

Open Request on Ethiopia Anti-Terrorism law, proclamation 652/2009

United Nations Secretary General, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon

Prime minister of Ethiopia, AU chair person His Excellency Hilemariam Desalgne

President of Ethiopia, His Excellency Girma Woldegiorgis

African Union Commissioner chairperson, His Excellency Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

President of United State of America, His Excellency Barack H. Obama

Secretary of state, His Excellency John Kerry

President of European Commission, His Excellency Jose Manuel Barroso

Amnesty International

Human Rights Watch

Dear distinguish leaders and organizations,

I present my appeal by giving a clear statement on my unshakable stand against any terrorism actions elsewhere in the world including my home country Ethiopia. Consequently, I have appreciations for Ethiopian government for having a counter terrorism law in order to safeguarding the citizen's security and peace in line with growing global terrorism dynamic contexts. Regardless of some economic developments registered in our country (which is still debatable & doesn't have any representative statistics), in many instances, we Ethiopians are among very poor countries must seek peace and satiability to advance our development. Beside of such common understandings and shared values, the Ethiopian government is accused by its own citizens, different international organizations, including USA and EC for mass human right violation. Until recent moths different accusations were presented from Ethiopians, the USA, EC, WB and IMF that request the Ethiopian government to give significant attentions and space for democracy and human rights.

All are correct because the process for Democracy is now at grave; the Ethiopian government has officially announced itself as development state that doesn't care as such for democracy. Some independent international organizations have labeled Ethiopia among failed states. Corruption is now a very simple phenomenon, according to some international sources money taken from this poor country has reached more than 12 billion USD in 2012. Press freedom is at risk. Electronic media is under government control. The civil society organizations are refraining to work on some thematic areas that would have global values and contributing to the country developments; these are impacted citizen's full involvement in the country overall affairs, has limited information sources and setback the country democratization process. The anti terrorism law was appeared under such interacting, contradicting and

complicated governance and political conditions. I personally believe that Ethiopia must have anti terrorism law including counter terrorism national strategies. On the other hand, in order to avoid a vague interpretation of the law that could be applied for hidden or covert political consumptions, the Ethiopian government must be accountable for all laws proclaimed if it is emanated from the national constitution. In addition, the Ethiopian government must be counterchecked for not committing a mass right violation under counter “terrorism banner”.

For your clear understanding of my subject that forced my soul for international appeal, I would like to present some Amharic vocabularies with its degree of severity which has been used widely by the past and present Ethiopian governments, community members, the wider society etc in relation to diffident security focused purposes. I have also putted its equivalent English definitions perfectly explain what terrorism means in Ethiopian social, economic, political and legal context. I have called them the **“M”** family security focused high degree terrifying vocabularies.

Amharic Vocabulary	English equivalent definition	Associated violence definition	Practical examples and associated impacts since proclamation 652/2009	
			Government	Non government
Masheber	Terrorizing, initiating fear, including modern days scare tactics , such as drama, documentary films ,using electronic media and other equipments	Psychological Violence	Government present different drams and documentary films (unprofessional prepared) for temporary political and security consumptions on state TV and radios, try to accuse political parties and religion groups as if they are a mastermind of the actions. This has aroused unnecessary panics and fear; children’s have started to label some normal life style (wearing, feeding, and talking) as terrorist’s actions.	As a result of government intensive terrorizing propaganda Citizens participation in politics significantly decreased Impact free movement efforts made by non government groups The democratic process gets aborted. And political landscape which has been at good status now get narrowed
Mashemakek	Attach derogatory terminologies, dehumanize, insulting, degrading	Verbal and Psychological Violence	Government accuse the political parties, journalists, party leaders civil organizations and citizens as if they are financially and	Impact free democratic movement, development efforts made by non government groups

