

## A Friendly Reminder: All That Glitters Is Not Gold

By Mezgebe Gebrekiristos

You may think that the mafia style of running business is a thing of the past? Think again. Although by no means a blessing, you don't have to travel down memory lane, or take a trip to Italy to witness such a filthy way of making a living: You can find it right here---in your computer---at the click of the mouse.

This dirty business of making things up for ephemeral political gain will not end anytime soon as long as people with illusion and paranoia rule the kingdom of the Opposition, and if you are one of the few individuals whose soul depends on nothing less than that, the Opposition web sites have you covered. However, if you are like most people who occasionally skim these extreme web sites for the purpose of challenging the many conspiracy theories, your visit to the conglomerates of lies is worthwhile. With that spirit, consider the latest story on the split within the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) that was heralded in glowing terms by these sites.

To the delight of the con artist leader of Eritrea, Isayas Afewerki, who resides over a pariah state and to the chagrin of many Ethiopians who truly love their country, some of the Opposition groups have been consulting with Ethiopia's enemies for too long. Isayas knows that the only way he could be successful in destabilizing the giant country to the South is by using her own children as guinea pigs in exchange for a small office and a cup of cappuccino in Asmara, bestowed to individuals in the high echelon of the Opposition groups. To that end, he gave sanctuary to the leadership of the OLF; threw a welcome party for members of the defunct CUD party, and the conspiracy continues to this day with unreserved support to the terrorist group in Ogaden (ONLF), and the remnants of Somalia's UIC.

Apparently, the chief of chaos in Asmara grew unhappy lately with the performance of the OLF that culminated with the split of the 40-year old liberation front into two factions. One of the splinter groups, Isayas' choice, seems to enjoy temporary support from the Oppositions who are known for compromising the interests of their country for temporary personal gains. However, history tells us that hastily assembled organizations, tailored to serve Isayas' sinister motives, are always dead on arrival. A case in point is the once highly touted coalition by the Diaspora Opposition---the AFD---an ungodly alliance of groups with strikingly opposite agenda that ceased to function the same day of its creation.

The idea of armed struggle was lurking in the wings of Dr. Berhanu Nega's "Ginbot 7", way before the Opposition web sites broke the news of the rift in the OLF leadership. Since I have adequately disputed the intention of the Dr. Berhanu's newly founded group in my previous articles, there is no need to address it here but it is worth mentioning the symbiotic relationship between the two that has been in the making for sometime now in secrecy. The question is, will two groups with completely different agenda on Ethiopia, which broke up from their respective bad marriages, make a good couple? Only time will tell for sure, but as the Amharic saying goes, **“የጣዳኞች ስምምነት አይሆንም፣ ያስታውቃል።”**

In summary, even without having a concrete insight into the profiles of the individuals that made up the ranks of the OLF faction, the purpose of the very existence of the group is clear: It is to weaken Ethiopia. One doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to understand that Isayas Afewerki is of menacing motive. No one expects a blessing from the devil, unless he/she is the devil's advocate. Unfortunately, we have a few devil's advocates in our midst dressed in a sheep's clothing, but we should remind them that old saying, "All that glitters is not gold."

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