



Ethiopian-Americans ADHOC for Democracy

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Western Double Standard in Fighting Terrorism: the case of the ONLF, OLF and Ginbot 7.

The Bush administration due to the terror unleashed by Al-Qaeda 10 years ago told many countries in the world in no uncertain terms either you are with us or with them when it comes to fighting terrorists. Soon after it made its view clear, the Bush administration in cooperation with almost every country in the world unleashed its own war of attrition against terrorists culminating with the down fall of the Taliban, and the death of Osama Bin-Laden the number one terrorist. As we witnessed over the last ten years, almost every country in the world including Ethiopia did collaborate with the US to fight terrorists everywhere because it was a just fight.

The Ethiopian government has been fighting its own terrorists who have been killing innocent lives all over the country. Unlike the USA, Ethiopia is poor and powerless country which cannot demand the countries of the world to cooperate with its campaign against terrorism. Unlike their cooperation with the USA many western countries on the contrary are harboring the very same terrorists that Ethiopia is trying to defeat. Realizing this, the Ethiopian government passed a law recently that identifies three terrorist organizations that have called London and Washington home.

Though it is poor but progressing forward, Ethiopia is a proud country ready to guard its independence and peace at any cost. Ethiopia needs to protect law and order to maintain peace and stability like any other country.

Over the last few weeks, Ethiopian police has put few of its citizens whom it alleges have been conspiring with terrorist organizations. The police have said it has enough evidence to charge those in custody in the court of law. This is in contrast difference with the US which would put individuals suspected of terrorism away incommunicado for a long time since 9/11.

As usual some international institutions have started to cry foul about the jailing of suspected terrorists in Ethiopia. It is one thing to demand for fair process but another thing to cry foul. If these institutions want to be credible they should tell us what Ethiopia is doing different from what the whole world is doing when it comes to terrorists and collaborators. How does any western country treat such suspects? Is Amnesty International blind to how the USA or Great Britain treats terrorist suspects?



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In the case of the suspects held in Ethiopia, they were given ample chances to promote their cause. Some of them were pardoned several times with preconditions to respect the law of the land. The authorities have said they have enough evidence that these individuals have broken their pledge to respect the rule of law. Amnesty International or anyone else should not pre-judge the case. If Amnesty International is sincere it should have appreciated Ethiopia's stance towards rule of law and the magnanimity it has shown despite the alleged suspects continuous breach of pledges to uphold the constitution and peaceful struggle.

The Ethiopian people want the law of the land respected and the government has the right to do just that to maintain peace and stability so as to move the country forward. No country in the world has progressed without rule of law. The Ethiopian government has the mandate to protect the public from the heinous acts of the splinter ONLF, OLF and Ginbot 7! These three organizations have been recruiting foot soldiers in the country to carry out their terror plot. The Police have said it has evidence of such acts being planned. It is really sad western countries are allowing these organizations to plan and execute such acts from their own back yard!

In case, Amnesty International or anyone else is confusing these organizations aspiration with those in the Arab countries, we have news for them! Ethiopians have done their own successful struggle long time ago ahead of the "Arab spring" struggle. The struggle was bitter, costly and tiring facing the then prevailing harsh realities of the Junta regime. Ethiopians do not want to lose the fruits of their hard-fought struggle. No amount of external pressure or twisting of facts can change the course and the momentum of current democratic socio-economic developments in Ethiopia today.

Our advice to western countries and institutions wanting to influence the Ethiopian government is to respect the voice of Ethiopians. It is the best diplomatic course. Listening to former junta regime functionaries and other criminals in Diaspora as source of reference is not the way forward. If there is anything worth reading in the thousands of pages in the Wiki-Leaks leaked document is that the current Ethiopian government is not susceptible to outside pressure!

The Ethiopian government is keen to work with western allies and institutions to hasten its economic and democratic development. Western allies should know Ethiopia's democratic aspiration and good governance cannot and will not be enhanced by the ONLF, OLF and Ginbot 7 terrorist organizations they are harboring. These organizations have caused many mothers to become childless and many children parentless. The time is not for a campaign to tie the Ethiopian government hand in its fight against terrorism but to give the government a lending hand in its campaign to uproot terrorist cells. A terrorist is a terrorist anywhere!