

The Standard of Right & Wrong

By

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Jeremy Bentham, in his introduction to the Principles of Moral and Legislation, 1789 ..(1823) said “mankind governed by pain and pleasure. Nature has placed mankind under the governance of two sovereign masters, pain and pleasure. It is for them alone to point out what we ought to do, as well as to determine what we shall do....”.

In other words according to his explanation man is made of these two masters that we didn't even know we are slaves of their commands. So, why we do right and wrong depend on those two principles. The recent news that is broadly highlighted in majority of the Ethiopian websites equal to the news of the opposition that are sentenced for life by TPLF government in Ethiopia is the released of Ato Siye Abraha one of the leading figure of TPLF (Tigray People Liberation Front). Many express their joy on his release. It is human to express joy when justice served at last, though it was served after damage done to him and his family above all to the principal justice.

Here is my problem. I am still puzzled by the different communities, organizations, individuals, websites....the way they express their joy in particular to the Siye's release when compared to other Ethiopian prisoners post release or pre release from prison. Community is composed of individual persons who are considered as constituting as it were its members (though Jeremy Bentham calls it *fictitious body*), as Siye Abraha is a member of one of the Ethiopian community as an Ethiopian (Ethiopian from Tigray), so do other prisoners like Abera Yemaneab (Ethiopian from Eritrea), Fitawrari Mekonnen Dori (Ethiopian from Gambela/South? Pardon me for my accuracy of his birth place), Abera Berta, Tsegaye Gebre Medhin, Yisehak Debre Tsion (Ethiopian from Eritrea/North), Belete Amaha, Mohammed Amede, Adem kamil, Zewditu Deressa (Ethiopian Oromo),

many prisoners in an underground prison and in Mekele Central prison arrested for many, many years without seeing no court or dragging their cases as Siye's situation was made to be dragged endlessly. Prisoners of conscience victims of TPLF/EPRDF's persecution are by thousands, that included journalists, political activists, teachers, workers, peasants, from all walk of life are in detention in TPLF/EPRDF's prison and dungeons still there. Why did now the Tigrayan community in the Diaspora highlighted Siye's release as the greatest victory and joy they ever saw in prisoner's release on their websites and their press releases accompanied with poems and colorful images they didn't show when other prisoner's of conscience were released from prison? I am sure they might have some press release when Dr.Taye Wolde Semayat was released, but not as joyous and colorful articles or expression of dismay and comments of open letters sent to the TPLF government as was dedicated to Siye Abraha's post release.

For example Ato Abera Yemaneab was prisoner of conscience jailed since 1993 till 2005 and then released and rearrested, has been condemned for 25 years of imprisonment. He has already done twelve, detained from the Bole airport in Addis Ababa when he arrived for a Peace and Reconciliation Conference in December 1993. The illegal detention and the railroading of Abera had been condemned by SOCEPP and other human rights organizations though some like Amnesty International chose to believe the repressive Meles regime and to ignore his illegal detention. Abera was the foreign relations head of the opposition Coalition of Ethiopian Democratic Forces and his detention was a political act of revenge on the part of the Meles Zenawi regime. In Ethiopia, the judiciary is under the control of the ruling party/TPLF-EPRDF/ which is controlled by Meles Zenawi and his few close colleagues. Despite this, a court ordered the immediate release of Abera in April 1994 but the authorities ignored the court order and, obeying a direct order from Prime Minister Meles, they took Abera to the Kerchiele prison. After twelve years and a failed court process he was again released by a court, which sentenced him to ten years imprisonment while he had already done twelve. He was released but ordered not to leave the country to see his family in Washington DC. Now, he has been condemned for a 25 years prison term and has been taken to Kaliti.

The case of Abera Yemaneab is an example of the travesty of justice that has become the feature of the Meles Zenawi regime. He is in prison not for any crime he is alleged to have committed during the Red Terror but for

opposing the rule of the Meles Zenawi regime'. Were those brothers and sisters hold a teleconference rights after they heard Abera Yemaneab's release, rearrested, "**condemned**" on their press release for taking him to Kality again? If not, why not? We say we express our joy when justice served in an equal thesis. But, when justice is not served to another community member, we failed to express our pain and anguish to tell the world that we share his/her pain when he/she suffered, not only we failed to express our feelings and sympathy during his/her suffering, but also during his release from the suffering if he/she is not a close member of our so called "COMMUNITY/SOCIETY", Abera's case that I brought is as an example was not a special case from others, but his case was to remind readers and concerned people who were congratulating Siye Abraha's release that Abera Yemaneab's case was as fresh as seven months or so ago that he was released and taken back again to Kality. If it was not thanks to only Solidarity Committee For Ethiopian Political Prisoners (SOCEPP), no one highlighted, concerned, release a press, or interviews his son or his family to express our sympathy. Why? Because, Abera was suspected as Derg member? Who could say with his/her full confidence, unless destabilized mind, that TPLF is not Derg? TPLF is the most historically worst embarrassing anti Ethiopian sovereignty and dignity, the most brutal and abusive murderer and criminal entity similar to Deg if not worst than Derg. Therefore, Siye was a leading member of such entity, if Siye deserve all the congratulations accompanied poems of "DAGIM TEWELEDE JJEGNA, why not Abera Yemaneab? Abera as an Eritrean didn't participate in the Eritrean conspiracy? It was Siye and the rest of the Tigrayans as Ethiopian from the proud Tigray who participated in the conspiracy of land-locking Ethiopia to serve Eritrea! Therefore, The congratulations to Siye from Tigray International Solidarity for Justice and Democracy, the press release from Coordinating Committee (Tigrayans in Canada, Us), and those from individuals need also to focus and do the same effort as they do highlighted pre & post Siye's release from prison. It is then when we do that, the standard of right and wrong is measured. Our standard is measured through our action that we share to all in an equal footage not through ethnic or political affiliation or some kind of family lineage. I hope no one takes my comment as personal; I am puzzled by what I am observing. We need to get out of the ethnicity cage and lined up to stand on the stage of balance/justice that weigh us all according to our standard of right and wrong.//--// The Lions not the Camels prevail!!