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መስማትን ማን ሰምቶ!

ዲላ ባለው ድግስ የነበረበት
 ጭፈራ፣
 ማንም ማንን አያይ ተወጥሶ
 ጨረገ፣
 መውዘዝ መደንከር - ዳንስ ቤጤ
 ጨዋታ፣
 ከፍ ዝቅ መንቀጥ - መነካካት
 ብቻ!!
 ማየትን ማን ያያል - አለማየት
 ልቆ፣
 ጫጫታ ቤት ሞልቶ - መስማትን
 ማን ሰምቶ፣
 ሰው በሰው ደንቀሮ - ሁሉም
 አውራጅ ሆኖ!!

 (ሙሉ ቀን)

በካናዳው ፌደራል ምክር ቤት አዲስ ፖለቲካዊ ክስተት ተስተዋለ፤



ባለፈው የሐዋርያ እትም፣ አክቶ በር 14/2008 ስለተካሄደው የካናዳ ብሄራዊ ምርጫና ወግ-አጥባቂው ፓርቲ በንኡሳን ድምጽ አሸናፊነት ለሥልጣን መብቃቱን መዘገባችን ይታወሳል። ይህን እንጅ አንድ ወር ባልሞላ ጊዜ ውስጥ በአዲሱ የወግ-አጥባቂ መንግሥት አካሄድ ላይ ችግር በመፈጠሩ የሀገሪቱን የፖለቲካ ሙቀት ከፍ አድርጎት እንደሚገኝ መገንዘብ ተችሏል።

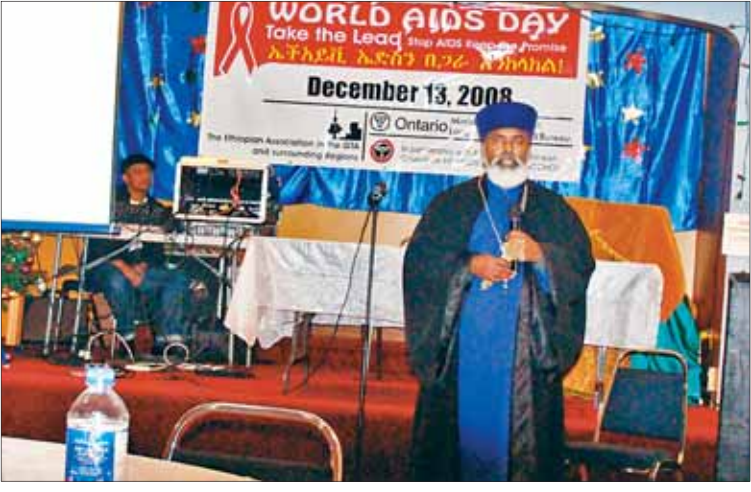
በአይነቱ ልዩ የሆነው ይህ የምክር ቤት ፖለቲካዊ አስጥ አገባ የተፈጠረው፣ ባለፈው ምርጫ ያሸነፈው የፖለቲካ አካል በሀገሪቱ ህግ መሠረት ቀጣዩን የአስተዳደር ሂደት የሚመራበትን ኢኮኖሚያዊና አስተዳደራዊ

ፕሮግራሞች ነድፎ ለፌዴራሉ ምክር ቤት ባቀረበበት ወቅት ነው። በቀረበው ረቂቅ ውስጥ የቀረቡ አንዳንድ ሃሳቦች ተቃዋሚ ፓርቲዎችን እጅግ ከማስቆጣቱም በላይ፣ ከመቅጽበት ወደ ውግዘትና ተባብሮ ወደማጥቃት እርምጃ አሸጋገራቸው። በዚህ የህግ ረቂቅ ላይ የተጠቀሱት አነታራኪ ጉዳዮች፣ አንደኛ፣ የመንግሥት ሠራተኞች ማህበርን የሥራ ማቆም አድማ መብት ለሁለት ዓመት ስለ-ማቀብ፣ 2ኛ በሀገሪቱ ላይ ብሎም በአጠቃላይ በዓለም አቀፍ ደረጃ እየተከሰተ ላለው የኢኮኖሚ ቀውስ መጠገኛ የሚሆን የቀረበ ሃሳብ አለመኖሩና በ3ኛ ደረጃ ተቃዋሚ ፓርቲዎች ከሕዝብ የሚያገኙትን

መዋጮ ስለማጥፋት የሚሉት ሲሆኑ፣ እንደብዙ ታዛቢዎች አመለካከት፣ በ3ኛ ደረጃ የቀረበው - ተቃዋሚ ፓርቲዎችን የሕዝብ ገንዘብ እንዳያገኙ ማገድ የሚለው - ተቀናቃኞችን በከፍተኛ ደረጃ ያስቆጣና ይህን ረቂቅ ህግ ከመሆኑ በፊት ለማስቆም የማይወላውል እርምጃ እንዲወስዱ የገፋፋቸው መሆኑ ተጠቅሷል። በመሆኑም፣ ሦስቱ ተቃዋሚ ፓርቲዎች፣ ማለትም ሊበራል ፓርቲ፣ አዲሱ ዴሞክራሲያዊና የኩቤክን ክፍለ ሀገር ወክሎ በፌደራሉ ምክር ቤት የሚሳተፈው ብሎክ ኩቤክዋን ኡሳኑን አዲስ የወግ አጥባቂ መንግሥት ለመጣል ተነጋገሩ።

