

Open letter to Mr Mesfin Hagos (chair of EDP)

Dear Mr Mesfin Hagos, this article reflects to the interview you had with Mr Woldu Mikael on 27/2/08 and published on awate.com on 28/02/2008. The article then was removed from the website immediately. But still available in your organization's website (www.selfi-democracy.com). The reason to write my article today is to express my concerns that part of your interview may affect individuals and EDA as a whole.

When the interviewer asked you if you would like to comment on the talks of forming an Eritrean Government in exile, you did not give any comment about it. Instead you used the question as an opportunity to deliver your hatred or hidden agenda against an individual. As you said it was not released in the name of all opposition organizations and also when awate.com interviewed Mr Adhanom, he mentioned that the statement released was misinterpreted and clarified it as it is his personal opinion and not representing EDA or talking on behalf of EDA. So what is wrong with giving a comment or an opinion that he thinks is valuable and urgent to the Eritrean people? It is very natural to support or oppose any comments and even to have no comment, because it is your natural right. It would have been better to comment on the legal/non-legal, practical/non-practical or/and advantages/disadvantages of it. But you, Mr Mesfin Hagos, to say this has been said to meet selfish ends and to blame him for harming the fragile camp of the opposition, is an attack or an offensive not only to Mr Adhanom G/Mariam as an individual but also to the opposition camp as a whole.

Mr Menghisteab Asmerom, EDA's spokesman, has repeated what has been said before i.e. to hold an all inclusive conference in March to form an opposition government in exile. Now again would you like to comment, as the interviewer asked you, on this? Or are you going to attack Mr Menghisteab as you did to Mr Adhanom?

What the EDA agreed was to stop pointing your finger at an individual or/and organization that is opposing the dictator in Eritrea, as it weakens the opposition and extends the life of the dictator to damage the Eritrean people and the country. But you are not abiding by it and as a result weakening the opposition by opening another topic outside the opposition duties. And I guess that is why a lot of people, as you said, know little about EDP and some people equate EDP as the other side of the PFDJ coin. That is true it has been said openly, but it is good now, even though late, that you are aware of it. And I hope you will take an appropriate action to prove the said allegations were wrong, alternatively you need show them you are part of the opposition camp practically.

Again when you were answering the same question you said "I can't say that we are short of Eritreans and non-Eritreans that are bent at continually harming the fragile camp of the opposition." You are absolutely right, but I think what you said makes you are part of it. Do you know? It reminds me when Isayas said "Bush and Blair should learn from our democracy" and similarly when Isayas mentioned his concerns about the human violation and oppressions in Ethiopia by Weyane.

Dear Mr Mesfin Hagos, what Mr Adhanom G/Mariam commented on the formation of an exile Government is the same or similar to what you, Mr Mesfin Hagos, commented on talks (dialogue) with Ethiopia to resolve the border dispute. But still that is your opinion and other people have the right to support and oppose that opinion or even to say no comment. Because that is their opinion too. Better to think other people have the right to comment as you do, otherwise it would show selfishness.

I hope you will participate in the EDA conference in March and be part of the positive contributors.

Yours sincerely

A. Abraha