

Ten years on Martin Plaut is still Obsessed with Eritrea

Written by Zerai Solomon
zerai_s@yahoo.co.uk

This is an extract of his latest article on the BBC website titled Pirates working with Islamist

“The Islamist are using the pirates to train their own forces in naval tactics so that they can provide protection for arms being smuggled in Somalia from Eritrea. Two shipments in May were for Sheikh Hassan Abdulle Hersi, who is also known as Hassan Turki, an Islamist leader who is based in southern Somalia near Kismayo. They are reported to have been picked up from islands off the Eritrean coast.”

May I take this opportunity to thank Martin Plaut for his vote of confidence in Eritrea for implying that Eritrea just like the super powers such as USA, Russia and China is involved in the mass production and export of weapons and ammunitions.

Having exhausted himself dwelling on the Eritrean and Ethiopian border issue which was legally finalized after the EEBC's final and binding verdict, Martin Plaut has now decided to embark on a new topic to waffle on about.

Dear Martin when are you going to learn to be a professional journalist and back up your stories with factual evidence. When are you going to realize that we the heroic daughters and sons of Eritrea are so astute that we can see through you and the likes of you.

I have never come across a so called journalist who is willing to compromise his professionalism by accepting favours from regimes such as that of Ethiopia in return for worthless articles and dissemination of misinformation to damage the reputation of the Eritrean government.

Unlike your sponsors the Weyane regime, the Eritrean government does not have time for discredited and reprimanded journalists like yourself as they have better things to do like pursuing food security, self reliance and educating the youth. You should be ashamed for implicating yourself with such a regime that snatches food aid from the mouths of starving babies to pay you



and others to do their dirty work.

The issue of piracy in the Indian Ocean around Somalia by the Somalis warlords is at present an international crisis that deserves the attention of professional journalists and not that of discredited journalist like Martin Plaut.

For him to attempt to implicate Eritrea in this international crisis only goes to show his desperation and obsession with Eritrean politics. Surely the border issue should have taught him a valuable lesson not to mess with Eritrean politics which eventually cost him his credibility and integrity with his employer the BBC and the general public. History seems to be repeating itself when it comes to Martin Plaut.

He never works alone and always seems to attract losers like himself to work for him.

Let me introduce you to a new loser recruit known as Amanuel Eyasu who is responsible for managing the website **Asena** an unprofessional Journalist. Obviously, he is more interested in

appeasing the Woyane regime in Addis, than he is on reporting the truth.



May I also ask you my brethren to arise in unison and challenge these losers by writing to the BBC World service and informing them that their beloved but discredited Martin Plaut is an Ethiopian lobbyist.

Unfortunately, Martin Plaut has not learned a lesson and has not stopped compromising his journalistic responsibility by once again choosing to become a mouthpiece, apologist and appeaser of the minority regime in Ethiopia .

Below is the latest Press Statement by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Eritrea regarding piracy along the Somali Coast land which would further discredit Martin Plaut's latest baseless article.

Press Statement
Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nov 21, 2008

Piracy along the entire Somali coastland has increased substantially in the past weeks raising wide apprehension. This phenomenon must of course be deplored irrespective of its underlying causes.

What is more vital and timely remains, however, the urgent task of fully identifying its underlying causes with a view to bringing about an enduring solution instead of focusing on emotive, day-to-day, events or utilizing them as another pretext for justifying reckless military intervention.

That the main cause of this problem is the vacuum that has been created for the last 17 years in Somalia and that continues to-date without let up is obvious indeed. The solution lies, accordingly, in the liberation and reconstitution of a united and sovereign Somalia.

Unless and until the entire Somali people - whether they are in the so-called "Somali-land", "Puntland", "Juba-land" or "Benadir-land"- extricate themselves from the malaise of fragmentation to bring about their own enduring solution by themselves, piracy and other deplorable activities will

not indeed cease. To pretend otherwise is either lack of knowledge or pure misjudgement of the realities.

There are those who argue that “the Somali Government must put an end to these activities”. But this begs a host of questions. Which government? Where is it? What resource does it have?

There are also other powers who maintain that “it must be combated by deploying our naval forces”. Some might be motivated by sincere objectives. But for others, the situation provides a silver lining for illegal intervention.

Sadly, an enduring solution is not conceivable until the reckless acts of the US and its surrogates aimed at balkanizing Somalia, dividing its people along ethnic and clan lines; and, fomenting animosity and lawlessness by bribing selfish warlords cease.

Unscrupulous acts of exploiting Somalia’s resources; the dispersion of its population and/or rendering them hostage to hunger and relief hand-outs; the covering up of the blatant invasion perpetrated against the country under the mantle of “peace-keeping” in breach of international law and the Charter of the UN; and, the aggravation of tension and instability in the Horn of Africa can only breed the chaos and mayhem that we see today.

To ignore these realities and exploit emotive incidents are worn-out tactics that will not bring about lasting peace.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
20 November 2008
Asmara