



Organization of Eritrean-Americans

OEA Spotlight

Volume I Issue 6

December 25, 2006

Fairness is the Best Gift the West can Give the Troubled Horn Peace on earth, especially for Eritrea and Ethiopia

This is the season of the year when those of Christian faith celebrate the birth of “the *Prince of Peace*,” the “*Mighty God*” that became man. The original spirit of Christmas was one of love, reconciliation and peace. However, for the majority of the people in the world today peace is a rare commodity and they don’t see a gesture of love but one of war and destruction. All this war and destruction is courtesy of those who are busy celebrating Christmas. It is a shame that those who claim to worship the baby of Bethlehem who came to bring peace are now dealing our world a cruel hand of war.

If only those who celebrate Christmas had the genuine original spirit of Christmas. If only those who sing “*peace on earth*” would practice peace and stop exporting wars. If only those that spend lots of money packaging gifts could have the heart to package peace and reconciliation rather than discrimination and injustice. If only those who wish peace for their own children would also think of peace for other children around the world.

Today, thanks to the misguided policies of the Christian West, the only packages children from Bethlehem to Mogadishu, to Kinshasa are getting are packages of death and loss. For the past six decades all what Eritreans have been presented are also packages of double standards, betrayal and blatant miscarriage of justice. For sixty odd years, most of the packages from the West for Eritrea brought with them death and misery. All of these were designed to deny Eritreans the right to live in peace in their own land. They brought poisonous prescriptions for division and discord so that Eritreans can live without peace, subservient to the interests of Ethiopian re-

gimes. American policy towards Eritrea has remained unchanged whether Ethiopia is under a callous monarch, brutal Communist or calculating architects of an apartheid system. The truth of it all is that denying Eritrea its right is not in the long-term interest of the United States or the rest of the West.

This week the very minority regime of Ethiopia that was earlier commissioned by its Western enablers to destroy Eritrea has now been dispatched to deliver another package of death and destruction to the people of Somalia. What the Western handlers of the minority regime of Ethiopia do not know is that this is a misguided calculation and it is going to backfire. As usual we

are certain that poor Ethiopians are going to pay for this foolish adventurism. As for the end of the current regime in Ethiopia, one only needs to remember how the Haile Sellassie and

Mengistu regimes marched to their demise; it is not going to be any different with this one as well.

This season is also a time of the year when many, old and young, rich and poor alike list wishes and resolutions for the New Year. The Eritrean people too have many wishes for the coming year: an aspiration for peace; a yearning for justice and fairness from the international community, and a hope that their border will be demarcated on the ground. This only means an unconditional implementation of the final and binding Decision of the EEBC (Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission).

Equally, Eritreans’ wish for the people of the Horn of Africa: for the peoples of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan is one of good will, that they might get peace and prosperity. As far as Eritreans are con-

cerned life has never been a “zero-sum game” and has no reason to view it that way. Peace for Eritrea’s neighbors is never considered a threat to Eritrea’s peace. On the other hand, the thinking of the minority regime in Ethiopia is the opposite. Peace in the Horn of Africa be that in Eritrea, Somalia or the Sudan is always taken as a threat for the regime’s survival. Not only this, peace and harmony among the peoples of Ethiopia is also taken as a huge risk for the minority regime. That is why the regime has perfected warmongering as an art; that was why it declared war on Eritrea in 1998 and that is why it has declared war on Somalia this week. That is also why the regime has been busy orchestrating ethnic clashes among the various peoples of Ethiopia.

Finally we wish that the international community, but particularly the United States government, to remember that there is no more noble cause than to work for peace. Peace is the original and genuine message of Christmas and the humble baby that was born in a manger in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. The United States should make an effort to build peace in the world in general and the Horn of Africa in particular. The best gift the US can package for the people of the Horn of Africa is that of fairness and justice and respect for international law. It is not in the best interest of the United States to encourage the minority regime in Ethiopia to wreck havoc in the region in the name of “Christianity” or “fighting terrorism.” If experience and history have taught us anything, it is that military power alone is not sufficient to fight terrorism at home and abroad; it also needs winning the hearts and minds of people. There is no better way of winning people over than by showing fairness and impartiality. This is our wish for the New Year.

Previous Issue (Volume I Issue 5)

Algiers Agreement is the only way to Peace

The best gift the US can package for the people of the Horn of Africa is that of fairness and justice and respect for international law.

Organization of Eritrean Americans, 600 L Street NW Washington, D.C. 20001

<http://www.eritreanamerican.org>

ORG_ERITREANAMERICAN@YAHOO.COM