

The election of May 23, 2010 undoubtedly exposed the regime's outright, front and back, hatred it has for Ethiopia and its people. It has never, ever, shown respect for Ethiopian people. Its approach to the people was always with low-regard and contempt. The disrespect for national symbols, deliberately brushing off or writing off historical cultural connections between ethnic groups are part and parcel of despise and contempt the regime has for the people of Ethiopia. Where else except in Ethiopia would one find a regime surviving this long with this kind of attitudinal relationship with the society it claims administering? This arrogantly displayed attitudinal relationship is one of the reasons validating the taking back of Ethiopia.

This election also manifested its mafia behavior. Mafiosi is written all over it. It did what ever it takes to win the election: decreed draconian laws to suppress the activities of the press; decreed laws to curtail the activities of the civil societies by associating it with terrorism. It used every conceivable methods and tactics to completely buy out and induce corruption into the moral values of every profession, at every level of the societies activities including using commodities such as fertilizers as the means. All available facilities in its possession, including civic and military institutions supposedly owned by the people were used and still being used against the very proprietor.

In addition to these treasonable activities, the regime murdered, tortured, imprisoned, harassed, and denied economic benefits to the targeted individuals who are legally entitled. Voters were told they could loose food assistance, public sector jobs, loans and educational opportunities if they voted against the ruling regime. (Human Rights Watch). Here is the crux of the matter. The difference between internationally known mafia groups and Meles Zenawi's group is that Meles Zenawi did it and still doing it openly using his Office. For example, Meles Zenawi did not, and does not, need a secret hit man to murder an individual or groups of individuals, or, do any other inconceivable dirty jobs. He used and still using his security forces. Do you see the picture. Ethiopia is being ruled by a mafia group. No question about it. Therefore, it is time, in fact it is long overdue, to take back Ethiopia from the hands of its destroyers.

In addition, the election of May 23, 2010 concretized the arguments I put forward showing that the regime in Ethiopia is an invading and a treasonous regime. I have pasted bellow to refresh your memory from the article of May 19, 2010: **WHAT IF MELES REJECTS THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION?**

The actions it took that established it is an invading power:

- 1) It literally emptied the Development Bank of Ethiopia. It is a deliberate act on the part of the regime to ruthlessly erase the multifaceted developmental activities, such as in agriculture, health, education and other social activities that depend on the bank for the only source of investment.
- 2) Stealing gold from a bank. The gold belongs to the people of Ethiopia. A ruling party of the people, by the people, and for the people, mind you as a party, not as one corrupt individual, will not steal the gold. Only an invading power, say, such as Italy, would have done this type of systematic and professional robbery and load it to Italy. Where did Meles and his regime load the gold to?
- 3) Using construction, a professionally calculated scheme, to fill their pockets with millions of dollars that has already found its home somewhere in the Western countries. Please refer to the article for the three methods the regime used and still using to steal money, using construction as a cover. The discussed methods in the article are: building

colleges, building roads and the hospital built in Tigry.

Any form of constructions, be it roads or railroads, while the people are getting poorer, and poorer, and poorer, and on the other hand while the regime and its cronies are getting richer, and richer, and richer, it is not an investment, it is disinvestments. It is lavishly feasting on the flesh and blood of current and future generations of Ethiopian society. I think this fact has to sink in, and sink in well. The World bank, the IMF and of course the United States government behind it are lavishly providing the means to do it. It is being the financial sources for criminal and genocidal regimes such as the regime in Ethiopia. I sincerely hope that there will come a time when the expansion of global economy would make these two institutions to be insignificant, if not irrelevant.. Let it be noted that I have a different take on hydro electric or irrigation dam building which I will not go into it now.

The actions it took that prove it is a treasonous regime:

Treason against a state is punishable by law. What is unique about the situation in Ethiopia is that the treason is done by the ruling party, TPLF, a regime not governed by rule of law. A treasonous act on a state almost always is done by an individual or organized groups of individuals, randomly, but not by the head of the state and its regime. In Ethiopia it is done by Meles the prime minister and his regime.

a) It divided the country into ethnic and language regions with the motive to instigate division and strife among the neighboring ethnic groups that interacted and co-existed in peace for hundreds of years if not thousands.

b) It constructed article "39" and made it part of the so called constitution. Unnecessarily added "up to and including cessation" with deliberate intent thereby building a triggering mechanism into the system to flare up contradictions among the peacefully co-existing neighboring ethnic groups.

c) It put "a" and "b" above into full motion to facilitate and hasten the destruction of Ethiopia by dividing the country into nine regions, with a malicious cover of self-rule.

