

Open Letter to Prime Minister of Ethiopia

Your Excellency Ato Meles Zenawi
Prime Minister
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

I am compelled to write to you because once again I sense ominous clouds gathering over Ethiopia. Self-centered power mongers are once again at each other's throats with Ethiopia as the prize. It comes as no surprise that these self-aggrandizing power thirsty liars have allied themselves with racists and colonialists to violate the integrity of a nation, home to 80 million poor, but peaceful people minding their own business and trying hard to pull themselves out of abject poverty.

Your Excellency, I will not waste your time, but simply reinforce the inevitable. Ethiopia is not for sell and as you eloquently stated in the past, it will not be ruled as "a banana republic from Washington DC". No aid, attached to a string that places the independence of a nation that has never been colonized, on a bargaining block could ever be considered, regardless how large or sweet. The enabling racists and their cronies know that the leadership of the country had not compromised in the face of IMF and other Western demands. That, unfortunately, will not deter those determined to insult poor people, especially Africans. HR 2003 is a classic example of arrogance, insensitivity and intrusion, which not only insults Ethiopia but also disrespects the entire Africa. It should, therefore, matter very little even if it were to be signed into law. It will undoubtedly be rejected by all freedom thirsty Africans.

Ethiopia has survived the intrigues of the colonialist powers and will survive the current internal and external threats. Friends and foes need to understand that Ethiopia's national security had never relied on external aid. And during trying times like now, national security will be its number one priority. Were it to sink to the levels of civil wars and disintegration, the very critiques and authors of legislation on this very complex country will simply standby and watch us Africans fight to the last child and then run to benefit from retro-analytical docudramas and books. Ask Donald Payne and Christopher Smith what they did and when close to a million Rwandans were being slaughtered. As to the sell-out Ethiopians, oh well, they would have found another drama for their coffee house and 18th Avenue gossips and fabrications.

Your government is to be commended for laying down the foundation on which Ethiopian democracy will be built; yes, Ethiopian democracy, and not the dictates from Washington DC. Your government should also be commended for the sustained economic growth of the country because democracy without basic economic rights would only be an intellectual exercise. As you are aware, you have just begun and even after you have build the institutions of democracy, the job will never be complete. I need not remind you that the blood spilled and lives voluntarily sacrificed by your brothers and sisters would be for naught until the light of justice, democracy, peace and ethnic equality shines all over Ethiopia...this pledge cannot be bought with US aid nor compromised with the threat of US legislation.

I wish you and the peoples of Ethiopia peace and prosperity!

Sincerely,
Selam Betru