

Parental Expectations

This is the time of the year when those of us with young children must keep them entertained by taking them to various amusement parks, picnics and other activities. Looking at our children play with little care for the world but just living for the moment is just a joy of the world. Like every parent, often enough I wonder what my children's future will be. I have my aspirations for them but only time will tell what the future holds for them. But at least, they are blessed to live in the West. I don't have to worry about an unaccountable government taking them away from me, and from their future, and feeding them to corrupt and criminal government lackeys. That is probably the single most important 'wealth' my adopted nation can give me. No amount of money can ever buy 'peace of mind.'

Every citizen must be willing to sacrifice oneself to protect one's ancestral and adopted lands to preserve one's values and beliefs based on the respect for life, liberty and property. The belief in justice, compassion and tolerance are at the bedrock of who we are as humans. The problem begins when unaccountable governments and their lackeys engaged in massive human rights violations tell decent and law-abiding parents to give up their children in order to inculcate children with corrupt values and to rob them of their future. Cheap propaganda based on 'external threat', 'sovereignty' and 'traitors' are being used to subvert our values right in front of our eyes. I am not willing to sacrifice my children for values I don't believe, nor would I expect other parents to sacrifice theirs.

National sacrifice should be equal for a cause widely accepted. Eritrea's problem begins by those PFDJ lackeys who cheer the abductions of our fellow Eritreans' children for wasteful campaigns while they make sure their children are safely tucked away. These PFDJ lackeys are simply called, 'tebeletseti'. We have never seen a successful nation built by 'tebeletseti', but we can count many nations destroyed by them. These tebeletsetis live among us in the free world and in our ancestral land.

Position towards Ethiopia

Recently I read an article by Mr. Berhane M. Tekeste on the issue of the border conflict with Ethiopia. This is one of those eye-opening articles that destroy many of our assumptions about certain issues. I strongly recommend that everyone read this article to understand our legal position towards the border finalization process.

"Eritrea: Border Ruling Lacks Specific Enforcement Mechanism"

<http://www.eritreadaily.net/News0307/article0607241.htm>

One of the key assumptions I had made in writing my past articles is that the Algiers Agreement was guaranteed by the AU, UNSC and the witnesses, and that

the guarantors are somehow obligated to enforce the decision. Although there are no effective mechanisms to enforce international decisions unless a specific powerful member of the international community seizes on the matter, at least, I had assumed, there was a certain moral obligations on the part of the guarantors to push the border demarcation process forward based on their guarantee.

Mr. Berhane tells us in his article that those who hold the same views as I do are engaged in wishful thinking, and I must agree with him based on my updated understanding. Mr. Berhane raises some key issues that we must heed in determining how we should approach the border issue and formulating our positions towards Ethiopia. The following discussion is my updated understanding, interpretations and analysis of the border issue based on my latest understanding.

The first issue is, is the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Eritrea violated by the current border stalemate?

1. **Sovereignty** is the exclusive right to exercise supreme political (e.g. legislative, judicial, and/or executive) authority over a geographic region, group of people, or oneself. Does the existence of UNMEE and the terms of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities ceding 25 kilometers within Eritrea as Temporary Security Zone (TSZ) violate Eritrean Sovereignty? My general understanding is that Eritrea voluntarily ceded the TSZ, and thus there is no violation of sovereignty. What is damning for Eritrea is that there are no time limits contained in the agreements to automatically end the TSZ.
2. **Territorial Integrity** only pertains to Eritrean territories administered on May 6, 1998. If we set aside our wishful thinking, lands awarded to Eritrea don't become part of our territory until the entire Algiers Agreement is consummated. Thus, at this point in time, from legal point of view, Eritrean territorial integrity hasn't been violated.

The second issue is, is there any specific enforcement mechanism contained the Algiers Agreement. Without repeating Mr. Berhane's convincing argument, it is suffice to say that the entire Algiers Agreement is an open-ended legal document suited for Ethiopian intrigue politics. In reality, despite the fact that Ethiopia has violated the **spirit** of the Algiers Agreement, it is shocking to discover it is actually, i.e. legally, Eritrea that is currently in direct violations of the provisions of the Algiers Agreement, and more specifically the terms of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities contained in the Algiers Agreement.

- By deploying its troops within the TSZ, PIA is in direct violation of Article 14 of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities.
- As a result of this violation, Sub-article 14(a) requires that appropriate measures be taken under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter by the UNSC against PIA.

We must fully understand these issues before formulating our positions, and eventually our policies and propaganda. Wishful thinking only leads to unrealistic expectations.

It is also worth noting that Eritrea is in clear violation of UNSC Resolution 1640. Without minimizing Woyane's devious political intrigues, what is important for Eritreans to grasp in addressing this solvable border issue turned into PFDJ's life-sucking issue is that PIA is in clear and gross violations of the border finalization process. The implication is that we are fast heading towards tragic end to the border drama. This is not a question of 'if' the tragedy will happen, but 'when' will it happen unless we, in the opposition, can do something.

PIA is stuck in a quagmire. His only remaining card is to threaten everyone by sending an unequivocal message that he is ruthless and reckless enough to sacrifice innocent lives – in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan – to ensure his own personal survival. PIA is hoping that other people's good natures will force them to capitulate to his ruthlessness political game for the sake of humanity. Ultimately the biggest victims are the thousands of innocent Eritreans in PFDJ Dungeons, including Aster and Senait, those shot and killed fleeing the country, those left to die of thirst in Sahara Deserts and those fed to sharks in the Mediterranean Sea. When a regime launches its war against its own people to escape accountability for its own reckless mistakes, this is where we draw our lines.

