

OPPOSITIONS' AND SUPPORTERS' ENDLESS SMEAR CAMPAIGNS

PART 3

By Mathza

Most of the oppositions' leadership and their handful supporters, particularly the minuscule vociferous Diaspora, and some individuals obsessed with lust for power and hatred against Prime Minister Meles Zenawi have been and are doing anything to get rid of him, the TPLF and the EPRDF. They are intimidated and demoralized by his intelligence, capability, competence and the respect he commands in the international community. Their hatred is limitless. In their obsession and desperation to snatch power, they have crossed the line of treason by compromising and endangering the sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and national interests of Ethiopia. The following are examples supporting this statement:

- They condemn Ethiopia's defense against jihadists;
- They praise, congratulate, defend, encourage and support—instead of denouncing—the atrocities committed by separatists and jihadists;
- They condemn Ethiopia's reaction to such atrocities;
- They collaborate and scheme with the Eritrean government which has been and is trying hard to destabilize and disintegrate Ethiopia;
- They belittle EPRDF's sound government policies and strategies, which have proved successful;
- They deny and ridicule the double-digit economic growth, a remarkable progress and performance in socio-economic development in the last five years; and
- They unashamedly accuse the Prime Minister of being a stooge of developed countries because of, among others, his success to mobilize foreign assistance (For example: by not giving in to pressure from such countries to allow foreign banks to operate in Ethiopia he not only shielded the development of local banks but also saved the country from the devastating impact of the current global financial crisis).

In short, these hate-mongers and anti-Ethiopia elements do not care at all about Ethiopia and Ethiopians. Their only desire is to be in power by any means—in the driver's seat—without any concern on how that might impact Ethiopia and its people, enie kemoṭku serdo aybqel.

One of their tactics is a negative smear campaign portraying the country's image and, in particular, it's dedicated Prime Minister with all kinds of monstrous adjectives and pictures. Among the methods used include politicizing everything, outrageous allegations, lies, exaggerations, wild generalizations, spinning, misinterpretation and spreading rumors. Practically all of the writings of these diehards are replete of despicable descriptions and character assassinations, all intended purely to bring down the government. This writing ferrets out examples

of statements that do not make any sense, are illogical, are concocted, or are not supported by facts—purely intended to misinform and mislead readers, particularly the Diaspora silent majority. It is a modest attempt to expose those bigots who have been hoodwinking and continue to hoodwink the Ethiopians and the international community. (In the future, there will be a series of matrixes like the one below, each preceded by the current two paragraphs).

Title/Source/Date	Author's Statement	My Comments
<p>1. <i>The recent TPLF fundraising and the Diaspora's foul play</i>, By Seid Hassan, Ethiopian Review Online, November 5th, 2008</p>	<p>As the recent write-ups on many Ethiopian related web pages and the daily Pal talk shows can attest there is an uproar regarding the so-called "Millennium Telethon"... We were told that the TPLF was able to "raise" over 146 billion birr just in one day using the same occasion.</p>	<p>Why was the fund raised for Tigray Development Association overstated by 1000-fold to 146 billion birr? Had it been a typographical error the economist author should have corrected it. It was purposely done to misinform and, in his own words, to vex the Diaspora and Ethiopian readers. It was simply intended to instill hate against Tigrayans. What can be expected from such a writer who has through out his numerous writings unabashedly shown his intense hate and prejudice against Tigrayans.</p>
<p>2. የትዮጵያ ባራክ ዐባማ ማነው? ክጌታቸው ጋረደው, ethiolion.com, 5 November, 2008</p>	<p>መለስ ትዮጵያንና ህዝቧን ይንድግልን ብረት ሲቆጥር በቅርቡ ባዋጣው ህግ ማናቸውም ዜጋ ያለውን ሀብት ይንዲያስመዘገብግ ሲያዝ፣ ይህ ህግ የሚጸናው ከወጣበት ቀን ጀምሮ ሲሆን ከዘሀ በፊት የነበረው ሀብት ለይመዘገብግም ብሏል፣ ይህም ማለት መለስ በሻቢያ ድጋፍ</p>	<p>I understand that a law requiring property registration by high government officials is still under discussion. I am not, however, aware that it is all inclusive, i.e. applies to every Ethiopian citizen (ማናቸውም ዜጋ). I would be surprised if registering individual's property is practiced anywhere else in the world. I stand to be corrected. By the way, addressing a head of government in an unEthiopian manner reflects the crude and hateful nature of the author (asadagi yebedelew). Mr. writer do you have evidence to support your outrageous allegation that Meles has robbed Ethiopian resources? If you had I</p>

