

9th year on in an Occupied Sidama Land:-
The Culprits and Miscreants are Circulating in Sidama Land with
absolute Impunity!
Commemoration of the Massacre of Sidama Civilian Demonstrators on May
24, 2002 at Loqee -Hawassa

By Kambata Xoola, May 23, 2011

The Loqee Massacre of unarmed and non-violent Sidamas

On May 24, 2002, between 13,000 and 15,000 Sidama people of all walks of lives staged on a peaceful and non violent demonstration near their capital city after fully satisfying the necessary requirements written in Meles's constitution. Whilst peacefully marching towards the capital, they were targeted and indiscriminately shot at with highly sophisticated machine guns by hiding Abyssinian army and security forces. These state sponsored criminal gangs inhumanely shot and killed any one at their sight without any regard to humanity. No one from the global political key players criticised Mr. Zenawi's regime for its barbaric acts against the civilians and spoke about the massacre of the Sidama unarmed demonstrators ever since.

To implement the said inhuman, racist, brutal and utterly barbaric acts against the Sidama Nation, the alien Abyssinian rulers cooperated with a handful of Sidama renegades such as (Melese Marimo, Shiferaw Shugute, Galalicha Janje and some others) all of whom remain- Africa's most disreputable Quislings. These traitors greatly contributed to the stage management of the Looqee Massacre, occurred in Loqee village, located at the outskirts of Hawassa, the Sidama capital, on aforementioned date at precisely 12:15pm local time.

This particular atrocity perpetrated against peaceful and unarmed Sidama civilians who were seeking their legitimate and constitutional rights and more specifically regional autonomy (which was accorded to other subjugated nations of far smaller population; and that also grants rights to cessation **[article 39]** which resulted in an independence of Eritrea in 1993) is the most recent genocidal practice in Sidama Land. The Sidama nation gets constantly slaughtered, intimidated and silenced with various forms of barbaric acts by the occupiers, scaremongering manipulations, imprisonment, torture and socio-economic injustices for voicing legitimate claims of regional autonomy for population of 5-6 million.

Mr. Zenawi's regime keeps its constitution on the spotlight of Western donors and sponsors whilst brutally repressing, massacring, imprisoning and suppressing those who dare claiming it. This is an ongoing plot by Abyssinian successive rulers against the Sidama nation simply because they want to keep southern Ethiopian over 42 various ethnic groups (who have distinct cultures, ways of lives, politico-economic systems and languages) in an amalgamated form so that they can easily exploit their rich natural resources to satisfy their needs -whilst systematically relegating their subjects to the status of a second class citizenship in their own soil.

For this sole purpose, they remained using the Sidama Land and its capital Hawassa as their southern Ethiopia's epicentre for the implementation of their policies of systematic exploitation and subjugation. The Sidama lost its sovereignty to the occupying Menelik's/Abyssinian army in 1891 during the scramble for Africa.

Due to this, the successive Abyssinian rulers perpetrated abominable crimes over the past 120 years in Sidama Land, plunging an entire nation of about 5-6 million to unimaginable human misery, abject poverty, starvation, socio-political, economic and cultural subjugation and death.

The Victims of the Massacre, Curfew - dead bodies were eaten by Hyenas,

On May 24, 2002, about 69 civilians were massacred within 25-35 minutes of armed onslaught on unarmed civilians who were just carrying leaves of trees - nothing else. From the dead Sidama demonstrators there was a 12 years old primarily school student who was also indiscriminately shot dead with other Sidamas. Several dead bodies were eaten by hyenas as their relatives weren't allowed to collect the bodies of their beloved ones. Others numerous wounded Sidamas were deliberately left to die from the bleedings of shot wounds that was treatable- simply because the regime's army and security forces prohibited the entrance of Ambulances to the scene of massacres for the period of over 24 hours after the aftermath of the massacre.

The Sidama capital (Hawassa) and entire Sidama region turned to a military Zone and strict curfew was imposed all over the Sidama region with particular severity on Hawassa. It was in the midst of such curfew-at the night of massacre, that several bodies were devoured by wild animals. ***If any body asks for a stone age Barbarism, Mr. Zenawi's regime's actions against unarmed, non-violent and peaceful Sidama demonstrators speaks volumes.***

Unable to respond to the non-violent and peaceful quest for regional autonomy that was asked in a civilized and peaceful manner; Meles's regime with its ignominy slaughters unarmed and non-violent civilians who were just claiming their fundamental and constitutional rights. To date neither miscreants culprits brought to justice nor the Sidama nation's quest for regional autonomy was answered! Instead the Sidamas continue to be systematically subjugated, socio-politically, and economically excluded and culturally relegated.

