

Acting Sensibly While Opposing: A Rare Commodity in the Lexicon of CUD Politics

My friend used to say that commonsense is not common. Well, to his credit, it certainly is uncommon in the inner-circles of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy Party supporters. They claim to be champions of democracy while suppressing dissent. They tout unity at the cost of diversity and without consulting with all stakeholders. Worse yet, they form ungodly alliances and coalitions with separatist groups and known enemies of Ethiopia without an iota of concern for the unity of the country and the welfare of its people. And, they are doing all this –they proudly tell us--for the love of “Emiye” Ethiopia. Lord have mercy!

It is only natural to treat others the way someone wants to be treated. But, the recent comments by Elias Kifle, publisher of the “Ethiopian Review”, make a mockery out of this millennia old cardinal rule. On his website, he commended the terrorist groups that perpetrated the killings of 65 innocent Ethiopians and nine Chinese nationals in the Ogaden region. Furthermore, he offered his advice to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) to imitate the evil deeds of the ONLF and attack Sheik Al-Aloumidi’s gold mines.

Needless to say, Sheik Al-Amoudi’s is a God-sent investor who is doing his best to help the country feed its people. In doing so, he employs several thousands of Ethiopians in his companies. He helps the poor through his philanthropy services. Now, would anyone in his or her right mind lose sleep to sabotage the interests of such a fine man? In my humble opinion, only those like Elias Kifle who are hell-bent on destroying Ethiopia, would contemplate doing so.

Unfortunately, Ato Elias Kifle is not alone—though in the minority-- in the struggle against the interests of Ethiopia and its people. People like Elias have made it their lofty duty to tarnish the image of Ethiopia for personal reasons. Devoid of the Ethiopian decency and respect for human life, their philosophy sees and hails the sufferings of others and is driven by idiosyncrasies they acquired during the defunct Derg era. That is why they praise and herald wicked and terrorist acts such as the one mentioned above. They do such horrendous acts in the name of opposition. They oppose everything and anything the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Party does. To CUD and its supporters, opposition is equated with animosity and its end result is a zero-sum game. This very primitive political culture of the CUD was vividly reflected in the aftermath of the recent most unprecedented national election where majority of them boycotted joining the parliament.

However, CUD and its supporters must understand that it is possible to make sense out of oneself even while in opposition: One has only to be truly democratic and observant of the interests of others. Political decency sometimes requires acknowledging ones mistakes and supporting your opponent’s ideas for the common good of the country. In this regard, CUD’s current political maneuver is far from civilized political engagement and leaves a lot to be desired.

While criticizing one’s government may be appropriate and indispensable right of citizens, making a travesty of the unfortunate murdering of innocent civilians is not, and borders on an act of active terrorism. Condoning such an act takes a cold-blooded soul such as Elias’. It is in this light, this author advises Ato Elias Kifle to apologize for his unwise statements and to practice commonsense in his future publications.

My heart-felt condolence goes to the families who lost their loved ones in the barbaric attack on innocent civilians that was perpetrated by enemies of Ethiopia who hate to see her prosper. All peace loving Ethiopians are in a somber mood over the tragedy, and yet, they are determined than ever not to be distracted from their developmental activities—never to bow to the enemies' wishes.

If need be the author could be reach at emaa_go@yahoo.com

Mezgebe Gebrekiristos