

# ABETTING TERRORISM

## THE QATAR-SOMALI & ERITREAN CONNECTION

(EPRDF-SF Research Team 04/25/08):-What prompted the Ethiopian government to stop diplomatic relations with Qatar? It is this kind of inquiry that led to digging out information to the alliance of forces that work laboriously to undermine Ethiopia's regional stability. It is only through careful investigation that one will be able to comprehend why the Ethiopian government might have severed its relations with Qatar.

In the early 1990s, Awyes pursued radical political Islam and joined al-Itihaad al-Islamiya, a terrorist group known for having slaughtered many innocent people in Ethiopia and Somalia. Ethiopia retaliated and defeated al-Itihaad



Sheikh Hassan Dahir Awyes (pictured above), wanted terrorist, residing in Asmara, has ordered "holy war" against Ethiopia and is a well-known Eritrea-a rogue state lead by a megalomaniac

The result was that the Defense Forces and militia loyal to Puntland leader Abdullahi Yusuf pushed Awyes to exile back to his home region in central Somalia. Awyes began a period of self-education, which led him to Salafi ideology. Salafi ideology is premised on the word-by-word interpretation of Islamic texts and regards other Muslim sects as deviants. The ideology detests compromise and incorporates "holy war" as its means to bring forth its wishes. Qatar is well known for sponsoring such ideology and encourages

in its bid to create havoc in places like the Horn of Africa.

Qatar has long-standing tradition of hosting Salafist exiled terrorists and radical preachers from Egypt, Lebanon, Algeria, Chechnya, Somalia, and Saudi Arabia. For example, with its arrogant disposition, Saudi Salafist exiles, related to Qatar royal family was sheltered in Qatar and integrated into the Interior Ministry and religious establishment following the 1979 attack of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Qatar is still keeping its long standing tradition of abetting Salafist exiled terrorists, by lending hand to UIC Salafist of Somali origin via Eritrea. Remember, right after it defeated the country's warlords, the Union of Islamic Courts of Somalia showed cracks in the alliance. As time passed by, the UIC split between its Salafist and Qutubist tendencies, led by Sheikh Hassan Dahir Awyes and moderate cleric Sheikh Sherif Sheikh Ahmed, respectively. After the Ethiopian Defense Forces defeated UIC at the behest of an internationally recognized transitional government of Somalia, Awyes traveled to Asmara, seeking shelter and a place to regroup and organize a terrorist force under Salafist ideology that Qatar is known to have supported traditionally.

Asmara, in an apparent arrogant disposition toward the international community, proceeded to host the UIC congress in September 2007. Among the four hundred delegates that attended the congress were wanted terrorists with links to al-Qaeda, and the list includes Sheikh Awyes. It's now known that, Eritrea was not the sole sponsor of the congress for these terrorist groups and might have included other state actors such as Qatar. Qatar is known for having cliques of exiled terrorist groups that still remain and are embedded among Qatari security officials. And by deduction, it won't be that surprising if some of the delegates of UIC in Eritrea were directly flown from Qatar to Asmara in time to attend the congress

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