

# A Tale of OCTP



his is a tale of OCTP. This is the sad story of a land named after Mare Erythraeum – the Red Sea. 'Red' wrongly symbolizes violence by conjuring up the images of shedding blood. Instead, blood, which is associated with 'Red' and violence, should signify the source of life – a fluid that flows throughout every inch of a living animal giving life. Our Erythraeum, now called the State of Eritrea or State of Red, is beginning to live up to its wrong symbol instead of the real function. The 'State of Red' has imposed an undeclared State of Emergency allowing vagabonds to shed the blood of the innocent in their false cries of 'treason'.

Eritrean independence was born through the blood shed by our heroic brothers and sisters. They shed their bloods so that their blood becomes the fluid that flows through each one of us giving us a beautiful life – a life of freedom, a life of dignity and a life of respect. Their red blood created the State of Red, or the State of Eritrea. They shed their blood to give life to our Eritrea.

This is a tale of a land where people must understand that a nation is just a plot of farmland. The land we tilled with our sweat to grow our grains can be destroyed by few weeds if we don't weed them out early. No farmer will refuse to farm his land because there are weeds on his farm, lest he dies of starvation. The farmer must accept the good with the bad, methodically and laboriously weeding out the weeds while nurturing the good grain. This is the only way the farmer can survive, even prosper.

This is the sad tale of **One Country Two People [OCTP]**. One group of people consists of the King, his noblemen and his cheerleaders, and the other group consisting of the serfs. This is a tale of land marching backwards from a revolutionary society in the forties and fifties to the miraculous movement for independence, now back to a feudal society. This is a feudal society with all the trappings of modern age – internet, cell phones and satellite communications. This is the land of the Pharaoh building his purposeless Pyramids while thousands are enslaved to build a living monument to the Pharaoh. The Pharaoh doesn't believe in higher being because he considers himself the higher being – a Pharaoh immortalizing himself at the expense of the lives of tens of thousands. *The Pharaoh needs to shed the bloods of tens of thousands to immortalize himself.*

This is the sad tale of OCTP, where one group is above the law, or rather are the laws themselves, and another group of people denied of even their most basic rights. During independence, every 'tegalalay' handed over his/her watch [i.e. worldly possessions] symbolizing the equality of sacrifice. Members of mass organizations abroad lived in groups and saved up three or four members' rent money to help their cause. They skipped one meal or two meals everyday in order to save money to help their cause. They forewent schooling and worked 16 hours a day to help their fellow countrymen who got by with one meal a day and shed their blood. In our

equality of sacrifice, we ensured our success; we ensured our victory; we ensured our independence.

Today's Eritrea doesn't have a shed of its former self. The new cheerleaders called Higdefawiyans do not have the same principled convictions of the old Mass Organizations. The new Higdefawiyans are unprincipled, hypocrites and self-centered. They scream for rule of law and justice while cheering their Pharaoh blatantly violate the most basic rights of its people. They plaster the sky with a call for sacrifice while condoning and keeping mum on today's noblemen who are perpetually drunk with expensive whisky the country can hardly afford while the vast majority of our people are lining up for bread in wee hours of the morning, raping our women, imprisoning mothers, locking up innocent people in containers in the middle of hot areas. They unleash punishments fit only for sadists.

Today's Eritrea is a sad tale of people who fly to Eritrea to write false glowing stories about the monuments built by the Pharaoh to immortalize himself. Instead these 'tebeletseti' should take out their binoculars to look down to the Mediterranean Sea, to the Sahara desert and everything in between while flying to Eritrea. The land and sea below their airplanes are strewn with the living, dying and dead Eritreans – our own flesh and blood. Instead of excitement, our hearts should be full of sadness – full of pain. We should nauseate from the thought of our own precious people languishing in the middle-of-nowhere. The real Eritreans we know are compassionate people who nauseate over their people's grief.

Today's Eritrea is a sad tale of privileged few who travel thousands of kilometers paying thousands of dollars to enjoy a repressive regime's 'kunjina salon' or 'Beauty Salon' or 'Festival' while hundreds of thousands of ordinary Eritreans are evicted from their homes because they can't pay rent as their spouses, parents and kids are serving on a slavery campaign. These tebeletsis are served three square meals a day with snacks in-between during their visits to Eritrea, while the vast majority must skip two meals a day. This is the story of tebelestis crisscrossing Eritrea burning thousands liters of fuel enjoying themselves, while tens of thousands of people go hungry at night because they can't find or can't afford to buy fuel for their furnaces.

Today's Eritrea is a sad tale of few privileged people who can build their houses on the backs of the vast majority condemned to 'sacrifice' themselves so that the privileged can live a life of luxury. The 'equal sacrifice' of our liberation movement, the 'equal sacrifice' that assured our victory is now regarded as foolish man's beliefs. In the end, it is equal sacrifice that will assure our victory in whatever we do – in building our society, our economy, our politics – and even in resolving our border. The brave G-11 and thousands of political prisoners honor their fallen comrades; these are the brave who believe in equal sacrifice – of one country one people – in rule of law; equality in law.

