

Sofia Tesfamariam's Presentation at Hizbawi Mekete Oslo.

On 20th of April, 2008 Mrs. Sofia Tesfamariam from U.S.A participated during the public meeting arranged by Hizbawi Mekete in Oslo. She was an honourable guest and the chair man of Hizbawi Mekete Oslo Ato Yemane Haile invited her to make a speech. The following script is taken as notes from her presentations.

She started her speech by thanking the organizers of the meeting. Since she was the second presenter she mocked about her tigrigna that hers tigrigna is going to be better than her predecessor. Actually it proved the opposite.

She said congratulation to Eritreans that our patience for the last ten years gave us a fruit and that was the conclusion of the border issue by virtual demarcation. What is left now is not about border issue dialogue but about evicting the occupying forces from sovereign land of Eritrea by legal means.

She thanked the armed forces of Eritrea for safe guarding Eritrea from foreign forces and their relentless efforts they are contributing in constructing Eritrea. The main points of her presentation are as follows.

Hizawi Mekete

What is meant by the word Mekete? Can we find an exact translation to English? Can we say that mekete is meant challenges? At first it was not easy to understand or get full meaning about mekete. Later on as time goes on there came a threat by Jenday Frazer to list Eritrea as terrorist country. This threat gave to mekete its full meaning. Mekete is resistance to extinction and a struggle for survival. This is proved when she toured 11 states in U.S.A and observed the dedication and readiness of the Diaspora for Mekete.

It is no wonder when Ethiopian television was calling Eritreans in Diaspora not to participate in meetings arranged by hizbawi mekete. A news magazine called Independent news publishes in England wrote about mekete Eritreans are waging in Diaspora. This shows that the meaning of mekete is not only expressed as barely overcoming challenges but it is beyond challenges. It is accompanied by sacrifices.

U.S.A may be fearful to Eritrea. But that is not because Eritrea possesses missiles or nuclear weapons. It is the unity of the Eritrean people that challenges U.S.A. Eritrea as little as it is and besides its size economically poor is not supposed to be threat to U.S.A. On the other hand the unity of the Eritrean people to safeguarding the resources of Eritrea is perceived by U.S.A as bad example for others to follow a suit of Eritrea. Some Eritreans ask why Americans hates us. Actually, Americans do not hate Eritreans. They don't know even where Eritrea is to be found. When you talk with the Americans they ask you where Eritrea is found and they ask you what resources you have. They talk about oil and minerals. On the other hand the administration of U.S.A looks only after its strategic interest and those who are on its way becomes a target for its actions.

As you know, the life standard and the economy of U.S.A are based on taking other peoples resources. Their main concern is the life standard of Americans should not be depleted though it is at the expense of others. They think the economy of U.S.A and Europe should be stable. For this to be happen the people of Africa and Asian countries should pay the prise. Look at

Iraq. When Mr. Bush was saying thanks to us the Iraqi people got their freedom, he was referring to the poor condition of living of the Iraq people. While Americans are enjoying cheap oil the Iraq people are suffering by lack of oil. Countries like Congo with rich resources like Diamonds and Nigeria blessed with oil and others with plenty of resources. Now think if these countries are going to start Warsay Yikalo campaign. That will bring the end of domination and exploitation of resources in Africa.

The productive generation of U.S.A and Europe is aging. That is why they are interested in importing fresh and young generation from third world countries. On the name of human right and democracies they are encouraging and helping the young generation to run away from their native land. Some people may say the youth abandoning its land because of lack of human rights. That is not true. Most of the youth are in their land, safe guarding its border and at the same time constructing schools, bridges and participating in cultivating the land. It is not only 10% of the population participating in the development of the country but the whole population is contributing.

U.S.A and Its Excuses to Subjugate Others.

Before the collapse of Soviet Union, the main excuse for U.S.A to interfere in others internal affairs was to deter the expansion of communism to third world countries. The propaganda against communism was helping U.S.A to cover its motives in fulfilling its strategic interest. After the fall of communism, Soviet Union was concentrating in developing its economy and on the other hand China by overcoming famine developed its economy and became a competitive for resources in other countries. These and other factories exposed U.S.A to look for another excuses to interfere in others internal affairs. It could be said that it was a blessing by disguise the 11/9 cases appeared.

First came bombarding Afghanistan and on the pretext of getting rid Saddam Hussein followed bombarding Iraq. Museums and other infrastructures destroyed. Another good pretext for U.S.A to interfere in the horn of Africa issues was on the name of hunting three suspected terrorists in Somalia. Millions of Somalis are suffering and their living is going from bad to worse every day. Until now about 10,000 Somalis died.

The pattern U.S.A is conducting looks as the following. To fulfil its strategic interest is first sanction and the next step is aggression. This pattern was effectively executed in removing Saddam Hussein. So after enlisting as a supporter of terrorists the next target who could be is not that much difficult to guess. That is why we need Mekete.

Sofia Tesfamariam concluded her speech by saying Eritrea has the experience and a prominent history. Eritrea prevailed for this generation and it is going to prevail generations to come. She said, we made history, we are making history and we are going to make history. Support and sustain the youth by giving them moral support.