	<p>ባዕንግ ትብብር ባትዮጵያን ከወረረርባት ከ 1983 ጅምሮ የሰበሰበው የዘረፈው ማናቸውም ሀብት የባትዮጵያ ህዝብ ተካፋይነት የለውም ማለት ነው።</p>	<p>bet you would have been too glad to minutely detail the robbery!</p>
<p>3. <i>Ginbot 7 condemns mass detention of Oromos</i>, by Ginbot 7 Movement for Justice, Freedom and Democracy, Ethiopian Review Online, November 9th, 2008</p>	<p>The Meles regime, which is hated by the entire population, is effortlessly apprehending so called 'terrorists'.</p>	<p>In other words, not a single Ethiopian likes or supports the EPRDF government. If this were true the government could not have survived for the last 17 years. What about its party membership in the millions? Are they ghost members? Ginbot 7 does not realize that its statement makes a fool of its leadership.</p> <p>To the chagrin of Ginbot 7 here is what a founding-member of the OLF, Ababiya Abajobir, said about the futility of armed struggle: “As the notions of peace and democracy are taking the dominance in the world politics, the armed struggle of the OLF is both outdated and of no use. “In an interview with The Reporter he said “እኔ ላረጋግጥላችሁ የምችለው ግን በሰላም ወደ አገር ተመልሶ ለመሥራት ከአነግ በኩል ፍላጎት እንዳለ ነው።” This and the split of OLF (Lencho Bati vs. General Kemal) does not, obviously, auger well for Ginbot’s and EPPF’s armed struggles.</p>
<p>4. Barack Obama has Opened Up a New Door of Opportunity and Now We Must Move Ahead, by Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia, ethiolion.com, November, 6,</p>	<p>The time of one tribe take all is over.</p>	<p>Yes, it is over thanks to EPRDF. The statement “Ethiopia is ruled by one ethnic group” and its endless variants, such as tribalist junta, have become trite. The current government is all inclusive with ethnic, religious and regional representatives at all official levels. In countries all over the world it is understood and customary for the head of government to surround him or her with individuals and groups that he or she trusts will implement his or her</p>

<p>2008</p>		<p>government's policies and strategies. A glaring and current example is President-elect Barack Obama's transitional phase of selecting his high officials to replace President George W. Bush's current administration. Ethiopia is not different. The accusation of "one tribe take[s] all", therefore, does not hold water. It is meant only to confuse, hoodwink and prejudice innocent or naive readers. As the list of cabinet members and others as of 8/1/06 shows (access link below) the composition is as diverse as the nations and nationalities and proportionate to the size of population. http://www.infoplease.com/world/leaders/ethiopia.html</p>
<p>5. Samntawi Zena, ethiolion.com, Tkmt 29, 2001</p>	<p>The website (in Amharic) claims that there was a high security alert in Addis Ababa starting Tqmt 23, 2001. Vehicles were being checked and the Bole International Airport was the scene of very high security and delay of eight hours. The reason given is the presence of fully equipped suicidal Al Shabaab with a mission to carry out acts of terrorism in Ethiopia, including at the airport. (Own rendering)</p>	<p>This news was not reported elsewhere in the media and websites. I talked by telephone to knowledgeable persons in Addis Ababa who were surprised to learn of such news. They reassured me that there was nothing other than the reporting related to the OLF and Kawerj, the self-styled extremist group. If there was some truth in the report it must have been highly exaggerated. In any case, it seems that ethiolion.com is in competition with the king of liars of Ethiopian Review Online.</p>

6. *Agro fuels industries v. food farming in Ethiopia*, by *New Energy News Blog*, Ethiopian Review On line, November 10th, 2008

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Look no further to find the main cause of food shortage in the fertile region of Ethiopia. Woyanne agro fuel companies are sucking southern Ethiopia dry.

Gebremedhine Birega, environmentalist, Ethiopia: "It is unbelievable. [Agro fuel] plots have so rapidly expanded that they are even depriving us of space for graveyards..."

From the article it appears that there have been some problems, particularly bank loan delay, that resulted in the farmers' exposure to hardship. This said the editor's note is ridiculous. As has repeatedly been explained by the Ministry of Mines and Energy and others bio fuel plants can and are grown on marginal land not suitable for crops. There is what economists call comparative advantage. In the case of the farmers concerned, this notion applies to them growing and selling bio fuel plants and buying food as long as the net result is in their favors. This is good for the farmers concerned and good for the country, particularly in this case, when putting unproductive land not suitable for growing crops into use.

