

Editorial
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Benadir-Watch

One day, the story of the thousands of young Somali nationalists who were massacred in the killing fields of Baidoa, Jilib, and Lower Juba will be written. But before that occurs, it is necessary to establish the facts, identify responsibilities, and keep the record straight. As the facts immerge, in addition to Ethiopia and its supporters, five Somali groups could be identified for collaborating with Ethiopia in the execution of the massacre,

- The Somali warlords in Mogadishu - defeated and evicted, they rushed to Ethiopia to get support;
- The Mbigathi Group who could not set foot outside Baidoa on its own;
- The multi-million businesses behind the drug "khat" dealers in Mogadishu and Nairobi, who, after the prohibition of the use and trade in drugs in Southern Somalia , used their capital to wage a campaign to corrupt and undermine the popular support for the nationalists;
- Certain clan chiefs and elders, mainly those in Mogadishu, who, after loosing the authority they illegally exercised over the population, allied themselves with the defeated warlords who linked them with the Mbigathi Group and Ethiopia;
- A colonial force of Somali origin, under the directions of the Ethiopian army, same and similar to the early XX Century native colonial forces, known as "banda", who were used to suppress the anti-colonial movements, especially in the south of the country.

On January 2, 2007, Chief warlord Meles, isolated more than ever around the world, confessed that, "Ethiopia did not choose to enter Mogadishu, but was asked to do so by tribal chiefs" ([Al-Jazeera, January 2, 2007](#)). This confirms that certain personalities in Mogadishu conspired and collaborated with Ethiopia in the invasion of Somalia and in throwing thousands of young Somali nationalists, many of them school children, to the Ethiopian war machinery in Baidoa. Despite their chicanery and deceit, the fact of the matter remains that Ethiopia accomplished for the unholy alliance in Mogadishu what they could not do on their own.

Ethiopia is in violation of Article 53 of the United Nations Charter, which specifies that

“1. The Security Council shall, where appropriate, utilize such regional arrangements or agencies for enforcement action under its authority. **But no enforcement action shall be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council**, with the exception of measures against any enemy state, as defined in paragraph 2 of this Article, provided for pursuant to Article 107 or in regional arrangements directed against renewal of aggressive policy on the part of any such state, until such time as the Organization may, on request of the Governments concerned, be charged with the responsibility for preventing further aggression by such a state.

2. The term enemy state as used in paragraph 1 of this Article applies to any state which during the Second World War has been an enemy of any signatory of the present Charter.”

Neither the United Nations, nor the regional bodies of the African Union and IGAD, notwithstanding their obscure moral standing and agendas, authorized Ethiopia to invade and occupy Somalia.

We may recall that at the end of World War II, under the Peace Treaty with Italy of 1947, Ethiopia received reparations for loss of life and damages following the Italian fascist invasion of that country in 1936. Meles admitted killing over 1,000 Somali citizens ([Ref. AFP December 26, 2006](#)). It is incumbent upon the Somali nationalists to collect the data in loss of life and property and bring charges against Ethiopia at the International Court of Justice for the invasion and occupation of Somalia..

As for the supporters of Ethiopia, you have spoiled the one chance that the Somali people came up with in fifteen years of patience and hard work. The road blocks are back, the extortion is back, the rape is back, the warlords and their thugs are back, the lawlessness is out of the bottle once again. You may invent unfounded theories about regional interests to justify your violence against the Somali people, lowering the standard as in the colonial days. When will you change so that you may understand what you do not understand?

Gaatamo
Benadir-Watch
gaatamo@benadir-watch.com