



JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN LEADERS OF ERITREA, ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA

Eritrea's President, Isaias Afwerki, Ethiopia's Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed, and Somalia's President, Mohammed Abdullahi Mohammed, held discussions on 9 November in Bahr Dar, Ethiopia focusing on the progress of the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship signed on 5 September in Asmara.

In a joint statement, the three leaders stressed that their second meeting in as many months highlights the historic transformation toward peace and integration in the Horn of Africa.

During their discussions, the leaders reviewed developments and achievements since the signing of the Joint Declaration on Friendship and Comprehensive Cooperation between their countries.

They also noted the tangible and positive outcomes already registered and agreed to consolidate their solidarity and support in addressing challenges. In this regard, they stressed the importance of respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of Somalia and their firm support for the Somali people and the Federal Government of Somalia.

The three leaders welcomed the impending lifting of sanctions against Eritrea and expressed their conviction that this act of justice



would contribute to enhancing peace, development, and cooperation in the region.

The Presidents of Eritrea and Somalia also expressed their profound appreciation to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the people and government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to them

and their delegations. President Isaias returns home in the afternoon

hours of 10 November concluding two-day official visit to Ethiopia at

an invitation of Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed.

ERITREA WILL HOST 'AFRICA CUP' CYCLING COMPETITION



Ambassador Zemed Tekle, Commissioner of Culture and Sports, announced that the Eritrean Cycling Federation, in cooperation with the African Cycling Confederation, will host 'Africa Cup' Cycling competition from 21 to 25 November 2018.

Indicating that Eritrea is hosting the competition for the first time, Ambassador Zemed pointed out that preparation for the competition has been finalized.

The competition, recognized by the International Cycling Union (UCI), will include both men and women categories as well as time trials.

According to the UCI report, Eritrea's national cycling team is currently in second place behind South Africa in the African standings.

According to Ambassador Zemed, Eritrea will sponsor the competition and the public should strengthen its participation for the success of the competition.

WORLD ANTIBIOTICS AWARENESS WEEK COMMENCES

World Antibiotics Awareness Week was officially launched across the country on 12 November under the theme "Our Time with Antibiotics is Running Out".

The initiative aims to increase public awareness of the safe use of antibiotic medicines. Programs will be conducted at schools and health facilities, while messages will be disseminated through mass media.

Indicating that antibiotic medicines are important elements in the modern world, Ms. Amina Nur-Husein, Minister of Health, said that improper use of antibiotic

medicines can be life threatening.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Arefaine Berhe, pointed out that international institutions are working to ensure the health of humankind and that increasing the understanding of those working on animal and plant health is important.

Delivering the message of the WHO, Dr. Josephine Namboze, Representative of the WHO in Eritrea, said that expired antibiotic medicines pose serious dangers to patient health and he called for integrated efforts to reduce threats.

Mr. Eyasu Bahta, head of

the National Medicine and Food Administration at the Ministry of Health, and Mr. Afwerki Mehreteab, head of Animal Health at the Ministry of Agriculture, gave briefings on the background, importance, and proper use of antibiotics and anti-pest medicines.

World Antibiotics Awareness Week, being observed for the second time in Eritrea, features numerous important messages, including "Antibiotic medicine does not cure diseases caused by virus", "Don't share antibiotic medicine prescribed to you to others", and "Antibiotic medicine doesn't cure all diseases".



“The changes we are witnessing in Eritrea and Ethiopia reflect the two peoples’ resistance and resolve” - President Isaias

Part II

In an interview conducted with national media outlets on Saturday 3 November 2018, President Isaias Afwerki discussed the significance, progress, and regional ramifications of the recent historic peace agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia and other related developments. Excerpts of the second and final part of the interview follow.

Mr. President, can you elaborate on the regional and international ramifications of the peace and cooperation agreement signed by Eritrea and Ethiopia? What is its likely impact on enhancing regional partnership in particular?

Before we can talk about regional and international outcomes, we have to consider the context of the region. As we work towards strengthening bilateral relations, it is imperative that we understand the region. This region can be categorized into four sub-regions. To the west we have the Nile, which includes South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt. This part of the region has its own dynamics. The second is the Horn of Africa; this part of the region encompasses Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Sudan. The third part of the region is the Red Sea. The Red Sea has its own dynamics as well, formed by countries bordering the sea. The final and fourth part is the Gulf.

When we denote and amalgamate the four sub-regional components in this geographical mass as one

region, we need to fully grasp its over-arching features. What are the communality of interest and relations that bind them together? What are their mutual economic ties and respective geostrategic importance? How does one gauge the economic complementarities and cohesion among them in different sectors and along different parameters? There is also the question of security. What are the challenges and stakes in each sub-region? The domestic realities in each country and the web of interactions within the region must also be gauged. All these factors must be assessed in their totality and through the prism of complementarity, cooperation and mutual respect. Enhancement of our bilateral ties with Ethiopia will have its positive in the region. Our focus will not be geared or confined to advance our interest only but wider benefits of the region as a whole.

Over the course of the past few decades, the harm inflicted upon Eritreans and Ethiopians, engineered by external agendas and their local surrogates, can never be adequately compensated in any sort of way. The damage inflicted upon countries like Somalia, South Sudan, and the Sudan; the turmoil we are currently witnessing in Yemen and the Red Sea, the direct consequences of such actions that have resulted in the loss of potential economic opportunities, and the subsequent occurrence of famine and instability in the region, must be explained in greater depth.

This region could have registered immense progress had we been allowed to cultivate healthy bilateral relations from 1991 onwards and funnel our combined resources for

mutual development without the negative external influences and interferences. Of course, this is history now.

Moving forward, we have to think of how to consolidate the current climate of peace. Peace is a catalyst to development, prosperity, and stability. We can dwell on the past and think about how working towards constructive relations among countries of the Horn could have impacted the region positively. However, the past is the past. Our development goals should be forward looking. This current climate of peace is an opportunity that will have broader benefits, not only for the region, but also for the continent. Without peace, nothing is possible. Peace requires confidence, trust, and willingness. Progress on bilateral ties that has been achieved in the region over the last two to three months is a stepping stone towards further improvements.

