

## PART FOUR – FIRST UN RESOLUTION (1907) AGAINST ERITREA- HAVE THEY GOT ANY EVIDENCE BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT?

In December 23 2009 the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution 1907 against Eritrea imposing arms embargo, travel restrictions and freeze on assets, but the main point of the UN resolution was to punish Eritrea for its alleged support for Al-Shabbab and the misunderstanding with Djibouti.

Today, the issue of Djibouti has been resolved successfully by the Eritrean Government with the mediation of the Government of Qatar, therefore I don't see any reason why the UN Security Council should use the Djibouti instance to boost their sanction drive on Eritrea. But was this really the whole truth, or is it a diversion to provide Ethiopia with diplomatic cover, for the crime and manipulation she is committing against the government of Eritrea? It should be taken into account that Ethiopia has been masterminding the sanctions issue against Eritrea from behind closed doors in the African Union Office of Addis Ababa. This inclination seems to be continuing so long as Ethiopian Premier is around. After all, any sanction in the horn of Africa should have been directed against Ethiopia not Eritrea.

The simple reason is since the Border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia was resolved by International Arbitration, Ethiopia has continually refused to abide by the decision of the Ethiopia Eritrea Boundary Commission as agreed by the Algeria agreement of 2000, that settled the border dispute between the two countries. Ethiopia however has been violating International Law by occupying sovereign Eritrean territory illegally. As far as Eritrea is concerned the Border dispute has been settled once and for all. However, Ethiopia with her sinister motives against Eritrea have been diverting the issue by formulating sensational accusations against Eritrea repeatedly. Hence instead of questioning Ethiopia's behaviour, Instead of questioning Ethiopia's illegal occupation of sovereign Eritrean territory, the Security Council passed a resolution against Eritrea blaming her for destabilizing the Horn of Africa using allegation, of providing political, financial and military support to Al Shabaab in Somalia.

Clearly what Eritrea said all along was - it has nothing to do with terrorist organization like Al Shabaab. After all the latter do not even have support from their own people, as they are associating themselves with extremism like - Sharia Law and Al-Qa'ida. Moreover what needs to be realized here is that Somalis are conservative Muslims and as such they do not have any love affairs for Alshabab. Eritrea on the other hand is not interfering in Somalia on the contrary what Eritrea is saying is, it is up to the Somalis to sort out their problem and emerge from their Clan war to bring their nation to peace and tranquillity. However the intervention of outside powers in Somalia is aggravating the situation, leading into chaos and anarchy. What they should have done was to take effective action to bring Somalia to common sense. As an alternative they sent African Union soldiers to prop up the debased Transitional Government fuelling the clan wars amongst the Somalis. If they want to bring life into Somalia they could have encouraged the whole of Somalia to put their differences behind and try to fix their broken country.

Nevertheless the consequence of Western powers interfering and regional players like Ethiopia meddling, it has now become extremely difficult to find solution to the Somali problem. The World is watching with very little being done to help them while more than million of them have been displace, thousands died and their properties looted or destroyed. Thence Eritrea's stand on Somalia is the correct one but no one is listening. Still the answer for the Somali people is political solution, not military solution. Accusation by Ethiopia and the Transitional Government of Somalia that Eritrea is politically destabilizing or interfering into the affairs of Somalia cannot hold any water, because it is misrepresentation of facts. In addition, the assertion that Eritrea is providing financial and military support to Somalis is quite unbelievable, as Eritrea is not in any position to give money to any outside country while she is trying to help its people through development programmes that have been shattered by successive Ethiopian Regimes who should have been accountable to pay

reparation for the people of Eritrea. Frankly the accusation against Eritrea that it supports Islamic Groups are simply unfounded. What is more, it is virtually impossible for Eritrea to air lift or to move ammunitions and bombs to Somali fighters because the American fleet is stationed in the Red Sea to monitor all arms movement. However could it be the case that the Eritrean Government may have trained thousands of Dolphins to swim along the Southern coast of Eritrea to Somalia undetected to smuggle weapons, or has Eritrea dug an underground tunnel all the way from Eritrea via Ethiopia to the coast of Somalia?

