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Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)

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EPRP DENOUNCES THE MILITARY COOPERATION
BETWEEN DJIBOUTI AND THE MELES ZENAWI REGIME

The EPRP has over the years condemned the unholy alliance between Djibouti and the Meles Zenawi regime, an alliance that has worked against Ethiopian refugees and the interest of the people in the region. Omar Gelleh's dictatorial regime is presently waging war against the Afar in its land and in Ethiopia with the full cooperation of the Meles regime.

Recently a few hundred Djibouti youngsters selected mainly from the Issa ethnic group (of president Gelleh) have come to Awash Arba military training center to be given military training by Ethiopian special commando officers themselves trained by America special forces in Blattein. Reports also indicate that Gelleh's wife, Kadra Mahamoud Said, has also sent to Awash some Issa youths (Habr Awal clan) from self declared independent Somaliland. According to Djibouti, the Ethiopian trained youths are to be stationed at the Djibouti—Eritrea border but those in the know state that they will be deployed, since they are trained for counter insurgency operations, against the Afar rebels of the FRUD movement now battling in the North against the Gelleh regime. The Meles regime has given vast tracts of land to the Djibouti president and his family and closed its eyes when armed Issas have attacked Afars of Ethiopia to grab land.

In the past, the unholy alliance has led to the deportation of dozens of Ethiopian refugees back to Ethiopia and the carte blanche given to the Meles death squads to attack Ethiopian political exiles in Djibouti. The evident attempt by Meles to fan the Eritrean Djibouti rift holds in its fold the ongoing war mongering campaign of the regime in Addis Ababa as it destabilizes the Horn of Africa region as a whole. The interest of Ethiopia was not served and will not be served by the Meles-Gelleh alliance. On the contrary. This being the case the EPRP denounces the military cooperation between Meles and Gelleh against Afars in Ethiopia and Djibouti and against the interests and democratic aspirations of the two peoples.

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