



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Ethiopia fighting proxy war waged against

### HoA: Experts

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopia has been fighting proxy war waged against the Horn of Africa (HoA) as Terrorist TPLF’s apologists are now openly exerting undue pressures on Ethiopia and AU to win short-lived and fragile peace deal in a bid to resurrect the outlawed group, according to experts.

The above remark has come during the webinar meeting of experts regarding the United States (U.S.) and its allies’ proxy wars against the HoA.

During the discussion, Ethiopian American activist and public speaker Nebiyu Asfaw stated that there has been a coordinated and sophisticated global campaign led by the West to weaken Ethiopia and dismay its people as well as to overthrow the government and impose a puppet regime in the country.

He added that the brutal T-TPLF regime that was sponsored by the Western countries abused Ethiopian people, but the world looked the other way. And the group was receiving over a billion dollars every year in form of aid from the U.S. alone.

According to Nebiyu, when the T-TPLF was ousted from power by popular protest, leaders of the group retreated to the North of Ethiopia to their native state and launched an armed insurrection to a regime change and overthrow the government that has been democratically elected by the people.

Along with pro-peace allies, last year, Ethiopians and Eritreans launched a “nomore movement” across the world to denounce the coordinated fake news of international media outlets, foreign forces intervention, and false humanitarian causes as a way of military intervention or proxy war, Nebiyu also indicated.

The movement has continued to grow, Nebiyu said adding, that global

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Nebiyu Asfaw



John Philpot



Elias Amare

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## Ethiopia denounces some quarters’ defamation campaigns

BY MISGANAW ASNAK

**ADDIS ABABA** - Government Communication Service (GCS) underlined that it would no longer tolerate the defamatory falsehood that spread against Ethiopia by various western entities.

In its latest statement, the GCS stated that it is shameful that some quarters parrot Terrorist TPLF’s irresponsible propaganda that the most heinous crimes could or might be committed in Ethiopia.

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Eugene Puryear

## HoA geostrategic significance exacerbates West’s interference: Expert

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**- Ethiopia’s presence in the geo-strategic Horn of Africa (HoA) is the main reason for the U.S., UN and the EU spending so much time on the ongoing conflict and manipulating the regional political dynamics, an expert on the issue said.

See HoA ... Page 3

## T-TPLF’s leaders, fighters mass burial sites found in Chercher

BY BILAL DERSO

**ADDIS ABABA**- The mass grave where thousands of leaders and militants of the Terrorist TPLF were buried has been found around Chercher town of the newly-liberated area, local media announced.

The media further stated that the secret of the T-TPLF continues to be exposed in areas that are being liberated from the criminal faction due to the noble sacrifices paid by the Ethiopian joint forces. “The top leaders of the criminal group have no mercy even for the militants they forced to fight, and the mass graves found in Chercher is a proof of this.”

“A mass grave of thousands of militants and military leaders of the T-TPLF was found on the east side of the town of Chercher,

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# News



Lawrence Freeman

## U.S. in pretext of human right violation defaming Ethiopia: Analyst

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** The government of U.S. has been misusing criminological keywords like “genocide” and ‘ethnic cleansing’ as a tool of warfare in the reemerging cold war thereby deliberately hurting Ethiopia, said Economic-Political Analyst.

The Economic Political Analyst for Africa, Lawrence Freeman said that the U.S. government has been using largely known criminological keywords like “Human Rights Violation” to defame against Ethiopia since 2018 as the reformative government refused to be loyal to the U.S. government and rejects establishment of lapdog administration in Ethiopia.

“They are trying to control Ethiopia and the whole Africa. Since 2018, they have been upset with the Ethiopian government and they felt disregarded by the election. So they are now battling because they had a relationship with the previous government that was very comfortable for them there is now someone which is not under their control,” he opined.

They have felt these days that they are facing a potential of losing influence in Ethiopia and the U.S., in fact, is losing influence in the heart of Africa rather than addressing the real self-interest of American citizens, he told media.

Noting the self-interest of the U.S. government, he stated that their interests are exactly the same as a self-interest of Ethiopians to develop themselves, to have productivity in its economy, to make children live better. Besides, Ethiopians are being suppressed under the geopolitical and by “the zero-sum game view of the world,” he opined.

According to Freeman, the key words frequently used by the U.S. officials have been fabricated by European politicians since 1990s as a code to deprive the feature of other countries following the end of colonial era.

## Study spotlights private sector’s role in family planning

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA-** The private sector has a huge potential to mobilize innovative strategies including self-care and direct-to-customers in the family planning services, a national study revealed.

At the launching of the strategic assessment, it was stated that innovative strategies are the promising ways to overcome barriers to address women and adolescent girls contraceptive needs in urban areas.

Maternal and Child Health Director with the Ministry of Health (MoH) Meseret Zelalem (MD) noted that the 2019 Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey (EDHS) showed that only 12 percent of married women used the private health sector for modern family planning compared to 87 percent who used public health facilities.

The study further revealed that adolescent girls, literate and urban women tend to use the private health sector for family planning services. Similarly, women in

Gambella, Afar and Harari states also visit the private health sector in seek of similar service.

According to the director, in the year 2000, only eight percent of women used modern family planning yet, the number has risen to 41 percent due to the effort exerted in expanding health centers, providing adequate training for professionals as well as fulfilling necessary facilities.

Despite such progress, among girls and women (15-49age) who use contraceptives, one out of five has unmet needs regarding family planning. “This is where the private sector fits in through using innovative technologies to reach out to this segment of the people.”

Apart from minimizing the rate of unplanned pregnancy, family planning by itself is said to avert 30 to 40 percent of preventable maternal and 10 percent child mortality rate.

Founder and CEO of HANZ Consulting Zelalem Adugna said on his part that obtaining family planning has tremendously shown an increment over

the past 20 years which is from 8 to 41percent.

In order to enhance this number, tech-enabled, home grown responsive and sustainable solutions are highly needed. Thus, private sector social enterprise can play a role in technology-enabled innovations that overcome barriers by developing digital technologies and platforms that provide tailored information to increase health literacy, Zelalem elaborated.

“These innovations can help reach people in a different socioeconomic status, demographic backgrounds and contraceptive needs.”

It was learned that the study which excluded Afar and Tigray states, took ten months and was funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Moreover, the study was conducted with the collaboration of HANZ Consulting and the MoH to examine, analyze and understand the role and possible potential of the private sector in expanding access to family planning service in the country.



## Ministers say Gorgora Project performance promising

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA -** Ministers who visited the Gorgora project last week has appreciated the performance of the project.

Having a stay with local media, the ministers said that the performance of the project is exemplary to other similar projects that are being built in different parts of the country.

Appreciating the performance of the project, the ministers said that the success of the project is the manifestation of the capability of the nation to achieve any project as per plan, if there is coordination among stakeholders and firm leadership

commitment.

Public participation and leadership commitment are the secrets behind the successful achievement of the project they said adding that the people of the country have been supporting through participating in different fundraising programs.

Education Minister Professor Birhanu Nega said, “If we plan and implement like what we have embarked on this project, it will impossible for us to remain poor. The implementation phase has been carried out by domestic experts and this manifests the growth of local construction sector in the country.”

Minister of Irrigation and Lowlands Aisha Mohammed on her part said that

where there is collaboration among stakeholders accompanied with leadership commitment, development plan is being implemented successfully, and the country should repeat the practices in this on other projects.

In the same token, Minister of Ministry of Innovation and Technology Belete Molla said that the project has now reached to a promising stage.

Explaining the advantage of the project, he said that up on its completion the project will play a vital role in promoting the image of the country.

He underscored that the performance of the project has exhibited nation’s enormous potential to improve the lives of its people.

# News

## Embassy refutes U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's 'genocide' allegations

BY TAMERU REGASA

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ethiopia's Embassy in Washington, D.C., U.S. has expressed its dismay over the Holocaust Memorial Museum's statement published on its website on 25 October 2022 titled "Museum Warns of Heightened Risk of Genocide, Mass Atrocities in Ethiopia."

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Embassy said that it is 'deeply' concerning to see an institution dedicated to sensitizing "citizens to confront hatred..." engaged in recklessly disseminating the sensational claim of imminent 'genocide' in the Tigray State of Ethiopia, forwarding propaganda by the Terrorist- TPLF that stokes hatred amongst the people of Tigray for the Ethiopian Government.

