



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Calling universities for executing public investment differentiation system

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Higher Education Institutions need to focus on a public investment differentiation system and focus areas to manage public investment, the Planning and Development Ministry appealed.

Speaking at the workshop yesterday, the ministry's minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) said, proper utilization of differentiation systems and focus areas in higher education would enable the efficient utilization of public resources. The practice would also be used as the main policy document to administer other public projects.

To make the system applicable, universities should plan and implement their development programs and projects in line with their mission and focus areas, she added.

The Minister further called on higher education institutions to focus on the system to manage public investment in universities. The system adopted from international practices and experiences in

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Photo: Hadush Abreha

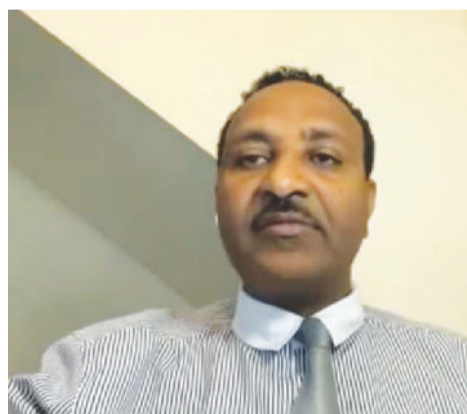
## Analysts unmask H.R. 6600, S. 3199 architects

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA- The H.R. 6600 and S. 3199 bills have been initiated and cosponsored by foreign-based interest groups that are working in tandem with local agents to destabilize and impoverish Ethiopia and undermine the reform government, analysts closer to the issue argued.

Speaking to local media, Unity for Ethiopia group Director Seyoum Assefa said, anti-peace elements including TPLF lobbyists in exile that are questioning Ethiopia's destabilization and their foreign masters are behind the malicious resolutions. Overlooking TPLF's crimes against humanity, the U.S. introduced the bills in the support of the terrorist group.

Seyoum further noted that, the resolutions that turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to TPLF's human rights abuses in Amhara and



Seyoum Assefa

Afar states have been introduced to support the culprits and dismantle the nation. "If the bills are approved, low-income Ethiopians will suffer the most. It is a well-known fact that countries and their citizens have been harmed by U.S. ill-conceived and politically motivated sanctions."



Professor Brook Hailu

"The main motive of the U.S. successive governments to impose sanctions on various countries in the guise of democracy and human rights is weakening the governments and harming their people. Every Ethiopian, who has the love of the country, must

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**Manufacturing sector figment of hope for market stabilization**

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# News



WHO's Director General, Tedros Adhanom (PhD)

## WHO Chief ruins world health via lobbying for terrorist TPLF

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA**—Many have said that WHO Director General, Tedros Adhanom's (PhD) meeting with Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi secretly, is part of his destructive move to dismantle Ethiopia by backing terrorist TPLF taking humanitarian issue as a major playing card.

The passionate man, Neamin Zeleke tweeted that, "Madam Speaker Pelosi WHO Director General, Tedros (PhD), the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Health, doubles as terrorist TPLF's senior diplomat. Ethiopian Americans are cognizant of his machinations to destabilize Ethiopia with TPLF leadership."

GetFact on its part said, it is the exact time that breaks the silence and stop Tedros's lobbying for the TPLF insurrectionists to bring sanctions on Ethiopia. GetFact added that, Tedros has met 18 U.S. government officials in support of terrorist TPLF that caused the current crisis in Ethiopia.

Christopher Mekonnen on his part said that, it is a travesty of humanity that the architect of the recent instability in Ethiopia, who hid cholera outbreak when Health Minister is responsible for targeted reduction of Amhara population by 2.5m and mishandled COVID 19 pandemic, is offering an audience of the speaker to push H.R.6600.

Optimistic man, Habesha on his part said that, "The purpose of the meeting is disguised. Speaker's meeting with WHO chief is not relevant as targets at assisting terrorist TPLF at the expense of Ethiopia, home to over 115 million people, and defaming a democratically elected. The U.S. stands with Ethiopia rather than supporting the terrorist group."

Supporting this idea, Leul Asfawon his part said, "Madam Speaker where was Tedros Adhanom (PhD) when nearly 1 million American lives lost due to COVID-19?" No doubt it was due to WHO's failure to take timely action to stop the virus. Now he is here to lobby US Senate and US congress on behalf of his original shelter, Terrorist TPLF. Cancel H.R.6600!

Adane Haile said that, WHO's Director General has thousands' blood on his hands during TPLF period. Currently, he is working more to support these dying terrorists instead of doing his job combating COVID -19 pandemic and boosting world health. #Break the Silence #No More!

## Draft sanction bills punitive, misguided: Panelists

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** –The two congressional Bills of the U.S., H.R. 6600 and S.3199 draft resolutions are more of punitive and misguided and would bring unintended consequences on Ethiopia, Panelists said.

In a recent panel discussion, the Panelists said, the resolutions are not designed to facilitate inclusive dialogue, make human rights violators accountable, stop violence and others.

They are rather intended to favor the TPLF by putting the country's economy on a chokehold and bringing government change.

Lawyer Dereje Demessie said that, many people are considering the resolutions as useful in facilitating dialogue, but the approach of the resolutions is punitive and one-sided. The resolutions aim to bring government change, making merely the government accountable and fulfill the interest of westerners.

They do not mention the atrocities and lootings that the TPLF has committed in Afar and Amhara states. The biased resolution is sponsored by pro TPLF groups and persons. It is a result of advocacy of some groups and individuals who support terrorist group, he added.

Furthermore, it will install control and monitoring systems in four sectors such



as economy, military, communication and legal process. The ratification of the resolution or sanctions will result in a huge shortage of foreign currency as its budget depends on loan and credit. This also causes the devaluation of Birr.

Ethio-Americans Development Council (EADC) member and Chair Founder Nebiyu Asfaw for his part said, the H.R. 6600 has significantly favored the TPLF at the expense of Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Horn.

If the bills are endorsed they would become binding and enforceable. It will carry the full way of the law to severe questions that will impose on the Ethiopian people for the next decades. It will bring unintended consequences of progressively increasing punitive measures to put the country's economy on a chokehold.

"In this conflict, we have witnessed something that Ethiopia has never seen in its history. They all engaged in the internal affairs of the country. The entire western countries and institutions have all taken an unusual interest we haven't seen anywhere

else in recent African history."

As to him, officials from the state department congress, EU, UK and Australia as well as their media all have backed the dispute over the Welkait Humera corridor as western Tigray.

They all used humanitarian causes as a reason with alleged atrocities being committed against the Tigrayans who live in the area. All the global bodies are united in their position and saying for peace and stability to be possible. This is to demonize Amhara forces and territorial and shamefully downplay atrocities committed by the TPLF against the people of Afar, Amhara and Tigray.

This is an example of using selective outrage and propagandized humanitarian allegations as a pretext for a political goal. It is to give the TPLF access to quarters through Welkait, he stated.

The State University of New York and Binghamton Professor of Sociology and Human Rights Prof. Biniyam Awash said that, the U.S. act to impose sanctions on Ethiopia is illegal and against international law as the UN Security Council didn't endorse them. It is using sanctions as a tool for its foreign policy in order to achieve political objectives.

It destroys the middle class and targets the poor. It is neither to achieve human rights nor democracy, he said.

## Economist commends policy intervention to rein in soaring inflation

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA**- The soaring inflation makes a revision of the national macro-economic policy critical, a renowned economist said, calling for the ban on the importation of luxury goods that drain Ethiopia's limited forex reserves.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), the economist Zemedeneh Nigatu stated that, Ethiopia is affected by the hiking of the prices of goods and services that is largely attributed to global factors.

Noting the price of essential commodities is growing alarmingly, Zemedeneh highlighted that the government should adopt preventive measures to arrest the soaring inflation. Widening and consolidating forex earnings is also something worth equal consideration to stabilize the market.

