

Isaias Afwerki: King and Patriarch of Eritrea

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The last time I checked, Isaias Afwerki was **never elected**; therefore his next move could be to crown himself as "King". **Jean-Bédél Bokassa**, who had ruled the Central African Republic with iron fist since its independence in 1965, declared himself **Emperor Bokassa I** in 1976, and continued his reign until he was deposed in 1979. Isaias Afwerki may **break that record** by adding "**Patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Church**" to his portfolio. If the "vocals" of Eritrea's Diaspora, led by the mentally challenged have their way, "Sainthood" for Isaias is in the horizon too. Imagine **St. Isaias Afwerki Church!** That certainly would be a victory for **Satan!**

I occasionally read what "vocal" Eritrea's Diaspora say about Ethiopia, for free entertainment more than anything else. The "vocal" characters frequently attack Ethiopians, particularly against people of Tigray. The latest cheap shot was against Zeru Hagos in reference to an article on Aiga Forum. A "Mike" always makes explicit remarks about P.M. Meles Zenawi. The mentally challenged "professor" had some harsh words for **Mr. Mandela** too! Rumor is that this "boy" actually teaches at a *university* in Texas. I pity the taxpayers of Texas! His monosyllabic babble runs none-stop. The **copycats** pick up his theme, and voila, the **Show** is on the road! The last time I checked on "Mike" and his disciples, they have *disowned* the **Kunama** people and have conceded that Kunama *are* Ethiopians. It was in conjunction with recent accounts about Kunama refugees' ongoing resettlement activities in America. This *admittance* by the "vocals" with **uncircumcised** tongue (ያልተገረዘ ምላሽ), is a **good start** indeed. Other African nations and the UN are also frequently targeted by this *marginal group*.

Isaias is characterized as a 'lion' by the "vocal" Eritrea's Diaspora; when in actual fact Wedi Afom is more like a hyena that ran away from Badme all the way to the outskirts of Asmara. He left his troops behind to be buried alive in their *own trenches*. Then he begged the UN for a *cease fire*, on his hands and knees! Isaias later blamed his generals and comrades; and used the same as scapegoats for his defeat. He threw them in jail, and they have never been heard from since. Isaias Afwerki is the only known tyrant who has used **shipping**

containers to imprison university students and journalists; just because they called for peace and elections. They were "stored" in the most remote and hottest spot of Eritrea called **Wia (ጊጊ)**. Many of them perished; among them a journalist and ex-freedom fighter named "**Joshua**". The university student union president, **Semere Kesete**, escaped from prison and was granted political asylum by Ethiopia. I understand that Asmara University is now closed. The tyrant's cowardly acts are hardly that a 'lion' would deplore. It is hilarious!

Even the elderly, both men and women, don't escape Isaias' wrath; they are frequently jailed for speaking their mind. Isaias also collects untold thousands of 'nakfa', I am told, from parents whose children had *escaped* to avoid conscription. If the parents are unable to pay the fine, they are thrown in jail. Isaias has confiscated food that had been donated by the UN and others; and **resold** it to the people, to generate cash in his effort to boost his military hardware. You would think that "normal" Eritrea's Diaspora freely visit their homeland. Not so; unless they have paid local taxes, which is Eritrea's **only** source of foreign exchange. Without this tax and other forms of extortion, Isaias would not be able to pay the measly allowances of the conscripted youth, who sadly are frequently used as slave labor on farms and construction work. "Construction" includes building villas for Isaias' generals.

After Eritrea's defeat, about half of its population became refugees; victims of Isaias Afwerki's miscalculated invasion. Many of them remain **internally displaced (IDP)** to this day, because of Isaias' arrogance in refusing to make permanent peace with Ethiopia for the good of Eritrea. The way the "vocal" clowns saber rattle, one would think that Isaias' army was actually victorious! I suppose it makes them feel good to talk rubbish. To Isaias, border demarcation is only about **land**. To Ethiopia, demarcation must include the **people** who live there. Ethiopians will not condone the split up of their families at the whims of a **tyrant**. The nationality of the people who live along the border is of paramount importance. Incidentally, the vast majority of the inhabitants along the border, more likely than not, identify themselves as Ethiopians. Therefore, they must be consulted to verify which side they belong, through fair **dialogue**, before any border demarcation can proceed. There isn't a chance in hell that Ethiopia would allow its citizens who live in the border area to be ruled by a vicious **tyrant**.

Isaias does not care for the welfare of the Eritrean people. He is completely focused on himself and molding the Eritrean youth in *his image*. This will ultimately culminate in Eritrea's disaster, if Isaias makes another miscalculation. I shudder at the death and destruction that would ensue; not to mention mass influx of refugees into Ethiopia, Sudan, and beyond *once again*. Isaias is aware that his days are numbered; therefore, he is determined to guide the Eritrean youth into oblivion, along with him. As Ethiopians we have to be mindful of the fact that those youth are our kin as a matter of historical fact; which is why I hope and pray the confrontation can be averted, and that common sense will prevail. Furthermore, Isaias' concurrent attempt to cause havoc within Ethiopia, by aiding and abating anti-democracy and **irrelevant** "vocal" CUD elements sympathetic to him (**የደርግ ርዕሰ-ገዢዎች**), will continue to fail miserably. Oppressed Nations and Nationalities of Ethiopia have seen the **light**; and they will **never** go back to the bad old days of the Twentieth Century.

Young Eritrean conscripts are being groomed as collateral damage (death) in the regrettably imminent war. Isaias has militarized education, beginning from the tenth grade; thus turning them into eligible military targets. He has also militarized farms. We all remember what his air force did to Ayder School in Mekele on June 5, 1998; when school children were brutally massacred while they were playing outside. It was a cowardly act which Ethiopia never avenged in kind. Ayder School has been encapsulated in time, for everyone to see what transpired during those horrible moments. It has been reported that the fighter-jet pilot, who murdered the innocent children, actually flew back to the school for a mopping-up operation while civilians were attempting to help wounded school children. I am not an expert on international rules of military engagement; however, this can serve as food for thought, in the face of yet another miscalculation which Isaias is on the verge of committing. Only Isaias and his mentally challenged and deranged "vocal" supporters in the Diaspora will be held accountable for any and all consequences on either side of the border.

On a positive note, the young military conscripts may *yet* free Eritrea from tyranny, by **dethroning** "King" Isaias Afwerki, and depriving him of his craved "Sainthood". Ironically, they are the **only** glimmer of **hope** remaining for the Eritrean people.

