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## HATHAy <br> SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE FOR ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS (SOCEPP) <br> <br> JUSTICE DENIED: MAASACRE IN GAMBELLA STILL IGNORED

 <br> <br> JUSTICE DENIED: MAASACRE IN GAMBELLA STILL IGNORED}December 16/2009

On December 13, 2003 security agents, cadres and soldiers of the EPRDF regime went on a killing spree in Gambella town and in a violence that lasted for two days killed close to a thousand Anuaks. The massacre was ordered by none other than Meles Zenawi and two of his top officials called Abaye Tsehaye and Dr. Barnabas.
None of the perpetrators of this violence have been brought before a court of law, An independent body to investigate this crime was never set up and those international forces who cry foul and shout condemnations for any action in Darfur or Zimbabwe have not uttered any concern or query regarding this situation. The massacre of Anuaks is a serious case of justice denied especially in light of the fact that the regime of Meles Zenawi has continued with its repressive actions against Anuaks in Gambella. The recent leasing of land in Gambella to foreign modern agro industrial combines (locals chased away, trees chopped, the environment endan-
gered, etc...) is yet another example of the callous regime's actions against the basic interests of the people in Gambella.
SOCEPP has repeatedly called for the condemnation of the three main culprits in the massacre of Anuaks and once again echoes this demand for justice. Those who shout against other alleged criminals in other countries should end their silence and call for justice and reckoning with the killers of the Anuaks of Gambella.

## INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE

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## Ontario <br> CANADA AND ONTARIO PARTNER TO BUILD NEW ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTRE

## INVESTMENT WILL CREATE LOCAL JOBS, STIMULATE THE ECONOMY AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE REVITALIZATION OF REGENT PARK

TORONTO, ONTARIO
A new 68,000 square foot arts and cultural centre will be built in Toronto's Regent Park, as a result of a joint Canada-Ontario investment announced today by the Honourable John Baird, Canada's Transport and Infrastructure Minister, and the Honourable Aileen Carroll, Minister of Culture for Ontario, on behalf of the Honourable Gerry Phillips, Minister of Energy and Infrastructure for Ontario. The project will create jobs in the short term and benefit the community of Regent Park for years to come.
"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, our Government has announced hundreds of infrastructure projects throughout Toronto that will stimulate the economy and create jobs," said Minister Baird. "Regent Park's new arts and cultural centre will be an important part of this community once complete, and is among many remarkable projects in Toronto we are proud to be investing in."
"The McGuinty Government understands the tremendous impact of arts and cultural initiatives on com-
munities and neighbourhoods," said Minister Carroll. "We are therefore investing in the Regent Park Arts and Cultural Centre which will impact the neighbourhood and Toronto in a wonderfully positive way."
The Governments of Canada and Ontario will each invest up to $\$ 12$ million towards the project.
The contribution from the Government of Canada will be under the new \$4-billion Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, which provides funding to construction-ready infrastructure projects that can
be substantially completed by March 2011. The contribution from the Government of Ontario will be from the twoyear, $\$ 32.5$ billion infrastructure commitment laid out in the 2009 provincial budget, Confronting the Challenge: Building Our Economic Future.
The construction of a new arts and cultural centre is part of a multi-phased revitalization of the Regent Park neighbourhood, and will help to improve cultural infrastructure while creating local jobs in Toronto. The new centre will include office space;
a multi-purpose arts space to accommodate a wide variety of performances, festivals, celebrations and events; as well as space for not-forprofit arts and cultural organizations to lease studio or rehearsal space. Construction will begin in early 2010, with completion expected by March 2011.
To date, the Governments of Canada and Ontario have announced close to $\$ 11$ billion in joint funding for more than 2,600 infrastructure projects across the province to stimulate the economy and create jobs.


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ENGLEWOOD, CO November 9, 2009 - The Western Union Company (NYSE:WU), a leader in the money transfer segment of global payments, officially began its holiday season today by announcing a strategic alliance with multiplatinum Grammy-Award winning international recording artist Wyclef Jean to promote Western Union Money Transfer ${ }^{\circledR}$ to consumers.
Western Union's relationship with Wyclef will be multi-faceted and will include outreach through social media, grassroots events and consumer promotions.
To kick-off Western Union's "Random Acts of Giving" holiday campaign, Western Union, through its corporate signature program Our World, Our Family ${ }^{\oplus}$, also announced at its U.S. flagship store in Times Square, a $\$ 225,000$ donation to Wyclef's charitable organization, Yéle Haiti www. yele.org, to support education projects in his native country of Haiti.
Adding to this year's holi-