For instance, IGADD (the Inter Governmental Authority on Drought and Development) was first formed with the idea to focus on development and environmental control. However, this was succeeded by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) with a view to focus on enhanced development in the region. Nevertheless, since the inception of the organization, it has remained far from achieving its target. IGAD became a tool for external actors to influence others and it has had regional implications.

Going back and reflecting on our experiences over the last century, the war and subsequent border stalemate between Eritrea and Ethiopia denied both countries two

decades of opportunities, growth, and peace, while it exposed both countries to foreign intrusion in their internal affairs. Going forward, in order to eliminate such narrow minded thoughts and intrusions in the region from occurring again, countries of this region need to have a sense of complementarity and common understanding. We need to evaluate our common interests, gains, and the ways to achieve this on the ground.

For both countries, the peace deal creates space to prioritize economic development. As such, the people of both countries have big roles in sustaining peace, in terms of experience, shared history, and factoring in the geopolitical location, cooperation towards the realization of socio-economic growth and development.

Populations, in general, have the potential to impact peace and security in any region. Currently, there are about 240 million people in Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, and Eritrea. Include the Gulf States, and that figure increases to 300 million. In 25 years, that number will double. This begs the question, however, of what will the natural resources and human capital of this region look like by then? How do we produce and achieve tangible results in proportion to the needs on the ground. Bearing this in mind, the time between now and then should be used to support peace and stability by increasing the foundation for stability, which in return will strengthen overall regional stability and open new doors for economic trade and prosperity.

If we think about it critically,

consolidated peace efforts require innovation based on thorough analysis of the issues at hand and evaluation of what has already been tested and tried to address them. We have to dare to ask the hard questions to solve our mutual problems. What needs to be done in Somalia? How to address the issues in South Sudan? Consolidated peace efforts call for countries of this region that are willing to go “beyond business as usual” and push the frontiers in terms of new and more effective ways to work for peace together. It demands that we ask critical questions such as what is the overarching framework or vision for peace in the Horn of Africa that actors should align to? Have we set out clear, yet comprehensive, aspirational, yet pragmatic, visions around which we can consolidate our peace building efforts? How do we cope with the dynamic nature of the region and draw from our history and experiences as we move the peace building field forward?

There are external actors still plotting to disrupt the new epoch of peace in the region. What effects will this have on the ongoing peace consolidation efforts?

This is something we expected from the beginning. There are a lot of old narratives repeated ad nauseam to no effect. Accounts such as there are considerable positive changes in Ethiopia following the peace deal made with Eritrea but the same cannot be said for Eritrea, no political change and there are political prisoners in the country, national service is still ongoing, and so on and so forth. These are narratives that seem to be churned out by those who have labeled themselves as regional experts. Such descriptions are, most of the time, based on unprincipled opinions that lack any impression of balance. These proliferating misconceptions are fabricated to generate a climate of mistrust and tension-laden region, with a view to create negative public opinion.

Moreover, in this era of flawed information technology, disinformation and sensationalism, and the speed at which they are spread and the magnitude of their influence, cannot be overlooked. They attempt to spread discord among audiences. Our objectives must not be derailed by such attempts. As the saying goes, “the camel marches, while the dog keeps on barking.”

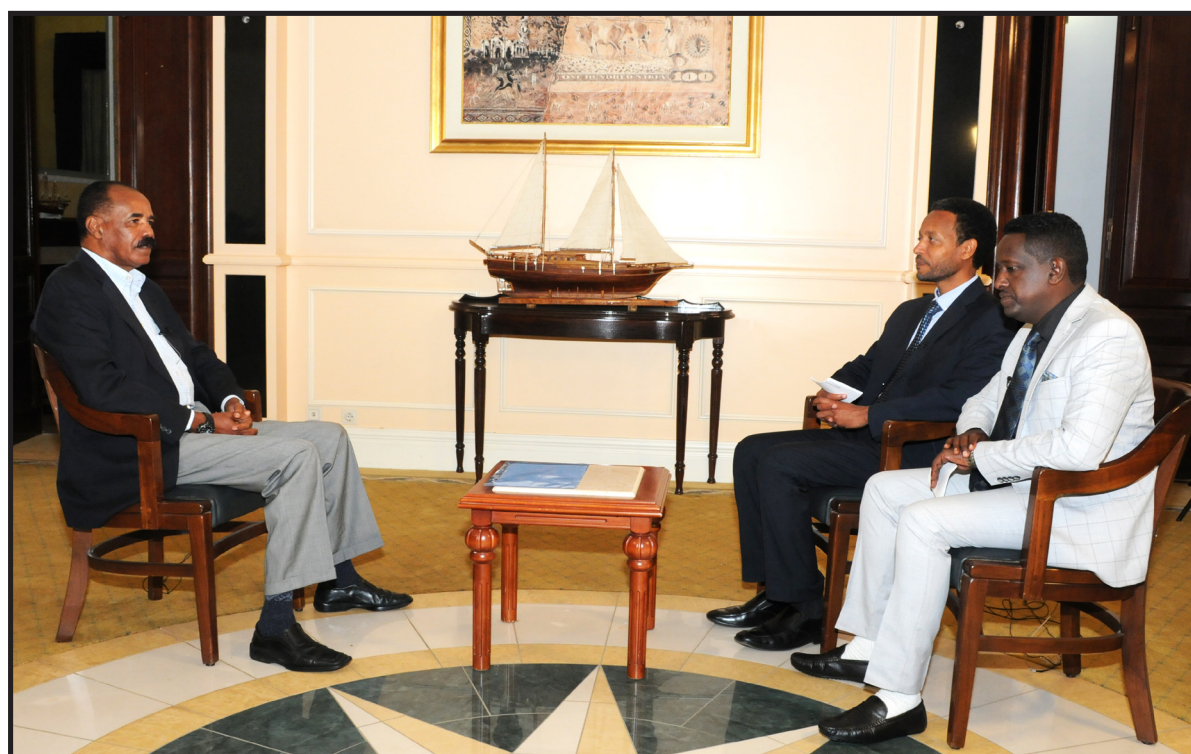
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Acting Editor
Amanuel Mesfun