ወደ ገጽ 22 ዞሯል

ዓለም አቀፍ የኤችአይቪ/ኤድስ ቀን ታስቦ ዋለ



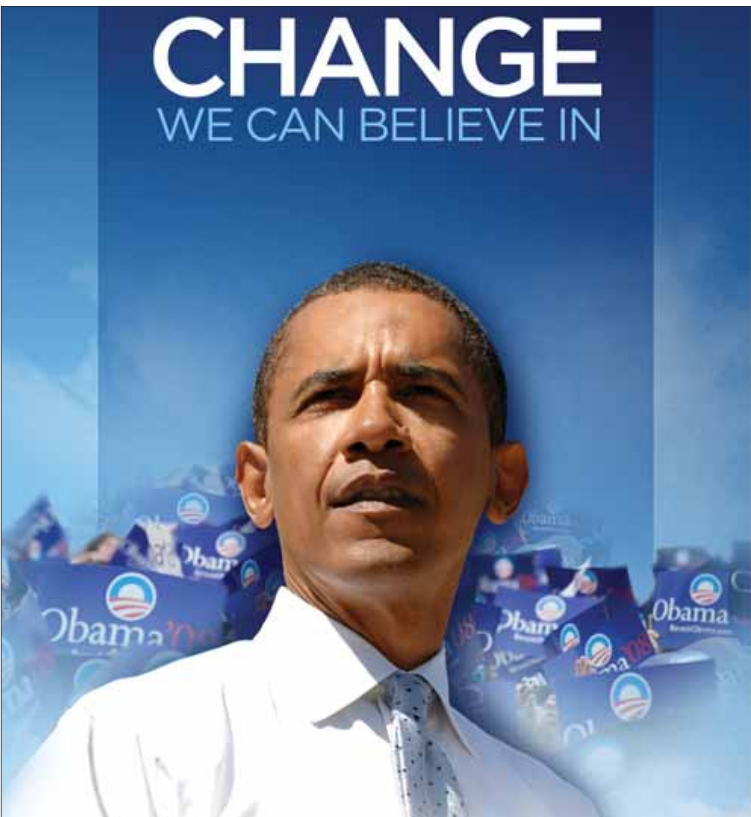
በተላላፊነቱና ቀላፊነቱ ዓለምን ለዓመታት ቀስፎ የያዘው ወረርሽኝ በሽታ ኤችአይቪ/ኤድስ፣ በታህሳሥ ወር መጀመሪያ ላይ በዓለም አቀፍ ደረጃ ታስቦ መዋሉ ይታወሳል። በዚህም መሠረት ይኸው መታሰቢያ በኢትዮጵያዊያን ማህበረሰብ ደረጃ በቶሮንቶ፣ ካናዳ የተካሄደ ሲሆን፣ ዝግጅቱን ያከናወነው የኢትዮጵያዊያን ማህበር በቶሮንቶና አካባቢው ነበር።

መታሰቢያው 40 ደንላንድ ላይ በሚገኘው የግሪክ ቤተ ክርስቲያን የሰብስባ አደራሽ ዲሴምበር 13 ቀን 2008 ዓ.ም ሲካሄድ፣ በዕለቱ የማህበረሰቡ

አባላትና ጥሪ የተደረገላቸው ባለሙያዎችና እንግዶች ተገኝተዋል። ይህን መታሰቢያ አስመልክቶ ለማህበረሰቡ አባላት ገለጻ እንዲያደርጉ ከተጋበዙትና ጥሪውን አክብረው ከተገኙት ባለሙያዎችና የሃይማኖት አባቶች መካከል፣ ሊቀ ካህናት ምሳሌ እንግዳ - ከኢትዮጵያ ኦርቶዶክስ ተዋህዶ ሃይማኖት ቤ/ክ፣ ፓስተር ሚካኤል ተፈራ - ከፍቅር ወንጌል ኢትዮጵያን ቤተ ክርስቲያን እና እንዲሁም ከኢትዮጵያዊያን የእስልምና ሃይማኖት ተከታይ ማህበረሰብ አባላት ሃጂ ሞሃመድ ሰኢድ ነበሩበት።

ወደ ገጽ 22 ዞሯል

ባራክ አባማ አዲሱ የአሜሪካ ፕሬዚዳንት ከአያልነሽ



የዓለምን ልዩነት ጆሮ ስቦ የሠነበተው የአሜሪካ ፕሬዝዳንት ዋይ የምርጫ ፉክክር፣ በላፍሪካን

አሜሪካን ባራክ ዐባማ ለሸናፊነት ሲጠናቀቅ፣ በዚህ ታሪካዊ ወደ ገጽ 19 ዞሯል

የኢትዮጵያዊያን ማህበር በቶሮንቶና አካባቢው ጉባኤ አካሄደ፤



ሰፊ ባለ አገልግሎቱ በካናዳ ደረጃ የሚታወቀው የኢትዮጵያዊያን ማህበር በቶሮንቶና አካባቢው መንፈሳዊ የአባላት ጉባኤውን በቅርቡ አካሄደ።

ጉባኤው የተካሄደው ኖቬምበር 30 ቀን 2008 ዓ.ም በማህበሩ ጽ/ቤት አደራሽ ሲሆን፣ በዕለቱ ቁጥራቸው በርከት ያሉ የማህበሩ አባላት ተገኝተዋል።

የመንፈሳዊ ጉባኤው አላማ ካሁን ቀደም እንደሚደረገው ሁሉ ማህበሩ ባለፉት 6 ወራቶች ውስጥ ያከናወኑትን ለወደፊቱም ያቀዳቸውን መርሃ ግብሮች ለአጠቃላይ አባላቱ ለመግለጽ ነው። ከዚህም አኳያ ከተከናወኑት አቢይ ጉዳዮች መካከል የሀገራችን ኢትዮጵያ 2001 ዓ.ም አዲስ ዓመት አከባቢ

ይገኝበታል። ለዘንድሮው አዲስ ዓመት አከባቢ ማህበሩ ትልቅ ጥረት እንደደረገና ማህበረሰቡ በከፍተኛ ደረጃ እንደተደሰተበት በማህበሩ ፕሬዚዳንት ዶ/ር ቡሻ ታዓና ሌሎች የሥራ አስኪያጆች ካቀረቧቸው ረፖርቶች፣ እንዲሁም ደግሞ የሰብስባው ተሳታፊዎች ከሰነዙሩት መልካም የማበረታቻ አስተያየቶች ማወቅ ተችሏል።