Denouncing the museum's remark, the Embassy noted that the former seems to take the usual mantra of 'genocide' that has been the preoccupation of the T-TPLF and its supporters for the last two years at face value and publicize it as if it is fact.

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) has demonstrated its commitment to human rights of its citizens by facilitating a joint investigation by the Ethiopian Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Tigray State. It also established a Joint Ministerial Task Force to implement the recommendations of the Joint Investigation Team's report and is taking measures to establish accountability.

"The GoE is committed to solve the present conflict peacefully," the statement said,

adding that months ago, the government declared that it was ready to negotiate without any preconditions. Conversely, the T-TPLF has dragged its feet with endless conditions for the government unilateral humanitarian truce that was declared on March 24, 2022.

The Embassy further highlighted that the government facilitated access to essential humanitarian assistance until the T-TPLF broke that ceasefire on August 24, 2022, by invading (for a third time) the Amhara and Afar states. "The timing of this remark is unfortunate, as it may further impede the peace talks which are happening now, in South Africa."

Certainly, the government has a constitutional obligation and ultimate right to preserve the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, protect the safety of its citizens

and ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance as well as services. The Government is working with humanitarian partners to expedite humanitarian assistance to all in need, starting with those in areas under its control via new humanitarian corridors by land, and air. Also, the administration in Addis Ababa has also initiated technical assessment missions with a view to expediting resumption of essential services including banks, telecom and electricity in areas under its control.

The statement urged the museum to present more carefully, the facts of the conflict in Tigray moving forward inaccuracies like those presented on October 25, risk emboldening further aggression in Ethiopia and other parts of the world where democracy is under threat.

### T-TPLF's ,...

which shows that the clique will leave no stone unturned to stay in power with the blood of the people of Tigray."

Accordingly, the mass graves are coded and in some graves three to five bodies are buried together. "It can be understood from the marks on the graves that the faction buried the militants according to their responsibilities and rank."

It is known that three to five combatants of the radical group were buried in one grave, and the graves that are coded separately belong to the leaders. In addition to this, it was able to find out that the bodies found in the coffins in the cave were leaders of the T-TPLF who were commanding the fight.

Having rejected the government's repeated peace calls, the gangs have been making the people of Tigray lose their children in the cycle of war and committing repeated raids in Amhara and Afar states. The T-TPLF also demonstrated its callous behavior by forcing the Tigray youth and children into armed conflict, the statement remarked.

### HoA geostrategic...

Having stayed with Eyes on Africa News (EOA), an expert on the U.S. policy in the Horn Eugene Puryear stated that Ethiopia has a lot of influence in the international arena and the Horn of African politics for long. Obviously, the Horn is among the busiest trade routes in the world; 30 percent of all global trade container traffic passes via the Suez Canal.

In 2004, when it looked like Venezuela under Hugo Chavez was going to get into the UN Security Council as a temporary member, which obviously for the U.S. would be a disaster ideologically to have Venezuela in there making them look terrible. They similarly went to former Ethiopian Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, Puryear added.

"Can you use your influence to get these Africans not to vote for Chavez... and get them to vote for Guatemala? When they were trying to isolate Iran over the nuclear deal, they were going to Ethiopia to round up African countries to go after the Iran nuclear deal."

As to him, the U.S.'s ultimate strategy in Ethiopia is extreme federalism. The Biden Administration wants Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the Ethiopian government to

acquiesce to a highly federal situation where they wouldn't be able to bring the centralized power of Ethiopia as a country which is the regional anchor state to bear.

Noting some Western powers don't want nationalist countries in the Developing World, the expert stressed that the disruption in the flow of commerce is the most important thing in a capitalist society. "The reality has always underpinned a lot of U.S. strategy towards Africa, including very importantly the strategy towards southern Africa towards the end of the apartheid regime."

"African nations have natural and potentially unifying characteristics from an economic, social and political perspective. The situation is very dangerous for the Western powers because the former can wield power in significant ways supported by their extraordinary wealth and a tremendous amount of resources."

The United Nations Environment Program indicated Africa has about 40 percent of the world's gold and up to 90 percent of its chromium and platinum. Also, the world's largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, platinum and uranium are found in the continent.

### Ethiopia...

solidarity is really important. Africans need to be united to resist such foreign forces' interventions.

Canadian Attorney John Philpot on his part noted that everyone remembers that there were 27 years of dictatorship by a minority group that was overthrown by a popular uprising. He added that the terrorist TPLF group launched an attack against the national army and the terrible military uprising has begun, but the group could not take power.

He said: "A military uprising can be put down militarily, as it would be in almost any country in the world and that is not wrong. That is not genocide. Of course, you have to respect human rights peoples and not kill civilians."

The lawyer added that, in international law, Ethiopia has the right to put down these insurgents. The mantra that 'there is no military solution to the conflict' is a misleading concept. "I consider the result must be military defeat or political surrender."

He further explained that, by adopting various bills, the U.S. has imposed sanctions on Ethiopia and also against Eritrea 'for assisting Ethiopia'. The purpose of these sanctions is to starve the people and make them overthrow the government. Not only is it immoral, but also it does not work and it has not worked.

Calling things by their right name is very important; happening in the Horn of Africa, particularly in the northern part of Ethiopia, is a U.S. proxy war to control and dominate the Horn of Africa and to scatter the new peace that is emerging in the region, so said Eritrean American Journalist Elias Amare.

U.S. Proxy wars have been going on in the region for so long. The terrorist TPLF group is one of the mercenary proxy groups of the U.S. since 1991, according to Elias.

According to the U.S. and other imperialistic powers, a country rises and charts its independent path, which is going to be a bad example and it has to be crashed, Elias also opined.

The journalist added that people, leaders, intellectuals, and others in the Horn of Africa are now saying "no more foreign intervention! We have had enough of these vicious cycles of conflicts."

### Ethiopia denounces ...

The statement further stated that it is regrettable that few institutions of repute could not resist joining this orchestrated campaign against Ethiopia.

"Some might be fooled into believing this defamation against Ethiopia. Some share the intention of using these allegations to force Ethiopia into submission. They are mistaken that by making such outrageous allegations they could intimidate the government of Ethiopia to change course in its defensive measures against the T-TPLF."

As to the statement, some are jumping to rescue this group no matter what. Some

western officials openly admit that they pushed such rhetoric because Ethiopia refused to succumb to their instructions and bandwagon of accusations and slander does not change facts on the ground.

The GCS added the government acknowledges some venerable organizations and well-meaning actors could be unwitting participants in this campaign. "It is very irresponsible and shameful that allegations of the most reprehensible and the gravest of all crimes are being made for political ends."

The statement, thus, indicated that Ethiopia is forced to weigh its options and consider

its relations with some states and entities that are making unsubstantiated and politically motivated accusations of such gravity against the country.

Ethiopia cannot continue to tolerate such extreme slander unanswered, the GCS noted.

Finally the statement underlined that the government is committed to the AU-convened Peace Talks because it is determined to end the conflict peacefully in a durable manner and equally committed to ensuring accountability for violations of human rights and humanitarian law arising out of the conflict.

# Opinion

## “Peace talks”: When history repeats itself

BY DEJEN RAS

The ongoing peace talks between the Government of Ethiopia and the terrorist TPLF leaders in South Africa are the focus of many people right now. It is led by the African Union (AU) and mediated by the AU chairperson's High Representative for the Horn of Africa, Obasanjo, South Africa's former Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta. Representatives of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the United Nations (UN), and the Government of the United States of America (USA) are participating as observers in the AU-led peace process. Behind the scene, the west is attempting to actively drive the process.

Almost everyone is asking what will result from such peace talks when these groups of bandits have no leverage to bargain for whatever claim they want to get. The government has almost the upper hand right now. Of course, Ethiopians remember the same kind of scenario three decades ago when the Derg military representatives and the rebels had a “peace talks” in London in 1991. The West mediated it. At that time, the rebels, including TPLF, had the upper hand; they were on the outskirts of Addis Ababa. The negotiators on the part of the central government, who were three in number at the time, were left in limbo when it was decided for the rebels to take control of 4-kilo, Addis Ababa. Now, the ENDF army is on the outskirts of Mekele. Some of the top leaders of TPLF are in Pretoria, not London or New York. Somehow, this seems to be a similar situation to 1991. However, one crucial difference between these two events is the role and aim of those who pull the strings for the talks. This piece points out this aspect as follows.