This is a sad tale of country where mothers are imprisoned, where elders who want to reconcile differences are imprisoned, where elders are imprisoned for the acts of their children, where girls are allowed to be raped by the privileged and where believers in God are imprisoned.

The brave Eritrean people don't deserve this sad tale. This is a proud, compassionate and hardworking people that will one day soon wake up from their trauma – the trauma of experiencing one's own flesh-and-blood engaging in such

inhumane acts – and build the Great Eritrea that its heroes gave up their precious lives.

## **Power of Nuisance**

Congratulations to all opposition forces that continue to struggle against the regime. The rally in Stockholm and elsewhere were total successes. The most important factor in waging our *peaceful* struggle is to use the power of nuisance. Turn out at rallies is important, but equally important is persistence. Half-a-dozen protesters here and a dozen protesters there with megaphones and few placards protesting every few weeks would get under the skin of the regime. Let our antagonists know that we won't tire, that we won't give up until the rule-of-law is restored and until political prisoners are freed. The regime will find it more frustrating to see fewer people demonstrating more often than a larger rally once every year. There are already many protesters who are participating at many rallies in Europe, North America and Australia. They are very effective and the regime is listening and getting annoyed despite pretending not to.

As people will recall from a couple years ago, Swedish free media advocacy groups and Eritrean human rights groups held a rally every Tuesday [?] for many weeks in front of the Eritrean Embassy in Stockholm requesting Dawit Isaac be freed. The ambassador was so frustrated over such antics that he was complaining at both public and private meetings. The ambassador may have been forced to skip work every Tuesday, or probably climbing over the back wall in order to avoid the front gates.

The lord or master of nuisance belongs to **asmarino.com**. PFDJ is forced to spend over \$10 million a year on its propaganda machine to counteract asmarino.com. The beauty of modern age is that the guy with few cents in his pockets is equal to the one with millions of dollars in his pockets. This empowers ordinary citizens to effectively counter powerful people.

*People should also keep writing even if they have nothing to write. The power of nuisance isn't based on content, but just to make a statement saying 'I am still here' and 'I will still be here until PFDJ hostages are released'.* Dictators's manuals are based on either muzzling people or tiring people out. Dictators believe that they have more resources to outlast activists. Dictators believe that with time the G-11 and mother such Aster and Senait would be forgotten, erased from our memory through the passage of time. When activists remain persistent and employ the power of nuisance, frustrations eat away dictators from the inside out but pretending as if nothing bothers them – but it does. Like the few and tiny termites that bring down a house, activists are eating away at the dictator's foundations through nuisance. *From afar, the roofs and walls of dictatorship may seem intact*, but it is rotting away and being eaten away at the foundations. One day we will wake up to find out the house of dictatorship has collapsed.

To reiterate, as activists, we should campaign on the power of nuisance. All our articles or writings should NOT be insightful or philosophical. It is suffice to simply flood our websites with one or few liners stating, restating, re-restating and re-re-restating our beliefs. Eritrean independence was won through perseverance; and perseverance remains what will get us to wherever we want to get to.

## **Border Conflict**

Fellow Eritreans should be aware that we are headed towards an inevitable war. Wishful thinking won't get Eritrea out of PIA's quagmire. As concerned Eritreans, we shouldn't pay too much attention to what Diaspora pro-PFDJ write about the border politics because, God Forbid, if war is to break out it won't be their neck on the line. *NONE – that is zero or not a single body – of these higdefawiyans will volunteer themselves or their children to travel to Eritrea and fight a meaningless war. These are paper tigers who flex their muscles in the comfort of their homes some ten thousands miles away.*

This is basically the status of the border situation:

- Ethiopia is using every diplomatic and legal skills to frustrate the spirit of Algiers Agreement,
- Inept PFDJ, caught in a quagmire, has proceeded to violate specific provisions of the Algiers Agreement, and specifically Section 14 of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities. Violating section 14 invokes subsection 14(a) which calls for action under Chapter VII of UN Charter by United Nations Security Council.
- In addition, incompetent PFDJ is in violation of UNSC Resolution 1640.
- PFDJ is pursuing a confrontational approach towards US, the very same country it needs to move the Algiers agreement forward. Although Ethiopia has blatantly violated UN arms embargo against Somalia, Eritrea's involvement in Somalia is more destructive thus widening the schism between Eritrea and the very country it needs to move the border process forward.

What next?