P.O.Box: 247
Tel: 11-41-14
Fax: 12-77-49
E-mail:
eritreaprofilenews@gmail.com
Advertisement: 12-50-13

Layout
Azmera Berhane
Aida Johar



Views and Musings

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

1. Concision, imagery, and statistics...

Several days ago, I read the article, “Sanctions and the Negative Campaigns against Eritrea”, written by Ruby Sandhu, an international human rights lawyer. If you have not done so already, I highly recommend that you set aside a little bit of time to go through her brief article. In the article, Sandhu, who has written extensively on Eritrea, lists and closely examines several of the recent injustices that have been committed against Eritrea since the country’s independence. These include the failure of the international community to ensure the implementation of the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) ruling, the imposition of international sanctions, and a widespread negative media campaign.

Earlier this year, under the leadership of new Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, who took office in April on the back of years of massive and widespread anti-government protests, Ethiopia finally agreed to fully accept and unconditionally implement the EEBC final and binding ruling, thus helping pave the way toward peace and normalized ties with Eritrea. As well, at about the same time that this issue of Eritrea Profile comes to press, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is in the process of deciding upon whether to lift the sanctions against Eritrea. It is widely expected that the sanctions will be lifted after nearly a decade. The final topic addressed by Sandhu, the widespread negative media campaign, is what I would like to briefly touch upon here.

To build upon Sandhu’s important points and as I have previously written about, many mainstream analyses of Eritrea are filled with broad, sweeping generalizations, misinformed sound bites, numerous inaccuracies, and overly simplified black and white frameworks. They often lack any semblance of context and frequently approach extremely complex and complicated issues with a reductionist lens and in narrow terms.

One important, yet under examined, factor in the poor coverage on Eritrea is “concision”, which is described by world renowned scholar Noam Chomsky and others as how mainstream media content is structured so that it forces those with dissenting or alternative voices to limit the scope of answers to brief thoughts and “sound bites” that fit easily between two television ads. Essentially, coverage should be quick, brief, clear, and easy to comprehend.

Since properly covering Eritrea – which is largely unknown to most people in the West or around the world – requires delving into complex, complicated issues and providing critical details and background context, thus necessitating considerable time and effort, most media find it far quicker and much easier to simply resort to the conventional, one-sided, sensationalized discourse on Eritrea, characterizing it as an arena of barbarity, a place of unending misery, and completely lacking in basic humanity. Of course, they are able to get away with this because the prevalent Western image of much of Africa and the developing world is, and has long been, of a bunch of insignificant, destitute, conflict-ridden countries easily ignored.

In addition to concision,

mainstream coverage of Eritrea frequently features the use of sensationalist or dramatic imagery and symbols (including what is commonly defined as “poverty porn”), emotion-laced language, and reference to large, often mind-boggling, figures and statistics. Collectively, these are used in order to arouse people’s emotions, such as sadness, sympathy, fear, shock, and outrage, and they seek to elicit reactions and generate support. Rather than aiming to provide consumers with understanding of very complicated and difficult to understand issues, these present overly simplified messages in a compelling way with the intention of mobilizing the public to take some type of immediate action.

In terms of figures and statistics, while they are undoubtedly crucial in helping us to clarify issues and properly understand society, it is undeniable that they can also be manipulated and used to produce a large array of conclusions or support poor arguments. Generally, most of the coverage on Eritrea is inundated with figures and statistics to provide the semblance of authority and legitimacy, portray the existence of a pressing problem, and draw concern. However, these figures and statistics are often methodologically unsound (e.g. collected with sampling bias or

selective definitions) and rarely survive serious analysis or close scrutiny.

Compounding the problem of poor coverage on Eritrea is the fact that distorted reports, figures, and narratives are disseminated far and wide, without any critical analysis, thus further muddying the waters. As poor reports are spread and repeated, they inevitably come to be accepted as credible and true. Problematically, they also become the foundation for future analyses or reports. As well, it is important to note that fake and automated accounts have been used on several social media platforms. These accounts tend to spread materials at rates far beyond the capacity of human users, thus making them a powerful tool for those who wish to shape public opinion by dominating or guiding the conversation on Eritrea.

Of course, this is not to conclude that accurate, thoughtful, balanced coverage of Eritrea is non-existent. Over the years, there have been some useful, largely accurate, and generally even-handed reports and analyses of Eritrea. However, with that being said, one cannot overlook the simple fact that while individual articles or reports about the country may be accurate, the cumulative effects of poor coverage end up distorting the reality.

2. No simple panacea...

As noted above, the international sanctions on Eritrea, first imposed in 2009 and then expanded in 2011, are being discussed by the members of the UNSC. With the sanctions expected to be lifted, two thoughts quickly come to mind.

The first is that the people of Eritrea deserve great credit and merit utmost respect. They have borne extreme hardship to persevere and overcome what can only be regarded as a moral and legal injustice. The second is that as (or if) the sanctions turn into the problems of yesterday, Eritrea must be prepared to confront new challenges. It is undeniable that although the country has made considerable progress in many areas within a short time period, despite being confronted by various obstacles, many issues must yet be addressed and receive attention. With little doubt, the lifting of sanctions represents an important and positive development. However, it cannot be assumed that this will be the panacea that solves all the country’s challenges. There is tremendous work to do in terms of improving and developing the country’s physical and human capital, as well as strengthening its institutions. This process, as described by Fukuyama and others, is often “long, costly, laborious and difficult.”