### The 1991 peace negotiation in London

The main force behind the peace talks in 1991 in London, the Western countries like the USA and UK, had one main goal. They were negotiating with the Derg military not to fight in the capital city of Addis Ababa as it is the seat for the headquarters of the African Union; Mengistu was vowing to fight till the last breath; people everywhere were reorganizing to fight back the rebels; the rebels were very far away from their base, and they cannot sustain a long fight. We all remember the war around Ambo, where rebels lost many of their fighters. If such momentum was continuing, the rebels might not be in power. They understood the risk. So peace talks in London were a negotiation to avoid that potential bloody war in Addis and the surrounding areas.

On May 28, 1991, the Washington Post reported, “a top U.S. State Department official here urged rebel forces to enter

***Peace is vital for all Ethiopians, including the Tigrarans, who were used by T-TPLF as hardware to fulfill their power-recapturing program in the country***

the city under the cease-fire and restore order as soon as possible.... Ethiopia's Prime Minister vehemently objected to a U.S. recommendation that rebels enter the besieged Ethiopian capital to “help stabilize the situation.” This suggestion was made by Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of state for African affairs and moderator of the “peace talks”. He announced that “all parties in the Ethiopian conflict had agreed to a cease-fire and said that the rebel leadership “has assured us that they plan for a broadly based provisional government leading to a democratic constitution for Ethiopia.” These statements clarify those forces' intentions and roles behind the negotiation.

### The 2022 peace talks in Pretoria

This negotiation between the federal government and the terrorist TPLF began in South Africa on October 25 in Pretoria. This happens due to the principle of African Solutions to African Problems. Not bad, but is this truly an African solution? Looking at the intense involvement of the West in the peace

process, one doubts that. It seems now that the T-TPLF has lost the war on the ground after launching a three-round bloody war. They have sacrificed hundreds of thousands of Tigrayan people. They promised big for their enablers, but they fell short of delivering even a few. Since the people in Tigray will experience true freedom from almost half a century of dominance, TPLF will never regain that kind of dominance it used to have.

TPLF is nothing but asset to western interest groups. Do you remember the recent talk of one of the generals of TPLF to the Heritage Foundation? He was begging for help. It was the single most important evidence that showed how they were paramilitary assets of the West. To provide context on how the Heritage Foundation was involved, it is enough to refer to the report by the Washington Post in 1984. It states as follows: “The Reagan administration in its second term should use “paramilitary assets” to weaken the governments of Vietnam, Cambodia, Libya and other unfriendly nations around the world, the Heritage Foundation said in a report presented to the White House last week.” These unfriendly nations for the West list included Ethiopia at that time. TPLF was among the ones that had been picked for the job. That is it. They were vital assets until they were found sleeping with others!

### Rescuing assets is a usual practice for the West.

Reports are coming out that the T-TPLF members that are participating in the South Africa peace talk were moved from Mekele to Djibouti and then to South Africa by the USA military aircraft accompanied by the special envoy for the Horn of Africa, Mike Hammer. Their numbers are reported to be between 40 and 50. This has to be verified yet since there are only twelve people listed to travel to South Africa in one letter written by terrorist leader, Dr. Debretsion that went viral on social media. However, there are pieces of evidence that many others have left Mekele in this desperate time under the cover of the peace talk. That is why we ask if this is a peace talk or a rescue mission.

Rescuing an asset, a spy, military personnel, political figures, and so on are among the themes of Hollywood films that draw many viewers in the world. Real-life contexts inspire many such films. There will come a time soon when we watch movies showing the daring rescue mission that took out the main assets from Mekele. It is the intense work of Mike Hammer and those behind the scene. However, Mike's role is different from Herman Cohen's. The latter was taking the rebels to Addis Ababa, but Mike had to take them to a safe place in Djibouti and further to different places. There are more rumors that the rebel

leaders are heading to Canada to seek asylum there. That means the mission is somehow completed.

We are still waiting for the outcome of the peace talk. It seems unbalanced powers sitting at a table for talks. On the one hand, the government has the upper hand on the T-TPLF; on the other hand, it is the most powerful nation on the planet that is abusing its power against a sovereign nation. Of course, the world is changed. They cannot act alone and decide whatever they want as they did in 1991. We will see the result together, but at least they have done their rescue mission. Their top assets are in safe pair of hands. Now the West has to accept this result as a win, move on in life, and leave Ethiopians alone.

The key difference between the 1991 and 2022 peace talks is the interest of the West. At that time, a few of Derg's top leaders left the country in 1991. This time, some top leaders of TPLF have left the country. Fairly talking, the equation should stop here. The decision in 1991 was in line with their interest, but now it might be against their interest. As said above, at least they have saved their image by saving their assets. The West should be contented with this result and should not push it further. The world then and now has quite different. They can even listen to their own Herman Cohen's advice, who twitted the following:

 Herman J. Cohen  
@CohenOnAfrica

In #Ethiopia, it is time for the TPLF to accept the inevitable. The Abiy government has overwhelming military superiority. To save the Tigrayan people further hardship, the TPLF must cease to exist, and its leadership depart into exile. Exile under amnesty.

11:55 PM · 11 Jan 22 · Twitter Web App

193 Retweets 173 Quote Tweets 337 Likes

Peace is vital for all Ethiopians, including the Tigrarans, who were used by T-TPLF as hardware to fulfill their power-recapturing program in the country. The people in Tigray need it most! Ethiopians are tired of this bloody war since TPLF started the war on November 4, 2020, by attacking the headquarters of the ENDF Northern Command in Mekelle, and ENDF bases in Adigrat, Agula, Dansha, and Sero, sparking harsh Ethiopian federal government response. This talk happened when the T-TPLF lost control of almost 95% of Tigray, if not 100%. The country can solve its problems effectively if those powers back off. In fact, if they leave the country alone to solve its problems, they will get a stable country that can contribute to the stable world order they profess to see.

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

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# Editorial

## Upholding development amidst challenges!

These days, wheat production is showing unprecedented progress as it is cultivated on areas of millions of hectares with the production of millions of tons. Essentially, wheat is one of the most important food security crops in Ethiopia. Realizing its enormous potential, the country has been cultivating and increasing the productivity and production of the crop both vertically and horizontally. Because of the recent exceptional increment in the produce, Ethiopia has planned to export wheat despite the challenging circumstances it has been facing. Indeed, this achievement is inseparably interwoven with its sovereignty as the nation has substituted millions of tons of wheat that were imported at an average cost of 700 million dollars annually.

It is true, as per the political narration, all nations are sovereign. The true sovereignty that stands on its own, however, depends on the nation's potential of which economic development is the basic one in this regard. Economic development has the central importance for all potentials like military and diplomacy.

If there is development, there is self-sufficiency; if there is self-sufficiency, there will be departure from dependency. An independent nation especially in economy can develop courage to speak with confidence in the way it can be listened to that in turn upholds sovereignty.

On the contrary, with the absence of development, satisfying basic needs will be challenging that coerces the nation to stretch its hand for begging, loan and aid. As a result, applying the ancient scriptural saying: "The rich one rules the poor. And the borrower is a slave to the lender," the lenders try to dictate their borrowers to fulfill their interest though it violates the sovereignty of the later.

Ethiopia's current situation can be taken as a good example for this reality. Though a developing country it is, it needs to go a long distance to fully get out of poverty. Taking this bitter truth as bedrock, administrations of developed countries like the United States of America, go extra distance to impose amiss pressure against the country by interfering in internal affairs and violating its sovereignty.

It is true that Ethiopia stayed independent throughout its existence as a nation and its people are proud of their independence. However, this independence

and pride deserve less value among the powerful nations. Thus, the best way out of this graceless pressure is getting rid of poverty by exerting any effort and becoming food self-sufficient.

Comprehending this reality, the Ethiopian government is working relentlessly day and night to ensure development thereby achieving prosperity.

This is the critical time for Ethiopia since it is stretched from all sides by its internal and external enemies of which some are historical enemies. The major headache for the country is the T-TPLF that waged war nearly two years ago that lasted up to now begetting unprecedented human and property loss. The terrorist group pledged to go even up to hell to dismantle the country and tried its best when attacking the ENDF's northern command and escalating its invasion to the neighboring regions of Amhara and Afar that resulted in great humiliation to the respective people.

