

Bad choice of words

I have to respond to the comments made by Sophia Tesfamariam on the article

“US diplomatic blunder on Eritrea, Ethiopia border row”

http://www.sudantribune.com/article.php3?id_article=16096

There is a lesson in life that needs to be learned that we all shouldn't let our emotions take control of our reasoning as this will make us look immature and fool.

The writer seems more interested to express her hatred at Tigreans than to make a point about her argument. I will try to respond to selected paragraphs in her article that were blatantly offensive and racist.

“...There's a bigger problem that needs to be resolved, and that is the normalization of relations. Because if we can't resolve the problem that gave rise to the war, then demarcation only leads to another war. The other issue that's important is the thirty towns and villages that will be divided. We don't want these divided towns and villages to be the source of another war or conflict...”

According to the writer the above statement was made by Ambassador Yamamoto who was attacked throughout the article the way he is doing his job.

I don't think any reasonable person would argue about the legitimacy of the above statement made by him. He did nothing wrong but addressed the fundamental issues and his concerns from a wise and experienced diplomat's point of view.

“Having met Meles Zenawi several times, Ambassador Yamamoto must have been brainwashed by the street smart Tigrayan Prime Minister of Ethiopia , otherwise, he knows that the Algiers Agreements are crystal clear and unambiguous. Unless he is planning and working to marginalize the EEBC, Ambassador Yamamoto knows that the EEBC's decision is final and binding and is not open for negotiations, dialogue, interpretations, revision, appeals etc. etc. He also knows that the EEBC, in its Report to the Security Council entitled “Observations of 21 March 2003”, has clearly and eloquently

responded to Meles Zenawi's childish, repetitive requests for clarifications, interpretations, amendments etc."

'he must have been brain washed by the street smart Tigrayan Prime Minister of Ethiopia' .It is flat out rude and PR-wise unbeneficial to say this, besides it is not appropriate to attack a person's integrity .If at all this holds true and PM Meles Zenawi succeeded in brainwashing Ambassador Yamamoto, then I would give him credit for his exceptional intellect and personal charisma that his counter part lacks, but prefers to be unavailable to diplomats who're just trying to help.

We all know PM Meles is Tigrian origin and we don't need to be reminded about it repeatedly. We Ethiopians are proud of his leadership, and fortunate to have a leader in him that is guided by wisdom but not emotions. I don't know what the writer's motivation is but throughout her article she kept suffixing PM Meles Zenawi's name with the word Tigrian.Well,don't be delusional ,Tigrians are as great Ethiopians are as the rest and Ethiopians are not bothered by his being Tigrean as you are.

PM Meles Zenawi indeed made repetitive requests but not as the writer rudely described it being 'childish', instead it was assertive, long-sighted and concerned. It is my understanding that the term childish should be used to describe someone who is coveting. We all know that the PM has never shown an immoderate desire for that which is another's.

"Ambassador Yamamoto and the Tigrayan regime in Ethiopia know that the phrase ex aequo et bono means that the Boundary Commission was required to follow the law, and made its decision based on the Colonial Treaties and applicable international law, and not on its own opinions of what is right and good. The rule of law and not human and physical geography was to be the basis for the decision."

I just don't see any logic in repeatedly using 'Tigrean' except it manifests that the writer has serious problems with Tigreans.First of all, the Ethiopian government is consisted of a balanced groups of dedicated, educated and mature people of multi ethnic background. Secondly the repeated racial referral of 'Tigrean' makes it clear that she is more interested in reminding her readers about her hatred .Please leave the Tigrean people alone .PM Meles Zenawi's job requires him to protect his country's interests and stand up for the Ethiopian people and that includes the Tigrean people too. I don't think this is too hard to swallow unless the writer naively believes that we

will foolishly be trapped into her poisonous divisive words. Please be reminded ‘*Afinchan bemetut ayn yalekisal*’!

“Ambassador Yamamoto in his 02 June 2006 interview also omitted and distorted the facts surrounding his meetings with Eritrean officials. Here is what he said “:

“...We went to Eritrea earlier in the month, and of course we only saw one official. The president did not see us, nor did other senior government officials. It’s very difficult to talk to a country if they’re not willing to talk with you or meet with you. We’ve made repeated requests to talk with President Issayas and he ignored us at every step. Until we can have contact of meeting, the only people who have opened their doors have been Ethiopia, and not Eritrea. We find it very frustrating but also very disappointing...”

Accusing the ambassador for distorting again? What should he have said instead, if he was not able to meet officials that he supposed to?

“As to meeting with H.E. President Isaias Afwerki, as a former Ambassador, Mr. Yamamoto must know that it is not easy to get an audience with Presidents of any country. Surely, he is not implying that Eritrea, because of its size and because it is an African country, should be treated differently. I for one have not heard Eritrean or any other African officials complaining about not being able to talk to President Bush or Condoleezza Rice at will.”

Wow! You must be having a very high opinion about yourself. Respect must be earned but not demanded .You may demand it but you sure will not get it. Comparing oneself with the leaders of countries that have achieved monumental goals in every aspects of human life in our world, would be a little too overzealous.Rememeber, you have the problems and the ambassador came to help and you think he has to knock on your door the whole day to be invited in. Why the need to show off arrogance and empty pride while the reality is quite different? We all need to show the ambassador our readiness and commitment in resolving our problems; I don’t think it is wise to be unavailable to people who are trying to help. The least we can do is to show them some respect and courtesy.

“Finally, I would humbly advise Ambassador Yamamoto and his likes not to compromise their “neutrality”. They ought to uphold the rule of law and

refrain from becoming Meles Zenawi's spokespersons. They should stop trying to bend the rule of law by interfering in the activities and mandate of the EEBC and stick to their own mandates and take appropriate punitive actions against the belligerent, defiant, aggressive, and expansionist government in Ethiopia for rejecting the EEBC's final and binding decision and refusing to allow for the expeditious demarcation of the border in accordance with that decision, by invoking Chapter VII as stipulated in the Algiers Agreement."

This is what baffles me more. After throwing judgments and opinions and name-calling, now the writer has the intellect and the courage to advise the western diplomat. Well, if we're really that smart as to give advice to sophisticated diplomats of his caliber, I don't see any barrier why we shouldn't be able to find solutions for our own problems.

It looks more like an instruction that is usually given from a supervisor to an employee than a 'humble advice'. We must remember that the problem belongs to us not to the ambassador.

To say the least, the article was immature rhetoric at its best and hatred/war monger at its worst.

The article reminded me a sticker note I saw on someone's car that says:

'human mind is like a parachute, it only works when it is opened.'

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