

[Updated]

A Perfect Fit: Meles Zenawi and the People of Ethiopia

By Tecola W. Hagos [May 25, 2010]

I. Tragic Election Results and the Underbelly of the Beast

I am disgusted with the way Ethiopians caved in and voted for Meles Zenawi and his Mafioso Party because of a little push and shove here and there by thugs from the Ethiopian government and party officials and their cadres. It proves to me that Ethiopians are mostly cowards, brutal collaborators, and morally corrupted people, and so is Meles Zenawi. Joseph de Maistre (1753-1821) wrote in 1811: “Toute nation a le gouvernement qu’elle merite.” (“Every nation has the government it deserves.”) [1] May be there is no other country that proves the words of Joseph de Maistre that a people deserve the government they have more than the people of Ethiopia. Electing a leader who had to be enclosed in bullet-proof glass container in order to address his own people “*hizbachen*,” is not my idea of a leader of a people

I reject the result projected by the Election Board of the Government of Ethiopia as a matter of principle. I heed the many statements by the opposition and international journalists and civic organizations that repeatedly claimed that there was going on systematic marginalization of the opposition coupled with the implementation of repressive legislations against the opposition since the aftermath of the massacre of unarmed demonstrators after the Election of 2005. Most of all, the opposition recently with the betrayal of Hailu Shawel and Lidetu Ayalew shot itself several times all over its body. The following is taken from the official statement of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) provisional report that EPRDF/affiliates had won 99.8% of the total:

Provisional Election Result [2]

National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE)

No	Region	Total constituencies	The Provisional Result of the constituencies Received so far	Winner
1	Oromia	178	178	EPRDF
2	Amhara	138	137	EPRDF
3	South Nation, Nationalities & People's /SNNP/	123	123	EPRDF 122 PRIVATE 1
4	Tigray	38	38	EPRDF
5	Addis Ababa	23	23	EPRDF 22 FORUM 1

6	Afar	8	8	ANDP
7	Benshangul Gumuz	9	2	BGPDP
8	Gambella	3	2	GPUDM
9	Dire Dawa	2	2	EPRDF 1 SPDP 1
10	Harari	2	2	EPRDF 1 HNL 1
11	Somali	23	21	SPDP
TOTAL		547	536	

Voters Registered for the Upcoming

2010 General Election

Region	Male	Female	Total
Other Regions	15,103,845	14,067,022	29,170,867
Somali region	1,380,512	1,143,672	2,524,184
National Defense and Higher Education Institutions /No. of Institutions 111/	189,923	41,546	231,469
Total	16,674,280	15,252,240	31,926,520

Number Of Candidates Registered For The House Of People's

Representatives /2010 General Election/

Region	Male	Female	Total
Other Regions	1,891	256	2,147
Somali region	31	-	31
Independent Candidates	26	1	27
Total	1,948	257	2,205

Number Of Candidates Registered For The Regional Council /2010 General Election/

Region	Male	Female	Total
Other Regions	3,814	707	4,521
Somali region	206	3	209
Independent Candidates	3	1	4

Total	4,023	711	4,734
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From the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE)

Once again the Ethiopian National Election of 2010 proved to the entire World how efficiently and effectively the Government of Meles Zenawi carried out a corrupt election hoodwinking gullible European Union mandated observers and African Union mandated observers too. The repression and intimidation has been intensified since the disastrous 2005 national election where by under the orders of Meles Zenawi and Sebat Nega 193 innocent Ethiopians were murdered, and tens of thousands were incarcerated. There is no doubt in my mind that we are dealing here with psychopath leaders whose hunger for power and the willingness to commit hundreds of thousands of murders and tortures et cetera could only be matched with either Hitler or Stalin. Such brutality would never have happened in a society that is not brutal itself.

I fully supported and even argued strongly with friends about the virtue of going to the polls and voting no matter what Meles's Government does with the voted ballots. As the old saying goes that the best way to show a crooked stick is to lay next to it a straight one. The problem in Ethiopia is that almost all sticks are crooked. There is no way to lay a better method to show the corruption of the election process than to go through the process. However, in the Ethiopian setting the problem is not with a handful of people who end up being leaders but the society itself. The 2010 National Election showed several of the terrible brutal feature of the Ethiopian society that produced Meles Zenawi as well as Mengistu Hailemariam and a long line of rulers that caused much harm to their constituents. The degree of diversity of the population in itself may be also the very serious cause of the violence and savagery of the many communities differentiated by ethnicity, ideology, religion, wealth et cetera in Ethiopia.

The Amhara region voted overwhelmingly for EPRDF candidates, while Meles's presumed stronghold Tigray, with a full military exercise taking place a day ahead from the election in the backyard of his courageous challengers, voted for EPRDF 100 percent. The Oromo region seems to have the most conflict and divergent approach to Ethiopian politics, and yet the people voted overwhelmingly for EPRDF. The Southern coalition itself is a study in contradictory positions, the Gurage area were almost hundred percent pro EPRDF, the Sidama/Wollaita on the other hand were a mixed bag and yet all voted for Meles Zenawi. Somalia Region, Afar Region and the Ogaden Region were hundred percent supporters of Meles Zenawi. One can say Meles Zenawi has succeeded in having Ethiopians vote for him and his Party and affiliates. This is how a totalitarian state is formed the likes of USSR, Cuba, North Korea, and China with single parties, in each of the countries I mentioned herein, winning all seats of power.

