



Press Release

Ginbot 7 Calls for an End to the 20 year Brutal Rule of Meles Zenawi

27 May 2011

Today marks the 20th anniversary of one of the darkest days in Ethiopian history. It's a day marked by 20 years of treachery, national humiliation and ethnic dictatorship. While millions of Ethiopians remember May 28, as a day of national shame that will live in infamy, the ever reckless dictator Meles Zenawi is wasting tax payer's money and time to celebrate the Tigray People's Liberation Front's (TPLF) capture of Addis Ababa in 1991. The last 20 years have also seen the power of TPLF rise exponentially in terms of its political power, economic and financial control of the country's wealth. It is safe to say that is why the last two decades have been good for Meles and his cronies, it has been an unmitigated disaster for Ethiopia and Ethiopians.

For more than a week now the TPLF controlled propaganda machine has been deafening the public with calls for a 20th anniversary "celebration" at Meskel Square. Like the gloomy days of the military dictatorship of the 1980s, the current regime in Addis Ababa is using its economic and political muscle along with its vast security apparatus to force civil servants, students and Addis Ababa residents to take part in the TPLF orchestrated "celebration" rally.

Truth be told, the people of Ethiopia would love to rally Meles and his cronies right out of Addis Ababa. Twenty years of looting, endemic corruption, gross economic mismanagement, high treason and crimes and egregious human rights abuse have wreaked havoc on the society. Suffering from 30% inflation and skyrocketing food prices Ethiopians are more concerned about finding ways to mobilize to bring about TPLF's demise and leaving the theatrics to the delusional dictator.

For a deeply traumatized nation on the verge of a revolution what are the hallmarks of the last twenty years of Meles Zenawi's brutal rule?

- 1- For the first time in our nation's history, the political administration and the military institution has been monopolized by a few individuals from a single ethnic group. The strategic sectors of the economy such as banking, mining, construction, transportation, import-export business are firmly controlled by this same group.
- 2- In the last twenty years, Ethiopia as a nation has been overrun by human vultures who fought for 17 years for the sole objective of looting a nation, transferring billions of dollars into offshore accounts and terrorizing its people. The twenty years of TPLF

rule are lost opportunities in which our nation could have used to bring about economic development using its immense human capital and abundant natural resources to overcome poverty, hunger, and backwardness.

- 3- Unlike any other government in our long history, Ethiopia's regime of the last twenty years has consistently endangered the national security of the country, negotiated away the vital interest of our nation, and has displayed a visceral hate for our nation and its people.
- 4- Unlike any time in our history, in the last twenty years; historical artifacts, national treasures, fertile lands and precious minerals were sold to the highest bidder at a very alarming rate by the Tigray ruling elite whose mission is to break our will and establish a master slave relationship.
- 5- The last twenty years were years of gross injustice where the life of citizens in Ethiopia was left at the mercy of the ruling party cadres resulting in palpable anger, frustration, and hopelessness where the cloud of fear lingered under the roof of every Ethiopian. The last twenty years in Ethiopia were exclusively marked by indiscriminate killings, imprisonment, torture, ethnic cleansing and genocide.

All in all, the last twenty years of the TPLF regime were years of atrocious captivity where the Ethiopian people were enslaved by a sadist group of lawless thugs whose major source of pleasure is the suffering of people. For the people of Ethiopia, May 28 is a somber day of sorrow and grief. May 28 is not a day to celebrate, it's a day to reflect back, to organize and strengthen our resolve to take our country back.

Ginbot 7, Movement for Justice, Freedom, and Democracy shares this sentiment with the Ethiopian people and affirms the absolute imperative of making this 20th anniversary the last.

The clear and loud message that Ginbot 7 would like to send to Meles and his cronies is that today is the beginning of the end of the one-man show.

Down with the anti-Ethiopia ethnic dictatorship

Liberty, equality and Justice will prevail in Ethiopia

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