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THE SOMALI DEBACLE OF THE MELES ZENAWI REGIME

The invading troops of Meles Zenawi have been forced to leave Somalia after two years of wreaking havoc and committing war crimes. The corrupt commander of the troops, the officer who was shaking down Mogadishu business men, that is to say, Gabre Yohannes, did try to put a brave face and to claim that the operation was a success and the mission "accomplished" bringing to mind yet another such claim that turned to be false elsewhere.

Meles Zenawi embarked on the Somali adventure to please a foreign power and in the process to reap political and financial benefits, which he has done in exchange for the blood of so many Ethiopians and Somalis. The stated mission of ousting and crushing the Islamic militia has failed totally as the hard line Haraka Al Shabab and other factions have emerged stronger than ever before and the transitional government is as weak as ever. The campaign to "capture" three or four alleged Al Qaeda operatives produced nothing. Somalia was thrown into more chaos than ever before and achieved no peace whatsoever; it did not get a central government. As the EPRP had said from the very beginning of the invasion, it was a blunder of big and costly proportions. That, two years after the invasion, the troops had to leave without any visible gain or achievement is proof of the disaster. The Meles regime gained political support for its action and was given military equipment and money as aid or to "train" Somali soldiers and police. The transitional government, a patched up body in the first place, was not able to take off or to stabilize. All the carnage was for nothing. Thousands died many more were displaced and forced to internal external exile. The Meles regime is responsible for the disaster and must be made to account for its war crimes in Somalia.

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