A genuine hero Birtukan Mideksa is rotting in Meles's Hell hole, Akaki Prison, while the people of Ethiopia she struggled to help walked over her body to vote for the very person who had strangled the young democracy that Birtukan stood for. Shame on you Ethiopians, especially Addis Ababbeans, every single one of you, for your selfish and opportunistic acts, for none of you are worth the sacrifice of a great lady. You are all

cowards and greedy materialists who have exploited each other mercilessly for years and could not now even stand for one of our courageous daughters.

II. Hailu Shawel and Lidetu Ayalew

Hailu Shawel and Lidetu Ayalew are greatly responsible for fracturing the opposition and dividing up the voters among three or four voting groups making it possible for EPRDF's candidates to win. Addis Ababean Voters overwhelmingly voted for EPRDF completely reversing their votes of 2005. Mesfin Woldemariam is a short distance behind the above two in that self mutilation. The million and a half people who showed up today at Meskel Square to hear Meles Zenawi's victory speech, and the hundreds of thousands that participated in all major cities and towns including Mekele and Aksum demonstrating in support of the election results and condemning us all Diaspora Ethiopians as "outside interference" would prove my point how the Ethiopian population is working with the EPRDF and its leaders against the very leaders (Medrek and other opposition Parties) who are trying to liberate Ethiopians from an oppressive and traitorous leadership that has alienated and compromised the Sovereignty and Territorial integrity of Ethiopia. Ethiopians have serious self hate problem and seem to be sadistic. Someone from Ethiopia asked me with a barrage of insults, "What have you done for Ethiopia?" It would be far more appropriate to ask what Ethiopia has done for me, except to have me deformed and crippled from vicious social and political inequities.

Looking also at the recent statements of the EU Observers it is obvious that the election was not conducted on an even playing field. But what election is? Yes, Meles Zenawi and his gang have used despicable anti-democratic methods to the extent of murdering or causing the brutal murder of a candidate and the beating of a couple of political activists. However, I do not believe that such acts of barbarity by Meles and his thugs was sufficient to frighten off citizens of a whole nation from voting their conscience and end up casting their votes supporting Meles Zenawi and his party. The people of Ethiopia are the problem. Whether it is Hailu Shawel, or Lidetu Ayalew, or Meles Zenawi that we are considering here, the real brutality is to be found in the cumulative lattices of the Ethiopian population from what ever part. The few that challenge such a corrupt society and people are the heroes that have paid with their lives from century to century. For years we have blamed the leaders of Ethiopia as if they came from some alien world. Well, learn the ugly fact that our leaders are no less or no more brutal than our Ethiopian population. The problem lies squarely with the people of Ethiopia

III. Conclusion

There is not much that could be done now. The election is over. Meles Zenawi is continuing his traitorous Government and will continue looting the wealth of the nation. He had said in an interview on Aljazeera a couple of days ago that he will leave office at the End of his five-year term. I do not think he will leave after five years in 2015. By then he will be sixty years old with absolute power more than that practiced either by Emperor Haile Selassie or Mengistu Hailemariam. It will be against all rational thinking and also against his personality to retire. He will be grooming his son to replace him. At any rate, it makes no difference whether he leaves office or not, for Ethiopians will continue in their savage and primitive ways brutalizing each other and creating Hell on Earth.

If a person is born in Ethiopia, too bad; for his or her struggle to be a virtuous person would be met by almost insurmountable obstacles from fellow Ethiopians. It is like being a crab in a barrel full of crabs; none would be able to get out, for they pull each other down every time some are heading out. There is nothing wrong in being critical of a whole people. Did we not still call the Huns as “the scourge of God” (Flagellum Dei) even after six hundred years? Did we not condemn Germans as a people for the atrocities committed on their watch by Hitler and the Nazis? Did we not condemn Hutus as a people for their brutality and massacre committed against the Tutsi in Rwanda? How about the frenzy of the murdering of “*adhariwotch*” and the cowering of Ethiopians during the Red Terror unleashed by Mengistu?

Let us not mystify the so called “the people,” for there is nothing noble or above board that a group will not do that individuals do. It is a matter of the cumulative restraint, discipline, commitment, courage et cetera that would distinguish a group and not some divine claim or entitlement. Maybe we should start thinking about dismantling this experiment of “one Ethiopia.” Of course, such a remedy is a last resort to regain our human rights in a round about way. It is like draining a lake to catch some fish. But I am sick of the greed and cowardice displayed in the votes of the People of Ethiopia on May 23, 2010. Shame on you All.

Tecola W. Hagos
Washington DC
May 25, 2010
E-mail: tecola_w_hagos@hotmail.com

Endnotes

[1]

http://www.barrypopik.com/index.php/new_york_city/entry/the_people_get_the_government_they_deserve/. It is a snapshot of the page as it appeared on May 24, 2010.]

Actually the general idea of the reflection between a government and the people under such government goes back to the of the Greek philosophers. Aristotle 297 reads. Aristotle - Politics 350 Bc 1321 reads Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve. ... then we shouldn't be surprised at the results of the people who get elected. ... These people may not be apathetic so much as they don't want to vote for ...

[2] <http://www.electionethiopia.org/en/home.htm/>