Which ever way you look at it, it seems to me practically impossible to do so. Because Eritrea simply does not have the money, as she is trying to improve the living standard of its people, at the same time, she can not provide bombs when she is under an arms embargo. Therefore all of these arguments that Eritrea is a main player in disrupting Somalia is in real politics bogus and in practical terms illusionary, it is simply a diversion from the main issue in question, that Somalia requires a long term solution not a short term fix. What is more frustrating is that the relentless propaganda directed against Eritrea is groundless. Yet the Inter Governmental Authority For Development (IGAD) have been manipulating Eritrea's position negatively in the Horn of African countries without substantiating it with solid evidence. Whether from IGAD or the mass media, the manipulation against Eritrea is not new, because there are also some bogus Journalists around the world whose sole aim is to disseminate and falsify information, to create confusion by printing dishonest information against the Government Eritrea while at the same time, excluding Eritrea's positive achievement in the region.

For instance last year some newspapers here in London have printed incorrectly that Eritrea has provided a base for the Israelis in the Dahlak Islands, that Eritrea will be a battlefield between the Israelis and Iranians, that Iran has a submarine base at the Port of Assab, all of these poppycock fairy tails are all fabrications or fantasy. These journalists are paid to write this kind of tales by other countries and it is for a fact that their stories are simply a myth,. Those who write them have got no credibility even from their own readers as their news is based on fiction. *But do you know what? sometimes facts on the ground does not really matter because the world mass media is owned by private corporations whose main objectives are not to reflect reality, but to confuse people into believing the unbelievable.* Therefore, hatching stories is not new as it is part and parcel of the powerful media, especially if they want to achieve their goals either in blackmailing or framing, individuals or nations they want to belie.

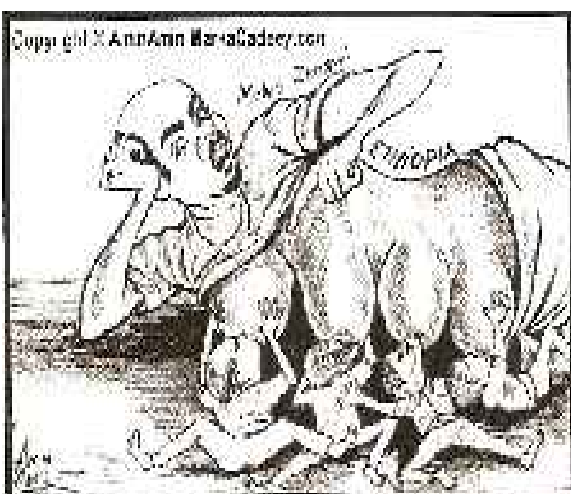
It is not new that the UN was caught red handed when they fictionalized false information against Eritrea by alleging that there were two thousand Eritrean fighters in Somalia - then governed by the Union of Islamic Courts. But when in December 2006 Ethiopia invaded Somalia using the pretext of a war on terror fearing Islamic influence, and at the same time to find Eritrean fighters fighting in Somalia so that they can be used as a propaganda weapon in order to whip for stronger sanctions against Eritrea. Neither Ethiopia nor the UN could find any Eritreans in Somalia. All the rumours and poisonous accusations against Eritrea were turned out to be false - invented by Ethiopia.

What was quite disturbing at the time was that when Ethiopia captured Mogadishu, there were two Eritrean Journalists covering news for Eritrean Television. Like every one else they managed to flee the Ethiopian invasion of Mogadishu - to Nairobi in Kenya. In Nairobi they were arrested. To their surprise instead of being granted protection, they were bundled into a car, and taken away to be detained by Kenyan police. Immediately afterwards Kenyan and the Ethiopian governments forced them to go to Ethiopia to be interrogated for being Eritreans because of the colour of their eyes. They are now languishing in Ethiopian jails for almost six years and their whereabouts are not yet known. Neither the Kenyan Government or the UN did anything to get them released. This is a proof that there is political vendetta by Ethiopia, Kenya, and the UN at times against Eritrea, in spearheading and inventing black propaganda to blackmail her.