በዚህ መንፈሳዊ ጉባኤ ከተነሱትና ተሰብስቧቸው ከተነጋገሩባቸው ሌሎች ጉዳዮች መካከል፣ የወጣቶችና የሴቶች በማህበሩ እንቅስቃሴ በስፋት የማሳተፍ ጉዳይ፣ በማህበሩ ሥር የሚገኘውን የአዛውንቶች ስብስብ ስለማጠናከርና ማስፋት፣ ማህበሩን ራሱን ስለማስቻልና መሠረታዊ የገቢ ምንጮችን በተመለከተ፣ ስለኤች.አይ. ቪ/ኤድስ አደጋና በሌሎች ጠቃሚ የውይይት ርዕሶች ላይ ሰፊ ያለ ውይይት ተካሂዷል።

Human Rights

ETHIOPIA: CHARGE OR FREE ETHNIC OROMO TERRORISM SUSPECTS



Human Rights Watch | November 27, 2008

NEW YORK (Nov 27) – The Ethiopian government should immediately free 53 ethnic Oromos arrested several weeks ago on allegations of support for terrorism if it cannot credibly charge them, Human Rights Watch said today. Human Rights Watch said that a court should not grant further police requests to extend their detention without charge past a December 1, 2008, deadline, in part because of serious risks of torture.

Ethiopian authorities have arrested more than 100 ethnic Oromo Ethiopians since October 30 in Addis Ababa and across Ethiopia's Oromia region, and 53 remain in detention without charge in Addis Ababa. The government claims they were helping plot terrorist attacks on behalf of the outlawed Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), that they were funding the rebel group or committing other, as yet unspecified crimes linked to terrorism or rebel activity.

"Ethiopia has well-founded fears of terrorist attacks, but has often manipulated those fears to suppress dissent," said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "These mass arrests bear all the hallmarks of the 'imprison first, investigate later' tactics used to arbitrarily detain peaceful critics."

While Ethiopia has valid security concerns related to bombings and other attacks, the government has routinely cited terrorism as a pretext for suppressing nonviolent opposition and arbitrarily detaining peaceful government critics. Over the years, Ethiopia's government has regularly used accusations of support for the Oromo rebels, who have been carrying out a low-level insurgency for a decade, as a pretext for cracking

down on political dissent among the Oromo population.

Those arrested include Bekele Jirata, secretary general of the Oromo Federalist Democratic Movement, an opposition political party with seats in Parliament; three human rights activists working for the Ethiopian Human Rights Council in the town of Nekemte (since released); teachers and university lecturers; and several prominent businessmen and hotel owners. At their last court appearance, some of the detainees said that they had been taken from their cells at night and tortured. Torture has been a routine practice at Addis Ababa's Maikelawi, or Central Investigation Unit, where the detainees are being held.

The Ethiopian government blames the Oromo rebels for numerous grenade and bomb attacks in Addis Ababa and elsewhere in recent years. A public statement by police and intelligence officials on November 22 accused legal opposition parties of harboring terrorists bent on "dismantling the national constitution" within their ranks.

The recent arrests coincide with a massive security deployment in Addis Ababa that took place in response to bombings on October 29. The Ethiopian trade mission in Hargeisa, Somaliland was hit by a suicide bomb attack that claimed at least four Ethiopian civilian lives. It was one of several near-simultaneous attacks in Hargeisa and the semi-autonomous region of Puntland in Somalia that killed at least 25 people, mainly Somali civilians. The attacks may have been carried out, though, by insurgents from Somalia, where the Ethiopian military has been engaged in support of the transitional government since December 2006.

Past arrests of ethnic Oromos have targeted people from all walks of life, including political figures, teenage students, teachers, and civil society activists. In November, the government pardoned and released 44 people convicted of crimes linked to the rebels who had been in prison for long terms. Some had originally been sentenced to life in prison or death.

As Human Rights Watch has suppressing-dissent" documented, gover-

nance in Oromia has long been marked by widespread acts of intimidation, arbitrary arrest, torture and other serious human rights abuses targeting people who criticize the government. Many of those targeted for abuses have done nothing more than to criticize local officials or participate in student protests.

"Ethiopian judges deserve praise when they stand up to order the release of people detained without legal basis," Gagnon said. "But often this only happens after detainees have already been held without charge for punitive lengths of time."

Oromia is Ethiopia's largest and most populous region. Its regional government is controlled by the Oromo People's Democratic Organization (OPDO), a member of the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF).

The Oromo Liberation Front fought alongside the governing party in the struggle to overthrow the Derg dictatorship, but after the war the two organizations fell out with one another.

The OLF was outlawed and its leadership driven from the country. It is now based in Asmara, Eritrea. Relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea have been poisonous since the two countries fought a bloody border war in 1998-1999 that claimed tens of thousands of lives. The border issue remains unresolved.

This pattern of prolonged detention without charge is routine practice in cases of Oromo Ethiopians arrested on accusations of terrorism or of supporting the rebels. Ethiopian courts often

eventually reject police requests for continued detention and order those held to be released – but only after they have spent weeks or months in detention while police claim to look for evidence that could justify their being charged.

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ANALYSIS

HOW CAN OBAMA MANAGE AFRICA'S EUPHORIA?

By Daniel Wallis | November 7, 2008

KOGELO, Kenya (Reuters) - Within hours of Barack Obama's election victory, Kenya sent workers to bring electricity for the first time to his late father's rural village.

Obama may find it hard to bring such fast, tangible benefits to a whole continent that greeted his White House triumph with euphoria and vast expectations.

