

OPPOSITIONS' AND SUPPORTERS' ENDLESS SMEAR CAMPAIGNS PART 5

By Mathza

Most of the oppositions' leadership and their handful supporters, particularly the minuscule vociferous Diaspora, and some individuals obsessed with lust for power and hatred against Prime Minister Meles Zenawi have been and are doing anything to get rid of him, the TPLF and the EPRDF. They are intimidated and demoralized by his intelligence, capability, competence and the respect he commands in the international community. Their hatred is limitless. In their obsession and desperation to snatch power, they have crossed the line of treason by compromising and endangering the sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and national interests of Ethiopia. The following are examples supporting this statement:

They condemn Ethiopia's defense against jihadists;

They praise, congratulate, defend, encourage and support—instead of denouncing—the atrocities committed by separatists and jihadists;

They condemn Ethiopia's reaction to such atrocities;

They collaborate and scheme with the Eritrean government which has been and is trying hard to destabilize and disintegrate Ethiopia;

They belittle EPRDF's sound government policies and strategies, which have proved successful;

They deny and ridicule the double-digit economic growth, a remarkable progress and performance in socio-economic development in the last five years; and

They unashamedly accuse the Prime Minister of being a stooge of developed countries because of, among others, his success to mobilize foreign assistance (For example: by not giving in to pressure from such countries to allow foreign banks to operate in Ethiopia he not only shielded the development of local banks but also saved the country from the devastating impact of the current global financial crisis).

In short, these hate-mongers and anti-Ethiopia elements do not care at all about Ethiopia and Ethiopians. Their only desire is to be in power by any means—in the driver's seat—without any concern on how that might impact Ethiopia and its people, enie kemotku serdo aybqel.

One of their tactics is a negative smear campaign portraying the country's image and, in particular, it's dedicated Prime Minister with all kinds of monstrous adjectives and pictures. Among the methods used include politicizing everything, outrageous allegations, lies, exaggerations, wild generalizations, spinning, misinterpretation and spreading rumors. Practically all of the writings of these-diehards are replete of despicable descriptions and character assassinations, all intended purely to bring down the government. This writing ferrets out examples of statements that do not make any sense, are illogical, are concocted, or are not supported by facts—purely intended to misinform and mislead readers, particularly the Diaspora silent majority. It is a modest attempt to expose those bigots who have been hoodwinking and continue to hoodwink the Ethiopians and the international community. (In the future, there will be a series of matrixes like the one below, each preceded by the current two paragraphs).

Title/Source/Date	Author's Statement	My Comments
<p>1. The Horn of Fear, by Alemayehu G. Mariam, ethiomeia.com, December 15, 2008</p>	<p>A few days ago he [Meles] told his parliament...: "The African Union, Uganda and Burundi have all asked us to stay behind and provide protection for the safe passage of their troops." Uganda's deputy foreign minister, Okello Oryem, said that is a complete fabrication: "This is absolutely not true and this is contrary to everything we have said. Our position has always been that if Ethiopia pulls out of Somalia, we will increase</p>	<p>The writer, in his own words, showed willful ignorance of facts. He extensively quoted the Uganda deputy foreign minister's denial of the Ethiopian Prime Minister's (PM) statement. He intentionally omitted the fact that the PM's statement was subsequently confirmed four days (12/11/08) before his was posted on ethiomeia.com. In other words, he purposely suppressed such information, thereby misinforming the unsuspecting readers—a tactic often resorted to by groups and individuals like him.</p>

	<p>our presence there. Uganda is prepared to increase its battalion if there is a need.”</p>	
<p>2. ሳምንታዊ ዜና ዘገባ, ከፍተኛ ዲሞክራሲ የኢትዮጵያ አንድነት ድምፅ ሬዲዮ, ethiolion.com, 16 December 2008</p>	<p>November 26-27 closed and secret meeting of 45 high officials, supposedly chaired by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi (own rendition).</p>	<p>This radio station specializes in “bere wolede” reporting comparable to that of Ethiopian Review. This week’s weekly reporting by the vindictive EPRP against TPLF/EPRDF is, as usual, heavily loaded with all kinds of lies, allegations, etc. The report on the Prime Minister would serve as an illustration. The report says that after 30 minutes of keeping his head low because of unbearable headache caused by a confrontation by one of his colleagues he left the meeting to rest for a while. According to another paragraph further down, because of increasing anger, he secluded himself in a special room for 30 minutes and rejoined the meeting after a doctor had given him “yemastagesha medhanit” as his condition worsened (was “asgy’). It is difficult to buy this lie considering the strong and clear-thinking character of the Prime Minister.</p>
<p>3. The <i>Reporter</i> is telling the truth, Letters to the Editor, <i>Joe Michael, ethiomedial.com,</i></p>	<p>"Article lacks sincerity": I am baffled by the writer’s suggestion that the public would be in paralysis if opposition politicians opt out from the coming</p>	<p>I am more baffled by the two ideas in the statement on the left. The first one on public paralysis is conceptually not different from the second one, public have no interest. The first is based on the assumption that the oppositions will boycott the election while the second, the public itself will boycott the</p>