Paying ignorance to the atrocity of the group that is as white as snow, the western powers abstained from condemning its ill deeds but prefer to say both parties or exert more pressure on the federal government of Ethiopia which is deficient by any standard.

On the other hand, besides upholding the nation's sovereignty, the Ethiopian government is working to ensure development. The priority issue here is fulfilling the daily bread of each family that necessitates ensuring food self-sufficiency. And a promising result is being registered in this regard.

Taking wheat production in all seasons as the primary task, it is working to replicate this success in other crops including cash crops. This move indicates that the country will get rid of poverty in a shorter period of time.

In line with this, accomplishment of mega projects and the progress of those under construction amid the war and incongruous pressure from the west, bear witness for the commitment and capability of the government.

Ethiopia's development serves all its citizens including those in Tigray. Thus, any peace adoring entity from inland or abroad, should appreciate, support and encourage this promising progress. Those nations such as America that have longstanding diplomatic relations with Ethiopia ought to recognize the true humanity and stand by it instead of posing unlawful pressure.

# Opinion

## Conspiracy behind the calls for ceasefire

BY GETACHEW AYENEW

Face-to face talks between the Ethiopian Government and the Tigray Peoples Liberation Front have begun in South Africa. The talks are being led by former Nigerian leader Olusegun Obasanjo, now the African Union's Horn of Africa Envoy, along with South Africa's former deputy President, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and Kenya's former President, Uhuru Kenyatta.

Representatives of the United States, the United Nations and IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) are participating as observers. Many believe that the role of the United States is more than a mere observer.

In a statement Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said, "The United States is fully and actively engaged in diplomatic efforts at the highest levels of our government to support the African Union." From this we understand that America is at the wheel. The major actor of the peace talks is the United States of America. The US is living no stone unturned if possible to bring the T-TPLF back to power if not to save it from total collapse.

At the moment, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDFs) is making significant gains on the battlefield. Media reports say that major towns and airports are now under the control of the ENDFs. This seems to have caused frustration and

nervousness among the western countries, their propaganda machines and T-TPLF lobbyists. U.S. and EU officials such as Senator Bob Menendez, Samantha Power, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, and Joseph Borrell are all, in tandem, urging for immediate ceasefire.

When they think that T-TPLF is on the offensive, they remain quite, and none of them talks about cessation of hostilities. But when the T-TPLF is about to collapse the country will be inundated with vociferous calls for ceasefire and expressions of 'deep concern for the well-being of civilians.' It is now widely understood that the concerns expressed by the West is not so much for the people but to save T-TPLF from total demise. Of course, the concerns of the western countries arises not so much out of love for the people of Tigray, but to ensure its hegemony in the Horn of Africa and particularly the Red Sea by bringing to power a puppet government like T-TPLF.

No other country or institution can be more concerned about the people of Tigray other than the Ethiopian Government and the Ethiopians. The Ethiopian People including the people of Tigray have suffered immensely in the hands of the T-TPLF because of its erroneous policies and ideologies and its war mongering attitude. T-TPLF is an authoritarian, corrupt and a belligerent organization. It doesn't have the culture of solving problems through discussion and dialogue.

The USA and its western allies know very well that the T-TPLF is the perpetrator of all the crises that we see today. On 4 November 2020, the T-TPLF attacked the Northern Command based in Mekelle, Adigrat, Dansha, Soro and other places in Tigray Region. Members of the ENDF were disarmed, treated inhumanly, killed and beaten mercilessly. Many of them were maimed, hacked and stoned to death. At that time military officers said that TPLF identified and separated hundreds of unarmed Ethiopian soldiers, tied their hands and feet together, massacred them in cold blood, and left their bodies lying in open air.

With conceit and pride, a T-TPLF spokesperson described the action as "a preemptive strike". The truth is it was a miscalculation on the part of the T-TPLF. It thought that if it managed to incapacitate the Northern Command, which comprised 80% of the ENDF, it could easily topple the Government of Dr. Abiy. This unprovoked action has triggered the Tigray war.

Unfortunately the western countries have failed to unequivocally blame the T-TPLF for being the main cause of all the problems that we see today. When the Ethiopian Government launched an offensive against the rebellious TPLF forces, the western countries and their propaganda machines came up with fabricated news of human rights violations.

In 30 June 2021, the Ethiopian Government announced the withdrawal of the National

Army from Tigray and declared a unilateral ceasefire which was immediately rejected by the T-TPLF. In disregard of the Government's intention to give peace a chance and provide the farmers an opportunity to make use of the rainy season, the T-TPLF unleashed a major offensive occupying many parts of Amhara and Afar Regional states. It destroyed schools, universities, hospitals, health centers, and other infrastructures. Women were indiscriminately raped and property looted. Sadly these massive acts of murder, gang-rape and destruction of resources were not mentioned in the fictitious report of the International Commission of Human Rights Council on Ethiopia (ICHREE).

To give peace a chance, the Ethiopian Government decided not to enter Mekelle. After five months of lull, in August 2022 T-TPLF launched a massive offensive in different parts of the country and occupied Kobo of Amhara Regional State. Later, the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa Mr. Mike Hammer publicly said he was told by the T-TPLF leaders that they have finalized preparations to launch a war. It is anybody's guess whether Mr. Hammer tried to convince them not to unleash their forces and not to start another destructive war.

*See Conspiracy behind... Page 10*

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

# Art & Culture

## The spectacular Mogo Kaka, the hospitable Zayse people

BY KFLEEYESUS ABEBE

We go downward direction from highlands of Kambatta specifically Hambricho mountain to relatively flat Gamo Gofa Zone. It was getting warmer and darker. The landscape is totally different from places we have seen before. The large and calm lakes of Arbaminch are getting closer to cool us. We are still far behind from the close sight of lakes as passing through Nech Sar National Park. Yet, they attracted our eyes and the cold wind gave us relief from warm weather. The lakes of Arba Minch: Lake Chamo and Abaya are the second biggest by surface area in Ethiopia.

*I will arise and go now, for always night and day*

*I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;*

*While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey, I hear it in the deep heart's core.*

[The Lake Isle Of Innisfree, W.B. Yeats]

We reached Arba Minch in the evening. The next day we made our journey to relatively new tourist destination: Mogo Kaka. The unique Mogo Kaka is 72 kilometers away from Arba Minch town. On road, we saw the vast banana plantation, thatched huts, the lakes and the mountains at times. It is hear warming scene that offers hope in the country.

Fathers of the Zayse dambile localities, the youths and children recieved us warmly at the gate of Mogo Kaka. It is very kind and very humane when they welcomed us. Nothing artificial but with pure heart they greeted us, they blessed us.

*Peace, love, unity and thoughtfulness to our country*

*Amen*

*May God bless our guests*

*God bless our hosts (we said in response)*

Mogo Kaka is unusual landscape. It is a striking yellow pile of sand covering 40 hectares of land. It is believed volcanic eruption has taken place and the soil is washed out and yellowish sand is left. Mogo Kaka is bright, refreshing and could be a very good background for photos and videos. When this place becomes known, I am sure people will prefer it for purposes like photography and cinematography. Music video and film makers shouldn't go abroad to find atmosphere or a setting for their story. For sometime we were lost, not even asking questions. Taking photos, enjoying contrastive colors and taking a



realization moment!

The Zayse people preserved this place and are proud of it. Zayse is also worth visiting for its people and culture. Zayse people live in a circular hut. As the people's livelihood is based on farming, animal raring, beekeeping, fishery and banana plantation, you will get authentic taste of food you never find in cities. We have been offered with food and drinks. The food that is basically mixture of corn and butter and it was delicious. The drink was also the same. It is honey and we drink it in jug passing one to the other. So, the delicious food, unique music instrument, the Zaysete language

and the dance moves can equally attract tourists to this place. The genuine

hospitality of people is also promising and an asset that can boost the image and significance of cultural and natural assets of Zayse.

Gemechu Bulbula who works in Gamo Zone Culture and Tourism directorate says activities are going on to make the site accessible, familiar and comfortable. "We know there should be accessibilty for tourists to come here. Lucky for us, we have asphalt road from Arba minch for 37 kilometers. But the remaining is gravel road. We understand that this need to be improved. It should be asphalted upto the gate. We believe the tourism sector has got deserving focus since the reform. We are working with that spirit. We continue to develop and make to the standard of a tourism site."