After this it followed opinions and questions from the participants.

Opinions of the public.

- Thanking her for her contribution to the cause of Eritrea.
- The Eritrean people are united, having reliable government and strong army, Eritrea is going to prevail.

- While we are saying we love Eritrea at the same time we should not harm economy of Eritrea by involving ourselves in black market exchange of money.
- When we are talking with Ethiopians we have to refrain from telling them negative of Eritrea. They don't like Eritrea as they don't like Eritrean.
- One person expressed his gratitude to the speech of Sofia Tesfamariam by telling a joke. He said that one farmer and one intellectual met. They argued for a puzzle to each other. The intellectual said if he could not answer the puzzle of the farmer that he is going to pay 5 dollars. And the farmer said if he can not answer the puzzle from the intellectual he in return to pay one dollar. The intellectual asked him why he pays only one dollar. The farmer replied because he is poor. Anyhow they agreed and the farmer started the puzzle. He said what is the name of an animal that has 6 legs and 3 eyes. The intellectual surprised by the puzzle and he failed to get an answer. Then he was charged to pay the 5 dollar he pledged. It was the turn of the intellectual to ask and he asked the farmer actually what is that animal that has 6 legs and 3 eyes. The farmer said I don't know, so I pay to you one dollar. The farmer benefited 4 dollars. The conclusion was the audience benefited a lot from the speech of Sofia Tesfamariam.

Questions and Answers

Q. Isn't it better us to change our policy so that we normalize our relationship with U.S.A.?

A. It is not we that should change its policy. It is the U.S.A that has to change its policy. It is not by aggression the strategic interest of U.S.A to be fulfilled. The strategic interest of U.S.A can be fulfilled by peaceful means, by friendship and respecting mutual interest. The anchor countries chosen are to keep the interest of U.S.A by remote control the whole of Africa. This is tantamount to colonialism. The interference of U.S.A in the internal affairs of Africa is creating havoc in some regions of that continent. Kenya, Ethiopia and others are examples of these mal practices of U.S.A.

Q. The Somali were supporting us during our armed struggle. So we to sympathize with them is natural. But on the other hand there is a recognized TFG in Somalia. When the Eritrean government supports ARS, the rest of the world is opposing it. Does it mean that we are sacrificing a lot to the cause of Somalia?

A. When the TFG was formed in Nairobi it was considered as an all inclusive clan based government. It was supposed to have 4 representatives from each clan. As time goes on the representatives of the clans were abandoning the government and Ethiopia was replacing them by its likes. At that time the TFG was not able to establish its institutions in Mogadishu as U.S.A was supporting the war lords who effectively managed to deny the existence of TFG in Mogadishu. That is why the TFG stayed that long in Baido. When the Somali people said enough to the chaos and disorder in their country they managed to create a means of governing themselves by creating the Union of Islamic Courts. That system gave them relief from the horror of the war lords and managed to stabilize the situation by creating peace and positive atmosphere in Somalia. At this time U.S.A instead of supporting the promising chance in Somalia they destroyed it. Now Somalia is bleeding. It is our obligation to assist those who lost their right for existence.

Q. Your opinion about China's influence in Africa.

A. China and U.S.A are the same when it comes to the exploitation of natural resources of others. Eritrea is working hard not to be used like other African countries. The micro policy outlined in 1994 is not welcomed first by the World Bank, but now it is working. Organization like construction firms Badme, Bidho, Gedem and others are doing marvellous jobs. Now the infrastructure of Eritrea is taking shape and there is a bright future a head of us.

Finally, some body asked her about her back ground.

Brief Back Ground of Sofia Tesfamariam.

She is born in a family with 5 brothers and sisters. They were living first in Addis Abeba before they moved to Tanzania. By chance, she is the only one from her brothers and sisters who had the chance to be born in Asmara. Her mother returned to Addis Abeba when she was 2 months old. They moved to Tanzania and stayed there for 6 years. After that they moved to Ghana where they lived for 10 years. Their last destination was U.S.A and now it has been almost 30 years since they moved to U.S.A. She asked the audience not to pause to calculate her age.

She has three beautiful children of age 14, 12 and 8.

She grown up participating in Eritrean organizations.

She is born in the 25th may which she accuses the EPLF of not staying the independence of Eritrea for one just one day to be coincident with her birth day.

Conclusion, Sofia Tesfamariam is talented, gifted for presenting herself clear and loud. She is determined and dedicated to the cause of Eritrea. She don't have spare time to be afraid from forwarding the cause of Eritrea. She believes giving your self to the cause of Eritrea is prestigious than to live as coward. She is brave, courageous and attractive women. We thanks her for her efforts in making our day happy. We wish her long age and health.

Resolutions passed by the public.

1. Every worker to pay 3000 Norwegian kroner for the cause of Hizbawi Mekete.
2. Families both working 5000 Norwegian kroner.
3. Pensions and unemployed to pay 2000 Norwegian kroner
4. Students 1500 Norwegian kroner
5. Duration of the payment to be concluded within 6 months.

Hizbawi Meket Oslo

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