This self-rule would have been a democratic move in Ethiopia with over eighty ethnic groups had it not been with a malicious intent to divide and destroy Ethiopia. The bottom line is, fortunately the people of Ethiopia totally denied Meles and his regime the pleasure of the implementation of this divisive scheme. The concrete proof for rejecting this divisive scheme by the people of Ethiopia is the result of May 15, 2005 election. Contrary to the regime's repeated lies regarding the unity of Ethiopian people, one can boldly state that the level of national development in Ethiopia is well manifested in the election of May 15, 2005.

d) It gave the land owned by Ethiopia to Sudan, a commitment plan in the making since 1974. A pay-back to the Sudan government for the assistance it provided to TPLF, which was an act on the part of Sudanese government, against the interests of the Ethiopian people.

e) It illegally and undemocratically assisted and encouraged, to the extent of writing a-go-ahead letter to UN, the separation of the Eritrea people from the rest of the Ethiopian people. It was illegal because nonelected, non-representative groups of individuals did it. It was undemocratic because the people of Ethiopia did not participate in it.

f) It is selling fertile lands to foreign governments under the cover of leasing. A very

lucrative money making business. The so called investors were not required to share what they produced even to the immediate communities. They are robbing the country in collaboration with the ruling regime.

If one noticed closely, new and advanced definitions of these words, namely, mafia, invasion, treason are needed as they are operationally manifested in Ethiopia differently. Why? Because, contrary to the conventional meaning of these terms, they are made actively operational under the ruling party strictly to complete its divisive anti-Ethiopia scheme, Meles Zenawi at its helm. The regime were supposedly to protect the society that is being administered from individuals or groups of individuals from trying to commit these acts against a sovereign country and its people. Hence, different definitions are required.

The election exposed the opposition parties too:

The election of May 23, 2010 also exposed the opposition parties, particularly those who participated in the election. I argue that the participation of the Ethiopian people in the election achieved only 50% of the move to remove the regime occupying Ethiopia. The remaining 50% is still waiting to be completed by the political parties.

The Tigry Liberation Front did it again, to the letter, in accordance to its well thought out divisive anti-Ethiopia scheme. It wrenched out the election from the hands of the Ethiopian people by force. No qualms about it. It has to do what it did otherwise its plan will fail miserably, and the regime will be in a very dangerous position.. The governmental and non-governmental international organizations attested to that fact in a very diplomatic way. They were, at the moment on the side of Ethiopian people. Unfortunately the opposition parties did not try to capitalize on it. Here are what they stated without any hesitation:

European Union:

The sheer volume and consistency of there complaints is a matter of concern. These short comings lead us to the conclusion that this electoral process falls short of certain international commitments. (Thijs Berman, the European Union's chief observer).

Unites States National security Council:

The limitation of independent observation and the harassment of independent media representatives are deeply troubling. (Mike Hammer-spokesperson)

The United States State Department:

Freedom of choice for Ethiopian voters was constrained throughout the electoral process by actions of the government of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, the national elections board and the ruling parties and its supporters. (P.J. Crowley, spokesperson.)

"...Unlawful killings, torture, beating, abuse and mistreatment of detainees and opposition supporters by security forces often acting with evident impunity. (State Department's human rights report of March).

Human Rights Watch:

Voters were told they could loose food assistance, public sector jobs, loans and educational opportunities if they voted against the ruling party.

Behind an orderly façade, the government pressured, intimidated and threatened Ethiopian voters. (Rona Peligal, acting Africa director)

During April and May, officials and militia (known as tataqi in Amharic) from the local administration went house to house telling citizens to register to vote and to vote for the ruling party or face reprisals from local party officials such as bureaucratic harassment or even losing their homes or jobs.

AlJazeera:

Andrew Simon of AlJazeera, reporting from Addis Ababa, speaking of whether the above international organizations comments would have any effect or not, he made the following very discerning : **“It depends on how the opposition parties decide to play their tactics.”**

The released statements by the above governmental and nongovernmental international organizations have shown their stand regarding the Ethiopian election of May 23, 2010 very clearly. In my opinion it is a diplomatic way of saying the election is stolen. Very unfortunately, the opposition parties never occurred to them, nor did they have the gut, with that kind of solid international support that they could have legitimately challenged the ruling regime by calling up the Ethiopia people for protestation, the ultimate power that could have forced Meles and his regime to its knees. Provided there are leaders who would come forward and lead them, Meles and his regime can be challenged by the people of Addis Ababa. The inertness of the opposition parties must have surprised the international organizations who came out against the ruling regime. They saw them disappearing into the fog leaving the arena for the sole use of this mafia group. Even Andrew Simon of AlJazeera reporter must have expecting some kind of action, when he said, **“It depends on how the opposition parties decide to play their tactics.”** Is he kidding? He did not know that as he was uttering the words, the opposition parties have already packed and have gone back to their holes hiding their tails behind their legs.

CHOICES OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES

Here are two solutions for the current political problems facing the Ethiopian people. The opposition parties, particularly those who participated in the election, have only two choices. There is no middle ground.

FIRST CHOICE:

The first and the desirable one, the one that Ethiopian people is expecting to take place is to rise up and remove the regime and take back Ethiopia for Ethiopia is in the hands of its dedicated destroyers. Addis Ababa is their Ethiopia. A capital city turned into the resident of the mafia and its cronies where the anti-Ethiopia schemes are plotted. Simply rejecting the results of the election on the part of the opposition parties is a copout. This invading and treasonous regime should not be given another five years. It is the enemy of the unity and the socioeconomic development of Ethiopian society. Given this concrete behavior consistently demonstrated in action throughout the nineteen years of its dictatorship, and particularly what it did in the election of May 23, 2010 should have been the last straw to say enough is enough. Unfortunately that did not happen. It does not seem that this concrete behavior was not well discerned by the opposition parties. Or, simply, they were scared to raise these fundamental issues and challenge the regime.

