

Peace is a priority in the Horn of Africa, particularly Ethiopia
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Since my boyhood, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan have been torn apart in a senseless and brutal conflict between brothers and sisters from the same womb who regard one another as adversaries. By any criterion of the 21st century, such a protracted and unreasonable confrontation cannot be viewed as bravery, but rather as an indication of backwardness and primitive thought.

Any political and economic grievance can only be resolved through dialogues utilising the widely accessible rule of law at the local, regional, and international levels. It is common knowledge that the majority of conflicts in Africa are supported by nefarious intentions, regional and global powers, interest groups and those seeking to profit from such brutal wars.

It is essential, however, to acknowledge the role that elites with political and economic interests play in fanning the flames of these confrontations. Without elite and interest groups, foreign powers are unable to exploit and inflame local politics to their advantage.

During the same period, there was a civil war in Arica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sera lion, Liberia, Central Africa, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, and Mali. In addition, war dramas in Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Kashmir were constantly in the news worldwide. Still, while some of them bring peace, others keep trying to get out of the vicious cycle.

As a result of these battles in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan, millions of people were uprooted, hundreds of thousands were killed, and millions more were emotionally and psychologically traumatised. These horrific wars among brothers and sisters led to the creation of two new countries, Eritrea and South Sudan, and Somalia's breakup into a number of "de facto" states.

Given the complexities of bringing about lasting peace in the Horn of Africa, it is vital to discuss the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia from an empiricist perspective. I am convinced that the Ethiopian civil war will continue to be fuelled by three leading causes: the victory of Adwa over imperial power, water politics, and geopolitical factors. It is essential to analyse the justifications objectively, without fear and fever, but due to the nature of the paper, I will focus on examining critical political concerns.

Without “*us versus them*”, it is essential to ask why this war persists, claiming the lives of thousands of young people and displacing women and children in war zones. The question is, how can we define and establish peace? As the Horn of Africa continues to be plagued by internal strife and various types of all-out war, systematic discrimination and backing from its historical adversaries are exacerbated. How can we continue to foster peace if we refrain from pointing fingers?

The pursuit of peace is introspecting on collective failure and examining the erroneous motive and ego. Thus, I would like to impose systemic questions in the hope that one or both sides would realise that they are fighting for nonsensical war and ask them to be humane.

For the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF):

Ever since the first Woyane movement in 1942, the TPLF has been a significant source of violence in Ethiopia, resulting in the deaths of thousands of people on both sides. The innocent people of Tigray continue to be subjected to unjust scarification to keep a small group of elites in power. When/how many deaths do you think are necessary before you decide that enough is enough?

During your tenure as a ruling party and government from 1991 to 2018, you claimed to be a champion of marginalised voices and ethnic and tribal minorities. In contrast, you were busy silencing all sorts of opponents' groups, including formations identical to yours, such as the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), Gambela, and Benishangul. In addition, you engage in a border conflict with Eritrea, participate in the internal affairs of Somalia, displace almost half a million Ethiopian soldiers, and have nearly wiped-out opposition groups.

To refresh your recollection, after ruling for 28 years, you were thrown out of the central government by your own comrades. Then you classified every Ethiopian as an adversary. What sort of insanity is this?

For the Ruling Prosperity party and for the government of Ethiopia:

While accepting and defending the TPLF constitution, is it not paradoxical to fight with structure? When will the administration be ready to fix the party programme written into the constitution based on a Eurocentric, Stalinist view of the question of the nation and nationalities? When will the administration correct the governance structure that was meant to split the country along linguistic and ethnic lines?

When will the government begin to correct erroneous narratives that assert the existence of an oppressor and an oppressed, despite the fact that all Ethiopians are of the same Negroid race?

Since the Tigrayan people and the TPLF cannot be identical, what peacemaking choices are available? The peace proposals should be disclosed to all Ethiopians on a consistent basis. The government is obligated to offer the Tigray region with all necessary services without conditions.

Why does the government not employ local dialogue channels to prevent bloodshed by dispatching elderly people throughout Ethiopia? The approach is a great way to solve "the Ethiopian problem by Ethiopians" because the people involved deeply understand how both sides think.

For the People of Tigray:

When will the Tigray people say enough to the TPLF's aggressiveness towards their brothers and sisters on the other side and demand peace so they can live in harmony with the rest of Ethiopia? I implore the people of the Tigray region to voice their concerns about the central government in a manner befitting Ethiopian culture and tradition.

For the people of Ethiopia:

Ethiopia is known as the "cradle of humanity." Its ancient civilization gave a lot to Africa and the world as a source of philosophical wisdom. In addition to being a nation that defended the imperial force and a source of pride for all Africans. In these matrixes, the people of the Tigray region have made substantial contributions to Ethiopian collectables. Hence, the rest of the Ethiopian people should refrain from alienating the people of Tigray. There should not be an "Us vs Them" since we are "them" and "they" reside within us.

For International communities:

As an African and an Ethiopian, I appreciate those who have reached out their hands out of genuine concern. However, it would be preferable for all parties concerned in the conflict in the northern corridor to appreciate a local resolution. The "so-called media" and those who intentionally sow discord for benefit will be shut out of every possible outlet at some point. Ethiopians have settlement processes when all sides come to their senses, and I can tell you that you will be excluded, as was the case at the Battle of Adwa in 1896.

For the African Union:

The African Union has all legal and moral right to involve and take all necessary action on both sides without prejudices. At the end of the day, it is all about the people who are victims on both sides not for the few elite at the leadership either side. However, the intervention and the solution should be Solly African without involving any foreign powers whatsoever the case maybe. Otherwise, the history will judge you harshly.

For African Scholars:

I got the opportunity to view and study a number of publications concerning the struggle between the Ethiopian government and the TPLF insurgents. Some, in my opinion, are the victims of propaganda and the mainstream media's misrepresentation of historical and on-the-ground facts. Some uninformed academics have drawn parallels between the conflict between Palestine and Israel

and the conflict between Ukraine and Russia. Thus, it is preferable to recommend reading and conducting a thorough study without favouring any viewpoint. Because anything we write today based on false premises will come back to haunt us by setting a bad precedent for African unity, peace, and development in the long term.

Finally, the fact that the government and the rebels know each other from their time spent working together under the umbrella of a single party complicates the bargaining process. In the TPLF era, the current government officials rose through the ranks to their current positions. Therefore, the TPLFs tend to dismiss or minimise the efficacy of the established government order. From the government's perspective, the revolt is also being undermined. Regardless of either side's capacity, they must be aware that distraction does not necessitate sophistication; instead, a wicked mentality can cause you to oppose any force on earth. History has taught us, and we have seen how Somalians and Iraqis destabilised the superpowers on the battlefields. Therefore, I earnestly urge both parties to set aside their egos and seek a civilised resolution. And it is my hope that this will mark the end of the era of the Ethiopian conflict. As a society, they must put an end to their ancient, brutal conflicts and move forward with economic progress and political reconciliation.

I wish everyone in Ethiopia a Happy New Year in 2015. And I hope the following year, which begins on September 11 this week, will bring peace and tranquilly to all of us. I hope this pointless and brutal war is behind us and that the region is stabilised and continues to enjoy peace and prosperity.

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