As to him, the current inflation is anticipated to increase in the upcoming months. For this reason, the government needs to subsidize basic commodities thereby helping the society especially those in the fixed income bracket. Also, manufacturers working in agricultural



Zemedeneh Nigatu

and industrial sectors should exert efforts to produce in ultimate capacity. "The dry season wheat production which is being carried out with support of the government should be also extended."

Zemedeneh, who is also a Global Chairperson of Fairfax Africa Fund further indicated Ethiopia's enormous potential to the production of essential commodities including edible oil and support the

operation of large-scale factories.

It is evident that Ethiopia is dangerously reliant on agricultural imports owing to the limited import substitution capacity. "Unfortunately, our country is importing oil, gas, iron and wheat in bulk and the price of these commodities is now skyrocketing compared to the past year. Hence, we need to adopt new policies aiming to stabilize the market and cost of living."

# News

## Sekota IDPs in dire need of food, medicine

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**—Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs) in Sekota zone, Amhara state disclosed that they don't have any medicine, sanitation and even thin mattresses; hence, they are in dire need of food, medical supplies and other related matters.

Visiting the two IDP camps in Amhara state, journalist Anne Garrison said that, they have had very little food, no medicines, sanitation facilities and even the thin mattresses to sleep.

She said: "They told me that, TPLF had taken everything they had and finally fled to save their lives. We were not able to visit Alamata because the terrorist TPLF has still controlled it but we can confirm that there



was neither electricity nor plumbing in the two cities we visited including the holy city of Lalibella home of the raccoon Ethiopian orthodox Tewahido church."

The IDPs in Wollo camp said, their houses were burned by the TPLF and after they come here they didn't get any food and material supplies they urge world community to

supply food item there.

Another displaced woman in Medtech IDPs camp said, she was living in Abergalle near Tigray border. She said, they haven't got anything to eat and drink even any mattress to sleep.

"If peace prevails, I will be nice; otherwise, we would like to join the military and fight against TPLF because this is a matter of life and death and end of world," she added.

Director General of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom's crying out for humanitarian aid to Tigray without mentioning anything about the immense suffering in Amhara and Afar states when invaded by the TPLF clearly attests that he himself is one of the architects of the crime, she stressed.

## Saudi Arabia, UAE eyeing Horn of Africa Investments

BY MULATU BELACHEW

**ADDIS ABABA**—Recent study revealed that around 305 Saudi investors obtained licenses to implement 141 projects in the field of agricultural and livestock production as well as 64 other projects in the industrial sector for ten years in Ethiopia.

According to English ASHRQ AL-AWSAT report, Gulf investments in countries of the Horn of Africa, especially in Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and Djibouti have shown progress.

A recent study issued by the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies on foreign investment in African countries showed that, Gulf companies invested more than 1.2 billion USD in the sub-Saharan African region, from January 2016 to July 2021, with 88 percent of projects coming from the UAE and Saudi Arabia, followed by Qatar and Kuwait.

Investment flows from the Arab Gulf to sub-Saharan Africa amounted to about

3.9 billion USD between 2005 and 2015, according to recent statistics centering completed projects. Africa has become an increasingly vital partner for the Gulf States.

The Russian-Ukrainian crisis highlighted the strategic importance of the Horn of Africa region in terms of its strategic location overlooking the oceans, global trade routes and straits heading from the Gulf States to Europe and the United States.

According to the study, the UAE is the fourth largest global investor in Africa, after China, Europe and the United States, respectively, and the top Gulf investor in the continent, with investments reaching 25 billion USD between 2014 and 2018.

Those projects cover airlines, construction and investment funds. The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development was at the forefront of investment and financing activity in Africa, as it financed more than 66 projects in 28 African states, with a value of 16.6 billion USD in 2018. The Fund



also allocated 50 million USD to Emirati companies wishing to invest in Chad.

The study also noted that, the region enjoyed attractive investment potential, as 44 percent of its agricultural area is still unexploited, in addition to its great livestock and oil wealth.

Saudi Arabia invests about two million hectares in a number of African countries, while a large proportion of the Kingdom's agricultural projects are concentrated in

eastern Africa.

Djibouti, which is located on the Bab al-Mandab strait, has become a logistical hub for agricultural trade movement between Saudi Arabia and East Africa.

Saudi investments in Sudan have also increased, according to the study. The value of joint projects over the last two decades amounted to 35.7 billion USD, including ongoing projects that are estimated at 15 billion USD.

## Calling universities...

a way that supports the country's growth and development.

As to her, higher learning institutions have been categorized into research, applied science and comprehensive universities. However, Universities haven't been translating the public investment differentiation system practically.

Over the past years, several reform activities have been undertaken to overcome problems that have been seen in public investment. Revising the public projects administration and management system proclamation will help to properly implement the execution of projects.

Higher education institutions are one of the entities that the government allocates enormous budget. Various activities are underway to properly administer the sector in such a way that public investment to support development and growth, science and technology utilization and growth,

to develop international competitiveness and to ensure the beneficiary of local communities.

Furthermore, it will facilitate citizens to be an all-time beneficiary from the opportunity of education in higher education.

Education Ministry Prof. Berhanu Nega said, for his part that utilizing the public investment of higher education rationally enables it to achieve the education goals. Tightening the belt is important for the sector.

Prof. Berhanu expressed his Ministry's commitment to apply proclamations and procedures. And it has been executing various activities to ensure quality education in terms of curriculum designing, providing exit exams and others. "All universities should apply a differentiation system to bring efficiency to get in return from the investment."

## Analysts unmask...

contribute to block the efficacy of the ill-intended resolutions."

For his part, a veteran diplomat, political science and international journalism expert Prof. Brook Hailu stated that, if the Biden Administration really wanted peace and stability in Ethiopia, it would have cooperated with the legitimate government. "If there is no peace and security in Ethiopia, the region will not be stable."

The scholar pointed out that, the U.S. administration is dismayed by the independent-minded Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) leadership who have seized public power since 2018. Because of this, the Biden Administration has introduced the H.R. 6600 and S. 3199 bills to stop

financial support to Ethiopia, restrict migration to the U.S., as well as to prevent Ethiopian Diaspora from sending money to their relatives and also investing in their home country.

The H.R. 6600 has been sponsored by Democratic Party's Rep. Tom Malinowski and cosponsored by Rep. Gregory W. Meeks of Democratic Party, and Rep. Young Kim and Rep. Michael T. McCaul of the Republican Party. Also, the S. 3199 has been introduced by Sen. Robert Mendez of Democratic Party and cosponsored by Sen. Christopher A. Coons of Democratic Party and Sen. James E. Risch and Sen. Thomas Tillis of the Republican Party, Professor Brook elaborated.

# Opinion

## Stop embargoing Ethiopia, defending sovereignty should not beget sanctions

BY HIZKEL HAILU

Knowingly or unknowingly westerns and the US government are taking the theme “African solution for African problem” as a curse for Africans. While the westerns are trying to solve their internal problem by themselves, it is well putative. But the same scenario could not be presumed by them while it is in Africa, particularly, in the sovereign Ethiopia. They even want to forget that Ethiopians have long standing experience of keeping love, harmony and peace amongst each other.

As Malcolm X once said, “When ‘I’ replaced with ‘We’, even illness becomes wellness.” Taking his proverb in to account, we Ethiopians should work in unison to assure the real prosperity of the country. Coupled with this, we have to show our solidarity in refusing western’s interference to dismantle Ethiopia.

Similarly, we have to embrace about being together always pays off successful results. From the Ethiopian Proverb, ‘when spider webs unite, they can tie down a lion’, the saying produces a powerful image of hundreds of thousands of beings coming together to achieve something awe-inspiring. Therefore, we have to show our harmony for the entire world. Unless we stand together, they will ride on our sovereignty as their wish.

