

## A CALL FOR A FAIR, BALANCED & RESPONSIBLE REPORTING

First, it was The Wall Street Journal. Then, it was The Washington Post. For these two news organizations, the most pressing issue under the sun on the second week of this month was Ethiopia. Yes, there was nothing other than the “undemocratic” and “problematic” Ethiopia that is worth their respective editorial pages.

Albeit, diametrically opposed in their outlook (conservative & liberal), one after the other flexed their muscles to tarnish the poor, but proud & ancient country of mine, Ethiopia. Incredible as it is, the hypocrite post even went further crowning itself as a policy crafter and contemplated what to do with the “problematic ally”, Ethiopia. .

I sincerely don't believe that these two news organizations made a professional and an in-depth investigation before their jingoistic reporting. I suspect that the few but determined & big mouth extremists of Ethiopian origin have finally succeeded in disabling the universal guard that ought to be in place to prevent biased, grossly exaggerated, and at times fabricated stories in any credible news outlets.

Little do these opportunists, power-hungry and short-sighted “Ethiopians” realize that every time they succeed in disseminating their lies, the scar that tarnishes the image of our mother-land, Ethiopia gets deeper & deeper. Suffice to say, that voluntarily & democratically or not, Meles will eventually go; but such a deep-seated scar on the face of our country takes a very long time to erase it and undo the damage it has caused.

Let me be clear here that I am not talking about the majority of opponents, whose hearts & minds is at their beloved country. I'm specifically talking about the few but noisy & notorious elements in the Ethiopian Diaspora, whose motto is now or never, all or nothing, the old status-quo or Ethiopia's destruction....etc... Mind you, most of these individuals, if not all, have voluntarily given up their Ethiopian citizenship and have solemnly sworn their allegiance to America & its flag. Thus, waving the Ethiopian flag at the State Department & Capitol Hill is simply to hoodwink the American public at large & some naïve reporters as has been the case.

Getting back to my main point, I would like to remind to the editors of the above mentioned news organizations, who are headquartered in the two most violent & murderous cities on earth, to give a due attention to the chronic problems in their respective cities. The American public will have been better served if enough of your journalistic time & attention is invested on this fundamental social problem, which I am afraid, will have dire consequences for generations to come. In conjunction with this, I might add, never should a single day go by without reporting about the never-ending tragedy of the middle-east. For it is the middle-east, in my opinion, that is the most pressing issue of last year, last month, and the second week of this month, if not of our time?

Having said that, please understand that by no means am I suggesting that Ethiopia is off-limit for your papers. I am not in the business of defending the “democratic credentials” of its leader, Mr. Zenawi either. I wish I could communicate my message better. All I’m struggling to say is that beware of the Ethiopian **Chalabi** . Don’t be seduced by their sexy & rosy made-up stories. And all I am asking is that your reporting be veritable, balanced, and responsible. Is this too much to ask?

As a final note, I like to confess that I’ve chosen to ignore the disgraced New York Times, whose reporter was recently caught red-handed lying about the eastern region of Ethiopia, Ogaden. After all, if my memory doesn’t fail me, it was another reporter employed by the NY Times that greatly contributed to the relentless misinformation campaign that took this great nation, America to the ongoing war with Iraq. Therefore, I don’t expect honesty & integrity from such an institution.

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