

WHY I STILL DON'T LOSE HOPE IN SOME MISGUIDED PEOPLE

By Mezgebe Gebrekiristos

Over the last two weeks, I have been flooded with numerous e-mails from both sides of the isle (i.e. supporters and opponents) in response to my recent article entitled "Dedebit: A Treasure Revered by Progressives and Belittled by Reactionaries." As always, I cherish all responses regardless of the contents of the e-mails, and I try to respond to some of them as time permits. Accordingly, I replied to several e-mails composed by Ethiomedia's guru of character assassination, Mr. Ephrem Madebo. One e-mail leading to another, Mr. Ephrem and I communicated a number of times. After reading the e-mails from Mr. Ephrem, I came to know that he is one of the misguided people in the Diaspora who sneeze whenever their chauvinist professors cough. The e-mail correspondences (unedited, and some words are in Amharic) are given below for you to judge.

Ephrem Madebo <ebini23@yahoo.com> wrote:

If Dedebit is the birthplace of democracy, nothing would justify its name, but the name itself. If Democracy is the rule of the minority over the majority, then you are absolutely right that this kind of democracy comes only from Dedebit. I don't think your cheap memo to your masters deserves a reply so I don't want to waste my time! Have fun!

Mezgebe Gebrekiristos Gebrekiristos <emaa_go@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Sir:

I don't blame you if you fail to see the unprecedented democracy that the ordinary Ethiopians are enjoying today for you, purposefully, are giving a blind eye to any progress that has been realized within the last fifteen years. Hence, no amount of advice and truth finding will open your eyes to see the light. Now, here is my new advice to you, and I am sure you will like it: **Stay the course, and it will take you to complete darkness.** Thank you for your e-mail, though.

Ephrem Madebo <ebini23@yahoo.com> wrote:

Thank you! May be we are talking about different types of democracy! The type of democracy I know does not exist in Ethiopia. In Ethiopia one man is a PM, a judge and legislator.

Mezgebe Gebrekiristos Gebrekiristos <emaa_go@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Ephrem:

Yes, it is possible that we are talking about different types of democracy, as you suggested in your e-mail. And, in my opinion, it is okay to think differently on the aspects of democracy, or any other things for that matter. To be honest, I don't advocate for the obsolete ideology, "One-size fits all." Ethiopia is way past that arrogant approach to our co-existence. We should use unity to bring strength, and not the other way. One can not realize sustainable unity through force. However, the notion of unity without

using force seems to be difficult to conceptualize in the minds of few people, and I only hope that you are not one of them.

To put it in a nutshell, we should realize that democracy is a process. Considering the multi-faceted problems that Ethiopia now faces, the process could take longer time than, say, the few Western Countries you might be familiar with. So--my friend-- please be patient and try to contribute things that would help to shorten that process. If not, at least refrain from becoming an impediment to the process. Slowly but sure, Ethiopia is going to emerge as one of the democratic countries in the world. This is not simply a wishful thinking: It is a reality that we are witnessing. God bless you.

Ephrem Madebo <ebini23@yahoo.com> wrote:

We both talk about democracy, if our goal is the same then we can take different paths. However, the problem should be the same. The impediment of democracy in Ethiopia is TPLF. Do you agree?

Mezgebe Gebrekiristos Gebrekiristos <emaa_go@yahoo.com> wrote:

Selam, Ephrem:

Neither our goal nor our problem is the same. In the Ethiopian political context, there are two opposing goals currently at play: The reinstatement of the old administrative style vs. the creation of the fledgling democracy. Those who espouse the old administrative style are ardent enemies to the conception of the fledgling democracy. By the same token, those who benefit from the fledgling democracy are guardian angels for the ideals of true democracy. With its outstanding record as a champion of democracy, it would be remiss of me if I don't put TPLF in the latter category. However, this does not mean that TPLF is not viewed as a problem by the former. Therefore, I agree with you that TPLF is an impediment to the smooth return of the principles of the Derg and the ones before it--against the wishes of some reactionaries (I admit). So, which category do you truly belong to?

Ephrem Madebo <ebini23@yahoo.com> wrote:

Are you with your mind? Why would I work hard to bring the old admn that made me live my country and killed my brother and my cousin? Please think twice before you speak once! You need to know who you are speaking to. I don't want power, I don't want easy money that comes from the people, all I need is a strong democratic Ethiopia. What you just wrote stinks to me. Isn't Meles a person who sent waves of Ethiopians to the Bademe front and negotiated on Bademe after the Ethiopian heroes took it back from Esayas? Why would you kill more than 50k people for a piece of land (our land) and let the land go after you win the battle for it. Didn't the same Meles give Assab to Eritrea in an action that surprised Eritreans and the West? Didn't he create ethnic federalism and still controls power in all of the states? What kind of democracy is that? If you are a man who spits what Meles puts in your mouth please leave me alone. I a man of analysis and synthesis, not an empty bottle waiting to be filled!

Mezgebe Gebrekiristos Gebrekiristos <emaa_go@yahoo.com> wrote:

Awko yetegnan bekeseksut aisemam, yibal yele! Have fun with whatever you do, sir. I only hope that it is not too late when you wake up from your fake siesta.

Ephrem Madebo <ebini23@yahoo.com> wrote:

Gid yelem endetagnau liker, antem migbihin bela! What ever you say, I am not wishing to bring back Derg or HIS... I am from the oppressed and have never been part of oppressors, and I don't intend to be one now! You think I am a member of Kinjit, in fact this is the disease of TPLF and people like you. Who ever opposes you is derg or Kinjit. I am from nither, but still I'm a die-hard opponent of the bandits from "Dedebit"!!!!!!

Mezgebe Gebrekiristos Gebrekiristos <emaa_go@yahoo.com> wrote:

Aha! I know you now. So, you are fighting against your interest. That is interesting to know. You must have been brainwashed by, say, your chauvinist ex-professors. Brother, you just gave me one more reason to work hard to bring you back to your senses. In the mean time, however, please allow me to extend my apology to you for including you in the Kinijit (a misnomer for **Yaltekenaje**) category. But, wait a minute, isn't there a saying that goes like this: If you walk like a duck and quack like a duck, you may be a duck (something like that). I wish you were not **Yaltekenaje**, but your actions tell otherwise.

My best regards,

Ephrem Madebo <ebini23@yahoo.com> wrote:

My brother I have better things to do. Ante yebahir wuha bidefabihim yemitiretib aymeslegnm! Bring ideas, otherwise leave me alone! I don't like hear-says! Finally, don't tell me your emptiness that I already sensed by using the words of Engineer Ghirma

Mezgebe Gebrekiristos Gebrekiristos <emaa_go@yahoo.com> wrote:

Good-bye! I am gonna miss you!!!

Even though I hardly entertain trash e-mails, I breached my self-imposed restriction to respond to Mr. Ephrem's series of e-mails in the hope of showing him the light at the end of the tunnel. Typical of his comrades-in-character assassination, however, he was engaged in unnecessary slanders rather than writing about constructive ideas.

In one of his e-mails above, he admitted that the **Derg** killed his brother and his cousin; however, in reality, he is working to bring his brother's killers back to power. Of course, he would deny that he is trying to resuscitate (to use Eng. Ghirma's word) the Derg, his actions tell otherwise. But, some time in the future, he may realize that there are stark differences between the Derg and the current government, where the latter is poised to bring true democracy to the people of Ethiopia that was denied by the former. It is this truth that gives me hope to keep extending my hands to people like Mr. Ephrem Madebo. Mr. Ephrem, please join us in planting a tree of democracy on the top of the tombs of your brother and your cousin that were massacred by the **Derg** on your admission.