Eritrea a Nation That Does Not Deserve UN Sanction.

By: Berhane Woldu

On August 10 th 2011, Susan Rice U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations stated that Eritrea is a destabilizing force in the region. Furthermore, that there is a famine in Eritrea and that the government of Eritrea has denied the UN agencies and NGO’s from delivering food aid (dead aid) and the people are left to starve. Yet she is working on additional economic sanction on Eritrea. The statement that there is famine in Eritrea is far from the truth, in Eritrea there is abundance of food. The truth of the matter is that there is famine in Ethiopia 4.2 million of its population is starving a country that is allied and nurtured by the USA. Why not help Ethiopia eradicate hunger.

Mrs. Rice has failed to listen to Eritrean diplomats who repeatedly stated that Eritrea does not hold any ill will to any of the African Nations and has never worked to destabilize its neighbors. Maybe Mrs. Rice needs to hear a new voice. The song “Your Embrace” (Kedeinkna) By Wedi Tekabo with his modern jazzy voice is my selection. The lyrics are so true and articulate in describing the misery that the people of the African Continent face due to the failure of their leadership and neo-colonialist force. “Your Embrace” in my humble opinion should have been one of the top ten songs of the year 2011. It did not, sad as it is living the judgment to the professional’s let me return to the lyrics and the story the song tells.

The lyric says “ululate mothers of Eritrea; ululate ladies of Eritrea mothers of virtue ululate as brighter days have come. Where others have failed, you have become victories.

Those East, West, North and South of Eritrea are rich. They have gold and diamond. Their leaders have chosen to become wolves they have divided the people using religion and ethnicity. Instead of sharing the wealth with their own people, they have chosen to collaborate in the grand larceny with foreigners”.

In Africa Grand Larceny, using the apparatus supremacy leadership has developed into Africa’s most stylish and money-spinning industry. The story of Black Diamond and The Prime minister of the Minority Government of Ethiopia who has been in power for only 20 years and amassed billions of dollars in foreign banks are some of the prime example. It involves group of actors businesses set as legitimate based inside the country and their agents scattered in places like USA and Europe (where it is believed that the Prime Minster of Ethiopia Melese Zenawe has been buying property). These facilitators come with different profession some are lawyers, accountants’ investors and bankers. There are others born with a silver spoon in their mouth “fixers” with political and business connections in the passageway of power in the western countries. These are people that collaborate with the Dictators in Africa help them making fortunes disappear from Africa only to reappear in America and Europe (remember Mobutu of Congo). A foreign partner speed flawlessly and undetectably through an impenetrable net work of accounts in several countries then reaches its destination as a high-value possession at choice locations around the world. The African regimes are ruling through fear and violence. They with the help of their Western backers have developed sophisticated and horrific instruments to cow their population and rob the National treasure chest. The First ladies of these countries have also become the most successful businesspersons of the Country. Case in point; Azeb Mesfin of Ethiopia in the last 20 years has become the richest woman in Ethiopia. The way of doing business is simple and with no risk of failure. The first ladies simply seize shares as high as 50% of successful companies then just sit back and milk the “cash cow”. Governmental power is the ultimate as it is a license to print money. The process of Grand Larceny necessitates a huge number of powerful people and big businesses in the Western democracies; it is hardly surprising that the whole issue is shrouded in secrecy. The elite and powerful in Africa immersed in the obscenely pretentious and ultimately disgraceful luxury of the palaces and fortress they had built for themselves around the world, they had lost all touch with or sympathy for the people they had been duty-bound to care, for they have become wolves.

“Your Embrace” goes on “Mother you who shade no ill will; you promote unity the nine nationalities live in harmony. While our neighbors kill each other and become the laughing stock of the west. You Mother that prays in church and mosque Scared, as you are nothing evil converges. During the war of liberation with all the challenges, hardship and the ground on fire, you marched forward with genuineness like a caterpillar.

Your enemies bragging as if they had destroyed you; as if you were an easy foe. With all that deep pain you shouldered you have bear freedom and offered us peace. You have emerged from eternity to be free like a butterfly bringing the flag with olive tree. The days have become bright with sunshine realizing our potential to live rewarding life”.

Not long ago there were symposiums given by different ministries and regional administrators in different region of Eritrea. The ministers and governors gave in-depth analysis of the achievements of the last 20 years and the five-year development plan.

The different symposiums avowed food security has been the priority in the national drive for development. Hence, Agro-Macro policy was devised, Irrigation based agriculture was introduced to increase output and create surplus in cereal corps, vegetables, fruits, and livestock. Dams, micro-dams and water diversion schemes were constructed. Since 1991 in Gash Barka region alone 67,754 hectares of land has been cultivated 35,500 hectares by irrigation, 20,980-splash irrigation 2,257 hectares uses spray irrigation and 1,100 hectares use drip irrigation. Agro-industries have also been put in place case in point; Aligider cotton farm, Elabered agro-industry, Mersanni, Afhimbole, Gerset, the Fancos and Ad Omer agro-industry. In the Northern red sea region with the focus on agriculture, over 90,000 hectares have been utilized and a number of agricultural infrastructure programs have been implemented which increase domestic consumption. The Red Sea coastline is rich in fish, lobster, shrimp, crab and anchovies. Annually 80,000 tones of fish and 50,000 tones of Anchovies and Sardines can be harvested for export. In-addition there is abundant of fresh water fish for domestic consumption. Poultry farm, honey farms and animal husbandry are new industry. The animal husbandry at Alebu is one set to export meat and hide. The North, Central and the Anseba regions all have large farms. One can drive from Asmara to Adi-Begiou near the border with Ethiopia on the Northern side crossing the Menguda National reserve coming down hill to reach Shiketi. The farmland starts from Shiketi until your reach Adi-Begiou. In-addition, the Hazemo, Halai, Kohaito plains and Saho settlements are all farmlands. The land is reach and looks as if one is crossing the wheat fields of the Mid-West in America. There are 50,000 hectares of land available for farming in the Northern region alone, 138 dams, and 256 ponds that hold 50 million meter Quebec water. In the last 15 years, the Eritrean Agriculture has emerged from subsistence farming to a modern agro-business.

It is human to be concerned and assist the less fortunate the 4.2 million starving Ethiopians the 200,000 homeless that sleep on the street of Addis Ababa and the many more East African countries need help. Eritrea on the other hand as avowed in the aforementioned paragraphs has leaped forward into agro-industry, has become a nation of self-reliance, and does not need food handouts.

Mrs. Ambassador; The Eritrean people want nothing more than to make their own choices, live according to their own values and to do so without relying on others. Self-reliance treasured in Eritrean traditional custom and highly cherished has been the national asset and not food handouts NGOs or UN. For once, think as a mother and not as a diplomat. A nation and people that is working hard as ever to capitalize on its water resources toiling its land to ensure food security does not deserve to be sanctioned.