

Meles's Cadres are doubling the suffering of Sidamas-the nation celebrates its New Year

By Kambata Xoola

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I. Intentional hatred sown between peacefully Co-Existed peoples

Deliberately incapacitated nations by the successive Abyssinian rulers' ill-conceived policies of underdevelopment; Oromo and Sidama peoples are once again made to continue to suffer unnecessary conflict that is purposely orchestrated by the incumbent regime. The regime instigates conflicts between two deprived nations embellishing its hidden motives of remaining on power by 'divide-and-rule method' at the expense of innocent people's blood.

On Monday, the 9th of October 2006, Sidama and Oromo people who peacefully co-existed for centuries, in the North East of Sidama region around the town called 'Maalgee Woondo, (also known as Wondo-Genet), purposely made to fight meaningless border war. The conflict is purposely orchestrated by the Ethiopian regime's cadres so that they can run their agendas while the attention of the Sidama and Oromo nations is diverted to this purposely ignited heinous conflict. The Sidama region remains tense since the May 15, 2005 rigged election and after the failure of Sidama's regional quest, which its subsequent consequence became massacre of helpless and armless Sidama civilians by Meles's security forces.

To diffuse the tension in Sidama region, the regime deployed variety of methods in the past one year and so. One of them was, slicing Sidama's ten districts to 20 by bribing outspoken but irresponsible Sidama cadres from all levels of the regional political lines and the British citizen who claims to be SLM leader.

After repeated unsuccessful attempt to urgently oust Sidamas from their capital city, Awassa to another district town, the cadres have to devise another strategy to engage the Sidamas in malicious conflicts with neighbouring nation that shares similar fate of subjugation. To implement this plan, on the 9th of October 2006, there was serious fighting, 'that is ignited by the regime's cadres', between the Oromo and Sidama peoples to satisfy the needs of the incumbent regime; that resulted in injury of two people from the Sidama side. There is also an unconfirmed report that there was a loss of live that remains for further confirmation.

This deliberately planned conflict is worsening border peace and security between Oromia and Sidama regions' and the situation remains fluid. Regional police and military from both sides said to have been on deployment since the out break of the conflicts. Eye witnesses from Awassa said that there are people who are armed and freely shooting on

Sidama people from the Oromia part where as Mr Shiferaw Shuguxee, (Southern regional president who is ordering the slaughtering of the Sidama people since the May 24, 2002's Looqe massacre of the Sidama people), is ordering the Sidama side not to have their guns at hand.

According to the confidential source, Mr Shuguxee is planning to give some part of the Sidama region to Oromia as per federal regimes' programme that is geared towards handling the largest Oromia region than worrying for the Sidama people. In principle, the Sidama nation unequivocally knows that the Oromo people are its brothers and sisters who are suffering the same injustices. However, according to the source, it will be difficult for both down-trodden nations to be instruments for the incumbent regime and cause losses of lives from either side to help them run their brutal acts against both nations.

Therefore, both Sidama and Oromo peoples have to settle their dispute in their traditional and centuries-old 'Luuwaa' (Sidama) and 'Gaadaa' (Oromo) ways defying an unjust system imposed on them by the northern colonial powers. They have to raise their arms against common enemies rather than serving their hidden agendas under the pretext of border issues.

II. Sidama celebrates its New Year, '*Füchhee*' in a Saddened Spirit since October 18th 2006.

The Sidama peoples New Year, '*Füchche*', celebration which took place since 18th of October for three days was over-shadowed by the lingering abuse of its basic rights by its children who are making their lives misery by conspiring with colonial masters. According to their pre-planned and appropriately executed operation, the Sidama people at the moment are virtually turned powerless. Over 5million populated Sidama nation doesn't have any one who represents it apart from those who neither elected nor responsible Sidama political cadres. Sadly, its children are adding on the relentless sufferings of the nation.

The Sidama people's spirit is deeply saddened and continues to mourn for its children who are unjustifiably slaughtered and continue to be slaughtered while seeking justice by the security forces of Meles's regime for which no one held accountable to this date. The Sidama people during the Celebration all over the region was in deep thought of those who lost and are losing their precious lives to the security forces of Meles's regime for the basic principle of justice, freedom and democratic system realisation for the Sidamas and wider Ethiopian nations and nationalities who are subjected to the forms of abuse, subjugation and denigration.

III. Systematic intimidation and harassment continues

Representatives of federal regimes' Sidama cadres turning the lives of wider Sidama people misery. After they have deceitfully split 10 Sidama original districts to 20, the cadres are bribing irresponsible Sidamas all over the region to help them to implement

the agenda of uprooting them from their capital and its vicinity. They are using all possible means to silence any democratic movement that's geared towards the realisation of Sidamas constitutional and basic rights. Mr Shiferaw Shuguxee (puppet regional president) is conveying his messages of harassment using the only Sidama radio that is established by the Irish Aid 9 years ago for sole purpose of mobilising development activities in Sidama region. He and other political cadres, including central government use the Sidama radio to deceive the Sidama people; while they are practically compromising their very existence by depriving them off their freedom of expressions and democratic and peaceful movements.

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