"Africans must not ask extraordinary things from him, must not expect ... that through the miracle of his election America will drain money on Africa to change our continent," cautioned Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade. "I don't think that's going to happen, and it wouldn't be a good thing."

The appointment of a "son of Africa" to the most powerful position in the world has sent hopes for change soaring.

But given the global economic meltdown, and myriad other foreign policy priorities -- not least Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia and Iran -- the Obama administration's first policy challenge in Africa may just be

managing expectations.

When he does turn his attention to its needs, there will be no easy answers. From fresh fighting in eastern Congo to the crisis in Darfur and intractable conflict in Somalia, many of Obama's intelligence briefings on Africa will be grim.

Priorities include accelerating the continent's integration into the global economy, securing American access to oil and other natural resources in the face of fierce Chinese and Indian competition, and contending with a host of humanitarian crises.

"RARE OPPORTUNITY"

Analyst J. Peter Pham, Africa advisor to Republican candidate John McCain, said Obama's Kenyan ancestry would help drive policy there -- alongside strategic and political concerns.

"The excitement sweeping across Africa now presents (him) with a rare opportunity to translate effusive sentiments of good will into a windfall of diplomatic capital which, if he husbands it prudently, can significantly advance America's values and interests on

the continent while helping to achieve Africans' aspirations for peace, stability, and development," he said.

Obama's personal story has inspired millions across Africa, reducing many to tears of joy and pride when he won.

Some African leaders, however, might privately be feeling a bit nervous. Obama's campaign vowed to strengthen ties with governments and groups committed to democracy and accountability.

Kenyan human rights activist Maina Kiai said Obama had showed his stomach for a fight when he visited South Africa in 2006 as the only black U.S. senator -- criticising President Thabo Mbeki for his slow response to AIDS and urging him to take a tougher stand against Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe.

He then to Kenya, met pro-democracy groups and gave a powerful speech at Nairobi University on human rights.

"The next thing you heard was government officials attacking Obama and saying he doesn't understand Kenya," Kiai said.

"On Darfur, he has been very

strong on it. On Zimbabwe, he has been very clear about the need for change and the need for Mugabe to stop killing and hurting his people ... he has consistently been on the side of the underdog, on the side of the people, the side of right, so hopefully that will continue."

The Nairobi Star agreed, saying Africa should not expect a soft ride from Obama: "In fact he will probably be tougher than Bush or Clinton, if we are to judge by his speech on corruption in Nairobi in 2006."

Kenya's Daily Nation asked why, if the bloodshed seen in Kenya was unthinkable in the United States despite such a hard-fought, heated and lengthy election campaign, was it so common on the world's poorest continent?

"The answer could simply be that we are incapable of harbouring any tolerance for each other's points of view," it said. "True democracy requires tolerance and the ability to give in with grace when we lose a political contest." (Additional reporting by Dakar and Johannesburg staff; Writing by Daniel Wallis; Editing by Andrew Cawthorne)

Another legacy of history's most closely watched ballot might just be the dignity shown by McCain in defeat.

The elation at Obama's win was felt most strongly by Kenyans, who saw their nation

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ETHIOPIAN: CENSUS DATA REPORT WAS REJECTED BY MUSLIMS AFTER CONFERENCE

Saturday, December 13, 2008

Facilitated by Network of Ethiopian Muslims NEME, Ethiopian Muslim organizations, leaders, activists, associations, thinkers and scholars all over the world had a teleconference on the census data and its implications. The conference was a unique one, as the participants tried to be as much candid as possible and let aside the so called political correctness. The conference was transmitted Live to a large audiences on palktalk who had their chance to participate on the conference.

The discussion, in general, continued for about 7 hrs and it would be far beyond this article to convey it. Leaving aside to other mass media the details let us share the core points and the uniqueness of the conference and the discussion.

As there was an absolute consensus, no time was spent on discussing the corruptness of the census data at all. For Ethiopian muslims they lived it for long time, even they

had a time were their very existence was denied. However, a detail was given on how things were developing for the latest census data, which Muslims had some hope of reversing the denial tradition, including under and above ground actors from insiders.

Muslims organization felt that they were let down by the government. That is after they had a land mark journey which they raised several muslim issues directly with the prime minister, which included the census data. A Badr member and one of the top leaders who led the journey expressed this as the "last one of a chain of our demands that we got it slapped on our face", despite the promise. "we have been doing this for the sake of our country and the love that we have for it. We know that the country will never prosper as long as the majority who are Muslims are oppressed." He stressed.

The conference and the discussion was far beyond pointing fingers which Muslims usually do to get a temporary relief to their pain. In fact Muslims



focus on self criticisms and self evaluation. They asked their failure to have any kind of impact of what so ever on the ground. "What would you bring if they were to claim Muslims as 2%?", one activist asked. A hot debate and discussion followed this reality, to get deeper and touch the reality.

Many found it to be things deeper than simple numbers and far beyond the existing regime. History and experience was briefly visited including the changes the country has seen with regime changes. "There are variables and static or invariable parts of policies", a thinker and a scholar explained. "Policies regarding muslims issues are among the fixed, un-

changing part of the policies", he continued. He warned that some muslims should not be deluded by the variables, and should not expect that a solution by changing a prime minister or individuals, but within inside.

All participants have come to a conclusion that to shake the invariables and bring justice and coexistence based on mutual respect, muslims should show their existence in reality, regardless of what the paper says. There was an understanding that blame lies on muslims themselves, not on christian elites and media who organized themselves to their own objective no matter how narrow and greedy their target

might be.

"Good News! Good News!" it was that amazing person once again. Everybody who is dismayed by what is going on was surprised to hear him saying this at a time muslims thought that the good news are far beyond their imagination.