The response of the International Community and the Western Media.

On May 24, 2002, after we (Sidamas in Diaspora) contacted BBC- Africa desk and other international media broadcasts immediately after the Loqee massacre, BBC and others international Medias posted the information they gained from gallant Sidama informants from the Sidamaland- who've braved and risked their lives- all of whom afterwards were imprisoned and tortured by the regime's security for their parts in exposing its hideous acts against the Sidamas. Other than this, there is little evidence that shows that there was any follow up to learn as to whether the intimidation, imprisonment, torture

and harassments actually stopped. Neither Western Media reporters bothered raising about the Sidama's quest for regional autonomy whenever they get opportunity to talk to the said despotic dictator nor their politicians acted as per their countries ethos on respect for democratic rights.

In front of the global hypocrisy and the guilty silence of European, American and other diplomats who turned out to be oblivious when vested interests impose silence, the International Criminal Court should effectively and convincingly demonstrate that the targets declared, the mission announced and the principles evoked are still valid for the president, the judges, the prosecutor, and the other officials of the international body. Not only the International Criminal Court should impeach the Looqee Massacre perpetrators, but they should also issue recommendations for the pretentious, supposedly democratic and humane diplomats of the Western countries as to just how to make their nations' solemnly heralded values, such as Human Rights, Democracy, Justice, Freedom, Independence, Equity and Dignity, be fully mirrored on their political practices and attitudes.

Zenawi regime's 'Divide and Rule' tactics to Remain in Power

One of the important instruments used by all colonial powers to depersonalise their subjects globally is using the 'divide-and-rule' tactics! This tactic remains an essential tool for Abyssinian Zenawi to remain in power. His regime often increasingly instigates malicious yet unnecessary conflicts between two or three colonised nations. The Sidama nation as well as the neighbouring nations such as the largest Sidamas Kushitic brothers (Oromo) and the western neighbours, Wolayita nations were deliberately targeted and the regime's cadres had systematically armed Oromo and Wolayita people to attack the Sidamas since 1994/5 on various occasions.

In Malagga Wondo (also known as Wondogenet) due to premeditated and deliberately orchestrated conflicts between Oromo and Sidama brothers who had peacefully co-existed for dozens of generations; Meles's regime caused the loss of several innocent lives from both sides and their hideous tactics resulted in destruction and confiscation of cattle and other properties from both sides to further saw more poison between the two brother nations. There remains tension and sporadic encounters when and if the regimes wants them to have one. A handful of renegades remain responsible from both sides for unfolding tragedy as they implement such malicious acts against the two colonial subjects.

Recently the number of people who were unnecessarily killed from both Oromo and Sidama due to this at the north west of the Sidama land across lake Hawassa reached dozens. Several innocent people also died from Oromo sides.

At the north west of the Sidama Land, there is a Wolayta nation whose people are equally impoverished by the repressive and racist polices of successive Abyssinian rulers. The Wolayta king 'Xonna' (also written as Tonna) gallantly fought against the invading Abyssinian army although he and his countrymen finally lost the battle to the Abyssinian occupiers due to

European modern weaponry that was given to the latter. The Sidama nation heroically resisted and repulsed the invading Abyssinian army for decades. Today's resistant is a continuation of an over century of movement that defeated Abyssinians invading army in various fronts although the Sidama lost the battle eventually due to superior weapons used by the invaders.

Despite this historical unity all colonised nations share, Meles's regime instigates conflicts to cause loss of lives and destruction of scarce resources- by fabricating artificial border disputes that hasn't caused conflicts for centuries. Several Sidama people were made to abandon their villages, and their legitimate rights to their land ownership was overtaken by the Ethnic Wolaytas who are armed by the regime and made to settle on in Sidama land after the Sidama people are forced by the federal army and security forces that was assigned by the federal regime. The Sidamas are obliged to leave their ancestral lands although the conflict remains. The removal of the Sidama from their ancestral lands can't be sustainable as the conflicts is designed to last from generation to generation. The Sidama nation doesn't give up until justice has prevailed.

H/Mariam Desalegn (Wolayta national-the current foreign minister) is one of those who're behind the instigation whose over all objective is silencing the Sidama nation by diverting its attention from its quest fro regional autonomy by forcing it to continue fighting with Wolayta and the Oromo nations respectively. Several Sidamas as well as Wolayta nations people unnecessarily loss their lives while Mr, Desalegne- who was promoted to the current position for his part in masterminding the Sidama massacre of May 24, 2002, remote controls all activities. Mr Desalegne and Dr Kassu Ilala are the two people who remote- control South Ethiopian puppet president and other renegades such as Shiferaw Shiguxe.