## wEsTEBAN| Yes!

day theme of "Random Acts of Giving," Western
Union is hosting a free 'Lunchtime Jam Session' featuring Wyclef andapproximately 2,000 New Yorkers at the Nokia Theater in Times Square on November 9, 2009.
"I am extremely proud to be part of the Western Union family," said Wyclef Jean. "For years I have trusted Western Union to help manage my moneytransfer needs worldwide."
"Through this relationship, Western Union and I hope to inspire people to lend a helping hand and do a Random Act of Giving this holiday season, whether it's sending money to family and friends or donating time to a charity or cause."
Stewart A. Stockdale, Executive Vice President and President, The Americas
for Western Union, added, "Wyclef's resounding success in music and philanthropy have made him an icon worldwide.
He relates to our brand and is the ideal ambas sador to help amplify our message to new consumers around the corner, or the world."
"Through this relationship, we hope to harness Wyclef's star power to bring the Western Union brand to every home in America and at the same time support social causes both Wyclef Jean and Western Union strongly believe in and support."
According to a recent Western Union survey conducted by GfK Inc., the spirit of giving is alive and well this holiday season, despite recent recessionary woes. The Western Union survey found nearly 7 out of 10 consumers in the U.S. plan to give cash or prepaid gift cards this holiday season.
Wyclef Jean has numerous music projects he is working on including a mixtape EP set to release on November 10, 2009 entitled DJ Drama Presents Wyclef Jean AKA Toussaint St. Jean "From the Hut, To the Projects, To the Mansion"(CarnivalHouse MegaForce / RED / Sony Music) and his seventh solo LP entitled "Wyclef Jean"
(Carnival House / Colum- operate through a combia / Sony Music) is set to release in March 2010.

About Western Union The Western Union Company (NYSE: WU) is a leader in global payment services. Together with its Vigo, Orlandi Valuta and Pago Facil branded payment services, Western Union provides consumers with fast, reliable and convenient ways to send and receive money around the world, as well as send payments and purchase money orders. Western Union, Vigo and Orlandi Valuta
bined network of more than 400,000 Agent locations in 200 countries and territories. In 2008, The Western Union Company completed 188 million consumer-to-consumer transactions worldwide, moving $\$ 74$ bilion of principal between consumers, and 412 million consumer-to-business transactions. For more information, visit www.westernunion.com.

## About Yéle Haiti

Yéle Haiti is a grassroots movement inspiring change in Haiti through programs
in education, sports, the arts and environment. Our community service programs include food distribution and mobilizing emergency relief.

Grammy-Award winning musician, humanitarian and Goodwill Ambassador toHaiti Wyclef Jean found ed Yéle Haiti in 2005.
For more information please go to www.yele.org.

To learn more about Wyclef Jean please go to: www.wyclef.com www.Twitter.com/wyclef www.facebook.com/Wyclef www.yele.org


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# ETHIOPIA ON BRINK OF FAMINE AGAIN AS MIDGE URE RETURNS 25 YEARS AFTER BAND AID 