Haregu Petros who works in district office says there is a start of tourism flow to the site but it needs more work for foreign tourists to know the place. Haregu believes connecting this site to other sites like Chamo, Nech Sar Park and other help the site easily to be noticed. "Local tourists have began to come but we have to promote it further. We are trying to provide basic services so that tourist come easily. That is what we are doing along the state government. We are attempting foreign tourists to know about this place. We are connecting it with other sites such as Chamo lake, Nech Sar Park and Crocodile ranch."

Haregu says this is an attempt of diversifying tourism sites and have impact on the flow of tourists to the zone. She emphasizes by developing these sites the district planned to create jobs for the youth.

The Zayse people want more guests to come and visit Mogo Kaka and spend time with them. They know that it would create jobs for their youth. But most importantly they want to connect with the world: to progress and people know them and appreciate their culture.

### Don't expect...

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

Don't expect too much from others  
Because you will get hurt  
Have your own values and beliefs  
And listen to your heart  
People will do what they want  
Not what you want them to do  
You will find yourself less dissatisfied  
If you don't expect from them too...

### Topsy-turvy

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

Rest assured  
I had many an ally  
Who lends a hand  
To parry attack  
Vigilantly when  
I watch a sheep black  
A friend stabbed me  
In the back.

# Law & Politics

## International media's bogus display of Ethiopia's situation

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Since the start of the terrorist TPLF-provoked war in the northern part of the country, some discredited international media outlets have been playing a part in propagating fake news stories aimed at winning the hearts and minds of the wider international community and pursuing their concealed agenda going on behind doors.

The now low-rated media outlets have been preoccupied with a smear campaign against the government by making common cause with the criminal gang that has been working around the clock to place the country between a rock and a hard place.

When the Ethiopian National Defense Forces set in motion undertaking law enforcement operations in the wake of criminal TPLF's another round of war, the biased international media outlets have been chipping in besmirching the commendable initiative of the incumbent and confounding the global community with bogus news stories. To the surprise of everyone, the dishonored media outlets are not yet in the position to make conversant with the treacherous acts of the crooked group with the international community.

The western media has continued deceiving the global community over and over denying the voice of the Ethiopian people as witnessed in mass rallies being held at home and abroad.

In a similar vein, they have been whitewashing the villainous deeds of the criminal enterprise and pointing the finger at the incumbent with a focus on putting the country on the horns of a dilemma, and between Scylla and Charybdis. Sorrowfully, invigorated by their silence, the bandit group has sustained taking part in a wide spectrum of evil actions in an unlawful manner.

As opposed to standing by the truth and bringing into contact every Tom, Dick, and Harry with the existing situations on the ground, the defamed media outlets have been stubbornly getting off track breaching journalism ethics and standards with the intention of covering up the failure of the criminal organization. It appears clear that aside from moving the lives of innocent civilians into a living hell, the evil enterprise has perpetrated unspeakable crimes that amount to war crimes. However, the foredoomed international media outlets failed to utter a single word of condemnation against the nefarious deeds of the illegal organization that has been working nonstop to bring the evil organization leaders to power.

In the same fashion, apart from sparing no effort to up the ante in Amhara and Afar states, the distrusted information channels in broad daylight have kept on going hand in hand with the criminal organization and echoing the group's interest. Following the continuous information warfare against Ethiopia, some international organizations have been working day and night to put unwarranted pressure on Ethiopia distancing themselves from the existing developments on the ground and infringing on the sovereignty of the nation.

Notwithstanding the fact that the so-called



media outlets work around the clock with their paymasters, paid activists, and sympathizers of the criminal group to back the country into a corner by putting gasoline on the fire and stoking the flames utilizing quite a lot of forged news stories, they failed to bring about the desired destination as a consequence of the combined efforts of Ethiopians.

In the same fashion, as the hoped-for goal of the media outlets is spreading fictitious stories intending to blacken the image of the country under the guise of several lame reasons, they have been becoming the frontrunners in making the hidden agenda of some foreign entities become a reality.

Apart from partaking in creating skepticism among the general public and the incumbent quite a lot of media outlets have been spreading misinformation in contemplation of creating instability in the entire territory.

It is appropriate to recall some nations worldwide have been dismantled as a consequence of the treacheries of some foreign entities and the low-rated international media outlets that have been working in close collaboration at all hours of the day and night. Other than that as some entities do not want the democratically elected government to rule the country devoid of their interference and pressure, they have been endeavoring to impinge on the sovereignty of the country.

None of them have ever made an effort to disseminate balanced news stories on the topic of the whole thing going on in the northern part of the country except sparing no efforts to camouflage the gospel truth that unfolded in Amhara and Afar states. Although the criminal group has been in various instances waged a new round of belligerent to Amhara and Afar states and barricading humanitarian assistance, the media outlets failed to condemn the group's belligerent acts.

It is public knowledge that aside from committing atrocious offenses against noncombatants in Amhara and Afar, the crooked group has ended up hindering humanitarian corridors and encumbering the distribution of humanitarian aid to Tigray. To the surprise of everyone, the media outlets have not ever attempted to familiarize events on the ground with concerned authorities and relevant organs.

It is worth mentioning that from the very beginning, the rouge group has been hindering the delivery of humanitarian assistance by kidnapping aid trucks entering Tigray and looting warehouses. If the media

outlets and their stooges were strung out about human rights, they would have familiarized the international community with the evil deeds of the criminal group in the shortest possible time.

Commenting on the continued misinformation campaign, Dilla University Journalism and Communication Lecturer Alebel Guangul told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) said that some international media are

echoing lies to save the Terrorist TPLF from demise and keep misrepresentation of facts mainly to save the militants that have caused the deprivation of millions of citizens.

He noted that some global media are compromising journalistic principles to hide the failures and crimes of the terrorist group in and off battlefronts.

The expert further noted that the corporate media are also intensifying the dissemination of false information when they understand the T-TPLF is being crushed on war fronts and accused the government of fake human right violation and other crimes. Indeed, the baseless information of those media aims to maintain the interest of their financiers and to benefit the criminal faction.

Since the north Ethiopian conflict was triggered by the T-TPLF, some global news media are busy fabricating false propaganda to deceive the international community and present the radical element as the victim party. The outlet also lied to the global audience that the outlawed faction encircled Addis Ababa and would jubilantly capture the metropolis.

"In covering the war, some international media have been reliant on anonymous 'sources' and 'experts' and apart from remote reporting, they also sometimes invented stories. From a professional perspective, those reports were not properly attributed and are based on rumors heard from unidentified sources and on speculations."

As to him, those biased and bribed media overlooked the T-TPLF belligerence and triggered the third round of war by invading the neighboring Amhara and Afar states and committing atrocious crimes. "They never produce any story while the rebellious group has caused immense damage and lootings on public and private property as well as critical infrastructure in the aforesaid states."

The mere interest of the corporate media is installing a puppet government in Ethiopia thereby putting firm control in the strategic Horn of Africa and they have been conspiring on the legitimate government under the guise of human rights.

Sharing the above rationale, social and political studies scholar Bisrat Lemessa (Ph.D.) pointed out in his latest article that the media's likely intentional misrepresentation of the north Ethiopian conflict has played a role in encouraging the militants and prolonging civilian suffering.

"What else could illustrate the numbing lack

of principles in reporting on the conflict than the New York Times' re-victimizing Tigray's child soldiers as 'highly motivated young recruits'? What mocks humanity's moral fortitude more than the BBC publishing Alex de Waal's story that glorifies a T-TPLF general who forced children into his military swarming as 'one of the finest military strategists of his generation in Africa?'"

International media outlets remained unfair in their coverage regarding the current situation in Ethiopia, also corroborated the above fact, Danish journalist, adding that their false narratives have prolonged and exacerbated the conflict.

Speaking to local media, Danish journalist Rasmus Sonderris stated that media outlets should be careful with their sources. However, he added, all the reports about airstrikes have been from the Terrorist TPLF sources, footage coming from TPLF's sources in Mekelle, anonymous aid workers, and unnamed diplomats.

"That is not good enough especially when you make wide acquisitions that are very incendiary sometimes," according to him, there were a lot of mistakes committed by the media outlets, especially at the beginning of the war.

He also insisted that media outlets need to tell the good stories from Africa, not just sort of the grateful donor darling but the vibrant societies full of progress and creativity. For example, Sonderris noted, Daily Telegraph's Will Brown wrote that allegedly there were reports that every ethnic-Tigray people in Addis Ababa were being rounded up into concentration camps and murdered. "How can you write something this incendiary?"