SECOND CHOICE:

The second choice for the current opposition parties of the leadership, is to simply wither out, or phase out. Leave the stage and retire. They have to exit the arena immediately because they have forfeited it. They forfeited it when they did not complete the remaining 50% that was not done by the people of Ethiopia. They have deserted their responsibilities. Let new and fresh blood take over the leadership. Mother Ethiopia has intelligent and capable off-springs in excess. There would not be shortage of replacement. Yes, it might take time. So be it. The moment they decided to pack and go

back to their holes after the election, their competence life has expired. Let others start the fight and grow into it. They should be ashamed of themselves if they are thinking to hold onto their position they had before the election for the coming five years. It is simply to be greedy and inconsiderateness. Can't they see that they are incapable of doing of what they were supposed to do?

REASONS FOR THE EXISTING OPPOSITION PARTIES TO EXIT THE ARENA?

1. Even their track record of May 15, 2005 election is sufficient enough to disqualify them for further struggle.

The proposal they submitted to share power in accordance to the seats they won.

The eight-point precondition to participate or not to participate in the parliament of Meles Zenawi, which has nothing to do with what the people of Ethiopia was demanding.

The project designed to protest the election results was deliberately called off, a reliable sign of inner weaknesses and lack of determination.

Particularly the first two were done behind the Ethiopian people. Amazingly, while these spineless opposition parties were doing this back-stabbing, the Ethiopian people were crying, **"WHERE IS MY VOTE?"** They did this shameful back-stabbing after 200 people, mostly young, were murdered by Meles Zenawi, and thousands were tortured, beaten and put to jail. They did not have the gut to come out and join the fight for freedom. Can one imagine these opposition parties leading the struggle for the next five years? Given there is another five years at all.

Given this unforgivable collapsing of the fight due to lack of political aspiration to go to the end and fulfill the objectives, on the part of the opposition parties, there is no guarantee that they would do better, come election 2015. Its credibility is gone down the drain. They must phase out. Knowing that it can no more perform better, and, if there is a genuine concern for the future well being of Ethiopian society it should come from the existing leadership it-self, as a whole, to give way for new and fresh blood. New and fresh blood does not necessarily mean all young. Absolutely not. The new leadership, the fresh blood, could come from the rank-and-file of the existing opposition parties.

2. Their track record of the election of May 23, 2010 was not good ether.

By deliberately not taking any vigorous action, even though they knew that the votes were stolen, they have forced the international organizations who came out against the regime, to accept the 99.6% of the election results. By showing no vigorous and vengeful reaction, the opposition parties have accepted the 99.6%. So, why would the international organizations not accept it? I argue that by doing so the opposition parties have sabotaged the interests of Ethiopian people. When the opposition parties accept the 99.6% of the election results by not challenging it with force, people's force, how can one appeal the case to the international organizations?

Indirectly, there is the hand of the opposition parties, in the murdering, the beating, the torturing, before, on the day, and after election, of the activists who sold their lives for the future betterment of Ethiopian society. The leadership of the opposition parties agitated these sacrificial lambs to go into the communities they are part of and in turn to lobby the communities to come out and participate in the election. That is to elect the opposition parties. I argue that the opposition parties by deliberately trying to think as if the sacrifices made by these dear, bold, and determined cadres of the society did not take place, and left the stage

without taking any action. They left the stage after they have lead the activists to a slaughter house, so to speak. Therefore, I further argue that by doing so, the opposition parties have sabotaged the interests of the Ethiopian people. Further more, they should be accountable for the murders, beatings, and imprisonment of these sons and daughters of Ethiopia they agitated to fight. If I had my way and the means to do it I would like them to be brought to court, for justice.

The regime, deliberately, with well calculated scheme, put the Ethiopian society completely out of the participatory democracy under the nose of the opposition parties. While these spineless opposition parties were watching silently, while what they were fighting for is literally crumbling under their eyes, Meles Zenawi dumped, human rights, democratic rights, the freedom of speech, writing, and journalistic reporting, and the rule of law, down the drain, by declaring that his party have won 99.6%. He easily established one part system and made the existing opposition parties irrelevant. Meles Zenawi can simply decree a law stating that there would be no political party except the ruling party in Ethiopia any more. Period.

I would repeat the conclusion I made under the election of May 15, 2005 here:

Given this unforgivable collapsing of the struggle due to lack of political aspiration to go to the end and fulfill the objectives, on the part of the opposition parties, there is no guarantee that they would do better, come election 2015. Its credibility is gone down the drain. They must phase out. Knowing that it can no more perform better, and, if there is a genuine concern for the future well being of Ethiopian society it should come from the existing leadership it self, as a whole, to give way for new and fresh blood. New and fresh blood does not necessarily mean all young. Absolutely not. The new leadership, the fresh blood, could come from the rank-and-file of the existing opposition parties.

Mankelklot Haile Selassie (PhD)
July 2, 2010