## By Nick Meo in Ayub

Published: 6:17PM GMT 31 Oct 2009

Twenty-five years ago, the farmers of Ayub village were reduced to living skeletons with bloated stomachs, certain of death. When emergency food rations turned up - seemingly by miracle - they fell on them without ever being sure how they reached the remote mountain hamlets. What most assumed was the mercy of God was in fact the work of a softlyspoken Scottish pop star, a man who had never set foot in Ethiopia, but who helped organise one of the most remarkable acts of charity in British history.
This week Midge Ure, the lead singer of Ultravox and the producer and songwriter for Band Aid, returned to Ethiopia to visit the villages which had been swept by terrible famine in 1984. What he saw did not please him.
The crops were again withered - and once more, local children are dying because of drought and malnutrition.
"It is desperately sad to see hungry children in Ethiopia again," Ure, 56, told The Sunday Telegraph, as he toured an infant feeding centre where, in the past few weeks, four underfives have died of diarrhoea and other hunger-related diseases.
Other babies were already painfully thin, and being fed on a vitamin-enhanced, sweet-tasting peanut paste called plumpy nut, which, it is hoped, will save their lives.
"Ethiopia has come a long way," he said. "At least children here have been caught in time and the images aren't like 1984, with mass deaths. But the fear is, if these people don't get more help, that's what we could see here again."
His trip, to mark 25 years since Band Aid, was planned months ago to show how life had got better in villages which were a once a byword for terrible poverty. Clinics and schools have been built, and a rudimentary system of modest welfare payments has been set up to give a modicum of security to the poorest, who always perish first in a famine.
But Ethiopia’s rural population still depends on rain
to grow crops, and now they have gone three years of drought in a row, just as they did during the early 1980s. As a result, villagers who survived 1984 and prayed it would never happen again are once more at famine's edge.
Back then, those with the strength to do so in Ayub village dragged themselves ten miles to a place called Korum, where they found an isolated feeding station.
Thousands were saved there - but for many of those already in the latter stages of starvation, it was too late. They died in droves. The horrific scenes of filth and death were recorded for a television broadcast by the BBC journalist Michael Buerk that shocked Britain and inspired an extraordinary relief effort.
"The bodies of my neighbours lay in their huts, with their families either dead, or too weak to bury them," said Shashe Fentau, 45, with a shudder of horror at the memory. We only survived then because of food aid.
"Now we have eaten all our stores and we are selling our cattle. It feels like the same thing is happening again. We are very scared. We have little to eat. In our village we know that hunger doesn't kill you quickly. It is slow to take effect."
Mrs Fentau, a mother of five, did not recognise the foreigner who turned up in her village last week with aid workers from Save the Children UK, asking questions about life and death in Ethiopia's highlands. She had no idea that Ure may well have saved her life a quarter of a century ago.
It was after watching the harrowing BBC broadcast that he and ex-Boomtown Rat Bob Geldof galvanised a group of pop stars to form Band Aid and produced the single "Do They Know it's Christmas?", which raised millions in famine relief donations.
The food they bought was sent to villages like Ayub, much of it hurled out of the backs of aircraft - the only way of getting it to mountain communities, which at that time had no proper roads.
Unlike 1984-85, when a million died, there are good roads now, while the Soviet-backed military regime has been replaced by a government which shows rather more interest in its
peoples' survival. Yet Ethiopia remains the fifth poorest nation in the world, according to last year's World Bank GDP figures, and is once again at risk of mass starvation.
Ure arrived last week just as Ethiopia's government issued an urgent appeal for donors to feed 6.2 million hungry farmers and their families. The World Food Programme estimates that 125,000 metric tonnes of grain are needed, at a cost of $£ 54$ million, to fill the gaping hole in the nation's food supplies.
Aid groups fear the real number at risk may be more than double that putting more than one in ten of Ethiopia's 80 million people at risk - because an other 7.2 million depend on a government welfare scheme that is only intended to tide peasant farmers over for a hungry spell before the harvest. This year, the crops lie withered in the fields in much of the country, including Ayub village. Dressed in a baseball cap and casual shirt, Ure looked more like an aid worker than the flamboyant rock star whose hit Vienna redefined the New Romantic sound of the early 1980s. He visited without an entourage or PR executives, flew the 8 -hour journey from London in economy class and stayed in a run-down hotel in the highlands with no hot water that cost $£ 13$ a night. He brought with him his 14 -year-old daughter, Kitty, so she could see what life was like in an African village.
"I first came here in 1985 on a transport plane and stayed for 12 hours," he said. "I swore I would never return. I went to a feeding centre outside Addis Ababa for children who were supposed to be on the mend Three babies had died that morning.
"It was full of skeletal children with extended bel lies. It was horrifying - just too much to handle for a 29-year-old pop star."
But on this trip, he spent his time speaking to farmers, experts and officials, discussing crop yields, deforestation, rainfall pat terns, and rural demography with a knowledge well beyond that of the average celebrity doing their bit for charity. One other star, who visited Africa on a private jet to promote a disease

prevention campaign recently, was unaware that malaria was transferred to humans by mosquitoes.
Ayub village is typical of the Ethiopian highlands, with thatched, round mudhuts ringed by cactus and thorn hedges to keep out herds of long-horned oxen. The animals wander dirt tracks, kept in order by small boys with sticks who take them out to graze.
Groups of smiling school-
girls with braided hair and patched clothes walk past on their way to the local school building - a sign of progress. Despite its tragic past, the region has become a tourist attraction, with backpackers drawn by its beautiful mountain landscapes.
Ayub took years to recover from the disaster of 1984; since then the population has doubled, as it has nationally. But that has forced
farmers to divide their land into ever-smaller plots for their sons, and to cut down the surrounding forests for fuel, destroying a source of forage they had relied on at times of hardship.
The landscape is still surprisingly green; yet most farmers suffer real hardship because the rains did not fall at the right time for their crops.
"When the rains don't
Continued on next page