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Much respect to the people of Eritrea



Making Sense of Science and Cultural Heritage: Requirements and Rationale in the Eritrean Context

Abraham Zerai

The interaction between science and cultural heritage has taken great steps over the past several decades. The field of cultural heritage generally includes all the tangible and intangible aspects of humanity's past and present cultural amenities. The material representation of the past has always been central to understanding human history from a number of perspectives. Conjectures and hypotheses may, to some extent, help define past trajectories. However, much of what we understand about the human past is the result of different lines of scientific analysis revolving around specific archaeological questions. While archaeology may be categorized as a field in the humanities, the nature of questions it seeks to answer requires interactions with and contributions from different disciplines. In fact, it is a misconception to assume that archaeological questions are only tackled from a humanistic perspective. In an attempt to outline how archaeological science needs to be seen as a holistic discipline, today's "Cultural Heritage" column highlights the contribution of other disciplines to different archaeological, paleontological, and paleo-anthropological projects in Eritrea.

Cultural heritage has profited greatly from the scientific explosion of recent years. The analytical techniques applied by archaeologists and conservation scientists (i.e. professionals focused on the conservation of heritage objects) are also used in earth sciences, chemistry, physics, biology, and engineering. Analytical approaches from earth and life sciences are useful to addressing questions of the source of materials in the past, on one hand, and meeting the technical requirements for the conservation of monuments and artwork, on the other. The contribution from mineralogy, molecular biology, analytical chemistry, and other sciences to solving challenges in the cultural heritage sector is massive. Their contributions



need to be fully recognized in order to lay the basis for an interdisciplinary platform.

Eritrea's rich cultural heritage has become common knowledge among researchers and laypeople alike. Following independence, archaeological projects recovered rich evidence dating back to different time periods, including prehistory, proto-history, the historical period, and medieval times. Many of these research projects encompassed geological contexts bearing information on human and mammalian evolution and helped in improving understanding of settlement patterns along the Red Sea, Danakil Depression, and further into the interior of the eastern escarpment, central highlands, and western lowlands of Eritrea. Research projects in the Danakil Depression of Eritrea have sought to understand human and mammalian evolution, as well as patterns of human adaptation.

A glance at these projects confirms their quest for scientific explanations and use of a number of different methodologies. During the past two decades, it has become common to use an interdisciplinary framework in the scientific reconstruction of past geological and ecological processes in the field. A number

of activities, from dating to the virtual reconstruction of the anatomy and morphology of fossil mammalian and hominid (human-like) specimens, clearly demonstrate that cutting edge analytical approaches are contributing to our understanding of Eritrean prehistory.

The movement patterns and demographic structure of prehistoric groups that inhabited present-day Eritrea require better understanding. Stone tools have become a good reference for understanding the migration and dispersion of human groups in the past. Understanding the geological sources of raw materials used for tool making is significant to tracking how people utilized and conquered the Red Sea coast. This epoch in human history is generating growing interest among scholars and researchers. Better understanding of raw material exchange networks across the Eritrean Red Sea coast, Danakil Depression, adjacent escarpments, the Arabian Peninsula, and Nile Valley is vital. Acquiring geo-chemical data from these materials requires cooperation between geologists, geo-chemists, and archaeologists. Scientific approaches are thus vital to understanding this period of prehistory.

Mineralogical and chemical

studies of archaeological pottery illustrate the importance of the physical sciences. Specifically, the physical sciences are vital in the reconstruction of the technology of pottery production and distribution. The northern Horn of Africa's setting along major geographic and ecological zones led to the flourishing of major centers, particularly during the first millennium BC and the first millennium AD. The extent of exchange between the western lowlands, central highlands, and Red Sea Coast, and their subsequent integration into the wider network of regional exchange, has long been the focus of archaeological research. Multi-analytical scientific approaches can shed light upon exchange networks and relate interregional economic dynamics along the Red Sea and the Nile Valley to the appearance and evolution of complex societies in the northern Horn of Africa between the first millennium BC and the first millennium AD.

The conservation of Eritrea's monuments and historical buildings is another area where the physical sciences can play a positive role. A comprehensive plan for evaluating the status of monuments and the intervention measures needed to ensure their continuity is crucial for the

management of cultural heritage in Eritrea. The preservation, conservation, and possible restoration of historical buildings and outdoor monuments require analytical procedures related to the universal practice of physio-chemical evaluation. Similarly, physio-chemical degradation processes affecting the conservation of parchments and other heritage materials of organic nature housed in museums, monasteries, and archival facilities can also be evaluated using similar analytical procedures.

The hard sciences greatly contribute to addressing cultural heritage challenges. The needs of an interdisciplinary group can only be fully recognized and overcome by developing a scheme that ensures the integration of local expertise. The integration of local experts, including specialists in molecular biology, environmental sciences, engineering, geophysics, geology, and geomorphology, in research projects is crucial.

The involvement of local geologists and experts from the Eritrean Mapping and Information Center in different phases of the Adulis Archaeological Project is one example of how local expertise can be effectively used in joint research projects. More recently, during preparation of the nomination dossier for the Asmara Heritage Project, risk assessment studies involving geophysical prospecting and documentation activities through 3-D laser scanning of the monuments were conducted, bringing together local experts and foreign heritage consultants. These activities offer possibilities to conduct research that addresses various topics associated with cultural heritage. They also help build the capacity of local experts, which can have a positive impact on the sustainable management, conservation, and preservation of cultural heritage. Research about and management of our cultural heritage requires the recognition and utilization of up-to-date scientific developments in the sector.

OPINION

Eritrea has been Exonerated and Remains UN-vanquished!

Sophia Tesfamariam

In its 12 November 2018 news report, Reuters said:

“...The United Nations Security Council is set to vote on Wednesday to lift a nearly decade-old arms embargo and targeted sanctions on Eritrea, diplomats said, after the country’s rapprochement with Ethiopia and thawing of relations with Djibouti... Diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the 15-member council completed negotiations on Monday and agreed on a British-drafted resolution to remove the sanctions, which were imposed in 2009 after U.N. experts accused Eritrea of supporting armed groups in Somalia. Eritrea has denied the accusations...A resolution needs nine votes in favor and no vetoes by the United States, China, Russia, Britain or France... Diplomats said Wednesday’s vote was likely to be unanimous...The draft resolution, seen by Reuters, would immediately remove the arms embargo and targeted sanctions - a travel ban and asset freeze - imposed on Eritrea...”