So, it may seem odd to follow that up with a post asking you to become a “we” instead of an “I”. Both proverbs quote by Malcolm X and Ethiopian forefathers represent literally what I believe in! Togetherness is a key factor when it comes to well-being.

Unlike restricting Ethiopia from AGOWA beneficiary list, the US government shall disregard the approval of the two bills, namely, HR6600 and S3199. The two bills aim to levy serious sanctions on Ethiopia with the pretext of ensuring peace and stability in Ethiopia. Does it mean Ethiopia does not want peace and US wants to impose peace on it by force? Is it possible to ensure peace imposing sanctions that are equally dangerous with conflict? Time will tell the truth.

It is a real fact that the US government is trying to embargoing Ethiopia to keep its sovereignty. Cognizant of this fact, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen expressed his concern to a US official about the bill HR6600 and S.3199 the United States is planning to pass against the Government of Ethiopia.

He expressed his concern during his meeting with David Satterfield, the United States Special envoy for the Horn of Africa last week. “I met U.S. SE to HoA, David Satterfield. Briefed him concerns on HR6600 and S.3199 and expressed confidence that the U.S. would discard the draft bills since they put the lives of ordinary Ethiopians in danger rather than promoting peace & democracy,” he tweeted.



*Where there is unity, there is always victory*

The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister also briefed Satterfield about the encouraging peace initiatives that the government of Ethiopia has taken to ensure lasting peace and stability in the country.

United States Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa David Satterfield, on his part, said the United States has appreciated and acknowledged the positive steps taken by the Ethiopian government to pacify and stabilize the country.

There up on, Ethiopians at every corner, members of Ethiopian Diasporas and friends of Ethiopia must strengthen their solidarity in appealing for punitive bills against Ethiopia. The H.R. 6600 and S.3199 bills neither fulfill the stated purpose nor resolve the current problems rather they both just exacerbate the situation in Ethiopia.

Following this, different demonstration has been holding in different part of the glob in opposing the approval of the bills against Ethiopia. Apart from this Ethiopians are also collecting a petition in denouncing the presented bills by the US congress man.

During the demonstration took place in Washengton DC, Ethiopian and Eritrean Diasporas denounced the malicious resolutions and urged the Biden Administration to block their execution.

The Diasporas stated both bills, targeting the Ethiopian economy, also affect the country. Accordingly, they are appealing to all Americans in all walks of life to call their representatives and congressmen and convince the latter not to pass the resolutions that would otherwise further deepen the gap between the U.S. and Horn countries.

The Ethiopian-American Civil Council (EACC) has also expressed skepticism on the likelihood of the approval of draft bills (H.R.6600 and S.3199). According to the council, the bills are not likely to get final approval as a lot of recommendable measures have been taken on behalf of the government to deliver humanitarian support to Tgray State.

Despite the federal government’s adherence to humanitarian truce, the World Food Program (WFP) 43 food aid trucks had not been transported to Tigray due to the closure of Abala road by the terrorist TPLF forces, a senior government official in the scene said.

Command Post’s Logistics Coordinator at Kilbeti Resu Zone of the Afar State Abdu Mohammed recently stated that the terrorist faction apparently breaching the declaration of Humanitarian Truce and its pledge to freeze military operations in the occupied areas. TPLF’s aggression forced WFP trucks to return to Semera town of the Afar state without delivering humanitarian aid to the needy.

The rebellious group is still making attempts to occupy additional lands in Afar State and hindering the delivery of humanitarian supplies to Tigray by extending the aggression. Just one month after the announcement of troops’ withdrawal from both the Afar and Amhara states, the rebellious faction occupied Abala, Magale, Erebt, Barahle, Konnaba districts, as well as a town in the Afar State.

“For instance, TPLF forces launched an offensive campaign last Tuesday to control additional places in Afar, and because of this, about twenty WFP food aid trucks destined to Tigray were forced to return to Semera. The clique’s recent action is a clear manifestation of indecency and its ill-conceived attempt of starving civilians for political goals.

By the same token, the Government Communication Service (GCS) also issued a statement to express the federal government’s commitment to work closely with stakeholders to ensure the full delivery of humanitarian assistance to that in need. The government further urged the TPLF to refrain from deception and play a constructive role in the food aid delivery.

Meanwhile, a British politician and Member of Parliament for Chelmsford Victoria, Grace Ford (VICKY Ford) tweeted that

the United Kingdom strongly supports the commitment of the Government of Ethiopia to humanitarian truce and access to Tigray.

The MP stressed that the TPLF should respond by ceasing fire and withdrawing from Afar and called on the commitment to translate into aid deliveries, which the UK Government is ready to support.

On the contrary, through denying the truth which is visible on the ground, the rebellious group’s leader is still bluffing that its group would like to accept the aid without opening the colliders and as the same time without being withdrawn from the places of Afar and Amhara that the faction has occupied so far.

For this purpose, the world should understand the commitment of the Federal Government to sustain peace in the country and to work closely with stakeholders to ensure the full delivery of humanitarian assistance to the region. Having a clear understanding up on the issue, the world in general and the US government, in particular should tended to ignore the developments on the side of Ethiopian people and government only to finally endorse bills that aim to harass Ethiopia in different ways.

Turning a blind eye and a deaf ear on the brutal act of TPLF terrorist group by many of international community i.e. western countries, international organizations and US administration are letting Ethiopian civilians to death and displacement coupled with psychological abuse.

Furthermore the Westerns and The US government as well, shall express their optimism over the National Dialogue and foresee the deliberation could be the premium mechanism to resolve political disagreements that have ravaged the country.

There up on Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia shall have to continue the genuine act of solidarity to show the clear fact about Ethiopia. We have to say no for those who poke noses in our internal affairs. In the years to come we are dedicated to change hate with consensus, oppressions to democracy, poverty to prosperity, vulnerability with strong national force.

We Ethiopians shall stand shoulder to shoulder to keep peace, stability, prosperity as well as sovereignty of Ethiopia forever. We should never allow external groups to make interference with our internal affairs.

It is now the time to say it is ‘ENOUGH’S ENOUGH’ to stop western’s interfere on the national interest of Africa particularly Ethiopia as the time demands self-administration. All Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopians are pledged to show solidarity in order to keep the sovereignty of mother Ethiopia.

**Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald**

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The Ethiopian Herald

## Editorial

### Withdraw the draconian draft bills

The TPLF and its sympathizers are working round-the-clock to destroy the age-old Ethiopia-US relations. Taking superficial steps such as putting draft sanction bills on hold will not do the trick, to say the least. The right solution is to cancel the draconian bills that the irresponsible persons have drafted. The US must also base decisions regarding matters related to its key horn ally after making thorough analyses on all available facts. The senators and representatives must put in place a system to identify genuine products from those manufactured by the lie factories of the TPLF and their collaborators.

If those who are sponsoring or co-sponsoring the bills want to the prolonging of the long standing diplomatic relations of Ethiopia and the US, they have to completely drop the bills, stop direct and indirect support to TPLF and resort to activities that rather pop up the activities of the government of Ethiopia. Without any exaggeration the government of Ethiopia is currently engaged in activities that completely align with the needs and interest of the peoples of the two countries as well as the principles of diplomatic relations between two countries like Ethiopia and US.

What the government of Ethiopia always pursues are peaceful, fraternal relations for mutual benefit. Regardless of the party that takes power in USA whoever the senator or congress member that holds the position, Ethiopia always shows integrity to the principle of diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries.

However the works of those senators/congress members who rush to prepare bills would only end up spoiling the strong and exemplary relations of the two countries if their destructive agenda goes unabated.

To reiterate once again Ethiopia will always remain committed to

its strong relations with the US. However, there would be no room for bargain and compromise to any bill or effort that puts its national interest, sovereignty at stake. It will continue to struggle until the bills that are now described as suspended would be fully cancelled.