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Continued from $p$ (8)
come, hope is lost," said Teshome Laile, a 48 -year-old health expert with Save the Children.
"The government does care about the people, unlike the old regime, but they don't have enough resources, and the problem is big. Agriculture is not modernised, farmers are dependant on rainfall. So if rain doesn't fall, farmers are in trouble."
Mrs Fentau, a survivor of 1984, gestured at a sickly, thin crop of maize next to her hut, which had not received enough water to produce anything edible.
Ure admitted that the feeling of achievement he felt at visiting villages kept alive by Band Aid in the 1980s was tempered by the fear he could see in the eyes of farmers now.
"I think there is a good chance that a lot of people we have met survived years ago thanks to food paid for by Band Aid," he said. "They are alive because people in Britain simply bought a record.
"But these lands are still desperately poor. What could really change things here is long-term development, if money could be raised for that. Saving lives is newsworthy. Long-term development is boring."
Band Aid has raised $£ 150$ million since the record was released, and it still generates money every Christmas. Ure admits that it wasn't his finest song - the singer Morrissey, a critic of Band Aid who claimed the project was selfrighteous, once described listening to it as "torture". Ure is more combative, however, over the claim that pop stars
use charity work to promote their own careers.
"I do this kind of thing because I think it is important to try to help," he said. "You don't sell any more records by doing this, there is no ulterior motive. The charities ask celebrities to make these trips because they work in attracting public attention."
He added: "It did its job and has a place in many people's hearts. The money raised was a drop in the ocean really, but it still saved a lot of starving people. We made charity cool for a whole new audience - before Band Aid, giving had been a worthy thing, confined to do-gooders and Blue Peter."
Today, though, he is doubtful that its success can ever be repeated, partly because he believes rock stars no longer have the following or influence that they had in the early 1980s.
"I performed at the Live 8 concert in Edinburgh four years ago and the attitude was very different. People came for a concert, not for a cause."
"In 1984 there was something real and honest and genuine about what happened. People in Britain didn't want to see people in Africa starving to death. They wanted to help - and thanks to them there are thousands of people in Ethiopian villages who are alive today."

* Save the Children has launched an appeal to raise $£ 20$ million to feed hungry people affected by drought in Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya.
To donate, go to
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# FIRST ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION TO THE U.S. IN 1919 MADE HEADLINES 

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By LIBEN EABISA
New York (Tadias) - The arrival of the first Ethiopian diplomatic delegation to the United States on July 11, 1919 made headlines in Chicago, where journalists eagerly awaited their opportunity to meet and interview the delegation.


President Woodrow Wilson (In office: March 4, 1913 - March 4, 1921).

At the time Woodrow Wilson was serving as the 28th President of the United States. In Ethiopia, Empress Zawditu, the eldest daughter of Emperor Menelik, was the reigning monarch
Dejasmatch Nadew, Empress Zawdituís nephew and Commander of the Imperial Army, along with Ato Belatenghetta Hiruy Wolde Sellassie, Mayor of Addis Ababa, Kentiba Gebru, Mayor of Gonder, and Ato Sinkas, Dejamatch Nadew's secretary, comprised the first official Ethiopian delegation to the United States in the summer of 1919.
The main purpose of their trip was to renew the 1904 Treaty of Amity (Friendship) between the United States and Ethiopia (brokered when President Theodore Roosevelt authorized 37-year-old Robert P. Skinner to negotiate a commercial treaty with Emperor Menelik). The treaty had expired in 1917. This four-man delegation to the United States became known as the Abyssinian mission.
The distinguished delegation headed to the White House in Washington D.C after staying at the elegant Waldorf-Astoria in Chicago.
The group visited the U.S. at a time when blacks were by law second-class citizens and the most common crime against American blacks was lynching. Before leaving Chicago, a reporter
for the Chicago Defender, an African American newspaper, asked the delegation what they thought about lynching in the U.S. The representatives responded "[We] dislike brutality... lynching of any nature, and other outrages heaped upon your people."
African-Americans were inspired to see a proud African delegation being treated with so much respect by U.S. officials. Newspapers reported that in honor of the delegation's visit "the flag of Abyssinia, which is of green, yellow, and red horizontal stripes, flew over the national capitol."
The Chicago Defender reported that the delegation expressed their support for the struggle of American blacks and gave them words of encouragement. A


Empress Zawditu (In office: 1916 to 1930)
member of the press had inquired if the group had advice to African-Americans. Ato Hiruy Wolde Sellassie, who spoke fluent English, replied: "Fight on. Don't Stop."
The Ethiopian presence at the Waldorf Astoria, dressed in their traditional white robe and pant attire attracted large attention.
Upon arriving in Washington D.C. they took up residence at Hotel Lafayette and awaited their formal presentation at the White House.
"It perhaps is of much interest to know that the Abyssinian religion is the oldest Christian religion in the world", Captain Morris, the delegation's chaperon, told reporters. "The queen of Sheba, who visited Solomon was once their queen, and the present ruler is descended from the queen of Sheba."
The Abyssinian Mission enjoyed an overall warm welcome and before returning to Ethiopia, they toured the cities of New York and San Francisco. They also visited an Irish Catholic cathedral, a Jewish synagogue, the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Harlem, and Yellowstone National Park

## About the Author:

Liben Eabisa is the Founder \& Publisher of Tadias Magazine. He is also the publisher of the book: Abyssinia of Today - Reissue of Robert P. Skinner's memoir, a narrative of the first American diplomatic mission to black Africa. Liben Eabisa lives in New York City.