While all that is great, there is something missing in the news report.

It fails to mention the fact that for nine long years, despite making outlandish accusations, the UN Monitors were unable to find any verifiable evidence to support the outrageous allegations. What Reuters also omits is the fact the minority regime in Ethiopia was the main informant against Eritrea, until its downfall a few months ago. But how does that happen? How does a country get sanctioned based on false allegations?

That is exactly the question Representative Dana Rohrabacher of California was asking when he wrote the following on Twitter:

“...Kudos for lifting U.S. sanctions on Eritrea. The question is not that the sanctions should be lifted by the #UNSC; but why & how the illegal and unjust sanctions were justified in the first place by the Obama Administration and its cronies....”

The dishonest activities of the US Mission exposed by the leaked American Embassy Cables (via WikiLeaks) expose the cynical behavior of Ambassador Susan E. Rice and her team. The manner

with which UN Security Council Resolution 1907 and 2013 were adopted exposed the ugly diplomatic arm-twisting, the behind the scenes skullduggery, and crude abuse of power against a small African state. The Council was hoodwinked by members of the Obama Administration, especially Ambassador Rice, who worked closely with Meles Zenawi’s regime in Ethiopia, to engineer the illegal, unjust, and unfair sanctions.

23 December 2009 will long be remembered by Eritreans as a day of evil, vengeance, and vendettas. On that day, Rice made these audacious comments to the press after the Security Council adopted the illegal and unjust Resolution 1907:

“...I want to talk about the resolution we just adopted imposing sanctions on Eritrea. This was an African initiative. It was the consequence of a decision taken by the African Union... From the United States’ point of view, let me say that we have for many, many months sought a constructive dialogue with the government of Eritrea...We did not come to this decision with any joy – or with anything other than a desire to support the stability of peace in the region...”

Despite its lengthy and righteous wording, Security Council Resolution 1907 smacked of shame, deceit, and treachery. That so-called “African initiative” illustrated abuse of power and utter contempt for the intelligence of Africans, in general, and the astute and conscious law-abiding people of Eritrea, in particular.

With the exception of a few gullible individuals, no self-respecting Eritrean believed that it was truly an “African initiative”. Their suspicions were not for naught. The very next day, on Christmas Eve, it became abundantly clear that it was not an “African initiative” when the 28-member Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) issued a press release in connection with the sanctions against Eritrea and condemned the Security Council Resolution against Eritrea. Today, thanks to the revelations in the WikiLeaks cables, there is ample evidence to show that it was Meles Zenawi’s regime in Ethiopia and Susan E. Rice, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, that were the primary architects of the sanctions regime against Eritrea.

Let us also not forget the sordid

spectacle at the African Union and at the Intergovernmental Agency for Development (IGAD), where members colluded with the minority regime in Ethiopia to manufacture the outlandish allegations against Eritrea. The cables also expose the manner with which Africans were pitted against each other and used as tools in a US-Ethiopia plot to ensnare Eritrea in “stand alone sanctions”. Eritrea became the sacrificial lamb in a political drama designed to isolate and muzzle her voice in the Horn of Africa region.

The sanctions against Eritrea were extreme. It was ironic that the Security Council, which had remained silent as Eritrea’s sovereign territories remained occupied by Ethiopia, in violation of international law and the UN Charter, had no qualms about exaggerating a non-existent border issue with Djibouti – one that was fabricated by Ethiopia to begin with. Adding insult to injury, the Council knew that Ethiopia was behind the erroneous initial allegations contained in the UN Monitoring Group’s report, but it used those very same reports to hurriedly sanction Eritrea at the behest of the United States and Ethiopia.

The fact that the Somalia Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG) relied exclusively on information from Ethiopia and its surrogates, encouraged and emboldened the minority regime to produce even more preposterous allegations. When the Security Council outsourced its mandate to the regional organizations, the African Union and IGAD, it essentially outsourced it to the minority regime in Ethiopia. Susan Rice provided the regime with diplomatic and political cover, supporting its belligerent behavior in the region.

The nine year saga involved gross irregularities in the SEMG’s investigation and its conduct was marred by the absence of professionalism, which even resulted in the firing of some of its members. Unfortunately, there were some on the Council who chose to rely on information provided by informants of questionable credibility and known anti-Eritrea biases. Furthermore, some members with sinister motives used the Council to advance their own illicit foreign policy agendas in the Horn of Africa. Despite all of that, Eritrea stood firm and remained in compliance.

The SEMG reports read like spy novels. Eritrea was accused



of delivering arms across borders it never had or has with Somalia. The reports also contained fantastic information about bogus flight plans, phantom pilots, and shady men with deep pockets. Padding the documents were stories about fake business fronts and payment receipts signed by non-existent entities and “offshore business partners”. The reports may make for an interesting movie screenplay, but they did nothing to convince anyone of Eritrea’s guilt. However, at the UN Security Council, the reports would serve to falsely convict Eritrea.

What is interesting (in a negative way) is that in 2010, in its first report since Eritrea was included in its mandate, the UN Monitoring Group was already backtracking and toning down its accusations against Eritrea. Here is what it wrote:

“...By late 2009, possibly in response to international pressure, the scale and nature of Eritrean support had either diminished or become less visible...”

Despite that acknowledgement, for the last nine years, the SEMG reports delved in diversionary speculation about Eritrea. The media, in turn, disseminated the false allegations which were then used by academics, think tanks, NGOS, policymakers, and even service providers to malign Eritrea.

Some of its “investigations” went beyond the scope of its mandate, but on Eritrea’s support for Al-Shabaab, the main reason that Eritrea was sanctioned, its findings remained consistent and read much like its 6 November 2017 report, which stated:

“...Throughout its current mandate, the Monitoring Group investigated allegations by a neighbouring Member State of support provided by Eritrea to Al-Shabaab in Somalia. Despite receiving some corroborating information from another regional

Member State and regional administrations in Somalia, the Group has not been able to substantiate the allegations. As such, the Group has, for its fourth consecutive mandate, not found conclusive evidence of support provided by Eritrea to Al Shabaab...”