"You might be surprised that I see a good news at statistical data which slaughtered millions of muslim! That apparently is not a good news, but nothing is new about this. The good news is that a record number of Ethiopian muslims are gathering and patiently discussed this single issue for a record length of time. For the first time I see muslims feeling the pain and expressing their readiness to bring a change. I am optimistic that change is coming and that is the GOOD NEWS!!!"

Of the how to react a short, a medium and a long run actions were proposed. They include legal, political and social activities to increase the awareness and expose how flawed the census data is, but in scientific and organized way.

WAR CRIMES DEVASTATE POPULATION



Human Rights Watch | December 8, 2008

All parties in the escalating conflict in Somalia have regularly committed war crimes and other serious abuses during the past year that have contributed to the country's humanitarian catastrophe, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. Human Rights Watch urged the United States, the European Union, and other major international actors to rethink their flawed approaches to the crisis and support efforts to ensure accountability.

The 104-page report,

"So Much to Fear: War Crimes and the Devastation of Somalia," describes how the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG), the Ethiopian forces that intervened in Somalia to support it and insurgent forces have committed widespread and serious violations of the laws of war. Frequent violations include indiscriminate attacks, killings, rape, use of civilians as human shields, and looting. Since early 2007, the escalating conflict has claimed thousands of civilian lives, displaced more than a million people, and driven out most of the population

of Mogadishu, the capital. Increasing attacks on aid workers in the past year have severely limited relief operations and contributed to an emerging humanitarian crisis. "The combatants in Somalia have inflicted more harm on civilians than on each other," said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "There are no quick fixes in Somalia, but foreign governments need to stop adding fuel to the fire with misguided policies that empower human rights abusers."

Somalia has been without a functioning government since 1991, and a UN peacekeeping operation withdrew in failure in 1995. The years since have been violent and chaotic. In December 2006, Ethiopian military forces intervened to back Somalia's weak TFG against a coalition of Islamic courts that had won control of Mogadishu. In the past two years, the conflict has escalated dramatically, and internationally backed peace talks have failed to make any impact on the ground.

The report draws on interviews with more than 80 witnesses and victims of abuses, who described attacks by all the warring parties in stark detail. Each party to the conflict has indiscriminately fired on civilian neighborhoods in Mogadishu on an almost daily basis, leveling homes without warning and killing civilians in the streets. Insurgent forces have regularly carried out ambushes and roadside bombings in

markets and residential areas, and launched mortars from within densely populated neighborhoods. Ethiopian forces have reacted to insurgent attacks with indiscriminate heavy rocket and artillery fire, with devastating impact on civilians. TFG security forces and allied militia have tortured detainees, and killed and raped civilians and looted their homes, sometimes in the context of house-to-house joint security operations with Ethiopian troops. Ethiopian forces, who were relatively disciplined in 2007, have been more widely implicated in acts of violent criminality this year. Insurgent forces have threatened and murdered civilians they view as unsympathetic to their cause and have forcibly recruited civilians, including children, into their ranks.

The full horror of these abuses can be captured only through the stories of Somalis who have suffered through them. Human Rights Watch interviewed teenage girls raped by TFG security forces, parents whose children were cut to pieces in their own homes by Ethiopian rockets, and people shot in the streets by insurgent fighters for acts as trivial as working as a low-paid messenger for TFG offices. One young man described watching a group of Ethiopian soldiers rape his mother and sisters in their home. "And I was sitting there helpless," he said. "I could not help my mother or help my sisters."

For many, the worst of it is being caught between all three sides at once. One young man was given an ultimatum by radical Islamist Al Shabaab fighters in his neighborhood to join them or face retribution. Days later, he came home from school to find that his mother had been killed and his house destroyed in an unrelated artillery bombardment. "The world has largely ignored the horrors unfolding in Somalia, but Somali families are still left to confront violence that grows with every passing day," Gagnon said. "Even those who try to flee find that the violent abuses follow them."

Hundreds of thousands of Mogadishu's poorest residents, lacking the money to travel further, have congregated in sprawling displaced persons camps along the Mogadishu-Aigooye road, but the indiscriminate fighting they fled has followed them there. Tens of thousands of Somali refugees have also fled the country this year. Kenya's Dadaab refugee camps are now the largest concentration of refugees anywhere in

the world, with nearly 250,000 inhabitants. But the journey itself is perilous. Human Rights Watch interviewed many refugees who had been robbed, raped, or beaten by freelance militias as they fled Somalia.

Kenya's border with Somalia is closed, leaving refugees at the mercy of abusive smugglers and corrupt Kenyan police.

Hundreds of Somalis have drowned trying to cross the Gulf of Aden to Yemen, often after being forced overboard or abandoned at sea by traffickers.

The United States, the European Union, and governments in the region have taken few positive steps to address the worsening situation in Somalia, and have too often taken actions that have made it worse. Ethiopia is a party to the conflict, but has done nothing to ensure accountability for abuses by its soldiers.

The United States, treating Somalia primarily as a battlefield in the "global war on terror," has pursued a policy of uncritical support for transitional government and Ethiopian actions, and the resulting lack of accountability has fueled the worst abuses. The European Commission has advocated direct support for the transitional government's police force without insisting on any meaningful action to improve the force and combat abuses.

In recent months, the conflict has increasingly spread into neighboring regions and countries in the form of bombings and other attacks - precisely what Ethiopia's military intervention in 2006 sought to prevent. During the latter half of 2008, there have been suicide bombings in the previously more stable semi-autonomous regions of Somaliland and Puntland, as well as rampant piracy on the high seas, and kidnappings across the border in Kenya.

"The Somali crisis is not just a nightmare for its people, it is a regional threat and a global problem," Gagnon said. "The world cannot afford to wait any longer to find more effective ways of addressing it."

Human Rights Watch called for a fundamental review of policy toward Somalia and the entire Horn of Africa in Washington, where the Obama administration will have an opportunity to break with the failed policies of its predecessor, and in European capitals.