## ETHIOPIA: THE AFRICANS WHO FOUGHT IN WWII

## By Martin Plaut

BBC Africa analyst
The 70th anniversary of World War II is being commemorated around the world, but the contribution of one group of soldiers is almost universally ignored. How many now recall the role of more than one million African troops?
Yet they fought in the deserts of North Africa, the jungles of Burma and over the skies of Burma. A shrinking band of veterans, many now living in poverty, bitterly resent being written out of history.
For Africa, World War II began not in 1939, but in 1935.
Italian Fascist troops, backed by thousands of Eritrean colonial forces, invaded Ethiopia.
Emperor Haile Selassie was forced to flee to the UK, but others, known as Patriots, fought on. Among them was Jagama Kello. Fifteen years old at the time, he left home and raised a guerrilla force that struck at the Italian invaders.

## Mein Kampf

Other Africans learnt what Fascism could mean for them. Among them was John Henry Smythe of Sierra Leone. His teacher gave him Adolf Hitler's book, Mein Kampf.
"We read what this man was going to do to the blacks if he gets into power. And he attacked the British and Americans for encouraging the blacks to become doctors and lawyers," Mr Smythe said.
"It was a book which would put any black man's back up and it put mine up."
He volunteered to join the Royal Air Force, becoming a navigator, flying bombers over Germany. Others took a similar view.
Joe Culverwell, who went

on to fight for the liberation of Zimbabwe, volunteered the day war was declared in 1939.
"Don't forget in those days we were very loyal Brits - stupid as that may sound now," Mr Culverwell says. "We were brainwashed into being little brown Britishers."
Others were conscripted. They were picked up when they went to visit a local market or on the orders of a local chief
And many found that once they enlisted they were badly treated. The reality of military life for African soldiers like Nigerian Marshall Kebby was very different from the propaganda.
"As a colonial soldier I had very rough treatment. At that time we hadn't even a single Nigerian officer, all were British. And many of us revolted against injustice, what I might call man's inhumanity to man."
'Hell'
But once the fighting began there was little time for protest. For men like Mr Culverwell, serving in Somalia, being bombed by the Italians was a terrifying experience.
"Boy that was hell. We all had foxholes. I never felt so frightened in my life. They were bombing 100 yards away. We daren't even look up, you see."
Mr Smythe took part in airraids over enemy territory.
But on the night of 18 November 1943 his plane was shot down over the German city of Mannheim. He spent 18 months in a prisoner of war camp, where the Germans tried to extract intelligence from him
"You must use some special instruments to navigate your way here," his interrogator told Mr Smythe.
"He said: 'I want you to cooperate to get you out of this place.' I said: ‘I will give you my name and number?. He started
to scream at me; became a real Nazi officer.
"He said: ‘You know they are talking about whether to execute you tomorrow or not. Because you, as a black man, should not involve in white man's war."

## Meeting Gandhi

On the other side of the world, Mr Kebby was meeting Indians. Among them was the leader of India's independence movement, Mahatma Gandhi, who was addressing a crowd of one million people in Madras. Mr


Jagamo Kello, middle, left home at just 15 to fight Italian invaders


John Henry Smythe, left, read Hitler's Mein Kampf before joining the RAF

Kebby worked his way to the front.
"It was one of the greatest things I did as a soldier. I greet ed Gandhi with a military salute and asked him: 'What are you going to do for Africa now that India is going to be free?'
"He said: 'India will not do anything for you. But India will give you moral support on condition you fight the British non violently".'
By 1945 the war was over African troops had helped the allied powers defeat Ger many, Italy and Japan.
Mr Culver-
well remem
bers talking to other black soldiers he met about what would happen to them now. "We used to have long chats about the colour problem

"After the shooting, we said we should damage all British things in the city. We got stones, sticks to break down shops. We broke them all down. Those were wonderful days: February 1948, Saturday to Sunday."
Mr Kebby is convinced that he and others like him helped end colonial rule.
"Every soldier who went to India got new ideas and learnt new things.
We came back with improved ideas about life. We, the ex-servicemen, gave this country the freedom it's enjoying today. We gave this freedom and handed it over to our country."
and we were determined that we were not going to be treated that way any more."
Freedom fighters
But for most Africans independence was still 15 years away.
In the meantime, the veterans had to get home and find a job.
Many found little gratitude for their years of service and no work.
In February 1948 veterans from Ghana, among them Kalimu Glover went to petition the governor.
But instead of receiving them, police opened fire. It sparked off an outpouring of anger on the streets of Accra.


