**Dan Connell Tries to Legitimize Terrorism in Eritrea**

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Terrorists killed US Ambassador to Libya. In Turkey, a suicide bomber attacked the US embassy in Istanbul. Americans on a daily basis are exposed to news about violence in public institutions. However, regardless of how worthy, legitimate a cause may appear to be, Americans will not condone, tolerate or accept any individual, group or organization when force or, the threat of force is used to impose an agenda or further a cause. Not a single American will tolerate, let alone try to spin it in any way shape, if, for example, a group of Americans storm into the headquarters of the Voice of America with tanks and demand their grievances heard live on the air at gunpoint. Furthermore, if a single individual comes out in support of such an act, try to justify it somehow; it is unacceptable offense.

For over a decade, Dan Connell has tried to incite chaos in Eritrea unsuccessfully. He has campaigned against the people of Eritrea by working with the enemies of Eritrea hired by the genocidal regime in Ethiopia. These are Ethiopians such as Selam Kidane, according to the BBC, migrated to England from Ethiopia with her sister at the age of 16. Her father and husband served as Ethiopian soldiers during the dictatorial Derg Regime and killed many Eritreans. Connell is working with Meron Estifanos and Elsa Chyrum who publicly admitted to have paid human traffickers in the Sinai. Selam Kidane, Dan Connell et al have made numerous trips to Addis Ababa and met with Ethiopian authorities.

In the name of democracy, freedom of press, religion and a host of other causes, Dan Connell have set up activities, organized meetings, and campaigned against the people and government of Eritrea as well as companies that are working in Eritrea from Canada, the US and other Western Countries. These are companies working to better the living standards of the people of Eritrea. He has made it a personal mission to see Eritrea destabilized and the government of Eritrea toppled regardless of the distance he traveled and doors he knocked.

Eritreans are tolerant people that tolerated Dan Connell’s opportunism for a long time when he sold books, received payments for lectures, publications and appearances as expert of Eritrea and related matters, on their name. Over the last 5 years, he has played active role, essentially leading the fight against the people and government of Eritrea by acting more priest than the pope. Lately however, Connell has amped-up his rhetoric and misinformation campaign against Eritrea to the international community about events that took or, did not take place on January 21.

Dan Connell exaggerates and misleads with the hopes of creating a momentum. To that end, he has been organizing, recruiting and assisting all the anti-Eritrean groups and individuals. Ahead of a rally his group conducted in front of the Eritrean Embassy in DC on 2/08/13, Connell met with Elsa Chyrum in Boston and, in the day of the rally, Connell was a keynote speaker in Seattle to this very group. This is evidence that Dan Connell is not a journalist reporting, or an outside observer; he in effect, has taken a leadership role with a mission to dethrone the government of Eritrea.

For most Eritreans it is obvious what Dan Connell is trying to achieve. He wants to remain relevant, appear informed about matters pertaining to Eritrea; most importantly however, he wants to give impression that he has connection inside Eritrea. Dan Connell has been very active appearing on TV, talk shows and writing articles. He does all this to make money. However, what caught the attention of this author are the statements below from an article in one of the anti-Eritrean website that he posted; he said,

“The soldiers who occupied the information ministry were fed up with their dictatorship and wanted everyone to know it. So they marched into the state-run TV studios — there are no private media — and broadcast a call for implementation of a constitution ratified 16 years ago but still gathering dust, and the release of political prisoners, of which there are as many as 10,000. Then they went back to their barracks. Arrests followed, but the message was out.”

One can raise many questions about the statement above like, what are your sources, what did they occupy, and what does occupy mean? How do you know if they are soldiers? Most importantly however, why is Dan Connell trying to justify a criminal terrorist act by attacking the government of Eritrea? Would Mr. Connell, regardless of how solid a cause, try to justify such an act, say for example, American soldiers storm US government communication center in the US or elsewhere?

It is unfathomable that Dan Connell will ever consider endorsing such a heinous act committed by American against US interest. When it comes to Eritrea however, he is the expert, a pundit, a Caucasian know it all-humanitarian expert, activist, pro-democracy advocate, intellectual, lecturer and professor that could preach to poor African illiterates, and educate them justice.