<p>December 18, 2008</p>	<p>election while the fact shows that the Ethiopian public have no interest to participate in this election for so many reasons that doesn't require explanation here.</p>	<p>election. In other words, there will be no election conducted in 2010. This is not the kind of conclusion that one can justifiably arrive at based on the 2008 local elections. Both assertions are wild generalizations with not a single evidence provided for their validities.</p>
<p>4. Mad men in charge! By Yilma Bekele, ethiomeia.com, December 18, 2008</p>	<p>Majorities of our people now rely on food aid for basic survival.</p>	<p>Even if the plural form "majorities" implies reference to subsets, most likely ethnic groups, the word "majority" means over 50%. Now, this would, according to the writer, mean over 38.5 million of the 77 million population rely on food aid. The 12.1 million people in need of emergency food relief—mainly due to the 2008 drought (Bloomberg.com, 1/22/09)—works out to 15.7% of the total population, a far cry from 50%. According to the United Nations and the World Bank the level of poverty fell from 59% during the 1990s to 38.7% in 2005. It is clear that the writer has grossly exaggerated the number of Ethiopians relying on food aid.</p>
<p>5. World Bank calls this "progress" in Ethiopia, Ethiopian Review, December 18th, 2008</p>	<p>The regime in Ethiopia [with money borrowed from World Bank and others] is building highways everywhere, even in the south, to connect with Kenya. But while brand new roads are open, people</p>	<p>I give the publisher credit not only for admitting the development of roads in the country but also for posting an example of a picture of a modern and beautiful highway, apparently meant to be a criticism. Isn't the picture in itself a contradiction of his title which is intended to be belittling? I am, however, dismayed at his remarks of</p>

	<p>still walk bare feet, or on horses, like in ancient times.</p>	<p>people still without shoes and riding horses. Like his ilks he seems to have short memories of his origin and misinforms readers that development is instantaneous while the reality is that it is a process over a long period of time.</p>
<p><i>6. Teddy Afro could be released soon, Ethiopian Review, December 18th, 2008</i></p>	<p>Ethiopian Review's Intelligence Unit has learned that Teddy Afro could be released soon as Ethiopians around the world get organized to fight for his freedom. According to ER sources, the Woyanne regime has sensed a gathering storm and is deciding to preempt it by releasing the popular artists.</p>	<p>The rascal publisher has come out with the latest of his hundreds of lies. Does he really believe that spreading a rumor will help the release of Teddy? Does he really think that such childish tactic will work? It is over a five weeks now since his "Intelligence Unit's" prediction. The demonstrations have come and gone. How soon is soon? He is, as usual, simply making a fool of himself.</p>
<p>7. Report on Meeting, "Barack Changes the World", by Zenebe G. Tamirat, ethiolion.com, December 20, 2008</p>	<p>Even though Ethio-American relationship goes back to over a century, Ethiopia has never been a beneficiary of the partnership.</p> <p>In the beginning of the 1990s the Administration of President Bill Clinton helped pseudo liberals'</p>	<p>The writer must be the only or one among his minority group who are ungrateful. How can one deny outright that Ethiopia benefited from US aid for decades! It is likely that he himself, directly or through his family, could have been among the beneficiaries. Is he rejecting the fact that US aid saved lives during successive droughts. Is he hiding the fact that US aid has helped and is helping in the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS and saving lives and improved living conditions of</p>