Editor's Note: I'm proud to introduce you my Canadian friend Jatin Naik; Jatin noticed values in Hawarya and started writing to strengthen our publication and he is now Hawarya's standing contributor about the Canadian mosaic. Our readers may have been wondering who he is; Jatin has a high caliber in many ways and chose Hawarya to further his work and interest within the Canadian multicultural communities. Here is Jatin and enjoy reading him.

Hawarya: Tell us something about yourself.
"With over many years of experience in the IT Consulting industry, I have consulted on turn-key Web/Internet, Business Intelligence and Multimedia projects. Although being an IT Professional, I have also been writing since the past 5 to 6 years. My passion for writing has led me into the world of Media and Journalism"
Hawarya: Tell us about your work especially in the world of Writing and Journalism
"Being a Canadian writer of short stories, articles and poetry since 2004, I have written for a number of newspapers, on-line Journals and magazines. I have also written for a mainstream newspaper that has headquarters in New York although I have written for their local Toronto edition only. I have written in access of 65 articles and my work has appeared in several books and magazines" My penname is Indra I Jatin.
Hawarya: As a part of your media coverage what would you consider your best achievements?
"Having covered some prestigious events in the past such as Obama's Press Conference with Harper right inside the Parliament Press room, JUNO Awards conference, TO Fashion Week 2009, TIFF, NetIP 2009 and Remembrance Day's True Patriot Love event, I have interviewed and met many personalities and celebrities the likes of Ali Velshi (Chief Business Correspondent, CNN), Nada Sheppard (Canadian Fashion Designer), Dr. Ruby Dhalla(Member of Parliament), Shaun Francis (CEO, True Patriot Love Foundations), Kathlyn Weene (Minister of Education), Priyanka Chopra (Miss World 2000), Elizabeth May \& Adrianne Carr (Green Party leader \& Deputy leader of Canada), Bollywood superstars (Rahul Bose and Mallika Sherawat) and large number of other celebrities"
Hawarya: Recently, you were on Rogers TV broadcast several times thru the week. What was the reason?
"Two pieces of my work got published in a new book "Canadian Voices" which is a multicultural book published by Bookland Press and I consider this achievement very important as the book features many good writers. The interview on Rogers TV was in this regards as well as due to my appearances in the world of Media and Journalism. I consider getting interviewed on the TV as a good achievement since it was aired several times on the Television at different timings all through the week. I was also interviewed on that Channel webTV earlier"
Hawarya: Tell us about your appearance in the Media in the world of acting/modelling.
"Having worked in the Theatre in 2006 (Tapestry of Dreams), I have appeared in a foray of media including TV appearing briefly on CBC's Primetime show "The Border" as well as in background work on a Hollywood Production "Devil" by the makers of the much acclaimed paranormal/ supernatural thriller movie "The Sixth Sense". With hard work I am determined to strive to get into the foreground in the future! Apart have been involved in modeling/fashion show, having started through a modeling contest where I was picked by one of the agencies"
Hawarya: You have also worked on the Multimedia Production of a Theatrical Show providing high display Computer Graphics. What was it about?
"In the fall of December 2006, I was involved in the Multimedia Production of a Theatrical show dubbed "Dream Weavers : Tapestry of Dreams" by Sirius Theatrical. It was essentially an intergenerational, multidisciplinary, multicultural animation project consisting of a live performance interspersed with dance, music, drama, photography, singing, spoken words, visual arts and finally Computer graphics. The performance played huge emphasis on new Immigrant stories from the communities and since this is what resonated with me hence I took part in the show. I am Web Designer and a Computer Graphics/Multimedia Professional and that's why I was involved in the show not only for Multimedia but also for Acting Hawarya: What message would you like to give to our readers?
"First of all, I would like to thank you Muluken and your publication for the interview. I would also like to thank the readers and would like to say that if you have an inspiration or an idea put it down on paper and then expand on it step-by-step. Keep on working in the direction of the objectives and they will manifest!"

