

## Comparing Apples and Oranges: The Case of Mrs. Birtukan

Vs.

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

By Mezgebe Gebrekiristos

These days, a lot of trash is finding its way to the internet with the help of pure tabloid websites such as Ethiomedia and other pro-opposition bloggers. Full of terror and fabrications, Ethiomedia is pursuing its venomous propaganda with extraordinary effort aiming at inciting civil war among the Ethiopian People. A case in a point is a recent letter that was said to be composed by **Birtukan Mideksa** from her prison cell. This fictitious letter, calls upon the Ethiopian youth, to once again, engage in a destruction and violence in order to free Birtukan and her cronies. In doing so, Birtukan and her party (CUD), want to use the youth in particular, as tokens to fulfill their thirst for power. In her alleged letter, she praised the elementary and high school kids for not pursuing their educational endeavor peacefully and called them “romantic youth.” The purpose of the letter is geared at indoctrinating the innocent children with the spirit of chaos and violence, or, in her words, “the spirit of CUD.” This spirit, as it is baptized by Birtukan herself, is threatening the very first sovereignty of the country and the emerging democratic process that is commended by freedom-loving Ethiopians through out the country.

As I continued reading the letter, it immediately became clear to me that this self-proclaimed heroine of our generations by inciting terror in big cities, is writing along the lines of the all-time hero and civil rights fighter, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The only difference is that hers was written in “Amharic” and his, of course, was in English. The fact of the matter is that these people are completely different both in their ideology and reasoning. The former has been endorsing chaos and violence; the later denounced it through out his civil rights struggle in the 1960’s. Furthermore, Dr. King was struggling to free his people from the then un-just system and oppression but our lady Mrs. Birtukan is trying to bring just the opposite. Dr. King taught his people to respect their neighbors while Mrs. Birtukan armed and spiritually trained her supporters to rise against their Ethiopian brothers and sisters. The differences between these individuals are strikingly numerous and I can go on and on but I don’t want to bore my readers by mentioning the obvious.

Imitating someone’s fine character without actually practicing it is not only immoral and wrong act but also it is an insult to the person whom the imitator is trying to. Mrs. Birtukan is not the only CUD member who has been trying to copy famous speeches and writings of true renowned heroes. Her senile boss, **Mr. Hailu Shawel**, is on record for acting like the former President of South Africa, Mr. Nelson Mandela. While Mr. Mandela spent more than twenty seven years in prison to liberate his people from the apartheid rule that was imposed upon his people, Mr. Hailu Shawel helped the defunct ‘dergue” regime to conduct the infamous “red terror” campaign that took many innocent lives.

In conclusion, my advice to Mrs. Birtukan is that to withdraw the letter from the postings, otherwise, copyright infringement has been clearly perpetrated and the right owners of the ideas in your alleged letter are going to hunt you. Besides, please be careful of what you pray for. In other words, don’t compare yourself with the giants in history while you are actually the size of a peanut only known for your derogatory ideas which instill hatred and animosity among the Ethiopian people. As the Amharic saying goes “**Ruk ager lewushet yemechal**”, you have copied Dr. King’s letter and rewrote it in Amharic. Unlike Dr. King’s message, however, your true identity has been exposed when you called upon your naïve supporters to resort to violence and riots. Good try on your effort to compare apples and oranges.