	<p>Militia Forces led by Melese Zenawi that seized power by the barrel of the gun in 1991.</p>	<p>HIV/AIDS sufferers? As many of us know there are no areas in the social, economic and political sectors that the USA did not provided assistance to Ethiopia.</p> <p>With respect to the second paragraph on the left how did President Clinton help EPRDF to seize power? EPRDF did not need help to fight its way to Addis Ababa. It got there on its own using effective military and administrative strategies and organizing towns' people and farmers to rally behind it. The writer, like all his types relentlessly do, denies credit to EPRDF heroes who made it possible for the on-going democratic process to be in place which now enables him to recklessly accuse the EPRDF of all kinds of evils, actions, wrongdoings, failures, setbacks, etc.</p>
<p>8. The Billionaire and The Lapdog, by yilma bekele, ethiolion.com, December 24, 2008</p>	<p>...the Sheikh felt compelled to donate such a large sum to the Clinton Foundation Did the TPLF regime somehow manage to be part of the understanding in this alliance? Or is it possible that as usual we are making a mountain out of a molehill? We as a people have an inbred</p>	<p>Yes, you and your likes, as usual, make mountains out of molehills and are obsessed with unfounded paranoia. You are right that the "small businessman" cannot compete with the Sheikh. Are you implying the former is competing with the latter? Let alone in Ethiopia the small businessman anywhere else in the world cannot and does not compete with the likes of the Sheikh. What you are, in effect, arguing is against big international investors because they compete with small businessmen— obviously non sense.</p>

	<p>love of paranoia. Capitalism requires a level playing field. It is futile to ask a small businessman to compete with an international financier. That is not fair. It is unequal competition. ...our country does not need lavish hotels and Soviet style concrete buildings.</p>	<p>As to lavish hotels, you seem to have a wrong notion. For Ethiopia to exploit her tourism potential she needs accommodations to cater to all kinds of tourists. Besides, you do not seem to take into account that Addis Ababa is the capital of Africa. It hosts meetings, conferences, etc. It should provide accommodations befitting Heads of State and wealthy persons who demand five-star hotel accommodations.</p>
<p>9. Yediaspor an Tgl Wtetama Lemadreg, Program qutr 56, Yetzbt admas, ethiolion.com, Tahsas...q en 2001 am</p>		<p>The article opens by stating the number of Ethiopian refugees in the world is estimated to be “berkata million” and asserts that, more or less, everybody agrees this is not exaggerated. The word “berkata” should, at least, mean more than two. In other words, the writer is telling us there are three or more million Ethiopian refugees in the world (The figure often mentioned by different sources is around one million). If this is not an exaggeration then what is? Apparently, this is intended to misinform the reader, a tactic used ad infinitum.</p> <p>The author laments the inability of the Diaspora to unite. He, like his types, intentionally ignores the fact that by far the majority of the Ethiopian refugees are not against the Ethiopian government. Time and again readers are bombarded with erroneous reports by the</p>

		<p>oppositions of highly exaggerated numbers of participants in demonstrations against the government. The participants in such demonstrations comprise the same faces and number in the tens or hundreds, very rarely reaching the thousands level, out of over 500,000 estimated in the USA.</p>
<p>10. ሳምንታዊ ሌና ዘገባ ፍኖተ ዴሞክራሲ የኢትዮጵያ አንድነት ድምፅ ራዲዮ, ethiolion.com, ታህሣሥ 18 ቀን 2001 ዓ.ም.</p>	<p>□ የወያኔ ባለስልጣናት ነጋዴዎችን በማስገደድ በይፋ ገንዘብ አምጦ ማለት ጀመሩ፤ □ አራት ታዋቂ ነጋዴዎች እራሳቸውን ገድለው ተገኙ፤ □ የመለስ ባለቤት አዜብ መስፍን ከተስፋዬ መርሳ ጋር በድብቅ የወጭ ገንዘብ ስትመነዘር እንደነበረተጋለጠ፤</p>	<p>The items listed on the left column are among the issues aired on Finote Democracy: Voice of Ethiopian Unity radio (Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Party). Practically all the paragraphs end by referring to the “report” we received or its equivalent. Open minded readers, I am sure, would question the reliability of the sources. In fact, they would not rule out the possibility that the information on the three issues (except the one on suicide by two, not four, businessmen) is mere character assassination but presented as if it were provided by reliable sources. I suggest that readers who may have not read the write-up to read it and arrive at their own conclusions.</p>