Dan Connell threw every insult, talking point, defamation campaign-rhetoric against the people and government of Eritrea without reservation. On his article, Connell labeled Eritrea as the worst small country on earth. The question is why Dan Connell is so desperate and what is he trying to achieve.

Is human right a concern for Dan Connell? Why does not he pressure the US and Ethiopian governments to implement the final and binding EEBC decision, why not be judicious in his approach and urge Ethiopia to withdraw from sovereign Eritrean territories? Would that not, help bring some stability, foster growth and economic cooperation between the countries in the region? Peace and cooperation between Eritrea and Ethiopia could help the displaced populations of both nations and stabilize the populations. Should that not be a prerequisite for justice, if that truly is what Connell seeks? Furthermore, why is Connell concerned about, as he called it, a “tiny country,” and tries to exaggerate a nonevent when millions of Muslims are demonstrating regularly in the streets of Addis in Ethiopia?

The reality, Dan Connell is a greedy Westerner that tries to perpetuate the legacy of slavery in the name of justice. Democracy and human rights have become code names in Western circles pushing for the re-colonization of Africa in a quest to bleed dry the resources of Africa. Dan Connell’s job is to mold the narrative of Africa that is hungry, bloody, corrupt and unstable riddled by coups. In addition, and always, only the West, led by individual-saviors from the west, say Dan Connell can save Africa. What a sham…

On his article, Dan Connell dared to describe Eritrea as “feisty.” Dan Connell is very disrespectful of the people of Eritrea. The people of Eritrea are astute, clever, brilliant and yes, feisty in need, ferocious in defense of their country. Trying to minimize Eritrea as a tiny sliver of a nation is disingenuous. Since, Eritrea is much larger than many Western countries like England. And yes, Eritreans are far beyond the understanding of the greed-laden imagination of Dan Connell. There is no coup or uprising in Eritrea and there will never be.

The trajectory of Eritrea is far different from other nations in Africa. Eritreans knew what they want, pursued what they wanted and achieved what they wanted by paying in blood. The political makeup of the people of Eritrea is different from other African countries. Eritreans will never give independence they toiled and died for, to empty street-rhetoric of an old shyster.

Furthermore, just to appease their overhyped exuberance, Eritrea’s military is a tested organ that withstood decades of internationally conceived warfare and assaults designed to annihilate Eritrea from existence. Eritrea is a nation amongst nations with the most sophisticated armies of the world! Eritrea has the most disciplined and educated army that is part of the society. On February 9, Eritrea celebrated the 23 anniversary of Operation Fenkil. Operation Fenkil is a military miracle that uprooted Ethiopian existence from the Red Sea city of Massawa that paved way for the independence of Eritrea. The victory is evidence of Eritreans wit, bravery, valor and unmatched military fit.

Clearly, Dan Connell deluded himself into thinking that he is an expert on Eritrea just because Eritrea’s leadership, at one time, gave him access as a journalist to interview them. Sadly, Dan thinks that he can remote-control a rebellion using few confused and disgruntled lost souls.

In closing, to demonstrate how confused Connell’s approach, attitude and descriptions are; quoting him,

“But feisty little Eritrea, which got its independence from Ethiopia in 1991 after defeating successive US- and Soviet-backed armies in a 30-year war, has never fit the mold of postcolonial African states, and it was not doing so now.”

Eritrea is a decent sized nation with decent people that got its independence in 1991 after defeating successive US- and Soviet-backed Ethiopian armies in a 30-year war. The people of Eritrea do not fit the mold of postcolonial African states that fall prey to western trickery easily. Hence, it is delusional for a person such as Dan Connell to dream of such a heist to a nation and people that defy all odds and build a truly independent nation.

Dan is a bad gambler because he threw away the trust that placed him on a global map for an ill- conceived immoral agenda. No matter how much he tries to spin things, Eritrea will always stand firm, for it is, planted in blood, firmly. Hence, in a greater scheme of things, Dan Connell will not amount to nothing just another noise in the jungle.

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