

ETHIOPIA IS STILL PERSECUTING THE AMHARA

Despite the illusion and attitude echoed domestically and internationally that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is reforming the country towards democracy, the illegal and oppressive treatment of the Amhara people continues unabated. It seems that Mr. Ahmed who is a smart media manipulator says good things coated with honey to look like a saint and a totally negative and similar actions just like his predecessors. After all he is the product of the ruling pro ethnic coalition government called the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). This ruling group since its early stages of development openly and officially declared that " The Amhara people are the enemy of nations and nationalities of Ethiopia, who needs to pay severely. . . " Based on this false and artificially created policy guideline, the present leaders of the country exposed the Amhara people to untold political, economic, social, cultural torture and persecution reducing them to second class citizens with little or no rights for the past 27 years.

After the last population census 10 years ago, the EPRDF government admitted in public, that 2.5 million Amharas are missing. Where did they go? What happened to them? No explanation was made and surprisingly the United Nations, the EU, African Union and the international community in particular donor countries did not bother to put a question mark on the regime's census report. However, there was and is tangible evidence that due to the government sponsored and sanctioned systematic ethnic hatred and cleansing, the Amhara were forced to evictions, displacements and massacres from all ethnic based regional states since the EPRDF came to power in 1991. The Amhara who were not represented during the transitional period that managed to write the pro ethnic legal document of the country and rearranged regional state boundaries, were purposely left out from having a say in Ethiopia's affairs and targeted for reprisal mass killings. That is why such huge number of Amharas were reported missing.

Let us not dwell on the already known sufferings of the Amhara for now and look what is going on this week. The whole world knows that the EPRDF and SHABIA or the regime in Asmara made some kind of peace between themselves. But what sort of peace? To be franc no one has a detailed information about the peace arrangement. For the past two three days the EPRDF army was moving heavy weapons and soldiers from border. Such a move was protested by Tigray Peoples Liberation Front supporters and the military convoys originated from Zala Anbessa and Shire areas of the Tigray state were forcibly stranded from moving. Mr. Ahmed and his deputy chief of the Army lightly mentioned the incidents and as usual told reporters that the army if it wants too can take measures and no one can stop or question its movements. Seriously, this is a

a threat and possibly a strong indication that the TPLF still plays a dominant role in influencing the government of Ethiopia.

At the same time both the prime minister and the deputy chief of staff did not challenge the actions of the TPLF supporters who stopped and forced the army convoys from moving. Instead, they were seen arranging meetings and explaining the situation and asking the TPLF supporters to let them go. What a shame! These same officials did not give a chance to the Amhara youth and elders who stopped a private company by the name Sur Construction, suspected of arming anti Amhara elements in the Genda Wouha area of Gondar not far from the Sudan border from moving its machinery. The 24th Army division opened fire and killed 9 Amharas including a child and wounded 15. Imagine, what could have happened if the Amhara forced an Army convoy from its movement as Tigryans did. Simply, there is still a double standard in Ethiopia today. Who will take responsibility for the Amharas killed in cold blood and wounded in Genda Wouha yesterday? So far the government and its media kept quiet, while Amharas went to the streets in Bahirdar and the town where the bloodshed took place denouncing the violent and irresponsible killings of Amharas by the Ethiopian Army. Abinet Hunegnaw!