In addition, it is important to note that, Ethiopia should not be alone in safeguarding the longtime relations of the two countries. Concerned American citizens and politicians should also work actively to prevent the possible damage to the countries strategic diplomatic ties because of the conspiracy of TPLF and their cliques.

Nobody forgets the vivid truth that TPLF has been a gathering of politically corrupt gangsters that held power for about three decades. It embezzled the resources of a country, smuggled it abroad, and created illegal relations that worked on the mode of tit for tat. It would be too naïve to think that the criminal group would refrain from mobilizing the illegally saved resources for its rescue at this time.

On top of this stolen-resource of the poor Ethiopians, it is important to question why the hard-won tax money of the American people is channeled towards destroying well-built strategic relations. Rather it must be spent to further cement the already existing ties so as to bring about bright and prosperous shared future for the peoples Ethiopia and the US. Therefore, the peoples of the two countries should join hands to the complete cancellation of these bills and the possible similar attempt in the future. The US must also take other measures that could enhance the two-side relations.

The bottom-line is Ethiopia is making all kinds of steps to give peace a chance. It twice declared truce to enable citizens held hostage by the TPLF get humanitarian delivery.

## Opinion

### Why sanctions after conflict enters de-escalation phase?

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Conflict has its own stages. It passes through different phases from its latent stage up to de-escalation and post conflict peace agreements, though it varies from conflict to conflict. During early stages of conflict and during active violence, different actions are expected from concerned international actors to halt the escalation including preventive actions of diplomacy.

Interventions during the early stages are always preferable to mediate the actors before entering to destructive wars. During the stages before active armed conflict and during an active armed violence, sanctions and other pressures are common and preferable measures from international actors to control the conflict and to halt from further escalations by investing on mechanisms of weakening all means of powers of the conflicting parties.

The end goal of sanctions and external pressures from real international actors and friends are only to control the conflict and to bring the conflicting parties to the negotiating table for peace. During these stages, sanctions and pressures are acceptable since there is no other means to control the conflict from entering in to active war or to halt the active war from further escalations.

The intention behind genuine sanctions and external pressures are only to maintain peace using all means on hand. Most of the time, pressures during these stages may be justifiable and reasonable according to international political order, though it is questionable to say write or wrong. During the early stages of

conflict, it is logical to see external pressures.

Though, the case in Ethiopia remains for years and the conflict was growing to active violence by passing all the stages of conflict, the international community remains silent to mediate the political actors in Ethiopia. Even during the active war, the international community's involvement to play constructive role in restoring peace was unsatisfactory, though there were unintended efforts.

Except protractile conflicts, most conflicts start de-escalating after it reaches its peak, stabilizing phase. By different means conflict can start de-escalation; but most of the time it is after both sides of conflicting parties try to think the consequences of the war. At this stage, the conflicting parties realize that the cost of continuing the war is higher than winning the conflict and understands its consequences. They start thinking to solve the conflict peacefully through negotiation and unilateral or agreed cease-fires, unilateral declarations of readiness for peace talks by the conflicting actors are signs of these stages.

During this stage, the role of concerned international actors and friends is vital more than ever. But, the involvements during this stage need caution. It is only to play constructive role using this opportunity to move forward that the conflicting parties to start negotiations. The remaining stages after this stage are negotiation, dispute resolution and post-conflict peace agreements. Hence, it is unnecessary to use coercive and preventive diplomatic measures. Unnecessary pressures and sanctions during this stage are unusual and un-recommended even theoretically.

At any situation, I stand against war. Though

there are thoughts that "there is justifiable war", I am against any war and I rather favor all means that prevent war. If any action helps to control war, I will never remain impartial to support it. If there is a possibility to maintain peace, I will choose any pressure to achieve it.

But, as it stands, for my understanding the conflict in Ethiopia is on ending its phases and entering to its de-escalation stage after a year active war. The parties to the conflict are calling for talks to end the war by negotiation and recently, cease-fire declares by both sides. In addition, during the past four or five months, there is no active war in Ethiopia. This shows that, there is high possibility to end the conflict peacefully.

At this time, scholars in peace and security recommends that, to halt another circle of violence, the international community and friends are expected to play crucial role to double their support wholeheartedly to end the conflict. At this stage, the science recommends increasing aid, doubling development assistances, easing or relaxing implemented sanctions to promote peace.

Though, this is the science and the practical reality, unfortunately two sanction bills are on the table by the U.S. houses against Ethiopia. There is news that, these bills are now suspended, but suspicion also abounds on the suspension when the right action to take is to drop them completely. I don't want to analyze further conspiracies by the U.S. against Ethiopia, but for my understanding and knowledge, the sanctions at the U.S. table against Ethiopia are untimely, unusual and have no connection with the reality on the ground. Ethiopia and its people need peace and

development and the government of Ethiopia is also working for that. External concerned actors' involvement at this time must be to realize the real interest of the Ethiopian people than worsening and complicating the conflict with sanctions. There is no doubt that the sanction would affect Ethiopian economy, directly and indirectly means it affects the peace and stability of the country by halting its economic development.

The sanction generally affects the day-to-day lives of the general public. This means, it is an investment to destabilize Ethiopia. Peace initiatives are always welcoming by the international community and such initiatives open the appetites of the international community to support the situation wholeheartedly.

Hence, it is not real time for sanction, but for increasing aid, multiplying development assistances and promoting Ethiopia's activities if the international community and senators from U.S. want are genuinely working to see peaceful settlement of the dispute. By its nature, post-conflict peace-building needs strong participation of the international community especially in rebuilding the destroyed infrastructure and war affected economy. A sanction during this stage only complicates the conflict and escalates the situation for another circle of active war.

**Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald**

# Business & Economy

## Manufacturing sector figment of hope for market stabilization

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

As part of structural transformation, Ethiopia envisages the manufacturing sector as a key component and strategic input to up line the country towards renaissance.

Strategies were being formulated, best practices scaled up adopted setting growth and transformation plan. The micro and small scale enterprise was believed to shift gear on the country's ambition to achieve stretching national goal.

States' men were frequently observed to say, they were determined to pull the trigger of development and rejuvenation of Ethiopia with an amalgam of state led economy emanated from the Far East.

However, it was crystal clear that the service and the construction sector outweigh the manufacturing sector as relevant authorities attributed to attitude.

Indeed, the transformation was more associated with a party issue and served the then despotic regime to sustain its chair. The quota leadership coupled with stubborn stance long remained to be Gin and Tonic for the citizenry.

Those who had been committing moral crimes caused national death and denounce the initiatives of some optimists. The nation was clumsy about the performance of the manufacturing sector as TVET and the provision of shades and other motivating factor were mainly based on possessing huge fan on political arena and securing benefit for kinship.

In the meantime, the State of Oromia under the leadership of the emerging spirit managed to show the great works of the day not only in words, but in practice as well. Being one of the blessings in East Africa with potentiality of growing and rearing, no doubt the newly emerging young leaders are playing their card well in crystallizing thought to matter.

Trade fair and exhibition play crucial role to swift market exchange and promote one's ability to produce and productivity. If it is thought to take advantage of diverse climatic zones producing yields in respective altitude and organize the huge man power in the manufacturing sector, Ethiopia could be an instance of success and shield for the rest of Africa.

The Oromia State has made a good stride and continues to mesmerize in settling situations in a good manner despite worrisome.

The bazaar is one of the markets in which the manufacturer and the consumer are directly involved. While they do this, they are believed to have the potential to stabilize the market.

Bazaar, which is a major factor in stabilizing the market, is undoubtedly important at this time of year when the consumer is complaining about the high cost of living.

The bazaar, in which the producer and the consumer are directly connected, is of great benefit to both the consumer and the producers, and its contribution to the country's economic growth is not insignificant.

Recently, a five-day Bazaar Market Enterprise Development Transfer Program was also held in Adama, Oromia State. A



*Effective entrepreneurs in Oromia State are encouraged for better success*

bazaar and exhibition with the participation of enterprises engaged in various zones and cities of Oromia State was held from March 30 to March 31.