## Indra | Jatin

Acclaimed correspondent Jatin Naik speaks about his accomplishments and achievements



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## U.N. SLAPS SANCTIONS ON ERITREA

By Gerard Aziakou
UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The UN Security Council slapped an arms embargo on Eritrea Wednesday and targeted sanctions on its leaders for aiding Somali rebels and refusing to withdraw troops from its disputed border with Djibouti.
Thirteen of the council's 15 members voted in favor of Resolution 1907 but vetowielding China abstained while Libya, the lone Arab member of the council and the current chair of the African Union, voted against.
The Ugandan-drafted text bans weapons sales to and from Eritrea, while also imposing travel restrictions and asset freezes on the country's political and military leadership.
The measure demands that Asmara "cease all efforts to destabilize or overthrow, directly or indirectly" the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in Somalia.
It urges member states to conduct inspections on their territory, including
seaports and airports, of "all cargo to and from Somalia and Eritrea" if there is reasonable grounds to believe the shipments contain banned weapons or related material.
The text also presses Eritrea to withdraw troops immediately from disputed territories along its frontier with Djibouti and engage in diplomatic efforts leading to "a mutually acceptable" settlement of their longrunning border dispute.
It further calls on all member states, in particular Eritrea, to stop "arming, training and equipping armed groups that aim to destabilize the region or incite violence and civil strife in Djibouti," including Somalia's hardline Islamic militants.
Libya's deputy UN ambassador, Ibrahim Dabbashi, said "sanctions are not the ideal way of resolving problems" and would likely exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa.
The Chinese ambassador to the United Nations, Zhang Yesui, argued the
"council should act prudently in adopting sanctions."
He stressed that sanctions should not replace diplomatic efforts to resolve the issue through negotiations. In a letter sent to the Security Council ahead of the vote, Eritrea's UN ambassador, Araya Desta, urged all members "to use their influence to ensure the rejection of this draft resolution in its entirety."
He accused Washington of being "the main architect" of a resolution that "has no factual or legal justifications.'
"The UN Security Council cannot penalize Eritrea for its views simply because (Asmara) does not toe or conform to Washington's policy choices and preferences," Desta charged.
Both the African Union and the east African Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) bloc, which groups Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda, have been calling since July for UN sanctions to punish Eritrea for backing Somali

rebels.
The United States has blamed Eritrea for fanning the violence in Somalia, a country that has not known peace for nearly two decades. A UN monitoring group has detailed how Asmara supplies arms and cash to Somali opposition forces.
Somalia's wobbly transitional government controls virtually no territory and has been unable to govern the country due to constant and fierce fighting with hardline Islamist militias.

On Eritrea's border dispute with Djibouti, the resolution reiterated the Security Council's call in Resolution 1862 adopted in January that Asmara pull out its forces and all their equipment from disputed territories and ensure that no military presence or activity take place in the area. That resolution had given Eritrea five weeks to pull out.

The dispute over the Ras Doumeira promontory on the shores of the Red Sea last flared up in June 2008
after previous clashes in 1996 and 1999.
It has assumed a greater strategic significance because both France and the United States have bases in the former French colony. The United States stations over 1,200 troops in Djibouti, which hosts an antiterrorism task force in the Horn of Africa.
Resolution 1907 also di rected UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to report within 180 days on Asmara's compliance with its provisions.

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## ETHIOPIA：CLIMATE CHANGE－TYRANT ZENAWI STANDS ALONE IN COPENHAGEN

## By Mantoe Phakathi

COPENHAGEN，Dec 17 （IPS）－ Ethiopian Tyrant Meles Zenawi says Africa must compromise and be flex－ ible towards other countries，if the U．N． Climate Conference ending on Dec．18， is to reach an agreement．
Speaking to the press in the Danish capital，Tyrant Zenawi－ostensibly leading the African front on climate change－said the continent would suf－ fer the most should the world fail to seal a deal．
＂Because we have more to lose，we should compromise and be flexible with（other countries），＂said Zenawi， after admitting that his proposals at the U．N．summit fall short of African ex－ pectations．
But he was quick to point out that Africa＇s bending did not mean despera－ tion：＂We will not accept any empty words＂．
Millions of Africans are banking their hopes on the Ethiopian Tyrant，who was chosen to lead the African delega－ tion during the High Level Meeting of heads of state that concludes the U．N． Climate Conference．
The prize is to bring home a sound deal that will act to slow the rising av－ erage temperatures that have caused catastrophic droughts and severe rains in recent years，and to secure funding from the historically－polluting coun－ tries to cope with changes that are al－ ready unvaoidable．
While maintaining that Africa had virtually no responsibility for the greenhouse gas emissions causing cli－ mate change，Tyrant Zenawi slashed the 67 billion dollars a year that Af－ rican leaders agreed to demand from the industrialised nations who are re－ sponsible．
Instead his proposal accepts the de－ veloped world＇s offer of a start－up fund of $\$ 10$ billion a year for Africa over the next three years，with the future to be decided on later．This fund will be dedicated to adaptation and mitigation actions，including the fight against de－ forestation，in poor countries．
＂I support that the fund be established through the creation of a tax on inter－ national financial transactions，and that other sources be considered，such as taxes on sea freight or air transport，＂ he said．＂I also support that it should be administered through the African Development Bank．＂
In the long term，Tyrant Zenawi pro－ posed that funding rise to $\$ 50$ billion a year in 2013，and reach $\$ 100$ billion by 2020 －a proposal perfectly in line with what U．S．Secretary of State Hilary