According to Sonderris, he could just have taken a plane to Addis Ababa and walked down the street to listen to Tigrigna music, to talk to some ethnic-Tigray metropolitans, the taxi driver, the shopkeeper the hotel owner, and others in the city. Narratives have consequences. He added that he is sure that all these false narratives have prolonged and exacerbated the war.

He called upon international journalists to take a fresher look at Ethiopia and Africa instead of always assuming the worst and immerse themselves into Ethiopian society if they have the possibility. He also opined that nowadays they can even use Google Translate to read local newspapers, but nobody does that.

"And do not assume that these self-proclaimed experts like Kjetil Tronvoll, Martin Plaut, and Alex De Waal who stood ready to meet the demand for media sensationalism are neutral," he also indicated.

The aforesaid experts have been wrong again and again in all their predictions. For example, Alex De Waal was predicting the breakup of Ethiopia becoming like a loose confederation, and now he is predicting a state failure, according to Sonderris.

It is very unlikely that Ethiopia will break up and has state failure, he said adding, but if that were to happen the western powers would have a lot of blame.

# “TPLF should be disarmed and its leaders be held accountable by law,”

- Negasi Beyene

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Today's guest Negasi Beyene was born in Mekelle town of Tigray State, Ethiopia. He attended elementary and high school education at Meseret and Emperor Yohannes Schools respectively. He pursued higher education in Russia where he graduated with both Bachelors's and Master's Degrees from Moscow State University. He then received an additional MA from San Diego State University in Biostatistics.

He works at DHHS-Center for Disease Control and Prevention. A human right activist and statistician Negasi lives in Washington D.C. The Ethiopian Herald had a short stay with Negasi and talked about a range of issues directly or indirectly related to Ethiopia's current political scenario. Enjoy reading!

**How do you comprehend and enlighten the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)?**

From the very start, they did not have a good reputation as they exploit the people of Tigray, especially the farmers. If farmers refuse to provide what the members of the group ask for, they would assail them mercilessly with a hot iron and/or hot sickles. They even show them cruelty by burying prisoners below the neck and driving cattle over them. In addition to this, TPLF also had a dark prison in a cave where only a few lucky people can manage to escape.

Unfortunately, the person who comes out is more likely to be sick as he/she would not see the sun for more than a week; if the health status of a prisoner does not return to its former level immediately, he/she would fall sick or die as they are deprived of food during their stay in the dark prison.

In addition to this, if the family of the arrested person is known, they (TPLF) will take the prisoner out of the dark prison and hand him over to his family after they understand that he will die after a week and confirm that there is no possibility of his existence on earth. Possibly, the released prisoner will die after a few days.

The activity of TPLF in general is filled with a lot of fraud and deceit. It can be said that the group did not even have a taste for democracy. This organization has tortured the people of Tigray for 47 years. Especially before I got arrested during the Red Terror, some of my close friends used to say to me, “You would rather go to the battlefield than be arrested.” Therefore, I was thinking of going out.

However, since I was paying attention to my studies, I neglected the matter. As the matter got worse, I started to

scrutinize the situation. I was forced to decide by observing corpses left and right at Emperor Yohannes Secondary School. During that time, I had only two choices: either join the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP) or go down to the battlefield. But at that time, I began to read the manifesto of the TPLF carefully. I noticed two contradicting ideas which pushed me not to go with them. Chapter one of the manifesto portrays Tigray as an economically developed state while chapter two states that Tigray is impoverished and oppressed by the Amhara people. In this way, I found the first and second chapters to be contradictory, so I decided not to commit my life to these liars.

I was once arrested because of the Red Terror. However, since I was released, I went to Russia, in fear of the Derg regime even if I had been getting the chance of entering Addis Ababa University, as the national problem had not been resolved. After spending some time in Russia, I headed to America. I currently work at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Washington DC and spend the rest of my time serving my country.



used to wake people up.

**This group made the people of Tigray and Ethiopia suffer, so what do you think is the long-term solution for the people of Tigray?**

War is an unnecessary thing for any normal society. Considering war as a lonely solution, TPLF has characteristics of resolving problems through applying to give and take principles. If we pay attention to their history, they resolved everything through war. They used war to defeat Derg, EPRP, EDU and others. It stabbed TLF party members while they were sleeping saying that Tigray cannot bear these two political organizations. They talked to one another and decided to unite and become one organization, invite TLF party members to dinner and killed all except one lucky person among them who managed to escape.

Therefore, TPLF's habit of backstabbing is its long-ingrained behaviour. Its character is cunning. Of course, they are being weakened by the current war. The people of Tigray have suffered 47 years of pain as they have nowhere to go except for the leaders and their families.

Currently, the people of Ethiopia are well aware of their tricks. When it was in power, because of the suffering it inflicted on the Ethiopians, they knew its tricks well, so I have full hope that Ethiopia's unity will come from now on. I believe that the current war will end with the victory of the federal government. TPLF should be disarmed and its leaders should be accountable by the law.

This is something that the government itself decides. But there is an element that needs to be restored. Previously, something went wrong in the interim administration of Tigray that should have been set up earlier. If this is said to be a mistake, the people who were appointed at that time are TPLF lovers. They are those who have not removed the TPLF from their hearts.

Therefore, I think it would be good if all those who belong to their cells are replaced by others and worked properly. At present, some believe that the terrorist TPLF is an inauthentic organization. They killed 53 people who stood for change and truth during the eight months of the interim administration in Tigray. Most of the leaders were their friends. I say that the government should pay attention because it needs to be very careful after this. If this is not the case, we Ethiopians are paying debts.

**What is expected from the people of Tigray at the moment? How should the natives of Tigray abroad help Ethiopia?**

All in all, T-TPLF is an anti-people party from the beginning and has applied Pseudo-democracy which never works for it. By now their days are coming to the end with their graves having been dug up and I think that the people will find out what the truth is.

**What do you think is the reason for the contradiction of ideas portrayed in chapter one and chapter two of the TPLF manifesto?**

Since the TPLF was communist at the time, Tigray had to be able to fulfil five things to be called a Tigray nation. These are culture, language, topography, psychological unity and economic development. That is what Joseph Stalin's book says. It is copied from Joseph that a society must fulfil five things to be called a nation. The members of TPLF said that they are fighting for building the nation, so they did that to assume nationhood.

Any organization that claims to be a nation must always have enemies. If there is no enemy, the people will not join the movement. Therefore, the one who was declared the enemy is the Amhara people. The reason given is that Tigray was not developed because Amhara oppressed it. It is meant to be



# Herald Guest



When the federal government evacuated from the Tigray region due to some reason, the group came from the cave where it was hidden and reorganized by bringing out the hidden weapons which enabled them to invade some parts of Ethiopia again. Therefore, it should be clear that they should be fully disabled. The group should be punished in a way that they could not revive again. I understand one thing. I know the pressure put on Ethiopia as TPLF enablers do this to rescue the terrorist group. These anti-peace elements have no desire for Ethiopia to be stable.

Therefore, if the people of Tigray can be sure that the TPLF has disarmed, it has no interest in it. The threat to the people of Tigray is that the TPLF is attacking it. He prefers silence considering the terrorist group might come back even if defeated. The people of Tigray, like other Ethiopians, want to express their happiness by going out in the streets.

However, the threat is the activities of the malicious group. Even if the people want to express joy, what scares them from doing this is the TPLF cells that reside within the people. These cells intimidated the people not to do so. This is what had been observed during the interim administration.

When a meeting is called, if they go out and participate, they will receive a threat that they would face retaliation upon their return. Apart from this, the people are scared of false propaganda. As the group is well-versed in propaganda, it puts the people in danger with its

falsehoods. The so-called “*Dimtse Woyane*” (Voice of TPLF) is used to echo the propaganda it has already presented.

Therefore, I believe that the people in Tigray know the tricks of TPLF and they will not have any problems except fear. Of course, people can expose TPLF cells to the ruling government. TPLF cells that reside abroad are the children of these terrorist leaders. These kids came for scholarships, they live in expensive houses and drive a hundred thousand dollars cars. Since this team’s defeat is closely related to their interests, they are actively involved in rolling in every square. They are hiring a lobbyist who can influence Ethiopia.