The bazaar was attended by 100 enterprises from different zonal administrations and cities of the state.

According to Abdulrezak Ahmed, Deputy Head of the Oromia Regional State Bureau of Labor and Industry, the bazaar is a place where producers and consumers meet and trade is a big business.

According to him, producers of fruits and vegetables, pulses, grains, coffee, honey, incense and other agricultural products are being produced in the zonal and urban areas, and industrial products are being supplied with various products and other products.

In addition to agriculture and industrial products, various innovations have been presented by five technical and vocational schools in the state. He said the bazaar and the exhibition have a role to play in reducing the cost of living and stabilizing the market.

It was a time of great upheaval as it was the time of the Orthodox fast and the beginning of the great fast of Islam, Ramadan. Taking advantage of the opportunity, the bureau launched a massive campaign. As a result, many consumers are able to trade in the bazaar.

As the bazaar was set up in Adama, a large number of customers from the four directions of Adama participated. He said the high volume of buyers and sellers has benefited the consumer and the producer in particular.

He added that preparations are underway to provide similar market opportunities to consumers and to stabilize the rising cost of living in various zones and cities of the state.

He further said the same bazaar will soon be held in Jimma, Adama, Shashemene and other towns. The market is a platform where the consumer can connect directly with the manufacturer and trade directly the desired agricultural and industrial products, he noted.

In addition, due to the upcoming holiday season, preparations are underway to

expand the bazaar in major cities, including Addis Ababa. Via arrangement of the bazaar, the market can be stabilized by connecting consumers and producers, he said.

Abdulrezak related that the five-day bazaar market was well attended and had a good marketing activity. He pointed out that a lot of work needs to be done to connect the manufacturer to the consumer without any interference by organizing such events.

"To this end, manufacturers need comprehensive monitoring and support to expand their supply and sell their products at a better price. Producers have high potential and should be used by the community," he said.

The Oromia Regional State Job Creation and Skills Bureau is providing significant support and supervision to enable manufacturers produce products that are able to meet the domestic market demand.

He said the necessary support will be provided including various trainings; the producers are working to meet the demand of the local market by using the training they receive and by strengthening their capacity with the help they receive.

"If manufacturing industries, including agriculture, can compete by increasing the quality, type and volume of their products, they have the potential to supply them to neighboring countries," he said.

He further said the producers will be able to stabilize the market as they will not only reduce the country's foreign exchange challenge but also enable them to buy at a reasonable price locally.

The current situation in the country is facing various challenges in the manufacturing sector which has a significant role to play in stabilizing the market. Among the challenges, he mentioned are financial, manufacturing and sales areas.

He also said that most producers do not realize that they are trying hard to expand their reach beyond the local market, which is due to lack of awareness and marketing skills. "Especially now that we are in the age of digitalization, it is important to strengthen our connection with technology," he said.

The remaining works need to be identified to enable the producers in the state to identify

their gaps and enable them to produce their products more efficiently and effectively. In addition to the various trainings provided by the Oromia Regional Bureau of Works and Skills, Sinke Bank is also working as a backbone to address the financial problems faced by the producers, he said.

He also said that various production machines are being offered to the manufacturers. As for the production and sales areas, there is a shortage of shades and they are building and supplying shades in different areas. However, it is unlikely that sales and production problems will be solved by simply building shades. If producers can produce in a limited area, they can sell their products in the digital market without looking for a place to sell, he added.

For years, micro and small enterprises have been active in various sectors in the country. Just as there are small and micro enterprises that have not been successful and have not been able to generate wealth, there are many who have worked hard in their respective fields and successfully transitioned to medium enterprises. Prosperous and successful people engaged in agriculture and industry during the five-day bazaar and exhibition in Adama.

During the five-day bazaar and exhibition in Adama, successful and determined manufacturing enterprises engaged in agriculture and industries have been transformed into a medium enterprise, he said.

In particular, transferring outsourced and capitalist enterprises to a medium-sized enterprise not only encourages others but also increases productivity.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> Bazaar and Exhibition held in the region, 740 enterprises have made the transition. Sinke Bank is also the backbone of the enterprise to improve the financing of the enterprises. Of the transferred enterprises, 198 are in the manufacturing sector.

Speaking on the occasion, Oromia Regional State President, Shimeles Abdissa said the region has not created enough job opportunities as to the region's potential. The government is ready to address the problems of the enterprises. Bazaars and exhibitions will continue playing an important role in stabilizing the market, he promised.

# Art & Culture

## A book written by a military officer launched during the weekend

BY STAFF REPORTERS

The book with the title; *"The Betrayed Northern Command"* was launched last weekend.

The book was authored by Gashaye Tenaw (Sergeant).

No author can write being caught at the hands of an enemy, but the author of the book *"The Betrayed Northern Command"* Gashaye Tenaw (Sergeant) has made it possible, during the book launching event Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed praised the author.

During that time of distress, the PM noted, it is amazing that sergeant Gashaye, was recording things in his diary, while the army was under attack in the Tigray region.

The book, *The Deprived Northern Command* was not only the author's personal story but also the story of all of us, he said, the brave author narrates what he saw and heard with his eyes in a great language agility.

"Picking up a pen the author and narrates



the truth in a remarkable way."

At this stage, he said, the readers are more fortunate than the writers when people who are part of making history are found to be writers.

PM Abiy said many of the world's most remarkable books chalk up to military offices, and the author from the Ethiopian army is advised that he should press ahead with such literature works.

"If a soldier doesn't equally know the enemy as he knows himself, he won't prevail; ignorance, and hate, as the PM explained are enemies' plans to pummel us from outside and divide us from within, we have to go beyond and unite," the PM conveyed his message."

Gashaye Tenaw (Sergeant), who authored the book, was a member of the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces when the attack on Nov 4, 2020 on the Northern Command was carried out. The book narrates the unfolding and the gruesome experiences of members of the defense forces who were "kidnapped" by TPLF militants.

The author has previously authored books entitled; *"Ethiopia Timut,"* in which he presented a collection of poems and another book titled *"The Liar"* a novel about "the corrupt practices in the army.

The inauguration of *"The Betrayed Northern Command"* book was attended by retired and active military generals and senior government officials.

## What's Out Addis, Hilton Addis Ababa set jointly kicks off, "The Big Art Sale" art workshop

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIHER

The biggest and anticipated artwork event by the art lovers, "The Big Art Sale", which is being organized every year will be take place on Saturday and Sunday April 16 and 17, 2022 for its 17<sup>th</sup> edition. This will be the biggest artworks exhibition of the year.

The workshop is set to be jointly organized by the What's Out Addis and Hilton Addis Ababa on the stated timeframe.

The event is expected to feature more

### What's OUT! ADDIS

than 300 legends and young artists offering their artworks. It as well will host by the art lovers to the workshop in which over 5,000 participants are awaiting the event.

According to the press release sent to

*The Ethiopian Herald*, the workshop will be held in a manner that considers the protocol in place to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. It will see legends and young art communities. They will not only meet in person with the art lovers, but will also market their

art works to their viewers at a fair price.

It is noted that many will attend the event as the main objective of the event is to encourage and support Ethiopian pilgrims engaged in art as well as to support in various charitable activities.

An entrance ticket worth 200 Birr is set to be sold for the event and the ticket can be purchased at Hilton Addis Ababa Hotel and other places two weeks before the event. It is also possible to get access at the entrance gate of the Hilton Addis Ababa Hotel on the occasion, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

## Three words of Magic

BY ALEM KIDANE

I know three words of magic  
That tell a beautiful truth.  
He stared me in my eyes  
Awaiting these words, three...  
To flow from the wells of my soul  
And spring through my lips,  
quivering.  
He summoned the waves of sound  
To carry them,  
Unto his self-indulgent ears...  
And drown them, in his  
unquestioning heart.  
I know of three magic words  
That make a humble truth.  
They are but simple, albeit  
unknown.