Uprooting Sidama Farmers from their Ancestral lands around the outskirts of Hawassa,

Under the pretext of expanding Hawassa city that entertains and benefits Colonial settlers and their loyalists including the Sidama pariahs; the regime is selling Sidama Land in and around the outskirts of Hawassa city by forcefully uprooting legitimate owners of the land. In particular after his federal criminals established the Ministry of Diaspora in 2007/2008, the regime invites their Diaspora sympathisers to reward them with the cheap priced Sidama, Oromo and others subjugated nations lands to use the income for the development of Tigray region and to enhance the sizes of their Swiss banks. Actually, about 80% of international NGO's operate in Ethiopia must work in Tigray if they want to spend the remaining 20% in other parts. Tigray's local NGO's (such as REST) and their business companies are fully allowed to borrow from international lending organisations or agencies including the IMF/WB/ADB and others on behalf of the country to use the money purely for the development of Tigray. The debt however should be paid by the Federal government.

Since last 5 months, about 200 Sidama farmers' households from the outskirts of the capital (Hawassa) were uprooted. Their houses were

bulldozed and the owners were left destitute. Some were bribed with little amount of money and the majority who opposed to this plan were arrested and severely tortured. Others were continually beaten and harassed by the regional and Zone authorities. After the regime makes sure that the Sidama people are silenced, they lease the lands of the Sidama farmers to their Diaspora sympathisers and few Sidama renegades who implement their criminal policies.

Sidama people fleeing the Empire while some are Disappearing,

A complete absence of freedom of expression in Sidama Land and in the entire Abyssinian empire makes this part of east African continent the darkest part of the world where brutality and barbarism reigns over humanity. The Sidama people are subjected to such ongoing suffering that involved all kinds and shapes of insufferable conditions including intimidation, torture, imprisonment and disappearances.

For instances, our sources from Hawassa says that, Mr Melkamu Tefera Dafato, a (26 years old Sidama -law graduate) with others three Sidamas was registered for the May 2010 highly rigged election representing Sidama Liberation Movement (SLM) for Sidama capital -Hawassa. The election was marred by intimidation, harassment, torture and imprisonment of opposition party members. The incumbent regime claims winning 99.9% competing with itself. However, Mr Dafato who graduated from the Law school in a University was not allowed to assume any employment despite his profession's being in high demand simply because he was involved in the activities of opposition party although the constitution allows this. Soon after he was harassed and finally arrested and imprisoned in February 15, 2011 for no reason to be released on March 18, 2011 without any charge and justification for his imprisonment.

Up on his release the authorities tell him to come back whenever he is wanted by them. The informant also says that Mr Dafato wanted to do his postgraduate course in Law and did his examination at the university where he successfully met the necessary requirements to assume his study for his Masters degree. However, once again he was told that he belongs to an opposition party, in effect he can't be granted the place at the University. Afterwards, he was continually harassed, intimidated and one of his fellow countrymen (Sidamas) who was registered on behalf of SLM remains in prison and the remaining ones kept under house arrest. However there is credible evidences that Mr Dafato escaped unhurt to the neighbouring country where he sought asylum for which the Sidama trust that he get the protection he dearly deserves.

The Sidama people can't take any part in any political activities other than immersing themselves in Mr zenawi's EPRDF to survive. Any person in Sidama as well as in other parts of the country can't and don't have any right to be free and freely express his/her views. Mr Zenawi's (TPLF/EPRDF) membership is mandatory where non-members can't be given any opportunity of employment. Where aid food serves a political purposes, people in drought affected areas are forced to be party members and their sympathisers to

receive aid or risk their lives otherwise. Such inhuman acts of Meles's regime is taking place in front of the international community where in some cases they deliberately ignore the extent of the suffering of the peoples of the country are under.

Therefore, the Sidama Nation and the Sidama Diaspora demand the unconditional arrest by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of all the perpetrators of the Looqee Massacre; the fact that the same, non-arrested criminals still circulate free in Occupied Sidama-Land gravely endangers a nation larger than Denmark, and creates the conditions for another genocidal act.

For more information read from the following links for the lists of main culprits-
<http://www.sidama.org/documents/culprits-looqee-massacre-2010-05-23.pdf>
<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/ethiopian-2010-election-results-rejected-sidama-leader-kambata-xoola-reveals-looqee-war-criminals.html>

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