



Äthiopien

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West remains on the wrong track - US demand: dialogue with the Abiy regime

Summary

US Ambassador Ervin Massinga's proposal for dialogue in Ethiopia ignores the Amhara's struggle for survival against Abiy's army. It also ignores the death squads and the warning by UN human rights experts in October 2023 that there are still acute genocidal tendencies against the Amhara in Ethiopia. The experts' warning was not unfounded, especially after Abiy's army invaded the Amhara region about a year ago. Since the invasion, indiscriminate shooting of civilians, including children and women, and drone attacks on civilians by Abiy's army have become commonplace. Overall, Western policy towards Ethiopia is on the wrong track.

Justice comes before dialogue

In his speech on 15.05.2024 on US policy, human rights and national dialogue at the former US embassy compound „American Gibbi“ⁱ In Addis Abeba, Ambassador Ervin Massingaⁱⁱ expressed the view that all armed forces should lay down their arms and sit down at the table with the Abiy regime to bring peace to Ethiopia. In addition, Ambassador Massinga addressed his message specifically to **FANO** with the words: „To those fighting in Amhara, to those that call themselves the Fano, please know that your rejection of dialogue does not serve you well. As in other parts of Ethiopia, it is innocent civilians who are suffering at the result of the continued fighting in battles. Many in Amhara are passionate that their cause is just – if so, you should make those arguments through dialogue and not violence.“

According to "ROHA- Media"ⁱⁱⁱ the spokesperson^{iv} of **Amhara FANO in Gojam** has said the following: "We have not received an official invitation for talks or dialogue on our behalf. In any case, our precondition would be the withdrawal of Abiy's occupation army from the entire Amhara territory. We have in the past and currently have discussions and channels with diplomatic circles on various issues, including the structural unity of FANO. We have always told these diplomatic circles what our position on the Abiy regime and our demands are. We will not sacrifice red lines of the Amhara people at the negotiation table."

Abiys- Ministry of Peace^v – does not create peace

FANO^{vi} is ready to sit down at the negotiating table on the condition that the Abiy army „Kilil 3“^{vii} leaves unconditionally. We have to consider what kind of regime Ethiopia is dealing with:

1. The war from 2020 to May 2022 cost the lives of one million people in the Amhara, Tigray and Afar regions. Those responsible for this war, most notably Abiy Ahmed, are still in power. Moreover, the Abiy's army unconstitutionally invaded the Amhara region almost a year ago and is massacring civilians, attacking civilians with drones, raping and looting.
2. In the current situation of self-defence and the Amhara's struggle for existence, the US government is demanding that FANO abandon self-defence. Such a demand would be tantamount to the Amhara giving up self-defence. The Abiy regime is known for not honouring agreements and maintaining the upper hand through deception and political tricks. In view of the numerous drone victims, the population of the Amhara region is not willing to engage in such manoeuvres. The Abiy regime in Welega is using brutal means against the Amhara people living there. Furthermore, death squads are deployed against the Oromo opposition. The brutality against the Amhara is far greater, as they are regarded as fair game. The declared aim of the Amhara is to secure their territory, protect the population and drive the soldiers of the Abiy regime out of the Amhara region.
3. The EU and the US claim to be working in favour of Ethiopian unity. So far, however, they have been cooperating with the forces (TPLF^{viii} and Abiy), that want to break up Ethiopia and tailor it to their liking.

4. The EU and the USA claim to be committed to upholding human rights in Ethiopia. In reality, the blatant human rights violations committed by the TPLF against the Amharas in Welkait-Tegede, Telemt-Raya and the demand for the return of these areas to the TPLF without holding them accountable are mentioned in passing. The EU and the US have occasionally reprimanded the Abiy regime for the serious human rights violations against the Amharas, but without vigour.
5. The next feared move by the US government (+EU) is based on the agreement (2022) between the TPLF and Abiy. The aim is to consolidate this agreement in order to enforce peace and stability in Ethiopia. However, this would be at the expense of a just peace and would make it more difficult to deal with human rights violations. Nevertheless, the endeavours of the US/EU tandem to ruthlessly enforce precisely this are evident. As so often - when it comes to the Horn of Africa - a "quick-fix" is what counts.

The misguided policy of the West towards the Amhara for years has contributed significantly to the fact that the proposal of the US ambassador in Addis Ababa - in its indiscriminate nature - is unacceptable to the Amhara on the battlefield.

i Im Jahr 1937 befand sich die US-diplomatische Vertretung in dem Areal, das in Addis Abeba als „American Gibbi“ bekannt ist. Der damalige US-Gesandte rettete rund 700 Äthiopierinnen und Äthiopier vor den mordenden Mussolini-faschistischen Besatzungssoldaten, indem er sie auf dem Botschaftsgelände in Sicherheit brachte. Innerhalb eines Zeitraums von drei Tagen wurden etwa 20.000 Äthiopier:innen ermordet.

ii <https://et.usembassy.gov/27979/>

iii https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_xZ8CRfhm4- ab Minute 10:14

iv „Mariye“ – nom de guerre

v Vermutlich das einzige Friedensministerium der Welt. Seine Aufgaben erinnern eher an das Ministry of Peace in George Orwell's novelle 1984

vi

Seit einem Jahr stehen die Selbstverteidigungskräfte der FANO einer der größten und brutalsten Armeen Afrikas gegenüber. Aufgrund taktischer Führungsschwäche und unmotivierter Bauernjungen als Rekruten setzt sie mangels Erfolgen auf dem Schlachtfeld auf Drohnen, die gegen Zivilisten eingesetzt werden. Die Kampfdrohnen werden teilweise von emiratischen und türkischen "Söldnern" bedient. Im Gegensatz zur separatistischen Oromo Liberation Front und der Tigray People Liberation Front plündern diese Kräfte keine Banken und öffentlichen Einrichtungen. Der Widerstand ist bisher ungebrochen und der Nachschub an Waffen und Munition kommt vom Gegner.

vii Offizieller administrativer Name des „Bundeslandes Amhara“ auch Region (3) genannt.

viii Tigray People's Liberation Front