When the TPLF were in power, they were busy spending the money stolen from Ethiopia to attack their motherland. However, the majority of people in Tigray are in a nationalist mood. Nationalism is a disease in itself. I say that a person should be respected as a person. Every person is equal when God created human beings. As long as this is the case, it is wrong to deny that and to say that Tigrayan is different.

I am sure the current situation in Ethiopia is getting better and better. I am sure that Ethiopia will continue to be united as before. I do not support what you call a nation or region. I think the government will also think about this issue. I desire to see Ethiopia and Africa become united.

**Following the defeat of the TPLF, big pressure came against Ethiopia**

**from the West; what do you think the diaspora should do in fighting against international influences?**

It is debatable to judge whether the diaspora support is enough or not but the Diaspora is doing everything possible to support their country. Years ago, about the release of Sibhat Nega, and the violence of civilians by *Shene* in the Wollega, Oromia State, there was a small division among the Diaspora. However, now we are trying to explain everything to the diaspora using the media to avoid division. We told them that if they have a complaint against the country and the ruling government, you should be clear about why the westerners did not want it.

The reason they do not want the government is that it is better for Ethiopia and it does not want to accept the orders of the West. The international pressure on Ethiopia is because the government will not allow others to twist its hands. If the government in power was ready to receive any order from the west, the westerners would not have remembered where the TPLF is.

The current problem is that they are trying to turn the issue into neo-colonialism. TPLF has worked with the West for several years since its inception.

They have a long-standing relationship with Suzan Rice. They called one another while celebrating their birthdays. TPLF has never worked for the benefit of Tigray in particular or Ethiopia in general. It is only for a certain group that has gathered itself as a Mafia.

As a result, most of the Ethiopians living abroad understood that the attitude of Westerners is below the expected. What is on the ground and the information they spread contradicts one another?

I, for example, thought that CNN might exaggerate a bit but it presents the truth. However, I understand that it fabricated stories that do not exist. In general, the media and the intelligence agency of the country where I live, and their government are intertwined and release information tailored to their benefit. Here, I think there is something that we (Ethiopians) do not understand. It is possible to oppose the government itself when we have a country, however, we can oppose and support those who do not have a country. If there is no country, there is no government. If there is no government, then there is nothing we can oppose.

Therefore, what the West wants is for us to continue in a blood-soaked land without a government. We should do the opposite, we should not join them and throw stones at Ethiopia. So, that is why we diasporas are holding a peaceful demonstration in Washington DC.

The peaceful demonstration was held in front of the White Palace at two o’clock. We will continue. Another thing that is being done is how to approach the senators and congress members to make them stand up for the benefit of

Ethiopia. It is expected that we will convey a message that if the candidates do not stand by Ethiopia and Eritrea, we will not vote for them in 21 of the 50 states in America where Ethiopians are the majority.

When there is an election in America, most Ethiopians do not go out to vote. During those days, many of them do not know whom to vote for. Therefore, we are giving this kind of approach and we are awakening the Ethiopians on how to do it. If we do this, I hope we can bring about some change. The voice of our Ethiopians is needed to bring about change. For example, in the past, the governor of Virginia has been changed. In Maryland, we are doing the same. Therefore, our ancestors fought against these Westerners and won by paying for their blood. If we sacrifice our time and money, we can rescue our beloved country –Ethiopia.

**Apart from the Terrorist group, western media outlets which sided with TPLF have now been defeated. So, what is your opinion on that?**

We did not realize the plot these western media are doing until it happened to us Ethiopians, but what they are doing is very dangerous. They even brought out the truth concerning the case of Libya. They revealed the truth as it was a genocide. At present, they have left Libya to be degraded from being a country.

Therefore, it is known that their intervention is not for us. They support the TPLF not because they care about the people of Tigray. If we look at Afghanistan, which is our most recent memory, they left it in ashes within twenty years of their stay. Therefore, all their activities are related to their interests but not to helping others.

Indeed, because they are powerful, they will try to influence others. However, we Ethiopians learned from our ancestors not to submit to anyone. Therefore, I say that anybody will never sneer at the country. I think that all diaspora should stand up and advocate for Ethiopia. Our children are giving their lives engaged in the war carried out in the northern part of the country. We diaspora communities residing abroad should not refrain from supporting our country, allocating time and money. We have to think about it.

Let us all stand for Ethiopia. For example, the thing that I am very happy about is that we are supposed to be able to export wheat independently. The work being done in this case is promising. It is a kind of work that will protect Ethiopia’s hands from being twisted. In this regard, it is imperative to support and encourage the effort exerted by the government to ensure food security. If there is something wrong, it has to be corrected, but it is not appropriate to work with foreign powers for the disintegration of Ethiopia.

**Thank you very much for your time.**

It is my pleasure.

## Kindness pays back!

BY TEWODROS KASSA

In this era of technology, our world needs more cooperation and humanity. Thinking the disadvantaged and supporting the needy helps our world prosper together and reap the fruit of voluntarism. Everyone agrees on the value of voluntarism; and its personal and mental satisfaction is the leading motive behind engaging widely in voluntarism activities.

The other way round, the act of volunteers aside from lessening the socioeconomic burden of those targeted groups, it will aware them as there are some individuals who care about them; and in turn, creates sense of belongingness within them.

In Ethiopia, there are numerous individuals who are known for their unreserved support and commitment to reaching and assisting the underprivileged sections of society with the purpose of improving their lives.

For instance, Biniam Belete, Founder of 'Mekedonia Charity Association', an association striving focusing on improving the lives of the people-elderly, mentally disabled, physical impaired, HIV and cancer patients and bed ridden people among others, is a prominent Ethiopian known for helping thousands of Ethiopians to brighten their life. Many more Ethiopians are also voluntarily serving their people in various ways.

Regarding this, Gezahegn Wordofa (Dr.) is the other philanthropist Ethiopian who is known for his successive contributions not only at home; but also abroad through promoting strong societal cohesion and active participation in various national affairs.

His life journey could be a great lesson for others who dreams to leave a better legacy in life that worth better recognition.

Gezahegn was born and raised in the rural part of the country in Wolenchiti Town, Oromia State. During his stay with The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) Gezahegn said that he has paid sacrifice to reach his current position. Life was not smooth to



Gezahegn Wordofa (PhD)

succeed in his educational journey and needed to work hard to fulfill his ambition. Understanding this fact; at his young age, he was helping his family engaging in various businesses. All at once, targeting to be a medical doctor, he did his best untiringly to realize his childhood dream. At that time, because there was no secondary school in his vicinity, he had to travel barefooted for four hours every day to attend his education.

Luckily, he succeeded in his education very well and he completed 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the countryside. After finishing high school, Gezahegn got a chance to pursue his education abroad.

In the country where he went to study, he engaged in various jobs concurrent to his education and was able to gain different work skills that would lead him to a successful level.

He is so enthusiastic to help his motherland and support the country though designing and working on various projects sought to ease the lives of the society who taught him without being educated. He supports health and education facilities in his hometown-Wolenchiti. He financed the construction

of a state of the art public library in Oda Nebi School found in his hometown. Currently, the library is providing service to more than 5,000 residents.

He believed that learning and acquiring a better knowledge and wealth abroad is not enough in life. Rather thinking and sharing others is an outstanding satisfaction that proves the meaning of genuine life.

"It is a great success to me while I witness my contribution is preventing others from going through the difficult path that I have gone through," he said.

He was also one of the guests who came to their hometown responding to the invitation- 'The Great Ethiopians Homecoming Challenge'- made by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) targeting to bring one million Diaspora home during the past Ethiopian *Genna* (Christmas) and *Timket* (Epiphany) celebrations.

Moreover, he supports the Ethiopian community members in Canada to be active participant throughout Ethiopia's socio-economic progress. Based on his expertise in international social services, such as housing for the homeless, he also

supported to resettle new comers and refugees in Canada which has given him a wide recognition from various entities.

Gezahagn has won Caring Canadian Award from Governor General of Canada (2014), International Peace Ambassador from World Diplomatic Association (2015), Volunteer Award from Province of Ontario (2015), Bikila Award-Community Service Excellence from the Ethiopian Expat Community in Canada (2016), Sovereign Medal for Volunteers from Governor General of Canada (2017), Listowel North Perth Chamber of Commerce - Excellence in Non-profit Newcomer Award (2020), among others.

Currently, he is working as an international consultant for the United Nations (UN) and Founder and president of the Multicultural Association of Perth-Huron. He is also a Municipal election candidate for the Stratford municipal election 2022 in Canada. He is competing as Geza Wordofa for councilor candidate for Stratford city council.

