

## Fighting Separatists with Unity

It has been 27 years since the dying regime in Ethiopia came to power with a tremendous help from western powers and their regional allies. Soon after grabbing power, the regime set up a socio-political structure along ethnic lines, allowing it to divide and rule to this day. However, as we are seeing today, the regimes' ethnic based formula is breaking apart before our eyes. Groups the regime has long alienated and pitted against one another are fiercely rebelling against it with shows of unison. Long considered to be forever divided by the regimes' divisive schemes, Amharas and Oromos, are standing up to the regime with solidarity to one another. Sensing its demise is near with the unity of the two largest and socially tied ethnic groups in the country, the regime has turned to extreme violence to suppress decent and expand ethnic based killings to undo the much overdue unity among Ethiopians. The one thing the regime fears the most is unity among Ethiopian people and the political parties that represent them. Unlike the wishes of EPRDF, unity among Ethiopians not only will speed up the removal from power of the oppressive regime, but help prevent our beloved country from breaking up in pieces as the end goal of the TPLF's original manifesto prescribed and has been in the making for the past 27 years.

Take Rwanda for instance. After years of colonization under the changing guards of the French and Belgians, the country was left with an ethnic based dominant regime like that of Ethiopia under TPLF-EPRDF, that culminated to a civil war and one of the largest and most gruesome genocides in world history, which in turn lead to another ethnic based regime that came to dominate that country in 1994. Who know what will happen when the Tutsi led regime led by Paul Kagame falls in due time? The point is, the cycle continues with the unity and integrity of the nation on the balance. That is the cycle EPRDF has long envisioned for Ethiopia to take place long after it has ceded power.

Take Somalia for instance. After many years of Siad Barre's regime that favored certain groups or clans over the rest, the country descended into a never ending civil war that rendered its people stateless to this day. In an [article](#) published by the VOA under the subtitle, "Former ruler Siad Barre blamed for inciting sectarianism, a problem still plaguing Somalia," a Somali born scholar at Calgary University observed that "Somalia has never had a strong sense of nationhood, and the civil war exposed years of sectarianism." Sadly, that is what EPRDF has worked hard to instill among Ethiopians of different ethnic groups, especially among those born after its seizure of power. The recently regime instigated violence between the Oromos and Somalis is yet another evidence that, by plunging Ethiopians into violence against one another, EPRDF seeks to take away the groups' sense of nationhood as part of one nation called Ethiopia. The article also points out that individual clans fought the Siad Barre regime individually, but never in unity. That is what the article argues led to the never ending violent power struggle among the clans that led to a stateless Somalia, not to mention the self-declared separate states of Somaliland and Puntland that are yet to gain international recognition as a nation.

The larger message this author wants to send to Ethiopian in Ethiopia and around the world is that let's continue to strengthen our unity as we will fight to free ourselves from an ethnic based, divisive regime, that want to see us disintegrate as a one people of one nation. Let's continue to unity against a regime whose rank and file personnel refers to us as "peoples,"

and not as people, as we have been known to be for the thousands of years that we have had as people in one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty, and Justice for all.

Alazar Tamer  
alamekam@hotmail.com