



Tigray Rules any GERD Deal through Abiy's Team Illegal and Void

President Trump's belligerent Friday, Oct 25, 2020 remarks about Egypt's option to bomb GERD for a fault of not keeping its word exposed Ethiopia's worrisome dark deals under Abiy's leadership unknown to the Ethiopian public at large.

US President Donald Trump's reckless remarks that Egypt will have to blow up the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is being condemned by Ethiopians and condoned by Egyptians, telling where the US stands when it comes to pick a side between Ethiopia and Egypt. The fact that Trump wrongly understood the Dam to have an effect of stopping water flow to the Nile and drying up Egypt speaks a lot to the failure of the Ethiopian diplomacy on explaining the nature of GERD to the American government.

Trump made the remark in a telephone conversation with Sudanese Prime Minister Abdella Hamdok on Friday, as a filler talk while celebrating his diplomatic moment in convincing Sudan to open up relation with Israel, becoming a third Arab League member country to do so.

"I had a deal done for them, and then unfortunately, Ethiopia broke the deal which it should not have done," Trump said admitting for the first time his administration overstepped its role as observer and authored a deal, which Trump did through his Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. "We've stopped payment to them of about – of a lot of aid," he said and claimed that the dam "stops water from flowing into the Nile."

"It is a very dangerous situation because Egypt is not going to be able to live that way. They'll end up blowing up that dam [...] I say it loud and clear, they'll blow up that dam," Trump said.

Trump was noticeably irked by Ethiopia's withdrawal from Washington-sponsored talks in late February after his administration came up with a document for signing that Ethiopia rejected saying it favors the interest of Egypt. Sudan also did not sign that agreement.

Tigray officials have been on record questioning PM Abiy's motives when he agreed to Egypt's proposal to move the negotiation venue over GERD to Washington DC and bring the US as a mediator, a proposal former Ethiopian leaders had rejected. President Trump was clearly flagging up that Ethiopia broke the deal it agreed to and the US was forced to take a punitive action.

Ethiopians have not been informed what this deal was. However, TPLF leaders have been suspicious all along that PM Abiy might have committed treason compromising Ethiopia's national interest for personal gain or other unknown reasons. It is also troubling that the Sudanese PM Abdella Hamdok was heard responding to President Trump during same event by assuring him Ethiopia, Egypt and Ethiopia would soon resolve the stalemate.

The Tigray National Regional Government issued a statement with noticeable urgency rejecting any deal Abiy's leadership would reach with the other riparian countries over the GERD from here on. The statement said, "Trump's remarks have made it clear that Abiy has sold out the GERD for money and now that its term is over and illegally in power, it can't represent Ethiopia in any negotiation nor sign any agreement, on GERD or others."