So Eritrea was wrongly convicted in 2009 based on allegations by Ethiopia, cleared of all charges by the UN Monitoring Group since 2009, yet the sanctions persisted until 2018. What does that say about the credibility, integrity, and efficacy of the UN Security Council? What about the confidence of member states in its ability to fulfill its Charter-mandated duties with fairness and equity?

Sanctions are supposed to be used to enforce international law, but in the case of Eritrea, sanctions were not only outside of the law, they were used to pursue the foreign policy agendas of the United States and Ethiopia. The sanctions violated Eritrea’s sovereign rights enshrined in the UN Charter and worse, they were based on false information. Eritrea was maligned in the mainstream media and her people everywhere faced hardship, stigmatized by the ugly allegations contained in the SEMG reports. Had Eritrea been a person, the exoneration would be followed by monuments, street signs, scholarships, and financial compensation. But what happens when a country is exonerated of an injustice caused by the very system that is supposed to uphold and defend states and their peoples against such abuse?

November 14 will be yet another historical milestone in Eritrea’s history. After nine very difficult years, Eritrea has been exonerated and remains unvanquished. The same cannot be said about Susan Rice and her TPLF-cronies. Congratulations to the people and government of Eritrea for their resilience and steadfastness!



Bisha Mining Share Company
P.O. Box 4276
Asmara
Eritrea

Tel: (+291) 1124941
Fax: (+291) 1124941
www.bishamining.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bisha Mining Share Company is inviting applicants for the following position for Bisha site project;

1. Job Title: Chief Maintenance and Engineering Officer

Department: Operations – Engineering

Number required: (01)

Contract Period: 03 Years

• PRIMARY PURPOSE

- Manages the Maintenance and Engineering Division, to ensure operating targets and budgets set are achieved/exceeded, following the company safety and health policies. Lead and champion the change management for the underlying systems and processes to fundamentally change the maintenance and engineering from reactive to a planned environment while maintaining cohesive relationships and positively impacting the strategies and goals of the business.

• MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

• Provide Leadership to the Departments

- Setting goals and strategies in line with the organisational goals and objectives, motivating and monitoring work performance of the Departments reporting into this position.
- Motivate and monitor work performance in line with mining operational objectives.
- Understand the strategic, long-term mining plans and implement mid to short term plans to meet objectives and targets.
- Provide effective leadership to all team members and drive a high performance culture.
- Daily/Weekly/Monthly reviews on performance / production targets to advise and communicate the tracking towards the ultimate goals set.
- Monthly review to measure targets and to revisit target deadlines so they are met.
- This position will in addition act as the General Manager (as required) in his absence to ensure the continuation of the General Manager's duties and responsibilities.
- Manage, advise and guide problems that are being communicated to this position by direct reports.
- Establish a framework with Departmental Managers to ensure a thorough understanding of expected targets to be met in order to ensure that performance outcomes are favourable.
- Manage guide and review projects of individual Section Managers.
- Chair various meetings and set resolutions in place and manage the 'high risk' issues.

• Operations Management

- Implements programs and actions that promote continuous improvement to decrease cost, improve safety and maximize profitability.
- Prepare profitable operating plans and budgets including operating schedules, production and cost projections and capital-expenditure requirements.
- Monitor operating results against budget and take corrective action where necessary, to at least met budget goals and objectives.
- Design, develop and implement Maintenance and Engineering strategy with direct reports which will ensure that the area of responsibility achieve ultimate production, efficiency and profit targets and that individual areas perform within operating-plan targets.
- Monitor and control operating performance and costs to ensure optimum equipment utilization and operating effectiveness at minimum cost.
- Ensure the proper maintenance and repair of equipment with necessary preventative maintenance and planning.
- Ensure effective coordination and cooperation between operating departmental units by reporting on a weekly and monthly basis on activities in each department.
- Ensure that staffing is optimal and recruit and hire personnel for all positions based on competency criteria.
- Ensure that all Operations employees receive regular information

on corporate and local affairs relating to personnel changes, corporate performance, Company plans and other relevant information.

- Develop and maintain good relations with the local staff and government authorities.
- Ensure that security measures are consistent with the Corporate Core's regulations and ensure the integrity of Company property and commodities produced.

• Finance and Budget

- Responsible to create, motivate and manage the entire Departments' budgets reporting into this position.
- Continuous revision of each Department's ytd tracking against the approved budget.
- Manage and communicate if measures are to be put in place when approved budget is exceeded.
- Management and guidance where cost saving initiatives to be implemented where necessary.
- Establish and maintain financial control systems that meet the standards as set out by the Financial Department.

• Drive Standards by Incorporating International Best Practices

- Lead and participate in new idea generation and prepare proposals for change.
- Manage general project planning and scheduling by guiding and advising based on industry's best practices to ensure a culture of continues improvement.
- Ensure compliance with local and international legislation.
- Ensure that team works to standards set out as per the project based on the ongoing development of this project.

• Policies and Procedures

- Manage and ensure that all policies, procedures and processes are maintained and are in line with international standards.
- Ensure that all Departments follow current approved policies, procedures and processes.
- Ensure that all employees within the department are educated and advised of policies, procedures and process changes.
- Manage the process by ensuring that all policies, procedures and processes are aligned with audit requirements.

• Risk and Safety Management

- Ensure the department works to the highest of standards and all hazards and risks are identified and corrective and preventative actions are continually put in place to ensure a safe and efficient working environment.
- Overview of QA/QC processes to ensure all documents necessary are recorded.
- Ensures that all safety and environmental policies and guidelines are implemented in all areas of control.
- Ensure that all hazards and accidents are brought to this position's attention and follow through until finalization.
- Ensure that operations are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner as set out in policies and as directed by the mine.
- Maintain awareness of all applicable local and national regulations and laws and develop systems to ensure compliance.

