

## Isaias Afwerki Must Set Eritrea Free

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Colonel Mengistu did it; General Idi Amin of Uganda did it; Moise Tshombe of Congo did it too. What had the foregoing African Heads of State have in common? When they realized that their people no longer wanted them, they all left town, albeit reluctantly. Mengistu Haile Mariam, the blood thirsty Ethiopian dictator, chose to leave with abundant amount of money, rather than cause unnecessary bloodshed by standing his ground during the last days subsequent to the triumphant entry of the joint forces of TPLF and EPLF into Addis Ababa.

Colonel Mengistu, although I hate to admit it, did the right thing when the chips were down. If he had remained reluctant to leave Ethiopia, after the imminent fall of Addis Ababa, untold thousands of innocent Ethiopian civilians would have perished in the ensuing crossfire. Colonel Mengistu was man enough in facing his defeat. The remaining pertinent question is: Will Isaias Afwerki turnout to be man enough to exit Eritrea to **wherever** (maybe to become Mengistu's next door neighbor in Zimbabwe); and set Eritreans free without unnecessary loss of lives? My sincere prayer is that he will. However, his ruthless nature is such that he will likely die like a dog rather than admitting his guilt, and exiting peacefully. His tenure as an unelected Head of State of Eritrea consequently, shall remain stained with Eritrean blood forever.

The most likely scenario is that Eritrea will be ruled by the military for the foreseeable future; the way it is currently set up by Isaias, if the status quo persists. Eritrea's wealth (assuming that there is such a thing) has already been distributed among the military hierarchy. Isaias' scheme for staying in power is, however, flawed in principle. Therefore, the Eritrean youth must rise up to reclaim their country, by whatever means necessary. The fat cats of Vocal Eritrean Diaspora, to quote from the Holy Bible “**ወእለ ከርሶሙ አምላኮሙ**,” will resist the inevitable topple of Isaias Afwerki; for fear of losing their ill-gotten wealth at the expense of the Eritrean people. However, it is just a matter of time before Isaias, like Saddam Hussein before him, falls from power in *disgrace*.

I have made a decent effort to trace Isaias' track record. He has always been ruthless. He is known to have murdered many of his comrades in the 1970's for the simple reason that they disagreed with him; and were trying to reset the course of the "struggle" in a different direction. His style of leadership was "divide and rule". He pitted his subordinates against each other to curb challenges to his leadership. Even more recently, after the humiliating defeat of his invading forces in 1998-2000, he managed to use his military/political comrades as scapegoats. His first reaction was to have his comrades arrested for incompetence in the way the war was being conducted; and they are to this day, rotting in his prisons. Isaias Afwerki is the worst thing that ever happened to Eritrea. Removing this monster maybe a challenge; but it is doable. Trust me; it will happen sooner than what people think. Amen!

In my opinion, Emperor Haile Sellassie acted *illegally* in dismantling the Federation of Eritrea with Ethiopia in 1960. For the record, Emperor Menelik II was responsible for the initial breakup of Eritrea from *Greater* Ethiopia in the first place; but that is a *wholly new subject* which I will not dwell upon at this time. Emperor Haile Sellassie's erroneous actions triggered the thirty years or so rebellion by Eritreans. However, ultimately it was DERG which escalated the Eritrean revolt. Mengistu was very confident that he would silence Eritreans by ruthless means. He repeated his failed policies in Tigray, Amhara, Ogaden, Oromia, and everywhere else; and failed miserably. Unfortunately, Eritrea ended up being *even worse off* under Isaias Afwerki. Eritreans never bargained to replace one repressive military regime (DERG/Mengistu), by another repressive military regime (PFDJ/Isaias). Eritreans were "**robbed**", so to speak. All of those martyrs, some 200,000 of them including civilians, must be turning in their graves.

Under the new Ethiopian Constitution, **all** Nations and Nationalities have equal rights under the *law of the land*. The previously oppressed **Amhara** people (Wello, Shoa, Gojam, and Begemder) have created their own **Amhara State**, with Bahir Dar as their capital city. They manage *their "nation"* under their *own "constitution"*. In the event that Amhara State was to opt for cessation from Federal Democratic

Republic of Ethiopia, it is *their* call; as long as it is implemented *legally*. The same goes for States of [Afar](#), [Tigray](#), [Benishangul-Gumuz](#), [Gambela](#), [Harari](#), [Oromia](#), [Somali](#), and [Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region](#). What do they all have in common? They are **all** prospering; perhaps somewhat slowly, but **surely**; as never seen before in the history of Ethiopia. More significantly, Ethiopian **Nations and Nationalities** are **fairly** represented in government hierarchies as Ministers and other visible positions; which were previously held via "connections" with members of ruling bureaucrats.

The UN must *undo* the mess of Emperor Haile Sellassie's legacy as it pertains to Eritrea. The UN must *reinstate* the Federation of Eritrea with Ethiopia, for say a maximum of five years; and allow Eritreans to determine their own fate *legally*. Some will contend that history cannot be rewritten. I say why not; since it can help alleviate gross miscarriage of justice. In my opinion, Eritreans deserve to prosper within a "State of Eritrea" as "Ethiopians". After all, Eritrea is the home of Ethiopians such as Zer'ay Deres, Abraha Debotch, Moges Asgedom, Lorenzo Taezaz, and General Aman Michael Andom; to just name a few (<http://www.tigraionline.com/marriage.html>). The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia provides for *legal cessation* of Nations and Nationalities, in its Constitution. If Eritreans decide to secede from Ethiopia, their right to live as friendly and productive neighbors with close economic ties will remain intact. It will be a "win win" situation for Eritreans. I say forget "The Boundary Commission". What do they know! **ከባለቤቱ ያወቀ ቡዳ ነው!**

**Ethiopia is heading in the direct direction.** Thank you **EPRDF and Meles Zenawi!** To the Vocal CUD Diaspora/DERG Clones I want to say: Get over it! Ethiopia will not be deterred from its accelerating forward progress. Lead, follow, or get out of the way! Can anyone *spell* **Selemon Tekalign?** Repentance is a good thing you know. I rest my case! **የሃገሬ ልጅ ሆይ፣ ኢትዮጵያ ከየት ተነስታ፣ ወዴት በማዝገም ላይ እንደምትገኝ በጥሞና መገንዘብ ያሻል።** **Rome was not built in a day.** The **new** Ethiopia is barely sixteen years old! ([http://www.ethioobserver.net/Keyet\\_wedyet.htm](http://www.ethioobserver.net/Keyet_wedyet.htm)).

Eritrea too, deserves to benefit from the historic ongoing progress that is evident in Ethiopia. President Isaias Afwerki must come to his senses, and set Eritreans free voluntarily; while he still has a chance.