All of the above mentioned propaganda that accuses Eritrea of being involved in Somalia is complete hot air deployed against her by countries like Ethiopia as Eritrea has refused to bow to the influence of being a puppet state in the Horn of Africa. That Eritrea is following its own blueprint when it comes to its interest without the support of any outside power, that she has adopted a unique strategy of self reliance to promote the interest of its people and that is why peace, tranquillity, and development are progressing fast in the country. Eritrea's solo independent development programme, supported by its policy of self dependency is not liked by countries like Ethiopia presently going through political upheaval marred by conflict within the country and its ambitious policy of intervention into neighbouring countries to please its backers. For this reasons Ethiopia is trying its level best to bring Eritrea to the same servitude status, using different tactics, like sanctions, or associating Eritrea with terrorism, thereby destabilization of the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia's principal aim is to weaken Eritrea by all means and to keep on alleging that Eritrea is involved in providing arms to Somali Islamists to keep the momentum alive for its own political end.

It has to be noted here that, the main arms supplier in the region is not Eritrea, it is Ethiopia/African Union forces in Mogadishu who are providing weapons to Al Shebaab, that the latter is buying these weapons on the open market or at times collecting them from discontented soldiers of the transitional government. The interventionist countries like Ethiopia are also using colonial tactics to divide and rule Somalia by providing tonnes of weapons to rival war lords in order to make them fight one another- so that their interest can be protected. What has been forgotten here is that, IGAD countries or Front line states (Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Uganda ) are prohibited by IGAD rules from interfering in the internal affairs of Somalia. But such rules are violated every time by Ethiopia and her allies to keep the country divided using clan rules. One of the tactics Ethiopia is using is to arm a war lord to the teeth until he is strong enough to threat-hen others, then create another clan and arm him to the teeth and make them fight one another. In so doing they can cancel one another at the pleasure of Ethiopia. Thus the status-co will go on and on and Ethiopia will get in or out in Somalia at its own choosing, because Somalia is too weak and divided along tribes to defend itself.

The tactic for Ethiopia is simple keep Somalia disintegrated by creating the old rules of Bantuism. For instance we have, Somali land, Punt land, Juba land and we may have more to come. These are the creations of Ethiopia as she is deliberately doing this to have strangle hold on Somalia, because united Somalia is seen as a threat therefore Ethiopia will keep on dividing them using money, arms, sheer force and invasion. As you can see from the cartoon of the Ethiopian premier (Meles Zenawi) drawn by a Somali cartoonist called Amin-Amin Amir, he shows him breast feeding the War Lords in Somalia. At the same time he is lecturing the War lords, what they should and shouldn't do in their own country. To understand the writing on the board, I asked one of my Somali friends to interpret the Somali script for me and he said as follows:



- (1) Destroy Somalia so that she remains in -chaos.
- (2) Increase Hijacking and Kidnapping to terrorize people.
- (3) Keep fighting one another so that Ethiopia can provide you with flow of arms.
- (4) Rape all women young and old, in order to create fear and panic.
- (5) Increase drug taking and eat lots of Chat to keep Somalia in a state of anarchy.
- (6) Reject peace so that Ethiopia can speak on behalf of Somalia.
- (7) Continue fighting in order to create instability.
- (8) Most important of all trust Ethiopia.

This is what is going on in Somalia at present time and the UN Security council is disregarding the destructive and scorched earth policy Ethiopia is espousing in that country. The mass media are down playing what Ethiopia is doing in Somalia. Instead they are turning blind eye, while any complaint against Ethiopia to the Security Council is like banging ones head against a brick wall because Ethiopia is used as a foot soldier for the United States. It is not only that Ethiopia has received 500 million dollars from America to invade Somalia in December 2006, using the pretext of war on terror and Al Shebbab. For the above mentioned reasons the UN Security Council had very good reasons to take sanction for her invasion of Somalia and for non compliance on the Eritrea Ethiopia border dispute in which Ethiopia's has refused to vacate sovereign Eritrean territories as agreed by the Algiers Agreement. Yet the Security Council which is very biased against countries like Eritrea but, subservient nations like Ethiopia are left of the hook, which is to say the least – a political blunder. Thus the claim that Eritrea is deliberately destabilizing the Government of Somalia is complete mirage, but how will Eritrea cope with the relentless accusation that has be fallen on her mainly by Ethiopia and its supporters.

