

Second-Guessing The Will of the Ethiopian People: Unacceptable

The Ethiopian people spoke in no uncertain terms on May 23, 2010. They did this with the appropriate decorum and civility. Given their civilization and proud history, nothing less is expected from the people of Ethiopia. The ugly features of 2005 were an aberration, not the expression of their character. Lectures to the average Ethiopian to stay away from violence may not be all that appropriate.

On May 23, not only did the Ethiopian people reject violence, but they also expressed their will in no ambiguous terms. That popular will expressed full confidence in the EPRDF. This is what is being second-guessed by some, including by U.S. National Security Council Spokesman, Mike Hammer. His is an interpretation laden with value judgment which has absolutely nothing to do with the reality of the Ethiopian election. The thrust of the statement was in fact anticipated by one that came earlier from the Human Right Watch. We reject it. We equally reject the statement that the New York Times attributed to Johnnie Carson, the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs at the State Department.

It is true that Ethiopia and the United States "share a number of important interests." It is also the desire of the Ethiopian Government to continue its friendship with the people of the United States with the view to promoting these shared interests.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

26 May 2010