"I don't know"

Dust in the wind but I am  
What rights have I to know?



Aren't I a passenger in the dark,  
A traveler of light?  
What do I sincerely...know?

I am nothing into something.  
I am something into nothing.  
But I know just one thing.

And they are three magical  
words.  
Humble and truthful.  
I know. That I don't know.

He...knew of three enchanting  
words  
That made a handsome lie.  
He longed to hear them, from me  
These heavy words... boorishly  
abused.  
But I am a lone traveler  
I pay no heed to false knowledge  
Nor have I time for ephemeral  
gratification.  
All I could tell him was  
"I don't know"  
But he valued his lie over my  
truth  
And gasped at my last two words  
Which were neither "love" nor  
"you".

## The plots behind the bills

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

The talk about the US government bills directed against Ethiopia has been lingering for the last five months. Whenever this topic is mentioned, there is an image that immediately pops into my mind. It is a picture that went viral about 8 months ago. Seen in the picture, was one of the top TPLF leaders holding a satellite phone to his ear, under the watchful eye of the then WFP Emergency Coordinator, Thomas Thompson.

WFP was the one that first announced last week the arrival in Mekele of the first batch of food aid and fuel carrying trucks since last December. How much of these supplies would reach their intended targets, the hungry Tigrayans civilians? This question obviously would not be a cause of concern for the USAID, WFP, or any other UN agency.

These western agencies know too well that their food supplies and fuel are being diverted by TPLF forces to be used as input to the logistics of TPLF war efforts. Even some analysts accuse the agencies of helping TPLF revive as a major player in Ethiopian politics. They base their argument on TPLF's track record as a proven loyal servant to the big geopolitics agenda of the Western powers in the Horn of Africa. TPLF operatives like Tedros Adhanom have infested all echelons of power in these agencies. And pushing political agenda under cover of serving humanitarian purposes is a usual practice in these international agencies.

The two bills, S-3199 and H.R. 6600 are just the final stages of the grand secret plan of the Americans. The plot to bring TPLF from dust in the outbacks of Tigray to a power-to-be reckoned with in determining Ethiopia's political future. It is now public secret that both bills are initiated by lobbyist firms hired by the TPLF sympathizers and the Egyptians. Members of the US Senate and House of Representatives who sponsored the bills have a track record as strong supporters of TPLF.

When the news of S-3199 approval by the Foreign Relations Committee of the US senate came last week, TPLF leaders in Mekele jumped for joy and their sympathizers abroad threw a party. They have a solid reason to be jovial. The bill intends to safeguard the interest and guarantee the survival of TPLF by all means at the expense of Ethiopians' continued misery and Ethiopia's sovereign rights.

For one thing, S-3199 is crafted to blatantly incriminate the Ethiopian government. The US Senate bill tries its level best to cover up the truth to paint the Ethiopian government as an aggressor and the TPLF as a victim of aggression fighting only in self-defense. Section 3 paragraph 5 of the bill reads: "In



"We do not expect the Americans would bring solutions to our problems. But we are desirous of maintaining the century-old bilateral relations through constructive dialogue..."

the early hours of November 4, 2020, Prime Minister Abiy ordered a military offensive in response to an attack by the TPLF on the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF), which TPLF officials have asserted was an act of self-defense in the face of an imminent invasion by Federal forces."

In paragraph 16 of Section 3 of S-3199, the bill sponsors have tried their best to downplay the civilian massacres, the mass pillage and destruction of public and private, mass rapes conducted by the TPLF forces in the Afar and Amhara regions. They did

not mention that TPLF forces committed all these crimes against humanity after the Ethiopian government withdrew from the Tigray region declaring a unilateral ceasefire.

According to recent reports, the scale of the humanitarian crisis in the Amhara and Afar region far outweighs that of Tigray. The IDPs in Amhara Region alone surpass 11 million. - a figure roughly twice as much as the entire population of the Tigray region. In addition to that, there is a rising number of Tigrayan IDPs fleeing from Tigray to the Amhara region. despite these facts, the focus of attention of the Western politicians and humanitarian agencies is still on Tigray.

Two points can explain why the prevalence of peace, stability, and democracy in Ethiopia is not a real cause of concern for the Americans. Deacon Yosef Teferi, chairman of the Ethiopian American Civil Council recently said "the Americans have never had any track record of involvement in Africa that brought peace and stability to the region." The west in general, and the Americans in particular were bystanders when the Rwandan genocide, the latest and one of the most notorious genocides of our time was committed for 100 days. Americans interfere in Africa only to protect their selfish national interests.

The second point is that the Americans will immediately throw the bills into the trash and stop their rhetoric about human rights, peace, democracy, and justice in Ethiopia, if the Ethiopian government and TPLF somehow struck a deal that would provide for TPLF to share power at the federal government or to get the liberty to secede Tigray from Ethiopia.

Neither of the bills makes any mention of plans for specific measures to guarantee the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia. S-3199, for instance, does not make any mention of Ethiopia's unity in the core sections of the bill, namely sections 5-7. It is just lip service for the Americans when they say they want to see Ethiopia's unity and territorial integrity preserved. Of course, they mentioned it in the policy statement of the bill.

The Americans did not condemn the illegal occupation of Ethiopian territories by Sudan. But they were the first even before Ethiopians themselves to demand the expulsion of Eritrean forces from Tigray. Only three decades ago, the Americans, designating themselves as peace brokers, were the lead facilitators of the beginning of one of the darkest eras of Ethiopian political history. They paved the way for TPLF to take control of Addis and EPLF to take control of Asmara, and thus presided over the break up of Ethiopia into separate independent states.

Some analysts even argue that what the Americans plotting in Ethiopia now is a

modified replication of what they have done 20 years ago in Serbia to create a new breakaway republic, the Kosovo Republic. This time they want to do it only without direct military actions, only through diplomatic pressures and crippling economic sanctions.-an approach some analysts to call regime castration. The sanctions proposed by HR 6600 and S3199 are the most debilitating ones that have multilateral dimensions, and thus can be equated as a declaration of war without military attacks.

The sad thing is the Americans are in a hurry to enact these bills with the full knowledge that Ethiopia has already implemented the majority of the actions proposed by the two bills as measures required to bring peace, stability, and democracy to Ethiopia. Some of the recent measures implemented by the Ethiopian government include the declaration of a humanitarian ceasefire and the resumption of the delivery of humanitarian supplies to war-affected regions including Tigray by both air and land routes. Plus an independent dialogue commission, NDC, has been established by the parliament and is already in its initiation phase. These are some of the positive steps the government took to tackle the humanitarian crisis, ensure lasting peace and genuine democracy as well as improve the protection of human rights.

Had it not been for the sudden break out of the Russian-Ukraine war and the continued pressure of patriotic Ethio- Americans, the bills would have been rushed into law weeks ago. Some hope that the Americans in time would realize diplomatic engagements would bring more results than cruel sanctions Many analysts describe the two bills, which are by in large similar in both title and content, would not bring any change for the better and serve their stated objectives. Even if the bills get approval and signed into law, they would only worsen the misery of the Ethiopian people. Among the forty-plus sanctions America imposed on different countries, none of them has materialized their intended result.

An Ethiopian government official recently commented "We do not expect the Americans would bring solutions to our problems. But we are desirous of maintaining the century-old bilateral relations through constructive dialogue. To that end, several diplomatic engagements are being conducted. We are explaining to them that these bills are detrimental to Ethiopia and a threat to our sovereignty. The enactment of these bills would not address the basic problems Ethiopia is facing today. The problems could only be tackled by the joint efforts of our people and government. We are confident that we can address the problems by utilizing our resources and knowledge."



