give the desired result, the next victim on the radar was Sudan. It then unleashed a large scale war against Ethiopia, on the pretext of border issue similar to the smoking gun in the Iraq war case. The next victim was a peaceful tiny country, Djibouti. Did all these wars bring peace to the region? Not at all. Eritrea has in the past 11 years provided training, arms and ammunition,, financial and logistical support to the CIC and Al-Shababa in Somalia and other terrorist groups that seek to destabilise Ethiopia, and continues to do so as we speak (<http://www.nationalpost.com/news/Eritrea+EXTORTION/5662128/story.html>). The bottom line is that Eritrea is not capable of bringing peace to itself leave alone to other countries beyond its borders. The UN Security Council has for a long time resisted to impose sanctions on Eritrea in spite of the mountains of evidence. Instead, it chose to advise and appease it partly due to the special relationship Eritrea had enjoyed in the past with the US – the most powerful country in the Security Council. AU and IGAD also tried their level best to bring Eritrea in line with normal behaviour but to no success. At last Security Council found the worsening behaviour and madness of the Eritrean government and decided to impose the much needed and long awaited sanction. It should be noted thought that this sanction is mild and only directed at restraining the leadership and not harm the civilians as they themselves are victims of their bellicose regime that they are trying to get rid off (<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-12-01/eritrea-faces-diluted-un-sanctions-resolution-in-december-vote.html>). The pariah state continues to be a risky place and this can be evidenced by none other than the Travel Warning issued by the US Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5600.html)

12. I wouldn't even bother to comment on the economic development. A country that does not know what development is and also which is in dire situation can not possibly talk of bringing economic development to others. But Thomas and company never stopped surprising us with their grand fantasies and illusions. But illusions will always remain illusions. So my advice to Thomas is to stop day dreaming and believing in illusions.

So Keiser, I hope you will not allow any of your guests that come with different agenda to take the platform because it seems to me that Thomas did not help you to explore some of the issues you raised on that particular interview other than ranting on Ethiopia.

Sincerely

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Jan 02 2012