According to Melis Teka, deputy head of energy regulation and [bio fuel](#) development of Ethiopia's ministry of mines, "It [bio fuel] is considered a very important area to develop. The balance of payment (spent on petrol) is very high and we want to decrease this burden by encouraging private investment. There is no possibility that arable farmland will be allocated for its purpose..." This shows that government policy is in line with those of other governments, such as the USA, which are giving priority to reducing dependence on imported energy. Unlike in Ethiopia bio fuels in the USA compete with and thereby reduce the production of food crops.

<p>7. <i>Zimbabwe's \$28 quadrillion is worth U.S. \$1</i>, Ethiopian Review Online, November 13th, 2008</p>	<p>Nearly all businesses have stopped accepting cheques for payment - creating an absolute nightmare for everyone, because of the absurd cash withdrawal limits at the banks.</p> <p>All these because one 80-year-old one greedy dictator and his parasite cronies what to loot the country a few more years. Meles Zenawi & Co. are doing the same thing to Ethiopia.</p>	<p>Far fetched allusion and correlation. By any stretch of imagination there is no way to draw a conclusion equating Ethiopia's situation to that of Zimbabwe's. How on earth can one dare to compare Ethiopia's stable economy with that of Zimbabwe's troubled economy characterized by meaningless rates of exchange of the Zimbabwe dollar?</p>
<p>8. The Political Space in Ethiopia, by Seifu Tsegaye Demmissie, ethiolion.com, 16 November, 2008</p>	<p>Meles Zenawi is a secessionist who has deferred his separatist agenda until such a time that he has amassed sufficient resources and fostered the ethnic identity on which he plans to build his would be independent ethnic state.</p>	<p>Another whopper! Who would buy such a statement except his types and those who wish to hear such nonsense? The accuser should provide evidence and take responsibility for his wild statement. It is one of the devious tactics used to create a wedge between the Prime Minister and the people.</p>

<p>9. <i>Aba Diabilos comes to Washington DC, Ethiopian Review</i> Online, November 21st, 2008 and <i>The 2008 top 10 political turkeys of Ethiopia</i>, Ethiopian Review Online, November 27th, 2008</p>	<p>Ato GebreMedhin (formerly Aba Paulos), the Woyanne cadre who is posing as patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church ... The gun-toting fake patriarch ... murderous thug ... murderer ...</p> <p>Ato Gebremedhin (Aba Paulos) - Beyonce did not keep her promise to come back and visit him.</p>	<p>Does the Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Abune Paulos, deserve such character assassination and condemnation? I leave this enigma to the judgment of the readers. He is the first Ethiopian Patriarch holding a PhD. In recognition of this and his many accomplishments, the Patriarch has earned the admiration of his peers in the Christian world. As a result, he was elected President of the World Council of Churches and still holds this position. Recently (November), he presided over the Council's conference on terrorism attended by 4,000 religious leaders and some heads of state and government in Cyprus. There is no doubt that he is a pride for Ethiopia as well as for Africa. He is a symbol of the positive aspect of Ethiopia unlike the oppositions and their supporters who consistently paint ugly pictures tarnishing the image of poor Ethiopia, a tactic aiming at snatching power.</p>
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10. Things Obama should do during first 100 days in office, Ethiopian Review Online, November 24th, 2008

1. Give the genocidal [regime](#) in Ethiopia 6 months to release all political prisoners, lift all restrictions on the press, allow the formation of an independent elections committee that is composed of representatives of opposition parties, and hold a new election within one year. Or else, cut all financial and [military](#) support, impose travel ban on Woyanne officials, and freeze their assets in the U.S.

What an audacity! It is purely foolish to even dream that the new president who will have a hard time coping with the worsening situation in the USA and the rest of the world will give priority to Ethiopia in his first 100 days in office. The publisher and his likes think the President will address their fantasies and wishful thinking of enabling them to grab power. They should sober to the reality that no US Administration, whether democrat or republican, will compromise the interest of its country to satisfy the pleading of the minuscule among the Ethiopian Diaspora. Note that the recent stationing of Iranian troops and weapons in Assab has added a new dimension that would further strengthen the Ethio-USA relationship.

PART 2: <http://hebrezema.com/PartII.html>