It also called for the establishment of a UN-sponsored Commission of Inquiry to investigate violations of international law, map the worst abuses, and lay the groundwork for accountability.

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AFRICA: A UNITED INNOVATIVE RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL RECESSION '08

By Mammo Muchie

Inspiration!

"We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking, if mankind is to survive." - Albert Einstein

"The boom ... creates out of itself an objective situation, which ... makes an end of the boom, leads easily to a crisis, necessarily to a depression, and hence to a temporary position of relative steadiness and absence of development." - J. Schumpeter

1. Introduction:

The 1929 depression started in the USA and it evolved into a global economic crisis. The 2008 recession started in the USA, like a contagion it has now engulfed the whole world.

The great depression started with a stock market crash on October 29, 1929.

The Great depression continued for 10 years in the USA until the US war recovery in 1939!

In 1929 much of Africa was under the colonial yoke, except for a few countries, one of which is our own precious motherland, Ethiopia, which kept alive

the hope and possibility both in time and history the resistance and liberation imagination of Africa and all colonized peoples both in trying and non-trying transitions.

Today many African countries are politically independent and economically under heavy donor influence.

Views are sharply polarized regarding what the impact of the current recession, which is very unlikely to ebb in the next few years, would be on Africa's development and opportunity. Some say Africa's marginalization is paradoxically a condition that may be more insulating rather than exposing Africa to danger.

Others say marginalization is likely to make the recession, as it works itself out through the economic cycles across the globe severe and punishing on Africa.

Still others claim that the global recession may not have negative impact on the short term, but is likely to have long-term negative consequences especially in regions of the world where the number of the poor has been growing as in Africa.



2. Learning from the Great Depression for dealing with the 2008 Global Recession

The current global recession is likely to impact adversely on Africa despite claims that Africa's relative marginalization is a blessing in disguise. It is precisely because Africa is marginalized that as time goes by the recession will severely affect it.

- Whatever one says, many African economies will have to lower exports to the economies undergoing financial crises.

- They will face constraints to earn foreign credit.

- They will face problems in attracting capital flows and foreign direct investment.

- Their foreign exchange will be lower as a consequence of weaker demand and even lower prices for their commodities.

- They are likely to face unsettling fluctuations in their currency specially those linked or pegged to the US dollar, the Euro and other daily fluctuating currencies.

In the short term, the key impact of the global recession is the likely reduction in world demand for Africa's largely agricultural and mineral exports. Even the price of oil has gone down to \$48

a barrel now!

The other key impact is the difficulties the recession induces in controlling macro-economic policy.

The up and down swings of the markets and currencies make it harder for countries specially the vulnerable ones to maintain macro-economic stability.

In the 1929 great depression China was on a silver standard. Whilst those economies in the Gold standard suffered severely, China, though affected as well, was largely able to maintain relatively a stable currency during the depression.

I was recently in Bamako, Mali flying from South Africa. I was surprised that that the South African Rand was not one of the currencies the CFA is used to exchange with. I could not use the Rand. But I was able to use euros and dollars.

When I speak that Africa needs one currency, many people snap back and say this is pie in the sky. I say which is pie in the sky, 50 or so currencies that are weak, or one currency, if forged, that is going to be strong?

Those who wish to remain with fragmented economies and currencies are in the camp that has made Africa the loser over the last 50 years of post colonial freedom.

For Africa to secure agency in macro-economic policy, it needs a unified currency. Without developing such a currency Africa will always be a victim when the global economy moves from boom to bust, up and down and swings with cyclical movements.

3. What Kind of Monetary system for Africa?

A monetary system for the making of free Africa requires a substantially different approach from the process of monetary integration within the EU.

Unlike the European monetary approach to create an optimal currency area, an African monetary system is central to forging Africa's emancipation. An African currency union will

reverse the history of Africa's grand oppression into an autobiography of liberation. It is thus a qualitatively different system differing in purpose, functioning, objective and intention from the pattern of monetary union of Europe where the issue is to unify fairly well functioning currencies in order to exploit the advantage of an enlarged market.

Africa's currency union is part of the overall struggle to mobilize finance internally in the effort to inter-connect states, peoples, communities, regions, economies, households, families, individuals and markets across Africa.

Once Africa has an integrated economic and political system, it would create the necessary condition to forge a real partnership with all types of economies and regions of the world.

A unified African currency must be made stable so that those engaged in transaction can benefit without inflation and/or deflationary pressures. Acts of discrimination and restrictions on legitimate or lawful transactions in all markets must be forbidden.

The trade system within Africa must be open, free and fair. Leading members of the AU community must guarantee and underwrite the smooth and stable functioning of an African currency. These members can be selected from the regions based on consensus and consent.

The transition from the state-based currency system to the African monetary system must be based on lawful, non-dislocation and evolutionary strategy. In addition, it must be voluntary and based on persuasion, consent and the pursuit of common objectives.

The transition requires that states be willing and committed to co-ordinate monetary, interest and budgetary policies amongst themselves with an understanding that currency integration adds to their sovereignty rather than subtract it.

The dollar has an overall overarching influence in the continent today. In some countries, it is freely used as a means of exchange. If there is no unified currency union, Africa will be a battleground between the Euro and the dollar.

The Yen may not be as influential as the Euro and the dollar in Africa, but it is in the wings.

These three currencies will compete in Africa and the AU must prepare the ground to found a currency union to protect Africa's developmental aspirations.

continued on p(16)



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AFRICA: A UNITED INNOVATIVE RESPONSE TO THE GLOBAL RECESSION '08

continued from p(14)

4. The Transition needs to be smooth and not chaotic

An African monetary union is one important way of moving closer to making the Pan-African vision a reality. The necessary conditions for making moves towards a Pan-African monetary union include the following:

Making or going for a smooth transition of power from France and EU to integrate the CFA frank zone to the African Union without breaking up the common monetary area. In addition, to upgrade, adjust and persuade the states in the Rand monetary area and other bilateral and multilateral efforts such as the East African common market to join the all-African monetary system.

