

REVOLUTIONS ARE NOT FASHIONS TO BE IMITATED OR DOCUMENTS TO BE COPY/PASTED

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Since the middle of January 2011, the world has witnessed major historical events unfolding within some countries of the Arab World. The peoples of these countries have revolted against their age-old and authoritarian rulers that used excessive repression, saturated and stagnated socio-economic conditions, extreme corruption and nepotism and decades of ruthless rule by (state of emergency). Further, these corrupt rulers have been amassing billions of oil money into their private coffers while the majority of their citizens continue to live in dire poverty. Also, most of the above countries have been ruled either by archaic monarchs or military dictators in civilian uniforms under the guise of elected and democratic rulers. These corrupt rulers went further and did not even hesitate to openly inherit their “presidential throne” to their kin and siblings. As a result, the people of these countries started with the popular and mass uprisings first in Tunisia, immediately followed by Egypt resulting in certain reforms and changes of personalities but short of full-fledged revolutions as they have not brought about fundamental political and socio-economic changes as yet. Others such as Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, etc. followed suit in no time and the political turmoil in these countries is still raging with situations in Libya already becoming violent, deadly and with full-scale civil wars.



Whereas these developments are basically the internal affairs of those countries, as fellow Africans in general and as Ethiopians in particular, we share their grievances and wish to express our sincere congratulations to those brotherly peoples in question. We also wish that the current developments would herald the dawn of a new era of genuine, warm and brotherly relationship amongst the peoples and Governments based on equality and mutual respect. We also hope that the current situation will open a fresh chapter in the long history of Ethio-Egyptian relationship where the issue of Nile will not continue to be a source of misunderstanding, mistrust and dispute but rather of eternal bondage of brotherhood, friendship and of multi-faceted co-operation between our nations.

The main purpose of this article is therefore to comment on the ongoing futile attempts by few disillusioned Diasporas in Europe and North America to manufacture and import a “revolution” from Europe/ America or imitate and clone one from Arab countries to cause a “revolution” a la “Arab style” in Ethiopia in the coming month of May 2011. Ever since the unfolding of these events, these groups have been wrongly assuming that they have got a golden opportunity to proceed with their campaign in order to realize their hidden agenda. These disillusioned Diasporas have been rumbling the “song of revolution” day and night in a coordinated manner. Using rather abusing the electronic media (e-mails, face book, twitter). Further, these individuals have been busy sending unanimous e-mails and posting articles with phony names and spreading wrong, fabricated information and even preaching outright lies in order to mislead and confuse the innocent and genuine silent majority Diasporas. Their main hidden agenda is to incite chaos, violence and anarchy similar to the one they caused in 2005. These few disenchanting Diasporas

are shuttling from one capital to the other in North America and Europe knocking at every diplomatic door to fulfill their hidden agenda. Further, they are even calling upon the innocent Ethiopian people to die for them and for their selfish and narrow cause: a cause driven solely by their sectoral hatred and lust for power. Their agenda is directly headed and executed under the guidance, close supervision and with a round-the-clock media/ propaganda support of the rogue regime in Asmara. These disillusioned Diasporas have also been busy shouting at every demonstrations and forums forming action committees, collecting funds and running up and down in order to fulfill their hidden agendas. Few years back, these people tried to replicate the so-called color revolutions from Georgia and Ukraine and they failed. Once again, these same people are struggling to imitate the so-called “face book/ twitter revolutions” from Tunisia and Egypt. They are only good at copying and they have never come out with their own original idea or initiative. Therefore, they are doomed to fail this time again. What a misconception of realities and miscalculation of eventualities! What a wishful dream!

The following are some of the lines of argument these few disenchanting groups claim to have when they propagate and call for such “revolution” over our beloved nation.

1. They claim that there is no peace, no security and no stability in the Country.

Any sane person can see for himself or herself the prevailing environment in Ethiopia. One can also see a complete and durable peace and stability in all rural and urban areas within the four corners of the Country as a result of the establishment of a genuine Federal System of Government where all ethnic and religious groups live in equality, harmony and where their languages, cultures, religions, economic and political rights are fully respected and entrenched within the constitution of the land. Under the present leadership, Ethiopia has become “an island of peace and stability” even within the troubled Horn Region. One can travel to any corner of the Country and easily confirm without any shadow of a doubt the above facts; hence, their claim doesn’t hold water at all.