Beyond the current atrocities, PIA is pursuing dangerous scorched earth policies to attain his Pyrrhic victory. PIA's destabilization strategy in the Horn will have long-term detrimental effects on Eritrea's future. Moreover, even if EPRDF is to fall and some Amhara power was to come to power in Ethiopia, there are no guarantees that the next government will proceed with the demarcation process. I can assure my readers that PIA's strategy is based on assuming that the next Ethiopian regime is too weak to defend its territorial integrity and thus redeploying its [Eritrean] troops on all the lands awarded to Eritrea, kicking out UNMEE and then claiming short-term victory. In reality, PIA will have only left the border issue for another day – for another future war.

Opposition Strategy

There is much confusion within the opposition camp as to how to approach and deal with Ethiopia. In my view, in the past, our positions towards Ethiopia has been based on either gaining quick favor from Ethiopia on one hand, and total apprehensions about Ethiopia on the other hand. Although oppositions' policies towards Ethiopia have been converging in the last couple of years, there have been no coordinated and systematic propaganda efforts to enlighten the general population on the issue of Ethiopia. For emphasis, propaganda means a systematic effort to shift prevailing public opinion and views.

Opposition propaganda should harp on the following positions,

1. Principle – The Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity of Eritrea is inviolable. Although all the major opposition parties have a clear position affirming this principle, their messages are getting lost with many within the public that still hold the view that these parties advocate for violation of this principle. The public should clearly know that the opposition camp won't accept the violation of Eritrean Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity under any circumstances.
2. Policy - Due to the legal facts discussed above, Ethiopia isn't, at least legally, in violation of Eritrean Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity. As such, our political approach towards is based on the following factors –
 - a. Eritrean public's views - Opposition parties must align their policies to reflect the Eritrean public's views towards Ethiopia, or any other issue. Politicians can't say that their political positions are 'the ultimate truth' and that the public will eventually drift towards the politicians' positions. This type of politics will always create a gap – thus friction - between politicians and the public. Instead, politicians must align their position with the prevailing public views and then move along with the public's views through systematic efforts. For instance, Eritrean public's views towards Ethiopia is changing with time due to PIA's brutality and the public's general understanding of the legal situation of the border demarcation process. In respecting the general Eritrean public, four years ago, oppositions' positions towards Ethiopia would have been sterner than it is today. As politicians, our function and responsibility is to move along with the public – at times helping the public to move along through effective propaganda, and other times the public pushing politicians to move along. There is a problem with Diaspora politics which tends to get frozen in time, i.e. frozen at a time when we left our ancestral home or the last time we visited. In reality, politics is dynamic and Diaspora opposition must ensure that our thumbs are always resting on the public's pulse at all times.
 - b. Dialogue - As democrats and believers in pursuing peaceful means to resolve differences, our position towards Ethiopia and the border dispute should be resolved through peaceful means. Ideally, a democratically elected government should have been tasked with the responsibility of resolving the border issue instead of opposition groups taking various separate initiatives to renew relations with Ethiopia on their own accords. Unfortunately, the dictatorial PIA regime is pursuing destructive policies contrary to our beliefs and to the long-term interest of Eritrea. As such, the opposition camp has moral, if not legal, responsibilities to ensure that all peaceful avenues,

and consistent with our basic principles, are pursued to ensure desirable outcomes.

As long as certain principles are NOT violated [and effective campaigns are carried out to address the public's concerns], the opposition camp is free and must pursue whatever transparent policies to speed up the restoration of the rights and freedom of ordinary Eritreans. We should be dynamic in formulating and reformulating our policies to bring this tragic chapter to a quick end.

Reiterating for greater emphasis, we must pursue dynamically changing policies, consistent with our principles, to achieve our objectives. We should NOT get frozen in time due to our distance from Eritrea; and we shouldn't allow PFDJ to predict our moves without leaving any doubt our adherence to our principles and beliefs.

The fate of the border should be left to future democratically elected Eritrean government. The current regime doesn't have any political and diplomatic resources to bring the border dispute to a peaceful conclusion. As long as the PFDJ regime is pursuing its war against innocent Eritreans, PIA is emboldening our external enemies, which in turn ensures that the border remains unresolved. The end result is that Eritrea will bleed to death.

Mr. Alamin's Speech in Holland

"Stating that one of the major tasks of the Front's members is to preserve and pass on the values of the PFDJ to the future generation, Mr. Al-Amin also called for strengthening their unity to rebuff all enemy conspiracies." Shabait.com

What are the values, Mr. Alamin?

1. Perversion of the rule-of-law and justice?
2. Gross violations of human rights?
3. Imprisoning Aster, Senait and thousands of other innocent Eritreans?
4. Violation of PFDJ Charter requiring Central Committee Meetings every six month?
5. Feeding young girls to Sawa wolves?
6. Destroying Eritrean social values and economy?
7. Enriching army officers?
8. Etc...

What values is Mr. Al Amin talking about? What values are Mr. Yemane and Mr. Yemane talking about?

Berhan Hagos
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