• Report Writing

- Ensure that that all Departments information systems are updated an able to provide a flash report that will reflect the current and accurate information on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.
- Analyze daily/weekly production data from Departments to help improve productivity outcome.
- Utilizing production data to determine root causes of where production is not meeting requirements.
- Manage and ensure that specific reports are made available for Board meetings.
- Responsible for reporting on Departments performance, projects and activities on weekly and monthly basis.

• Administration

- Check, authorize and sign off all tasks, jobs, projects and related documentation.
- Provide a monthly report to be discussed and reviewed with Management.
- Ensure that all Capex expenditure is supported by providing different quotes prior to project presentation.
- Ensure and manage the capturing of project information/data for all projects.
- Management of change documentation to ensure that this is in accordance to the approved procedures.
- Human Resource Management**
- Implement employee performance management process to ensure optimum employee performance and take necessary corrective measures to remedy sub-standard work or behaviour.
- Ensure staffs are trained, equipped and competent in job requirements.
- Coordinate with Human Resources in identifying high-potential personnel

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- and ensure their development and promotion on a timely basis.
- Ensure all operational crews are trained and authorized to operate equipment.
 - Ensure training and mentoring plan is implemented for individual performance development.
 - Manage recruiting of new staff and conduct interviews.
 - Implement a program of ongoing training and development so as to affect skills and technology transfer for successful succession planning process.
 - Manage the transfer of knowledge, training and upgrading of the National employee workforce through successful skills transfer.

KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

Qualifications:	
4 year+ Engineering Degree in Mechanical/Civil/Electrical Engineering in an internationally recognised Tertiary Institution (mandatory)	
Masters or MBA, (desirable)	
Registration in accredited Engineering Institution (desirable)	
Knowledge and Experience:	
10 - 15 years relevant experience	
5 - 10 years Management skills	
Experience in implementing and training total maintenance practice systems.	
Experience in Project and Contract Management (desirable)	
Ability to Lead and implement an apprentice/training program	
Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate, Excel – Advanced)	Communication (English)
Engineering maintenance, safety & environment experience	Assertiveness
Attention to detail	Interpersonal Relations
Analytical skill	Integrity
Management skills	Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling
Problem solving skill	Ability to work towards strict deadlines
Financial Management Skills	Coaching & Team-building skills
Strategy Exposure	Discretion
Project Management	Self-motivation
Maintenance Management	Cultural Diversity experience

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work:** Bisha.
- **Salary:** As per Company salary scale.
- **Additional requirement for Nationals:**
 - Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provide evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.
 - Present clearance paper from current/last employer.
 - Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).
 - Only shortlisted applicants would be considered as potential candidates for an interview.
 - Application documents will not be returned to sender.
 - All applications should be sent through the post office.
 - Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.
- **Address:** Please mail your applications to;
Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276 Asmara, Eritrea
- **Note to Non - Eritrean applicants:**
Please send a copy of your application to
Aliens Employment Permit Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940 Asmara, Eritrea.

“The changes we are witnessing in Eritrea and Ethiopia . . .

Continued from page 2

Generally speaking, the deliberate spread of misinformation has been around a long time. In America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and so on, the incidence and prevalence of fake news and misinformation has had a negative effect on current issues. The news cycle revolves constantly now, and hence news, true and false, is placed before the public on an instant, worldwide scale as never before. Bearing this in mind, it should come as no surprise to find individuals spewing absurd opinions, such as “ the Badme issue should be left for the Tigray people to resolve, rather than left to Eritrea and Ethiopia.” These are intended to mislead people. Moreover, the ongoing developments of open borders and the free movement of people are taken out of context and promulgated into false and misleading accounts designed to deceive the public. These are driven by actors with hidden agendas who don’t favor the current climate of peace and development. The general public needs to stay alert and ahead of such misinformation and sensationalist reporting.

Mr. President, what responsibilities for the people and government arise with the new developments?

Based on our past experiences, we cannot be relaxed assuming that peace and stability are prevailing. We should not only increase awareness and commitment, but we should also work to face the challenges that may arise. We should work double fold in order to make up for lost opportunities. As of today, there is no time for relaxation. We have emerged victorious against all conspiracies to derail our independent political path and development drives. It was because of the continuous external hostilities that we were unable to realize our desires. Now, a new era is emerging and we should make up for the lost opportunities.

Every citizen should actively work for the sustainability and development of the agreement. The new peace opportunity should add impetus and strength for our active engagement in the process. One of the issues we continuously raise is that we integrate our resources and capacity at regional and global level for better outcomes. However, we should not expect external assistance for achieving our desires. Instead, we should mobilize our resources and capacity for achieving our desires. The Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples inside their countries and in the Diaspora should work hard and bring about meaningful progress. For that, we should mobilize our resources and register large economic achievements.

The cooperation and relations that we aspire to create should bring positive changes in the lives of our people. Positive changes can be realized only through hard work and the new reality that is emerging is of significant importance to the Eritrean people. The Eritrean people have a unique geographical and economic situation. We could also mention other various factors. This uniqueness should play a part in development

and impact the bilateral relations between the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia. We should identify our opportunities and potential in order to effectively exploit them. For that, we should prioritize our activities in order to develop our capacity, extend our achievements, and augment productivity and timely implementation of our programs.

We should multiply our efforts, in terms of time and resources, for better outcomes. The same is expected from the people of Ethiopia. 100 million human resources in Ethiopia, and in the other countries in the region, are not to be seen lightly.

The people of Somalia are currently afflicted by intractable turmoil; they have to emerge from that situation and become part of the new era of peace and development. The people of South Sudan have been in the same situation. They, too, have to be part of the process.

The awareness and contribution of the people in the region should go hand in hand with the new developments. That is where we should concentrate on, in order to develop bilateral relations. We should also do our homework as a country, in terms of developing our capacity and shouldering our responsibility.

Eritrean nationals living in the Diaspora should also become beneficiaries of the new opportunities. In order to do that, strong efforts should be exerted so that they fully comprehend the new reality and development programs and contribute their part. They have to be aware of the political, diplomatic, information, and other development programs.

Mr. President, the Eritrean people have stood alongside their government in foiling all sorts of external conspiracies and have reached this new era of peace and development. Do you have any message to convey to them in connection to that?

