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THE AMHARA PEOPLE FACING DANGER OF GENOCIDE

An evil campaign has been fired up in Ethiopia, by the regime in place and other extremist elements, to provoke violence and the mass slaughter of Amharas, considered by the TPLF/EPRDF regime and its supporters as the main enemy as a people. Inside the country and in the Diaspora, crazed extremist elements have been mobilized to call for the massacre of Amharas and some of these elements have even been guests of Western TV stations and radio programs given the chance to spread their propaganda of hatred.

The concern for the fate of the Amhara people is not an unjustified fear of the worst. The background of the regime in place clearly confirms that the catastrophe that looms is not an illusion. The ruling Tigray People's Liberation Front (or the EPRDF as it likes to be called now) defined its struggle back in 1975 as "anti-Amhara", the major ethnic group in Ethiopia next to the Oromos. Long before it took power in 1991, the Tigrean front now in power collaborated with the Eritrean front (EPLF) and the Oromo front (OLF) to attack Assossa in Wollega and to cause the massacre of hundreds of Amharas there. The Eritrean commander of the operation has proudly narrated in an interview how they "dealt" with the Amharas there. Some three hundred Amharas were killed, burnt alive and/or slaughtered. Video evidence of the horrible massacre is available. The alliance of the Tigrean front, the Oromo front and the Eritrean front or regime has always been stringently anti-Amhara and by extension anti-Ethiopia. These elements have for long equated being an Amhara with being for Ethiopia and as they consciously stood and still stand against Ethiopian identity they consider Amharas as the main enemy. Hence the conscious anti-Amhara campaign.

Once the TPLF took power using the name EPRDF as a cover, it let loose anti-Amhara elements to commit massacres of Amaharas in ARBAGUGU (the man who ordered the mass killings, Hassan Ali, is now a refugee in the USA if not an American citizen already. The OLF, led by Lencho Letta then (he now lives in Norway) undertook the brutal killings of Amharas in BEDENO in the East. Pregnant women were bayoneted, seniors and adults thrown down the cliff—carnage is the word to describe it. In Eastern Wollega too, the OLF has been involved in the murder of innocent Amharas. The extremist Oromiya Islamiya

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group has also been accused of the murder of nuns and monks in the Asebot monastery. The anti-Amhara campaign, which has now been reactivated, alleges that back in history Emperor Menelik and his troops has killed Oromos. The fanning of hatred and spirit of vengeance invokes dubious history to criminalize Amharas a hundred years later and to prepare genocide. A shameful monument to keep hatred and revenge alive has been inaugurated by the regime's officials. Even during the recent demonstration by students in Ambo extremists were heard shouting anti Amhara slogans. The regime in power has condoned and even fanned the ethnic cleansing of Amharas from various southern regions and even from Ambo town. Amharas are defenseless and victims of the State sponsored and backed campaign to kill or oust them from the lands they had lived in for centuries.

A feeling of impending doom has gripped all Amharas and Ethiopians who do believe in the unity of the country. Note should also be taken that the anti-Amhara campaign is being assisted by foreign elements and media who reecho false history and try to accuse Amharas as a people of being anti-Oromo. Ethiopian unity and sovereignty has always been challenged by foreign forces (the Napier expedition of the British, Mussolini's colonization attempt, etc.) who had tried to pit the people against one another. The fact remains that the present regime is based on ethnic domination of all Ethiopians including Amharas, Oromos, Somalis, Gurages, Anuaks, etc. It has committed massacres in Gambella, the Ogaden, Sidama and other places too. But the threat against the Amharas has increased and is being aided by diaspora extremist elements who benefit from the American or British systems to call for the "slitting the throats" of all Amharas.

The danger is real and all the more serious because the ruling regime is also wobbling and trying to use the anti-Amhara campaign to gain support during the 2007 general "election".

The EPRP calls on the Amhara people and pan Ethiopian forces to defend themselves and condemns vigorously the ethnic cleansing, hatred and killings directed (and being prepared) against the Amhara people.

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