2. They argue that there is no human and democratic rights and political space in the Country.

Nobody can claim that there is an ideal and full-fledged democracy anywhere. It has only been two decades since the seed of democracy has been sown and democratic system of Government and institutions have been put in place in Ethiopia. The seed has already been fertilized and it is growing, however, for this infant democracy to be strengthened and flourish, it requires a genuine and utmost care not only from the incumbent Government alone but indeed from all parties and stake holders including the opposition parties as well. It should therefore be noted that a democratic process is not simply smooth, rosy and a one-time action but rather a long journey full of bumps and ups and downs. Therefore, there is no miraculous and a shortcut path to democracy. For example, it took the U.S.A. more than 200 years to reach its current position vis-a-vis the process of democratization and frankly, it is far from majority people in that nation enjoying the dividends of democracy; i.e. even there it has not yet reached the ideal level. One can thus confidently say that Ethiopia has so far achieved a promising and satisfactory level of democracy even by any international standard with solid democratic foundations already laid and with the process of democratization going in the right direction. Thus, here too, their argument is totally untrue and far from the actual realities within the nation.

3. They talk about some economic hardship and escalating cost of living within the nation.

There is some truth in this; however, are they genuinely speaking and/or genuinely concerned in that regard? More importantly, is this situation the sole product of the Government's policies and practices? In a contradiction to their claim, these people who shamelessly tried to block any funding to Ethiopia can not have any moral or ethical ground to advocate on behalf of the people Ethiopia as they have always cared about themselves and themselves alone. There are certain shortcomings in the areas of "good governance" and "bureaucracy" that might have negatively contributed and they need to be improved. However, a genuine Diaspora can constructively engage in easing and improving the issue in question through a cooperative effort with the people and the government of the country. The bulk of the economic problem is attributable to the current global economic and financial disorder and chaos and the current political and social turmoil in the Arab World. This has caused a significant price hike especially of oil causing economic hardship that affected people's livelihood everywhere, from U.S.A. to Europe, from Asia to Africa. It is true that just like the people of most parts of the World; the Ethiopian people are unfortunately affected by this situation as well. Therefore, a genuine and concerned group tries to find a solution not simply by accusing and finger pointing at the one side (the government) alone, but, through a productive engagements, determined, coordinated and concerted efforts from all stakeholders i.e. the Government, the opposition and the public at large both from within the nation and the Diaspora. Thus, their argument and their assertion is not genuine and way beyond the truth. Further, there is no adequate cause to warrant a revolution in today's Ethiopia. What then is the real motive and agenda behind these groups' calling for a revolution? The answer is simple and clear; i.e. as they have always been, it originates from their inherent and extreme hatred and boundless lust for power at any cost including human cost; nothing else.

The following are some of the strategies they use in order to advance their agendas.

These few cynical Diasporas peruse among others four strategies.

1. They totally deny the prevailing durable peace and security in the country.
2. They belittle or deny altogether all developmental success the country has achieved thus far.
3. They create wedge between the government and the public by systematically misinterpreting and wrongly implementing (sabotaging) the government's policies and practices and,
4. They try to push innocent Ethiopians into better resentment against the government by exaggerating temporary economic hardships.