In other words, Africans must find ways of making smooth and non-chaotic transitions from regional monetary areas to an all African monetary system.

A new liquidity creating mechanism backed by Africa's mineral resources and African Union confidence-building measures to support an African currency to circulate freely in the member states.

- A determined effort to re-

link with the IMF, countries like France or the European Union on their clear acceptance of Africa's national developmental priorities and not Africa's continued indebtedness to them by preventing them to take a leading role in designing an all-African currency union

- To negotiate the par value amongst the Euro, the dollar and the African currency for the purposes of managing Africa's foreign trade in the service of African development with the rest of the world.

- To control the authority of adjustment of the African currency to the dollar and Euro in the AU.

- To create and manage a dual currency system where like the Chinese Yuan, the African currency is convertible by becoming a unit of account and means of payment for stimulating inter-African trade and investment.

There should be a build up of foreign reserves backed by mineral wealth and the growth of Africa's labour productivities from which a foreign transaction account can be kept for the purposes of trading outside Africa.

The key importance of a currency union and an inconvertible African currency is to make



it possible to raise domestic financing by enlarging the domestic market and stimulating a comprehensive and an integrated development of the continent.

Africa's monetary union is not conceived to join together existing currencies but to overcome the weaknesses of the admittedly weak and fragmented existing currencies.

The monetary arrangement can be designed in such a way that Africans consume the products they produce, and discourage them from consuming luxury items for the few who own foreign dollars and Euros.

Much of politically independent Africa did not have the political will, in spite of appreciating the need to do so by a number of the first post-colonial leaders of the time, to create a monetary union in the 1960s at a time when the moment provided the opportunity to undertake such bold steps.

The question is, will the current 2008 global recession serve as a wake up call and spur African leadership to develop the collective political purpose to take risk in the interest of Africa? The positive thing for Africa is, if indeed, this recession provides the missing wake up call to go for what would enhance African self-empowerment, self-respect, self-confidence and dignity.

Incidentally, the positive thing for Africa from the success that a brother is in the White House is to learn that Africa can also do it by uniting and achieving independence and agency. It is not good to expect a brother in the White House to save Africa, not least expect to donorise Africa or turn Kenya into the 51 member state of the USA, as some exited people in Kenya called for! That is neither fair on a brother and nor on Africa!!!

Finally, the way to overcome fragmentation and dependence and being caught in falling into periodic financial and stock market crises is for Africa to create a monetary union and an African currency that we have dubbed 'AFREE.' The latter currency is necessary to create producer user interaction across the continent to make Africans consume what other Africans produce in a large and dependable and independent African economy free from any old or new rising imperial powers and also to secure insulation from the rogue credit crises swings that mirror the episodic business cycle often endemic to the functioning of the world economy now or in the future.

5. Concluding Remark

The medium and long term impact of the global economic and financial crises will be severe on Africa. To say that marginalization will save Africa is plainly inaccurate and myopic if not stupid entirely.

Africa must learn to do what it has not been able to do over half a century, that is think, learn, feel, do and behave with coherence to create an economic, financial and currency integration of the African economy.

The picture of Africa conveyed by various international institutions is rather grim and depressing. 35 of the 49 least developed countries are in Africa. It is said that nearly 70 % of the African population live on less than 2 dollars a day. It

has been reported more people are falling in poverty as a consequence of this global recession. It has been alleged that more than 26 million people are afflicted with HIV/AIDS. One million people a year die of malaria. More than 40 % of the African population lacks safe drinking water. Health care and education critical for changing ill being into well being and productive power are reported to be woefully inadequate. (See Mohammed Hassan, World Apart Together, Nature (International weekly journal of Science), 456, 6-8, 30 October 2008)

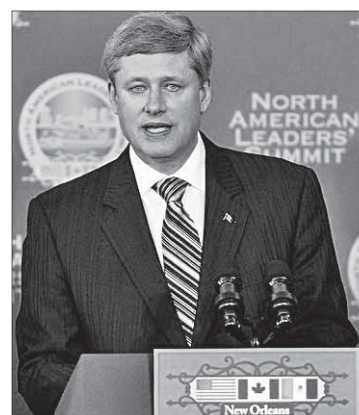
Given such a picture, the way out is not celebrating Africa's marginalization. The hypothesis that the African economy as a region has not been fully integrated is a help to avoid being caught in the falling banks and falling stock markets is unthinking, facile and twisted. In reality the fact that Africa is not fully integrated as an economy 'sui generis' is likely to impact adversely on each of the fragmented and dependent entities.

China had the Silver standard in 1929- remained largely untouched by the Great depression. It has now a non-convertible Yuan that keeps her affected less though its economy is more integrated today!

Africa must learn to go for what would work, establish a unitary currency as part of the grand effort to win its agency to manage its own united macro-economy!

Mammo Muchie is NRF/DST Research Professor at IERI, TUT, Pretoria, South Africa, and Professor and coordinator of DIIPER at Aalborg University in Denmark and chairman of the Network of Ethiopian Scholars (NES).

CANADIAN PM WINS SUSPENSION OF PARLIAMENT MODULE BODY



By Randall Palmer and David Ljunggren

OTTAWA (Reuters) - Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper won a rare suspension of Parliament on Thursday, managing to avoid being ousted by opposition parties angry over the minority Conservative government's economic plans and an attempt to cut off party financing.

Governor General Michaëlle Jean -- the representative of Queen Elizabeth, Canada's head of state -- agreed to Harper's request to shut down Parliament until Jan 26. Parliament was reconvened just weeks ago after the October

14 election.

Harper's request for suspension was unprecedented. No prime minister had asked for Parliament to be suspended to avoid a confidence vote in the House of Commons.