## Law & Politics

# Terrorist TPLF's untold, irrefutable crimes against ethnic Amharas

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The people of Ethiopia were under the yoke of the brutal feet of the terrorist TPLF group for nearly three decades. As the group was ruling Ethiopians with an iron fist on its watch, the country had gone through painful times with bad human rights records and untold yet irrefutable atrocities.

With human suffering reaching the highest pick, the situation of the entire nation was hanging in the balance which led to the popular public protests in the years prior to the 2018 reform.

The entire Ethiopian people were subjugated by the tyrannical rule of the terrorist group. TPLF's three decades of draconian rules impacted the people living in the nooks and crannies of the country.

However, most of the clique's atrocities have either gone unnoticed or unpunished emboldening the group to inflict excruciating harm against the people of Ethiopia to this very day.

Along similar lines, whenever critics and vocals made an effort to expose the violations of human rights coming into being in various parts of the country, the group was untiringly coming up with a broad new package of evil deeds. Furthermore, whenever people posed a certain question, the terrorist TPLF group gave unorthodox answers making use of the same tactics.

The terrorist TPLF group's wicked deeds also went unpunished as a consequence of the silence of the international communities. The open bias and unjust sympathy of the international community also painted a wrong picture of the identity of the perpetrators and the atrocities.

While crying foul about other atrocities on basis of hoax stories, the international media, and their enablers have remained tightlipped on the gruesome crimes committed by the inhumane clique.

The so-called human rights organizations have been rushing to level an accusation against the Ethiopian government and have largely been mute to even acknowledge the crimes of the terrorist TPLF clique.

TPLF's contempt against the Amhara communities has a long story. The group even through its mouthpiece has even touted settling the score against the Amhara people only. Its fighters have committed unspeakable crimes against Amhara communities during their brief time invasion of the Amhara state. According to reports, TPLF brutally gang-raped women, conducted summary killings, and looted properties while deliberately damaging

public and private properties.

Lately, appalling reports are coming out about the crimes TPLF perpetrated in Amhara states amidst international bias.

At the center of terrorist TPLF's textbook example of atrocities is the extermination of ethnic Amhara in Welkait Tegede, and the Telemt areas.

Many researchers and activists have long been trying to shed light on terrorist TPLF's crimes against the ethnic Amhara in the aforementioned areas telling horrific human suffering.

To mention the recent ones, over 700 Amharas were massacred in Mai Kadera by TPLF-affiliated forces. After committing such acts of unspeakable barbarity, the perpetrators fled westwards, mingling with the flood of refugees streaming into Sudan.

The Mai Kadra massacre was a series of ethnic cleansing and mass murders carried out on 9-10 November 2020 in the town of Mai Kadra.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC), described the massacre as a "widespread and systematic attack directed against a civilian population" at least 600 people have been killed. Most of the victims were Amhara.

Even though the Mai Kadra massacre is a fresh incident, TPLF's crimes against the people of Amhara have been ongoing for decades.

According to an article entitled 'Atrocities on Welkait People during Reign of TPLF's' published on the Horn of Africa Insight website, TPLF employed cruel and divisive tactics to subdue the Amhara people and consolidate its hold on Welkait. Amharas were often punished for speaking the Amharic language. Children were not allowed to speak or learn in their own language. Disappearances and mass killings of men who showed resistance were commonplace.

In the latest revelation, the University of Gondar (UoG) research group disclosed that over 60,000 ethnic Amharas were killed by TPLF during the past 40 years in Welkait Tegede, and Telemt areas announced.

The finding of the research that the group conducted has shown as the number of people massacred, displaced, and made to disappear is equivalent to 75 percent of the total population.

The research group Head and Public Health Lecturer at the University, Geta Asrade (Assistant Professor) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that 12 mass graves have been discovered in the Welkait Tegede



and Telemt areas whereby TPLF had a four-decade repressive control. Following the liberation of these areas from the terrorist group, mass graves and hidden prisons have been identified while further research is still ongoing in the areas.

"We have conducted the research by assessing mass graves and by interviewing survivors. Accordingly, we have found that the whereabouts of 19 percent of family heads is still unknown after TPLF took them to prisons." Also, 25 percent of ethnic Amharas were killed while 29 percent of them were forced to leave their homes....The research group has preliminary information that the disappeared people were buried in a cave called Bado Sidist which was also a hidden prison of the TPLF."

Residents were met with severe consequences only for talking about the TPLF's atrocities in the area. So, residents had been exposed to psychological pressure for the last 40 years, Geta elaborated.

"To be frank, eyewitnesses are still afraid to talk about the entire atrocity and they are unhappy to indicate locations of mass graves, but we have retrieved the information through time. After all, we have discovered sites of some mass graves in places called Adino, Ghanem, across Tekeze River, Telemt- FiyelWuha, and in Seytan Meta....we also have information that three mass graves are located in Dedebeit, Tigray State."

According to him, the discovered mass graves are located in mountainous areas thereby inhabiting roads and other communication access to reach local residents and survivors. Overcoming the hurdles, the research group managed to approach the local community and survivors of TPLF's atrocities and obtain their accounts.

One of the mass grave sites is named by locals Ghanem (Hell) denoting the bitterness of the site that served as TPLF's prison and

mass grave. It is difficult to determine the exact number of people executed by TPLF forces as the majority of the gravesites is located along riversides thus the remains are likely to be taken by flood, the head remarked.

By the same token, researchers from the University of Gondar have discovered more mass graves of ethnic Amharas in the Welkait- Tegede and Telemt areas that were massacred by TPLF's tyrannical administration in the areas since 1982.

According to a local media report, the University of Gondar has conducted research that revealed the massacre of ethnic Amharas during the TPLF occupation. Accordingly, a new mass grave was found in a place called Halawa Woyane and another hidden prison named Gehanem (Hell) by the researchers.

The researchers also recovered remains from some five graves after conducting intensive research on them. "The two places are very similar to Nazi prisons where a large number of innocent Israeli was killed... It is synonymous with that. Many thousands of ethnic Amharas had been jailed and left to die," the research group was quoted as saying.

The discovered jails had been used by TPLF forces for a long time and they used to kill and imprison large numbers of ethnic Amharas in the cells. Due to the indiscriminate killings, prisoners were forced to commit suicide whilst a number of prisoners lost lives due to hunger and disease, the researchers elaborated.

One of the survivors of the infamous Gehanem jail bitterly recalled that, they were prisoned in a hole and TPLF forces allowed them to get food and water only once a day. Recalling TPLF's atrocities in the hidden jails, another survivor highlighted that prisoners had been randomly killed brutally by forces of the criminal group.

# Women in Focus

## Young woman lights rays of hope to her peers

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

*Siham Ayele is a Program Director at Dereja.com, an Info Mind Solutions Company which is working towards tackling the issue of youth unemployment in Ethiopia.*

*She has earned her first degree in Political Science and International Relations from Addis Ababa University. She is known for hunting and nurturing the talent of young people and empowering them to be competent in their future career.*

*Unlike the story of most graduates in Ethiopia, Siham was fortunate enough that she was able to find a job while she was a second year student. Currently, she is one of the 50 employees that are working in the company that strives to ease the tiresome journey of finding jobs.*

*Siham Ayele, has stayed with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) to talk about her journey and works in guiding the youth entering the labor force. Enjoy your reading!*

**What are the major setbacks that constraint the youth, especially women, from entering the labor forces?**

There are a number of obstacles that hinder the youth, especially, female and fresh graduates to find decent jobs. According to my research, information inaccessibility is the first challenge that they encounter.

It goes without saying that the fact that there is inadequate job opportunity available in the market would affect their chance of being hired. Failing to know the alternatives that would help them find jobs being the other constraints, a recent study revealed that fresh graduates have a minimum of 20 ETB daily expenses throughout their search for decent jobs.

Unfortunately, women have less access to cover the aforementioned cash. Letting alone the global challenges that exist with unemployment, lack of self-confidence, avoiding risk taking, lack of experience in dos and don'ts of interviews are the other problems that drawback youth and women in the job market.