These biased individuals have always been fond of opposing the policies and practices of the Government not based on their merits or out of any genuine principles but simply to satisfy their blind and biased hatred. Their reactions to the recent two national issues (towards Shabia and the Great Dam) are ample testimonies. The proponents of the "domino effect" with their biased analysis and bizarre meteorology are busy forecasting and praying that a "cyclone of revolution" would somehow blow from certain Arab countries and cause havoc, devastation and revolution in Ethiopia that would instantly install them to power. Except expressing their emotional and wishful thinking and desire, these people can not come up with any solid fact and scientific explanations to back their hypothesis. These groups need to realize that revolutions are peculiar home-grown phenomena that are borne when peoples bitterness, discontent, anger and rage reaches boiling point or overflows as a result of massive violations of human and democratic

rights, excessive corruption, mismanagement and unbearable economic hardship. Whenever and wherever these ingredients for revolutions exist, revolutions erupt irrespective of their occurrence/ non-occurrence in other countries. The prevailing socio-economic and political conditions in Ethiopia is totally different from that of Tunisia and Egypt and do not warrant the occurrence of any revolution at all. Therefore, ingredients for a revolution are not there and any revolution with the exception of economic revolution is not feasible and is unrealistic and unthinkable in today's Ethiopia. The only place that could occur is in the minds of these few hallucinating Diaspora individuals and/or groups of North America and Europe.

History has taught us in numerous occasions that people don't rush and jump into the bandwagon of revolution by lobbying, bullying or some conspiracy unless they are forced by and faced with unbearable political and economic conditions. The fact that such uprisings and revolutions occurred only in Arab countries and non in Sub-Saharan countries are not a mere coincidence. It is something to do with the common history, culture, psychology, socio-economic and political conditions these countries share among themselves and that the other countries don't. The Ethiopian people did not need a model revolution to wage their 1974 or 1991 revolutions. If the need really warrants, they don't either need to wait until certain revolutions erupt in other parts of the World. Just because it happened in another country or next door, it can not necessarily happen here. We can observe from history that when it occurred in Ethiopia in 1974 and 1991, it didn't happen in Egypt, Tunisia or Kenya. When the Iranian revolution erupted in 1974, it did not happen in Iraq. When the Cuban revolution occurred in 1960, nothing happened in Haiti or Jamaica.

It is sad that such a certified and time-tested developmental endeavors unfolding within the nation would be criticized and condemned instead of being praised and rewarded. To cite just one recent testimony, The Economic Intelligence Unit's April 201 as reported by The African Business Magazine on Ethiopia forecasted that Ethiopia's economy will soon overtake China and India and become the number one fastest growing economy, moving up from its present third ranking in the world. Whereas the reality within the country is what reputable international observers such as the above mentioned are saying, it is sad that it has become the habits and functions of these groups to confuse the international community vis-à-vis the current situation in the country and to condemn and defame genuine, gallant and lifetime sons and daughters of Ethiopia who have proved their unflinching commitments to develop the nation and their proven competency for decades both in times of war and in times of peace.

The Ethiopian people are very mature and wise especially at this age of enlightenment, information technology and globalization. Expecting these great people to buy these groups' cheap propaganda and fall into their trap is sheer insult to the intelligence of our people. Our people are fed up with these people's negative, childish and irresponsible behaviors and actions. Our people are now saying to these groups "enough is enough" in no uncertain terms. The Ethiopian people were once fooled by these groups few years back but they would never be fooled again.

The Ethiopian people and the Ethiopian Government are busy waging their socio-economic revolution right in front of the eyes of the World and achieving impressive successes. They have no ears to lend and no time to spend on these groups venomous propaganda and evil schemes

masterminded by the historical enemies of Ethiopia. I wish to urge and advise these groups to wake up from their daydreams and open their eyes to the realities of today's Ethiopia. I hope they do realize that the days are over when the Ethiopian people particularly the youth are fooled and fell into their trap. I wish to advise these fellow citizens to give up their detrimental ideas and ally themselves with the wishes and aspirations of the Ethiopian people before it is too late. I also wish to convey a message shared by the Ethiopian people to these groups. As Abraham Lincoln once said, "you may fool all the people some of the time, you can even fool some of the people all of the time, but you can not fool all of the people all the time. Further they should also know by now that their sinister campaign does not work and can no more disturb the hard won peace and stability and impede the ongoing socio-economic development of Ethiopia as no power on Earth can. Further, they should stop toying with the idea of "revolution" as revolutions are not commodities to be imported, fashions to be imitated or documents to be copy/pasted.

Happy Easter to all Christian followers
God Bless Ethiopia
