



Seminar on War, Peace, Democracy and Confederation in the Horn of Africa

We are on a verge of another devastating military confrontation between Ethiopia and Eritrea. For most of the regional analysts it is becoming, day by day, no more a question of whether the war will break out, but only when.

On the other hand, concerned scholars of the region such as Prof. Mamo Muchie (*From the Indian Ocean to the Red Sea*) and Prof. Tesfatzion Medhanie (*Towards confederation in the Horn of Africa*) in their recent writings are pleading and propounding the cause for some form of confederational association not only between the warring states, but the whole of the Horn of Africa as such.

The Afars who are divided among the 3 states in this region are for closer association of the states as it is in their interest to bring their divided families in the border regions together. Moving their herds back and forth in the fertile pastures of the 3 states and visiting their divided families in the border areas seems their main concern rather than the bigger issues of Democracy and Peace. The Afars consider themselves as bridges for any closer- coming of those states.

But there are also many sceptics who doubt whether discussing such options in such an atmosphere of animosity and in absence of democratic regimes, is at all purposeful exercise.

The Afar Friends in Sweden as a Swedish concerned humanitarian organisation, involved in development projects in the region, sees as its duty to give opportunity to both the visionaries and the sceptics an opportunity to discuss the pressing issues as of War, Peace, Democracy and some kind of confederational arrangement that could enable the peoples in the region to live in peace and in harmony in this part of North-Eastern Africa.

The objective of this seminar is to identify the obstacles and find a way forward to Peace, Democracy and eventual confederational arrangements.

We are inviting you to be party of such discussion in a seminar in which some of the above-mentioned minds of the region will take place.

Lectures:

1. Professor Mammo Muchie; Director of Development, Innovation and International Political Economy (DIPE) Aalborg University, Danmark: *The Challenges of Erecting Security Community in the Horn of Africa*
2. Dahilon Yassin Mohamoda, associated researcher: *The Afars in the Horn of Africa and Confederational Arrangements*
3. Abdulrahman Sayed; a researcher on Federalism: *A vision for sustainable peace in the Horn of Africa- A new generation's perspective*

Moderator: Terekegn Adebo, a senior researcher at Peace & Life Institute

Date: 2nd of November 2007

Venue and time: Korskyrkan, Väktargatan 2D In Uppsala 16.00 - 18.00

Dinner: Buffet of food from the Horn of Africa will be served for 60:-/ person

Organiser: Afar Friends in Sweden

WELCOME ALL!

Executive committee