Well this is not new, the Ethiopian propaganda machine and their allies are exceptionally clever in one specific thing, manipulation of African politics to promote their own interest using intrigue and duplicity- bribery, deception and assassination to achieve their goals. That is how they enlarged their empire in the past, but their mischief and innuendos against the people of Eritrea will not work in the future. This is because Ethiopia's negative presentation against Eritrea has now been exposed. In fact since the border dispute with Eritrea from 1998 up to the present day Ethiopia has been deploying elaborate networks of deceit and black propaganda to avoid the central issue of demarcating the border between the two countries. In other words Ethiopia has been flouting international law for more than ten years, as the United States is provide her with diplomatic cover. Such diplomatic support is helping her, to rally IGAD and few other African countries to push hard to pass a sanction against Eritrea at the security council in December 2009.

As a result of the orchestrated campaign on Eritrea – Uganda & Burkina Faso were used as vehicles to sponsor Resolution 1907 at the UN Security Council. The resolution was voted to sanction Eritrea with the exception of Libya. In fact Ethiopia succeeded in the first round of sanction war against Eritrea. I have no doubt the sanction issue on Eritrea was cooked up by Ethiopia, hyped by the midwives of IGAD countries, supervised by Susan Rice, delivered with Christmas pudding in New York. Ethiopia's concealed agenda since the border conflict with Eritrea has been to undermine Eritrea diplomatically using the tools of the UN Security Council - to make Eritrea kneel down thereby to become susceptible to foreign interference or to make her kneel down.

But, unlike other African countries Eritrea can not and will not be kneeling down by either the UN sanction or Ethiopia's endless accusation, because Eritrea fought more than thirty years against Ethiopia to gain its independence and against all odds Eritrea defeated the biggest army in Africa. Whereas many African countries never fought for their independence, they were simply handed in their independence or their flag by their colonial rulers – wrapped up in a white handkerchief. This

is one of the main difference between Eritrea and many African countries. To me, many of the African countries who got their independence without having to fight for it, represents allegiance in continuous bondage and servitude of their governments to their masters. That is why two African countries were used to push for sanction against Eritrea with out seeing any evidence against Eritrea. Of course, this is not surprising, in the entire of African continent, only Eritrea and Algeria are the only countries who fought tooth and nail against their occupiers to gain their independence by themselves for themselves. *Therefore the idea of making Eritrea and its people kneel down to the wishes of the minority Government of Ethiopia or foreign powers is doomed to fail, because the only time Eritrea/Eritreans will kneel down are only - on two occasions. One, when shooting at enemy tanks. Two, when praying to God/Allah.* The other point that need to be remembered here is that the word “kneel down or defeat ” does not exist in the Eritrean national psyche. Of course, any sanction on Eritrea is disappointing but, Eritrea still remains cool, defiant, when it comes to its own interest and I am positive she will over come any obstacles that are placed against her. *Because Eritrea is a proud nation of heroes and determined people whose sole aim is to help the country move forward to the next century with peace and tranquillity with all its neighbours including Ethiopia. To put it differently Eritrea is not a nation of wimps and faint hearts, Eritrea is a confident country that will succeed where others have failed and the UN have already vindicated the country that it was not involved in Somalia to provide arms to Shebbab.* So the sanctions issue that have been brought by Ethiopia need to be lifted.

This brings me to say that the UN Security Council rather than solving problems amongst nations by being neutral, seems to be taking sides with one country against another by pushing sanction against one and no sanction against others. This kind of one sided policy driven by UN Security Council, especially the United States policy in the Horn of Africa supporting solely Ethiopia/IGAD by bashing Eritrea will only increase tensions and unnecessary frictions among the countries of the Horn. Whatever Ethiopia or the Security Council do vis a vis Eritrea, the latter, has done nothing wrong. She is still innocent until proven guilty because most of the points raised by IGAD countries and the Security Council are uncorroborated material as there was no evidence they can show to the outside world about Eritreans guilt. What they came up was circumstantial evidence that cannot stand in front of the law. Therefore instead of lifting the first sanction against Eritrea the United Nation Security Council passed a second resolution on Eritrea, It is a travesty of justice, but the fight against these illegal and unjust sanctions will continue until they are lifted and Eritreans all over the world would quadruple their efforts to prove to the outside world that Eritrea has not been involved and will not be involved into the affairs of Somalia. Therefore the diplomatic fight to clear Eritrea's name will go on and on.

An article on the second UN resolution 2023 on Eritrea will be published in few days.

Tesfahannes Beyene

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