

Joe Biden's war in Ethiopia

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"When a man with a rifle encounters someone with a gun, the later would be a dead man!" says a line from a film by Sergio Leone, and when adopting this to this story, it would turn into "when a white journalist meets a black professor ..."

It is amazing how a Western journalist who wants to write an infamous article about some African leaders would always find it easy to find an African willing to lend his black face so that the former would not be accused of racism despite of him/her being too patronizing! There is always, to use the words of Malcolm X, the usual "house negro" willing to betray his brothers that are still in the cotton fields. The worst part is when the journalist finds one that is high-ranking, a bit cultured and with an academic tenure.

The protagonist of this story is Professor Uoldelul Chelati Dirar, an associate professor of History and Institutions of Africa at the University of Macerata. While I was still in Eritrea, on 26 November 2021, he talked about an absurd story on the current situation in the Horn of Africa, in an interview with Panorama¹.

He was interviewed by Elisabetta Burba, a journalist that is sided with the Tplf (Tigray People Liberation Front) who, with her previous articles published by Panorama Online, had unleashed the wrath of the large Ethiopian community in Italy, which was forced to write to the editor in protest. However, Burba continued to write about the war in Ethiopia undeterred.

"The professor makes a clear analysis of the crisis that is inflaming the Horn of Africa" says in the last piece, but in my opinion, Uoldelul is rather far from understanding the current events and geopolitics of entire African continent let alone about his own homeland. He does as what the Western mainstream media usually do in blaming the Ethiopian crisis trivially and exclusively on the two leaders of the Horn of Africa, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and President Isaias Afewerki.

The Professor, after trivializing the 2018 peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea, he continued to devalue the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Abiy Ahmed saying, "the Nobel Committee has gone wrong" - in harmony with some journalists of the Italian mainstream media. Domenico Quirico and Michele Farina would have, in fact, wanted to "snatch" the Nobel Prize from Abiy Ahmed, even if that is something they had never dreamed of doing with Barak Obama who had bombed seven sovereign nations.

Uoldelul says that “in light of the developments” of November 2020 when the war broke out, the real goal of peace was to be vengeful on Tigray. According to him, Abiy Ahmed wanted to marginalize and reduce the role of the Tplf in Ethiopian politics and Isaias Afewerki wanted to get out of the marginal situation in which he had ended up. Hence, they mean that the war was initiated by the two leaders and not by the Tplf, while the later already publicly admitted that it had started a "lightening attack".

The professor declares, “The testimonies of the population speak of shelling from the Eritrean side since the first days of the attacks” without even specifying which population he was talking about or where these testimonies come from. Even the journalist did not provide such evidence. It is natural to ask oneself what the facts are for someone who declares to be a historian and brag, "I am used to speaking with facts at hand"!

The Professor, who has been in Italy since 1975, might have forgotten the real effect that bombs and shells have. He would have felt the exact fright experienced by the people in Asmara if he had been there on November 14, 2020, when Tplf launched long-range missiles on the capital. I still remember my mother's expression as she told me about that dramatic moment.

The Tplf had wanted to internationalize the internal Ethiopian conflict by involving Eritrea and they finally succeed in their intent after launching several other rockets to various districts of Asmara in the following days.

He continued with his accusations saying, "It is one thing to win the war, and it is another to win it by deliberately seeking the humiliation of the opponent, resorting to forms of dramatic violence against civilians: the systematic rape of women, mass executions, and the destruction of infrastructure”. This accusation is made by fully embracing the propaganda of some international organizations and the Western mainstream media based in Nairobi.

Seven months before this one, the Professor had already released another interview with *Corriere della Sera* (April 2, 2021)² where the journalist Michele Farina talked about a certain Mona Lisa, a little girl who had lied about her losing an arm after an attempted rape by Ethiopian soldiers who incredibly turned into Eritrean soldiers. Sometime later, it turned out to be fake, as it was discovered later that Mona Lisa was a Tplf militia wounded in the war.

A professor of his caliber should have, at least for the sake of intellectual honesty, taken in consideration about all the foreign actors who are violently interfering in the internal crisis of a sovereign country like Ethiopia. Instead, he dogmatically repeats the same narrative as the Western mainstream media have been making for a year now, (such as genocide of Tigrayans and blocks of humanitarian aid to the civilian population).

His "lucid geopolitical analysis" should have been more courageous in mentioning the real protagonist of the protracted Ethiopian crisis: the administration of President Joe Biden, which plays an important role in the destabilization of the entire Horn of Africa.

The Professor does not even make any mention about the trilateral peace and cooperation agreement between Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia, which is an agreement that Biden considers dangerous, as the US Foreign Policy would like an unstable Horn of Africa for the sake of their own national interest. This is why the war in Ethiopia and the inevitable defeat of the Tplf: "constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to national security and US foreign policy."³ The American President considers the Ethiopian crisis "A threat to national security" as if Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa are confined with the United States!