- The EPRDF regime WON'T hand over Badme to a belligerent PFDJ regime because it will have serious consequences for its own survival.
- Because of PFDJ's flagrant violations of the Algiers Agreement and Resolution 1640, the world community can no longer accuse Ethiopia of frustrating the demarcation process. The focus is now back on PFDJ. Whenever the world community asks the Ethiopian leaders to abide by the Algiers Agreement, the Ethiopian leaders will respond by saying that it is Eritrea that is in clear violations and that pressure must be brought upon Eritrea.
- PFDJ's violation of the Algiers' Agreement is a clear sign of its frustration and inability to bring this sad chapter to its logical conclusion. For whatever reasons, PIA is staking his life on Badme and has come to the conclusion that he doesn't have any choice but to escalate his conflict with Woyane.
- This escalation is taking place by supporting insurgencies in Somalia and Southern Ethiopia.
- Both sides are armed to the teeth. PFDJ has purchased Chinese and other armaments to a level never even seen during the 1998 – 2000. Regardless of whether these purchases are designed to escalate tensions without actually engaging in war, PIA's life is staked on the outcome of Badme. PIA must find his sunshine in Badme.

PIA's only Choice?

- PIA must have his Badme victory at whatever cost, which will mean the lives of thousands of innocent Eritrean youngsters.

- It should be noted that even assuming Woyane was on a war path, had PIA done his legal homework in early May 1998, Eritrea could have saved at least half of the 19,000 sacrificed during the 1998-2000 conflict. As Gen. Sebhat said, his government blundered in its [i.e. PIA's] political decisions which handcuffed Eritrea's fighting capability. In order to cover his political mistakes, PIA said that he won't fire the first shot, and that he won't cross into Ethiopia, thus taking away many military options. Eritrean Defense Forces couldn't choose their place and time to confront their enemies, instead waiting for Woyane to attack. Our EDF were sitting ducks.
- As much he would like to, PIA can't wage war on Woyane because he would be accused of starting yet another war. This time he could be accused of war crimes. In addition, he could be accused of violating the Algiers' Agreement and then waging war on Ethiopia (two violations for one).
- PIA's only choice is to create enough frictions forcing the Ethiopians to a point where they must open another round of conflict. PIA is opening the way for Woyane to launch another war. PIA is telling Woyane that Woyane need not worry about the TSZ or Algiers' Agreement because he [PIA] has taken care of it.

PIA doesn't have the luxury of time. The whole country is sinking deeper at a faster rate than the Titanic. PIA's blatant acts are themselves manifestations of his quagmire. The time is running out!

The **battle for Badme** will be a war to immortalize the Pharaoh; a futile effort to restore reputation lost in burying the Constitution, silencing opposition and imprisoning mothers. *To immortalize the Pharaoh*, the blood of thousands of young Eritreans must be shed once again. As the gods demand the sacrifice of lambs, the Pharaoh demands the young be sent to their gallows as a sacrifice to his immortality. The High Priests simply oblige.

### **On Darfur**

It is interesting that Ethiopia has offered to contribute up to 5,000 troops for the UN mission in Darfur. PIA will go into overdrive to sabotage Ethiopian presence if it materializes.

### **On America**

The desperate PFDJ media is engaged in a smear campaign against America. America is far from a perfect country. But what we do know is that over 2 Million legally immigrate to the US every year while another 1 million sneak into it. We have never heard of a single soul sneaking out of America. Even the higdefawiyans who bash America from within its own belly while enjoying the very rights, freedom and very comfortable livelihood America offers them aren't in any hurry to buy one-way ticket to live under PFDJ's terror, lest they must give up their kids to slavery campaign and their daughters to the Sawa Wolves. What we do know is that thousands of young Eritreans, out of a very small population, is fleeing Eritrea to escape PFDJ's terror campaign. That is the only measuring yard stick we need to use to judge any country – are people fleeing the country or are they immigrating to it – this is the only measuring yard stick that counts. Brain drain begins not when the educated leave a country, but when the educated is forced to idle for years in the middle of nowhere on a slavery campaign undertaken to immortalize its Pharaoh.

Congratulations and Good luck to **EMDHR** on their Congress.  
Excellent coverage of **TVZETE** on the Stockholm Rally.



**Free Senait, Aster,  
Hassan, Bitweded  
and thousands of  
political hostages  
and prisoners of  
conscious Now!**

<http://www.justice4ermias.org.uk/index.asp>  
[www.friendsofaster.org/](http://www.friendsofaster.org/)  
<http://www.hadnetna.com/prisonerspage.html>

**Meskerem.net** asked the opposition whether the Eritrean flag should be green, yellow, blue or whatever color. Is it relevant to ask whether the olive branch should have 15 leaves or 25 leaves when thousands of innocent people are locked up in containers? Shouldn't it ask more relevant questions? **Meskerem.net** must ask Mr. Alamin what PFDJ values he keeps telling Eritreans to preserve. Does Mr. Alamin expect us to learn PFDJ values of injustice, servitude, greed, inhuman behaviors, disrespect and intolerance? It should demand respect for the basic rights of PFDJ hostages.  
Kem Wetru Awet Nhafash!

Berhan Hagos  
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