

## **CUDists, WHAT PART OF “NO” DON’T YOU UNDERSTAND?**

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My College Professor used to say, “Sometimes water is better than some people’s mind, in that water doesn’t attempt to flow up hill, against the force of gravity.” His message was that even water knows its limitations and functions within its capacity. The moral of the story is that there are some people who pursue things without carefully analyzing the pros and cons of their pursuit and they don’t match and align their abilities with reality. In other words, this story is about people who engage themselves in a wild goose chase, so to speak. Frankly, I was not as appreciative of the professor’s statement then as I am now. After many years, however, I have been able to witness a classic scenario which my professor would have been delighted to use as a case in point to substantiate his assertion. It is the ceaseless and insipid outcry of the Diaspora “CUD” supporters to no avail at all. They have held numerous demonstrations in the United States asking the administration to end its humanitarian aid to Ethiopia but all they have gotten so far is “NO.” These “CUD” elements, however, don’t seem to grasp the gist of “NO” and rather continue begging the United States to suspend its aid for the poor; hence the title of this article.

These hopeless demonstrators put the United States of America at the center of their dangerous propaganda by severely criticizing it for not acting in their favor that is stopping humanitarian aid. Actually, their criticism amounts to nothing but defaming America for helping the poor, for being strong advocate of the on-going democratization process in Ethiopia, for living up to its obligations as a superpower of the world, and, most importantly, for being home to many immigrants and refugees coming from all over the world looking for a better place to live. These actions certainly go in line with the basic values and principles which the U.S. strives to fulfill here at home and abroad.

Of course, the United States of America has never been and will not be on record in supporting tyrant regimes that deprive their citizens of any democracy and freedom of speech. However, in my opinion, it is appropriate for the United States to encourage and espouse countries with visionary leaders in their relentless endeavor to democracy consistent with the needs and aspirations of their citizens. Obviously, Ethiopia is one of such countries with farsighted and progressive leaders and it goes without saying that the U.S. and other freedom-loving countries have a moral obligation to acknowledge and encourage such qualities, if Africa as a whole is ever to emerge from its current condition. Not to mention, under the leadership of the present government, Ethiopia has had three free and fair elections over the last fifteen years, the freedom of press was granted to all citizens, Ethiopia’s economy has been showing consistent growth against the odds of some drought years, the Ethiopian people are allowed to move in and out of the country without any illegal restrictions, and the fate of every citizen is protected and governed by the country’s constitution. These are great achievements which the Ethiopian people have come to enjoy after enduring many years of repressive and authoritarian ruling under the defunct “dergue” regime and the ones before it.

The opposition prides itself in its ability to organize and stage a number of demonstrations in Europe and the United States. The demonstrators have vigorously demanded and begged donor countries to withhold and even cancel their proposed aid to the Ethiopian people. With all due respect, the demonstrators sounded like a broken record with a scratch that makes the same track repeat endlessly: No aid to Ethiopia, No aid to Ethiopia, and No aid to Ethiopia, that took

passers-by with surprise. Alas, it is very strange indeed, isn't it? "Why are these people so obsessed with stopping aid to Ethiopia?" my cousin asked with curiosity. My short answer to her question was that they want to use food aid to carry out their hidden agenda. "What do you mean by that?" she added. I immediately told her that according to the opposition's statements and speeches, they want to halt food aid to Ethiopia, in order to weaken the current government. "They want let the poor people die in order to weaken the government?" she inquired. I said yes and she went to her bedroom shaking her head caught with amazement with what she just heard and the rest is story.

Regarding the recent elections and its subsequent results, the United States has made it crystal clear that the opposition should live up to the constitution of the land and they should not attempt to gain power through violent means. On top of that, the Assistant Secretary of State, Jendayi E. Frazer, in her recent interview with "Straight Talk Africa" said, "the opposition should be honest about the political space in the country and get in the system, get into the Parliament and stop **BEGGING** the U.S." ([www.aigaforum.com](http://www.aigaforum.com)).

Similarly, British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and other members who attended the "progressive Governance Summit (including Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi) in South Africa, shared their experiences on effective leadership and good governance. During the summit press conference, Tony Blair described the Ethiopia's 3<sup>rd</sup> National elections as the freest and fairest elections ever held in Ethiopia. "I think it is important to emphasize this is not the question of the government having lost in the elections and then trying to retain power," he added.

Furthermore, Professor Frazer stated that the image of Africa (including Ethiopia) portrayed by the Diaspora as a police state is that of 30 years ago. Exactly!! Wake up CUDists and rethink your actions. Don't act against your own people in order to groom Mr. Hailu Shawel and his subordinates for higher office. Your reckless action is damaging the good image of our country. Even though the deadline to enter the Parliament has come and gone, still, the door may be open for those who genuinely wish to work for their constituency according to the constitution of the land. Therefore, take my suggestion and advice your representatives (including some of the suspects who are currently in prison) to join the Parliament with good spirit to serve the Ethiopian people. As the Amharic saying goes, "Bilt Lij Eyebela Yaleksal," they should, too, have to join Parliament and work from inside out, not the reverse. Forget the nonsense mantra of so-called eight preconditions to enter the Parliament. Would you please?

To put it in a nutshell, by all accounts, the Diaspora demonstrations that have been accompanied with violent screaming, flag display, pseudo-priests, monotonous slogans, biased "VOA" Amharic service and empty rhetoric are not working, at least in the U.S. Fortunately, the U.S. understood the cynical and evil motives beyond these well decorated demonstrations and it has said time and time again "NO" to detractors to peace and the fledgling democracy in Ethiopia. There is no "gold and wax" verse in the English language literature; no double meanings. Stop begging the U.S. to follow your destructive path. After all, it says "NO". What part of "NO" don't you understand, CUDists? Once again, No means NO (**Ayhonm, Aychalim, Yelem wezeterfe--**). Come on! Even the dumbest Parrot can understand that.

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