Just a few days ago, the spokesperson for Tplf, Getachew Reda,⁴ confessed in an interview with Tigray TV that he had received pressure from Washington to overthrow the democratically elected government of Abiy Ahmed: "The US and some European countries have asked us to take the capital Addis Ababa". In fact, on November 3, exactly one year after the start of the war, CNN⁵ instigated news that the Tplf and their allies had surrounded the Ethiopian capital. The fake news was re-launched by all the western newsrooms in synchronous, with the sole intent of creating chaos, disorder and popular revolt. Subsequently, the US Embassy⁶ in Addis Ababa had also urged its citizens to leave Ethiopia immediately, even with scheduled flights: "The State Department urges US citizens to leave Ethiopia now", an invitation that was also followed by some European embassies and the United Nations. From the military base of Camp Lemmonier in Djibouti, Major General William Zana, Commander of the Joint Force of the Horn of Africa, warned that he is ready to intervene militarily in Addis Ababa to evacuate US citizens and other nationalities.

It is now clear to everyone that President Biden has done everything to save the Tplf since he took office in the White House, sanctioning both the Ethiopian and Eritrean governments, economically and militarily. He is playing all his cards to overthrow Abiy Ahmed considering him a disobedient and dangerous pan-Africanist.

In his analysis, Professor Uoldelul does not grasp this peculiarity of the two leaders of the Horn of Africa, namely their common vision of an Africa that is free from humanitarian aid and confident in its means of subsistence, the famous "Self-reliance".

"Someone says that Abiy Ahmed is a puppet in Afewerki's hands" declares the journalist Burba, and the Professor continued instead of jumping up and leaving, as such a stupid statement does not deserve an answer. He continued without asking who that "someone" is, and he pleased her by saying that the Prime Minister is someone who has ended up "in a political trap" by the

Eritrean president, calling him a de facto naive. This type of judgment is too superficial and not adequate for an educated man.

He ignores, or deliberately omits to acknowledge, the differing views of millions of Ethiopians and Ethiopians in the Diaspora who have been protesting, almost daily, against the interference of the United States in the affairs of Ethiopian and the Horn of Africa. They have been joining hands in their protests together with Somalis, Sudanese and even Jamaicans.

For example, the popular #NoMore movement is making a big influence on Twitter, which is winning momentum in many countries, both in Africa and Latin America. They are saying together never again to colonialism, imperialism, western fake news, the interference of the great powers in the internal affairs of sovereign countries, and no more sanctions and censorship of African voices such as the one imposed by Twitter precisely on founders of the #NoMore⁷ movement Simon Tesfamariam e Hermela Aregawi.

It seems that the Professor, blinded by an inexplicable hatred towards the two African leaders, has lost another good opportunity to question his own alignment in favor of the Tplf, which are nothing more than a small group of terrorists, while a population of over 100 million Africans continue to fight to the cry of #NoMore.

#NoMore also to the lies of the Italian mainstream newspapers to which he lends his African face.

¹ “Le grandi manovre dell’Eritrea nella crisi etiopica” <https://www.panorama.it/news/dal-mondo/ruolo-strategicoeritrea-crisi-etiopia>

² Etiopia, 150 massacri per un Nobel: le vittime e l’orgoglio di Monna Lisa https://www.corriere.it/esteri/21_aprile_02/massacro-nobel-abiy-ae82cf7c-93e8-11eb-a162-c78b02fef827.shtml

³ Executive Order on Imposing Sanctions on Certain Persons With Respect to the Humanitarian and Human Rights Crisis in Ethiopia - SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 - PRESIDENTIAL ACTION.

[Shttps://www.whitehouse.gov/briefingroom/presidential-actions/2021/09/17/executive-order-on-imposing-sanctions-on-certain-persons-with-respect-to-thehumanitarian-and-human-rights-crisis-in-ethiopia/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefingroom/presidential-actions/2021/09/17/executive-order-on-imposing-sanctions-on-certain-persons-with-respect-to-thehumanitarian-and-human-rights-crisis-in-ethiopia/)

⁴ US wanted rebels “to enter Addis” – TPLF spokesman. <https://borkena.com/2021/12/09/united-states-wanted-rebelsto-enter-addis-tplf-spokesman/>

⁵ Rebels threaten Ethiopian capital as UN slams atrocities committed in Tigray conflict.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/03/africa/ethiopia-tigray-un-ehrc-investigation-intl/index.html>

⁶ Ethiopia Travel Advisory <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/ethiopia-traveladvisory.html>.

⁷ ‘We Will Not Go Away’: Twitter Suspends Ethiopian, Eritrean Accounts After Global #NoMore Protests.

<https://sputniknews.com/20211130/we-will-not-go-away-twitter-suspends-ethiopian-eritrean-accounts-after-globalnomore-protests-1091125378.html>