There are many factors that make the Eritrean people unique. It is not an easy thing for any people to stand firm against conspiracies of such magnitude for over 30 years. It is true that the Eritrean people have not received what they should deserve. The standards of living of the people should be improved and their desires should be met. The new developments emerging in this region are the result of the steadfastness and commitment of the Eritrean people. With the new reality, the people should be ready to work hard and take advantage of the opportunities created.

The Eritrean people have stood firmly for the past 27, 28 years against a number of challenges: the border conflict, economic conspiracy, sanctions, and other external pressures. Therefore, the Eritrean people greatly deserve the new realities that are emerging. If we recognize our path, programs, and vision there is nothing that can stop us from realizing our desires.

Thank you Mr. President!

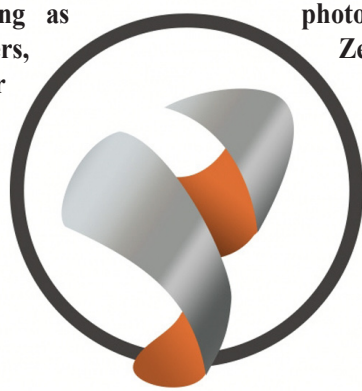


Q and A

Yiata Pictures: Working to Promote the Eritrean Film Production Industry

Asmait Futsumbrhan

Yiata Pictures is a young film production company that specializes in creating Eritrea-related films and clips. Working as producers, the company's founders, Alaa'zar, share a passion for the vision of putting Eritrea's film industry on the international map. They are also using their talents to encourage beginning artists and help youth change their lives through art. Today, Q&A welcomes Zemenfes and Siem.



Yiata®
P I C T U R E S

Zemenfes

We want to tell Eritrean stories. Regardless of whether it is music, film, or a photo, we can do it all. But in order to do that, we need to have talented and qualified artists. Unfortunately, not all of them have the requisite opportunities or support. I want to look out for those people. That way, we are changing an individual's life and helping to develop the industry. We work hard to produce quality work.

When people ask us how we do our jobs, we are more than happy to discuss and we don't hide information. We want to share all that we can with all those who are interested. That is the only way that we can achieve our goals.

Siem, how have the courses and materials from Zemenfes helped you?

Siem

I was working as a composer in a music studio. I was also working as a wedding photographer and video editor. However, despite my years of experience, there was still much that I had to learn about photography, shooting, cameras, and editing. The courses and tutorials have helped greatly. I have tremendously improved my skills, even though I had already spent considerable time in the profession.

Also, we need to have qualified professionals in order to reach the

targets that we have set. We are trying to see the bigger picture here. As I told you, during these past six months, we have done short videos and clips. We need to expand our work and conduct larger projects. That is why we are beginning registrations for video shooting, editing, script writing and film directing classes on 1st December 2018. They will be set at a fair price which we expect that everyone who is interested in the field will be able to afford. That way, we all can benefit in achieving our vision.

If all goes well, what do you

could be the reason. However, at the end of the day, we are still able to do great things with limited tools, if we have passion, desire, creativity, and work ethic.

The question is how much time do you invest? On average, the general standard is that a minute shoot requires one day. We don't do that here. We do ten minutes for a one minute shoot! What can we realistically expect from that?

What we don't see here is the bigger picture. Instead, we rush to complete our video and upload it

Welcome, Zemenfes and Siem! Tell us a little bit about where it all began for you.

Zemenfes

Back in Germany, I worked as a photographer and filmmaker. I got into photography when I was just thirteen years of age. That was just my hobby back then. After I took various courses, I started working as a filmmaker and producer. I used to cover various YPFDJ events. However, I have always had the desire to come here [to Eritrea] and contribute something through my profession. That is where it all begins. I had the dream to someday share my knowledge and do a little which can be useful in the advancement of local film production. This is the goal. Nonetheless, in order to accomplish that there are many things that have to be done in the process.

Siem

Zemenfes came here with a vision. He wanted to help develop the local industry. He met with many other professionals prior to meeting with me. However, not many people understood what he was trying to do. Here, we are interested in how much money a video can get us. That is against what he is here for. When he shared his idea with me, I was 100% ready for it since it is for a good cause.

He came with many video tutorials and documents. He also conducted many courses which were very enlightening.

What makes Yiata Pictures unique?

Siem

At the moment, we have few staff members. We have to keep in mind that it has only been six months since the birth of Yiata Pictures. However, we have completed a number of short video clips, music clips, and advertisements for various institutions. One of the main things driving us is that we want our productions to be as different as possible. That is what we stand for. We try to introduce new faces to the entertainment industry. We have many talented young artists who haven't been discovered yet. This is one of the many reasons why we don't see much progress; we see the same artists featured in different videos. Also, this is Zemenfes' idea. We try to provide a platform for undiscovered artists who may not have opportunities to follow their dreams. These artists do not have to pay for anything since we do all the shooting and pay the studio fees to make music videos. That way, we introduce new artists who can contribute to the field and make changes to their lives.

We also have worked on short pantomime videos. These videos try to tell stories with just actions and no sounds. We can often transmit clear messages with just actions. Remember that Charlie Chaplin didn't make the world laugh with his words.



Siem Alaa'zar and Zemenfes Tesfazghi

think your impact will be on the industry?

Zemenfes

There is a saying I'd like to share: "if you try to light an already lit candle with another lit one, it won't blowout, it will only get brighter." If we all believe in coming together as professionals and work for the advancement of our industry, I don't think that there is anything that can stand in our way.

Can you compare local film production with international film production?

Zemenfes

This is just my opinion, but I don't think we are even close to being compared. Many factors

to YouTube. We are preoccupied by the number of views and subscribers.

So for us, what we try to focus on is investing as much time as possible on our work in order to produce high quality.

Siem

Also, teamwork is important. Most of all, however, the field requires that a professional be disciplined. To get your work done properly and professionally, we need to be committed to our jobs. Again, as professionals, our competition shouldn't be local, it should be international.

Thank you so much for your time. Good luck with everything!