Such a vote had been set for Monday and the Conservatives almost certainly would have lost it, and faced the possibility of being replaced by a coalition of opposition parties.

After a two-hour meeting with the governor general, Harper reaffirmed his promise to present a budget on Jan 27 and called on the opposition to work with the government over the next few weeks to tackle the effects of the global financial crisis.

"Today's decision will give us an opportunity -- and I'm talking about all the parties -- to focus on the economy and to work together," he told reporters.

The opposition Liberals, New Democrats and the separatist Bloc Quebecois -- all to the left of the Conservatives -- had signed a deal to defeat the Conservatives and put forward a Liberal-New Democrat coalition to form a new government.

The Bloc, which wants to take French-speaking Quebec out of Canada, pledged to back the coalition's budgets and general policy direction.

The governor general's role in government, as representative of the Crown, is largely ceremonial, though she has the final word on constitutional matters. Should the government be defeated in a confidence vote, she would decide whether to call a new election or allow the opposition to form a coalition government.

CONSTITUTIONAL BATTLE

Harper's gambit was the latest development in a constitutional battle that erupted last week after he tried to eliminate direct subsidies of political parties, a move that would have hit the opposition particularly hard.

He backed down on that, but the opposition parties also say they are upset that the government has not dealt adequately with the economic crisis and said it had lost the confidence of the House of Commons.

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion,

who would have become prime minister under the opposition's coalition plan, said nothing he heard from Harper on Thursday had changed his mind about trying to bring down the government. However, he did appear to open the door a crack to not proceeding with such a plan.

"This is about replacing Stephen Harper unless he made a monumental change," he told a news conference. "It means a recovery plan, a real recovery plan." The New Democrats and Bloc maintained their insistence that Harper could not be trusted and must be removed, as did some members of Dion's Liberal caucus.

"You can run but you can't hide," said Bob Rae, who is looking to become Liberal leader when Dion steps down early in May. He predicted the opposition would topple Harper early next year. However the front-runner in the Liberal leadership race, Michael Ignatieff, said he imagined Jean may have told Harper "to have a think" and that would be good advice for all politicians on both sides of the dispute.

Liberal legislator Keith Martin told reporters after a caucus meeting that bringing the Conservatives down was "not at all" a done deal.

In the back of their minds may be the fact that in much of the country the idea of a formal agreement with the separatists did not go down well.

An Ekos opinion poll taken as the crisis reached its peak showed the Conservatives had shot up in popularity to 44 percent, enough to get a parliamentary majority if an election were held today, up from the 37.6 percent they received in the October 14 vote.

Liberal support dropped to 24.1 percent from 26.2 percent, the New Democrats fell to 14.5 percent from 18.2 percent and the Bloc edged down to 9.2 percent from 10.0 percent.

The poll, released late on Thursday by CBC television, covered 2,536 respondents from December 2-3 and carried a 1.9 point margin of error, 19 times out of 20.

(Additional reporting by Louise Egan, editing by Peter Galway)



SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP)

WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The human rights situation in most of Africa and other parts of the world is deplorable despite the declared adherence by most countries to respect the articles in the Universal Declaration of human rights (1948). In Ethiopia, where a dictatorship regime cynically claims adherence to world human rights declarations and law the human rights situation is worse than deplorable.

The world we live in being a playground for double standards and cruel real politics those who shout aloud against human rights violations in some countries (Zimbabwe for example) are the same ones aiding and abetting the human rights violators in Ethiopia. The regime of Meles Zenawi, on of the recipients of the biggest western aid to Africa, holds more than 35,000 political prisoners in

dungeons and labor camps like Dedesa and Zwai, has muzzled the independent press, disappeared dozens, decreed a draconian press law, drafted a repressive law to hinder the activities of autonomous NGOs, dissolved autonomous civic bodies, committed massacres from Gambella to the Ogaden, killed hundreds of peaceful protesters, rigged the last general election and imposed its rule

by the force of arms and repression. By all standards and especially in relation to the Universal Declaration, the regime in Addis Ababa is one of the worst human rights violators in Africa and the world.

SOCEPP does not accept double standards and strongly opposes those who consider that Ethiopia and Africa as a whole should be treated under a different human rights scale

or consideration. The respect of human rights must be universal just as the rights but 60 years after the Declaration this truth is not yet obvious or accepted by all and this is why, political considerations aside, tyrants wiggle their way out of ostracism and condemnation. SOCEPP strongly condemns the repressive regime of Meles Zenawi and calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners.

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የአበሻ ቀን መቁጠሪያ፤ ማሕተምና በገንዘብ ካርድ

ጠቅላላ የጎትመት ሥራዎች በአማርኛና በእንግሊዝኛ እንሰራለን

ታይፕ ሴቲንግ ዲዛይንና እንዲሁም ግራፊክስ

**NEW
TRANSFER FEE**



NEW TRANSFER FEE TO ETHIOPIA!

Send up to \$100 for **\$9*** fee
using your Preferred Customer Card⁽¹⁾

Transfer Fee from participating Agent locations in Ontario and Alberta**

Enroll for your
Preferred Customer
Card at participating
Agent locations.
Free to enroll⁽²⁾

**WESTERN
UNION** | [®]



Fast, reliable, worldwide money transfer.

*In addition to the transfer fee, Western Union also makes money from the exchange of currencies.

** Fees valid for consumer to consumer money transfers from participating Agent locations in the provinces of Ontario and Alberta as of June 9, 2008. Subject to change without notice.

(1) Preferred Customer benefits are subject to change without notice. Regular transfer fee to send from Ontario and Alberta to Ethiopia without using the Preferred Customer Card from \$0.01 to \$100 is \$10, from \$100.01 to \$400 is \$12 and from 400.01 and up 3% of the principal amount.

(2) Valid photo identification is required to enroll.

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