			ideologically supported from externals ,diasporas, some political organizations are labeled as a terrorists by government parameters	The democratic process gets aborted. And political landscape which has been at good status now get narrowed
Medemses	Mass distraction of people, property and assets	Physical and Economical violence	Government take sever actions if any peaceful demonstrations conducted	Some insurgents groups have taken some action , ex Gambela area
Mawdem	Mass distraction of property and assets belongs to some person, group , community and government	Physical violence	Government wildly applies such punishments in the name of foreign investment. Systematically conduct new settlement programs, evict indigenous community from their villages, pay them very small compensations	No
Mechefchef	Brutal form of action including massacre of people, in some instances include destructions of natural resource and habitats	Physical, verbal and psychological violence	Government take this actions in the name of maintaining peace and order	As a result of government intensive terrorizing propaganda Citizens participation in politics significantly decreased
Masekayet	Using different tools, mechanisms, apply sever and barbaric torture , inhuman actions	Physical, verbal and psychological violence	Government conduct mass arrests at peaceful demonstration sites and punish the prisoners through physical punishments	As a result of government intensive terrorizing propaganda and actions Citizens participation in politics significantly decreased Thousands of prisoners claim that they are innocent and deliberately putted in prison because of their political attitudes & some flee from home country fearing of associated unlawful

				sentencing
Maswoged	Secretly killing, disappearance, evict from some geographical areas without a person will	Physical violence	No	Some flee from home country fearing of associated unlawful sentencing, killings which has been practically conducted in the past 22 years on other Ethiopians
Mashmedmed	strategic way of killing (physical and economical) strategically disabling & , incapacitating, broke to destitute level	Physical, verbal and psychological violence	Identify and target those who have a capacity (in politics, commerce, mass mobilizations etc) then attack them though its own net work, deny employment, opportunities, conduct propaganda and defamations in different ways, etc Government wildly applies such punishments in the name of foreign investment. Systematically conduct new settlement programs, evict indigenou community from their villages, pay them very small compensations	International community, political parties and concerned groups advocate on the issues Thousands of prisoners claim that they are innocent and deliberately putted in prison because of their political attitudes & some flee from home country fearing of associated unlawful sentencing Impact free development efforts made by non government groups An effort for democratization process gets aborted. And political landscape which has been at good status now get narrowed
Matfat	Open and total disappearance	Physical violence	No	Some flee from home country fearing of associated unlawful sentencing, killings which has been practically conducted in the past 22 years on other Ethiopians

Dear distinguish leaders and organizations,

For your general understanding let me ask you to refer proclamation 652/2009 versus of what we Ethiopians understand about terrorism in our local context. If you just go through those 38 articles of the proclamation, you can see that the intention is not to protect Ethiopia from terrorism. That may be a cover story; the hidden agenda is totally different. Because it is the Ethiopian government that has been using the above 9“M” security focused high degree terrifying vocabularies. I don’t think that because the government security & intelligence forces are highly skilled and we are in quite peace. No! Ethiopians by their very nature are not destructive people and the degree of their fear for God is very high in their daily life. As per my observation a now and then government “panic mode “propaganda work, unprofessional documentary film presentation, conducting mass demonstration tell me that the government would like to communicate a wrong message to the world and want to buy cheap political popularities under “counter terrorism banner”. I have observed that they are presenting the so-called unprofessional documentary films which might have so many impacts, convey dangers message on our coexistences and sustainability of Ethiopia as a country.

In conclusion,

1. Please support a democratic effort in Ethiopia which is currently at grave through revising proclamation 652/2009 directly targeting innocents, peace loving community groups, journalists, and political leaders.
2. Government must allow the people to exercise citizenry rights stipulated in the constitution, free them from panic and psychological harassments carried out through government media, revise the proclamation 652/2009 that terrify and limit the mass to not participate in to its personal & citizenry affairs.
3. Request the government to stop unprofessional propaganda have extremely dangerous consequences to the country. In our case it can be more terrifying case of Ruanda. Therefore, the government must find a better way, workable round table discussions approaches and strategies, and should proceed to political reconciliation with all groups currently demand democratic ways of problem solving mechanisms .

NB: I thank dear W.Kunee for reminding me these vocabularies