

On Ato Keleta and Ato 'Alena' - Ghezae Hagos Berhe

SATURDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2011

For once, I will break my promise.

I vowed I would never write on personalities of other opposition members. I prefer PFDJ to be my topic. I can't help but write this brief rejoinder after I read Ato Keleta Kidane message on the identity of the writer of 'Alena.' (which one? The newest –est one, at the time of publishing this article.)

Let us start with the question: was Mesfin Hagos an active or passive accomplice behind the assassination of Ibrahim Affa? 'Alena' writer believes he was. Some do. Others don't. We will never know for sure. For now. That is acceptable polemics.

What is unfathomable to me is Ato Keleta's adamant defence of Mesfin Hagos as if he knows things none of us know. It is as if he knows Mesfin's irrefutable alibi and he knows for sure where Mesfin was in 1985 and what exactly he was doing. Writing 14 serialized articles (a friend quipped even Rambo and Rocky run out of ideas after 4 or five parts, and this drama is now officially soap opera for its longevity) defending Mesfin would even goad one to add that Ato Keleta acts as if he had kept Mesfin Hagos in his own home in mentioned period times (1985-1987), and carefully supervised his every movements.

Ato Keleta! I would like to remind you what you know for sure: That, in 1985, Mesfin was in Sahel and you were somewhere else and you COULD NEVER (again COULD NEVER), NEVER, know what was going in Agamat or Sahel. So why should you throw all your weight behind something you COULD NEVER NEVER know? We all know horrendous crimes, liquidations, purges and targeted assassinations were conducted during the armed struggle. In that extremely violent revolution of us, it is foolish to defend any senior fighter, let alone long-surviving leaders with vested interests, like Mesfin Hagos or Adhanom or others for that matter.

One can question the wisdom and expediency, if not necessity of the revelations of 'Alena' at this point in our struggle where we primarily need is tacit forgiveness and tolerance so that we could keep our focus on our enemy, the PFDJ which is much powerful and extremely cruel. I subscribe to that. My view is I care how Mesfin Hagos acted in the past ten years as opposition leader than as a senior EPLF commander. But to defend day in, day out, events that transpired 25 years ago is overstepping rationality.

The writer at "Alena" has recounted many stories and names in his explosive revelations. But to you, Ato Keleta only Mesfin Hagos stands out. For starters, dear Ato Keleta, it is not your job to put up a defence which spanned 14 serialized articles. Mesfin Hagos is alive and well and he is certainly capable of defending his record or the allegation made against him implication in the assassination of Ibrahim Affa, should he prefers so. The question that I can't understand is WHY SHOULD YOU CARE this much. It is not like our leaders are or were saints which I believe you agree. Let Mesfin deny or accept the allegations, if he sees fit. Period.

It would be laughable if it were not so sad, the whole spectacle, really. And the paranoid obsession to reveal who 'Alena' writer is. Whether he is Redei' Mehari, or a person by another name would have been immaterial if we know we have better things to do.

The denouement of this drama is not a tragedy but some novel genre unique to our Eritrean opposition, no artist of acute imagination could pull this one off. Really!

In his final paragraph, Ato Keleta wrote:

"Here is the picture of Alena. And his real name. And his place of residence. I leave for those who are aggrieved to sue him in court of law. We thank (deeply) those who tirelessly worked to uncover the identity of the (guy)..."

Really?!

Un-frea.....believable!

Ato Keleta! In this savage age where known torturers and masterminds of Eritrean misery that decimated the nation as unseen, unheard in History freely roam and boast in cities of the Western countries including your own London, people find it worthy and noble to 'tirelessly work' to uncover the identity another opposition writer and for what? To sue him in court of law. Ato Kidane, called this whole operation a 'miracle.'

I think (no, I am hundred percent sure) Ato Kidane and his enablers and informants got it all wrong in this regard. You forgot your enemy; you hunted the wrong guy. If you have any resources and time (God knows how little the opposition has), please help us hunt down the enablers, sustainers, torturers, and functionaries of PFDJ junta and bring them to justice. If you have any time research, please devote it to uncover where the PFDJ officials are sending their family members under false claims. If you crave to do something worthy, tell us tales and testimonies how to wrestle PFDJ machinery in the West using legal and political instruments, such as international Human Rights laws, and resolutions (more specifically, UNSC-1907). Let us all learn from your exemplary experience of waging peaceful struggle against PFDJ tyranny.

If and when you do that, it would still not be a miracle. It is merely a duty, sir!

For once, let us break this cycle of endless self-sabotage, self-congratulation, recrimination, cyber reprisals. That is, of course, if we can...

Ghezae Hagos Berhe,

Canada