**Can you tell us the interventions that your company undertakes to address the unemployment gap?**

Actually, this is where the impact that Dereja.com, the company I work for comes in. Besides making the job market more accessible to the youth, we provide training centers that focus on maximizing their potential and employability skills.

Through each of the training we offer, the central point is making fresh graduates employable. To this end, we strive to

meet one goal which is giving students a fighting chance in the challenges they encounter in the job market.

Moreover, by partnering with educational institutions, and employers, we try to help students develop and implement employability solutions that are aimed at making them ready for the job market.

**What other efforts have you made to empower women students?**

Since its establishment in 2017, the company has provided training for over 100 thousand graduating students. Aiming to create women leaders, the company also provides leadership training. Every year, about 30 female university students are granted with the opportunity while 90 students have seized the chance so far. However, the opportunity is limited to the capital; much work is needed to enhance the opportunity to different states.

On the other hand, we, at Dereja.com, provide training regarding use of technology. It is sad to see that let alone understanding how to use technology but most students especially women do not even have smartphones.

Since lack of knowledge regarding the use of technology remains a challenge in the job market, the training we provide includes use of technology like smartphones and computers. Thus, we have been working to address the existing challenges and have trained thousands of students.

**Can you walk us through your family background and how it impacted you to be where you are today?**

I have two sisters and two brothers and I am the last and spoiled child in the family. Unlike my siblings, I grew up in a family that prioritizes my freedom while focusing on my education. My father takes the lion's share for the confident and strong girl that lives in me. Though my father approached the three girls in the house consciously, the intimacy he had with me was stronger for I was the last child for the family.

It would be a lie if I fail to say that the freedom I had given me the opportunity to explore more books written on various issues such as foreign relations, poverty, economy, history, among others, enabled me to develop good communication skills.

Moreover, the entrepreneurship training that I took while I was a first year student has helped me to engage in addressing the pressing challenge of unemployment in the country.

However, seeing the hardship that my elder siblings had been through while searching for jobs, I used to feel insecure concerning my future. I was even more concerned whether the department I joined had a market demand.



Besides being the major reason for the establishment of the Job Creation Commission, the coming into force of Dereja.com, we believe have brought about a significant change in pushing the issue of unemployment especially with regard to the issue of women to the front.

But when I keep thinking about my future, a book comes into my mind that I used to read when I was in preparatory school. This book has truly encouraged me to attend political science and International Relations field of study. It has also helped me to deeply focus on the economic and business issues.

**What was the unforgettable incident you have encountered in your career?**

I had once an opportunity to give training for about two thousand fresh graduates in Mekelle University. While I was giving the training, I was able to observe that the number of men trainees exceeded that of females by large. There were only five female students who attended the training. That shocked me!

Surprised as I was, I asked where the female students were. I was told that the students were in their dormitory and had no idea of the training. So, I made the five female students tell those students in their dormitory to come out and attend the training. That was how I got to train the students.

This is one of the main reasons I provide training for fresh graduates and strive to engage more female students to take part in the training. **Do you think you have impacted the youth, women and contributed your share in tackling the unemployment rate?** Though unemployment remains a global challenge, we believe that we have had our contribution and helped youths to find the right path when entering the labor force.

Besides being the major reason for the establishment of the Job Creation Commission, the coming into force of Dereja.com, we believe have brought about a significant change in pushing the issue of unemployment especially with regard to the issue of women to the front.

Moreover, we are doing our best to provide solutions to youth unemployment by implementing innovative and effective methods and creating trained workforce that are able to be competent in the market.

# Society

## Deepening love, tolerance in the month of Fasting

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

More than a month has already passed since Ethiopian Orthodox Christians started their main fasting season or Lent, (Abiy Tsom) which is a time where the faithful will abstain from animal protein: meat, milk and egg. Within the past six weeks the followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church have spent the fasting season with love and compassion. Coincidentally, in the middle of the Lent, Muslim Ethiopians have also started the Ramadan Fasting month.

Beside its religious value, the fasting season (for both Christians and Muslims) has a significant role in enabling followers to submit themselves to the will of the creator and feel the hunger and suffering of others. As it is evident from the daily activities of fasting season, most people are showing sympathy and are sharing what they have with the needy. This is directly or indirectly linked to the teaching of religious leaders who have all the power to direct their followers.

According to Assistant Professor Adem Kamil, religious leaders have to go extra miles to shape the character of their followers. This should not be confined in mosques or churches. They must go beyond religious institutions and be a model in their daily activities to their followers.

Ethiopia is the land of tolerance where different religions are practiced in tolerance. However, this is not always the case. There are moments where some religious teachers use religion as an instrument for their own purpose. As a result, many innocent people have paid a price for an unnecessary purpose. It has become the cause of loss of life and material.

Assistant Professor, Adem Kamil said that Ethiopia is among those countries that are the first to embrace Christianity, Islam and Judaism. This has enabled followers of these religions to have deep understanding about the religion they are following and moral values within them. In addition to these religions, there are also other religious institutions that are functioning in the country legally. According to him, if properly used religion is the way towards peaceful coexistence. If not it will backfire and destroy the peace that is built within centuries. In this regard, religious leaders have double fold responsibility in guiding their followers.

“Man is born out of flesh and spirit. Man is representative of the creator on planet earth. The creator detests envy, war and chaos. Our creator has given us authority on planet earth. He loves peace. As a means to sustain the peace and stability the creator has given man responsibility over earth. For this very reason, every human kind



Picture - Social Media

has a duty to keep the planet earth safe and peaceful”.

Assistant Professor Adam also said, throughout human history most religious leaders and prophets had served as ambassadors of peace. Religious conflicts that flare up between religions are more of earthly than spiritual by their nature. They are triggered by individuals who need to keep their personal interest at the expense of others' life.

Quoting Swedish scholar, Adem said starting from the creation of human kind about 14,500 wars had been conducted on planet earth and three billion lives were lost. This is a true indication that wars are created either to satisfy individual interests or caused by the irresponsible nature of human beings.

Assistant Professor, Adem Kamil, said that when religious leaders fail to be models for their followers, they will directly or indirectly contribute their share for chaos and instability. However, if they consider themselves as “Spiritual” they can act and react to halt any form of threats to peace.

Fasting is not all about abstaining from food and water. The core message of fasting goes beyond that. Fasting enables individuals to understand the pain and suffering of others; it enables a fasting person to put himself/herself in the shoes of others. This in turn will drive him/her to show kindness for others.

As a land of multitudes, the value of tolerance and love should be explained in different ways. Religious practices are one of the ways we express our love and tolerance to others. Fasting, which is one of the ingredients of religious people, should be genuine.

This year, the two grand annual fasting seasons of both Ethiopian Orthodox Christians and Muslims have coincided. This fasting season should be used as an opportunity to share love and respect among each other. We should also celebrate the holidays in tolerance and love. In this regard, religious leaders should play their role by paving the way to their followers towards love, peace, sharing and tolerance. All religious leaders should walk the talk.

“Our country has lots of challenges. These challenges can only be handled by direct intervention of every individual. This includes religious leaders. War and conflict has cost the nation a lot. The recent crisis in Ukraine is a good indicator about the value of peace. Ukraine was one of the developed countries with strong economic muscle. But due to the war several people have been displaced and others have lost their priceless lives. We have also seen what happened to Yemen and Syria. We must take lessons from our experiences or others. In this regard, religious leaders have the responsibility to guide their people towards peace, not chaos” As a land of multitudes, the value of tolerance and love should be explained in different ways. Religious practices are one of the ways we express our love and tolerance to others. Fasting, which is one of the ingredients of religious people, should be genuine. People should not fast for the sake of fasting. They go beyond that and live what is designed for religious people. They should support the needy and show kindness to all human kind.