Various Ethiopian community members and others wish success in his new journey. He is a prominent Ethiopian born Canadian running for the council with various humanitarian achievements. Winning the election will help him to expand his generous activities at home and abroad.

In sum, in order to contribute to the poor health services in the country and share the problems of the low income community, he has turned his attention to undertake various health centers and hospital investment in his hometown. The hospital is established solely to serve the society sincerely without focusing on profit.

Currently, he has allocated up to 300 million Birr capital for the construction of the hospital in his hometown and already settled a 28,000 square meter to commence the construction process. During completion, hospital is will have a health college, a ward for special treatment of mothers and children, drug store, bank, supermarket, among others.

## Conspiracy behind...

In all instances the instigator of all the destructive wars was the T-TPLF. Regrettably, the United States and the European Union have failed to squarely put the blame on T-TPLF for its war mongering stances. They all say the resumption of the war, the start of the war without mentioning the real beginner of all the unprovoked and senseless wars. This is a clear testimony to the fact that the west is highly biased in favor of T-TPLF.

The United States and its allies are exerting maximum pressure on Ethiopia to declare ceasefire. The USA has gone to the extent of saying it will take punitive measures if Ethiopia doesn't comply with its demands. In a statement, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said, "the United States remains

prepared to take appropriate measures against those who obstruct the resolution of this conflict, and we are determined to have those who commit human rights abuses held to account." What is the meaning of this? **She is saying either you do what we tell you to do or be prepared to face the consequences.** What can the punitive measures be? Probably, economic sanction or accusing Ethiopia of genocide and human rights violation!

U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (D.N. J.), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "In the absence of a ceasefire, I plan to pursue Senate passage of my Ethiopia Peace and Democracy Promotion Act of 2021, which would impose punitive measures on those

undermining efforts to end hostilities...."

Now the choice lies with Ethiopia whether to succumb to the plethora of threats or take a bold decision to see to it that the unity and territorial integrity of the country is respected. Ethiopia is committed to solving problems peacefully and through dialogue. In this regard, honest and sincere support of any friendly country is happily accepted. However, interference in its internal affairs is not accepted. Like any country in the world, Ethiopia wants to have one national army. Thus, **first and foremost, Ethiopia wants to ensure a complete disarmament of the T-TPLF forces.** At this time ceasefire means giving T-TPLF forces a chance to regroup, acquire ammunition from their sympathizers and

supporters in order to launch a fourth round of offensive. If T-TPLF is really committed to peaceful resolution of the conflict, it must agree to lay down its arms. In this connection the support of all peace loving countries is vital.

The problem would have long been resolved if it were not for the intervention of other countries. T-TPLF supporters and activists must now accept the reality; they need to come to terms with reality. T-TPLF is not going to rule Ethiopia ever again. The people of Tigray along with their Ethiopian brothers have suffered terribly under the TPLF. Ethiopia should not be expected to allow interventions in the name of democracy and humanitarian concerns.

# Verbatim and Caption

## Autumn harvest, construction of mega projects



The autumn crop is in a good condition in all parts of the Amhara regional state. In particular, it was proven possible to cultivate wheat, corn, teff, soybeans and 12 other types of crops through cluster farming. In order to increase productivity, the administration reminded that intensive professional and management support has been given to the farmers to implement new agricultural technologies and practices. In the harvest season, it was possible to cultivate various crops on 1.7 million hectares of land in cluster farming, which has a significant role in increasing productivity. It is expected that more than 64 million quintals of production will be obtained from the cultivated land in cluster farming.

**Yilikal Kefale (PhD), Amhara Regional State Chief.**

In the past three years, Ethiopia has paid great attention to increasing agricultural productivity in order to be self-sufficient in food grains. It is known that there is a potential to increase wheat production beyond domestic consumption to export. Currently, countries including Kenya and Djibouti have announced that they are interested in buying wheat from Ethiopia. For this purpose, the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange is set to start marketing of commodities through modern marketing system, **Marketing Corporate Communication Manager of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange Netsanet Tesfaye.**



In the Capital Addis Ababa, more than 300 mega, medium and small projects were completed in the last fiscal year. Other various projects are under construction this year. The constructions of the projects are in the stages of completion, construction and initiation. In Addis Ababa, in addition to the construction of projects, various activities are being carried out in the areas of job creation, stabilization of inflation, and social and economic issues, **Head of Addis Ababa City Communication Office Tayiba Luna.**



Inspecting the Kenya-Ethiopia today was most fulfilling. Along the entire 612 kms, were Kenyan heroes working away, across varying and in some cases, extreme terrain to ensure that we energize this line on time. The construction of the electric infrastructure that Ethiopia has been installing to export power to Kenya is accelerating. Efforts are being made to complete the 612 km infrastructure construction on the Kenyan side, **Dr. Monica Juma, Cabinet Secretary of Kenya's Ministry of Energy and Petroleum.**



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### AHRI's top notch researcher receives lifetime achievement

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Health sector researchers have great contributions in diagnosing diseases and health problems. The outcome of their findings helps to prevent the development or recurrence of disease and reduce the number of people who become ill. Treat illness to improve survival rates or increase the number of people who are cured and improve the quality of life for people living with illness.

As we know the main purpose of conducting research is to find answers to questions in which we are interested. A detailed examination and analysis of issues from various perspectives gives us an opportunity to find the core and possible solutions of the certain problem.

When we come to a clinician-researcher it is considered to be an important figure in health research and emphasis has been given to involving more clinicians in patient-oriented research. Clinical research contributes to the expanding knowledge base of medicine and provides physicians an opportunity to offer patients the latest cutting-edge therapies.

Participation opens their eyes to medical innovation, and they are benefited by satisfying intellectual curiosity, increasing research provisions, and assisting career

advancement. Participation in clinical research may add prestige to physicians' practice or institution.

A study conducted in the United States showed that a substantial number of physicians engaged in pharmaceutical industry-sponsored clinical trials and/or lectures in an effort to supplement their incomes as well as enhance their prestige, knowledge, and professional reputation.

Taking all the aforementioned, Ministry of Health in its 24th Health Sector Annual Review Meeting (ARM) themed "Equitable and Quality Health Services for all" recognized and awarded senior AHRI researchers for their Lifetime Achievement.

On the occasion the awardees received bestowed in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the health sector. Armauer Hansen Research Institute's (AHRI's) Senior Researcher, Dr. Wude Mihret, in recognition of her extensive work in Bacterial and Viral Diseases research such as that in Meningitis, received the Lifetime Achievement award.

Similarly, Dr. Tsehaynesh Lema and Dr. Solomon Busa received the award for their unreserved efforts in research such as leprosy and optical service delivery respectively.



Finally Physician-researchers can serve as effective 'bridges' between the research and practice communities and can facilitate both development of clinically relevant research and dissemination of evidence-based treatments into routine clinical services. The organization should have adequate structure to support processes and achieve outcomes. A well-planned implementation of these structures is likely to encourage clinicians to participate in clinical research. In addition, medical schools should develop effective institutional strategies and policies to highlight student awareness and experience of undergraduate research and inquiry using the following strategies.

Research helps hospitals and educational institutes with additional funding for capacity building in core academic, clinical, and research activities. Hospitals usually receive reimbursements for participating in clinical trials, either in cash, equipment, or additional staff.

The clinician-researcher is able to make an important contribution to the quality of clinical services by facilitating an interactive flow of ideas between the clinical and research fields and disseminating evidence-based treatment approaches. Physicians have the opportunities to attract funds and resources through research grants, and this ultimately helps health care organizations to retain their talents, knowledge, and skills in a competitive global economy.

It is crystal clear the economic opportunities created by clinical research draw more talented people into the medical profession in a country. The scope for clinical trials is increasing in developing countries. It also opens the door for wider employment opportunities. Clinical research creates employment for site personnel, study monitors, and ancillary services, with an economic impact on the whole community.

The ARM meeting which was held from October 20-21, 2022 was led by Dr. Liya Tadesse, Minister of Health and was graced by Sidama Region's President, Desta Ledamo, Dr. Dereje Deguma (State Minister of Health), AHRI Delegates Prof. Afework Kassu (AHRI- Director General), Yamerot Andualem (Deputy Director General for Admin and Development), Health Sector Higher Officials and Health Sector partner organizations.