Clinton outlined in a press conference on Dec． 17.
His proposal touched a raw nerve among African civil society organisa－ tions，who have demanded that he re－ sign as coordinator of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change．
The proposal has caused outrage in Africa，according to Pan－African Cli－ mate Justice spokesperson Mithika Mwenda．He accuses Tyrant Zenawi of caving in to the dictates of industria－ lised nations，leaving Africans to fend for themselves as best they can
＂His statement is undermining the bold positions of African negotiators and ministers represented in Copen－ hagen，and threatens the very future of Africa，＂said an angry Mwenda．
The proposed $\$ 10$ billion a year for Africa is an insult，said Mwenda，who did a quick calculation and came up with $\$ 4$ a year for each African．In his view，it should be the size of the pocket， that determines the expected contri－ bution from industrialised countries． They are，he said＂paying their debt for polluting the earth＂．
A difficult start for Africa in the final phase of negotiations．The collective front put up by Africa Group negotia－ tors as part of the Group of 77 and Chi－ na block had failed to convince the Rich World to either commit to substantial greenhouse gas emissions or the $\$ 200$ billion a year the developed world will need to cope with floods，droughts，ris－ ing sea levels and the spread of diseases due to climate change．
But the bloc had at least made it clear that the developing world would not stand peacefully by any abandoning of Kyoto Protocol commitments to reduce emissions，or easily settle for a modest though immediate sum．
Zenawis break with this position to endorse a Western position is a wor－ rying sign that this solidarity amongst the countries whose people will bear the full weight of climatic changes may not hold firm．

## HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD FOR HELPING REFUGEES

## By：Teghan Beaudette

KEN GIGLIOTTI／WINNIPEG FREE PRESS Ali Saeed credits his wife Ayni for his success sponsoring refugees．
A former political prisoner who was locked up for seven years and sentenced to death in Somalia was recognized Wednesday by the Mani－ toba Human Rights Commission for his continued efforts to free political prisoners in Ethiopia and aid refu－ gees in Canada．
＂I＇m privileged，I＇m honoured，and I＇m very happy，＂Ali Saeed said，af－ ter being awarded the 2009 Human Rights Commitment Award of Mani－ toba．
Saeed was imprisoned after speak－ ing out about abuse of women he witnessed while he was a refugee in Somalia．
After Amnesty International and the United Nations campaigned for his freedom，Saeed was released in 1984 and came to Canada as a refu－ gee，where he now owns a conve－ nience store and volunteers much of his time sponsoring refugees and working to free political prisoners in Ethiopia．
Saeed said credit for many of his successes is owed to his wife of 28 years，Ayni．＂She＇s the pillar of our family．She is the backbone of our struggle．Without her，I would not be here．She＇s the one working hard．．．to be honest with you，the award should go straight to her．＂
Saeed＇s family has sponsored over 100 refugees，helping them find em－ ployment and schooling in Winni－ peg．
Saeed＇s daughter Misalee，who stud－ ies international development at the University of Winnipeg，said she＇s ex－ tremely proud of her father，who even at home underscores the importance of human rights activism．＂Because of the struggle my dad had coming to Canada，we can＇t take our basic hu－ man rights for granted．He instilled

that into us when we grew up，＂she said．
Earlier this year，Saeed and his daughter presented a petition to Parliament，in an attempt to raise awareness about abuse of women in Ethiopian refugee camps，and Saeed released a documentary film on the topic．
Arthur DeFehr，the former head of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees，assisted with Saeed＇s re－ lease in 1984．＂I think he＇s a terrific example of a successful refugee．Also， one who doesn＇t forget his past－－he takes other people with him．He very much deserves the honour．＂
Saeed＇s award came just a day be－ fore International Human Rights Day，marking the 61st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights－－and Saeed hopes the award will serve to draw attention to the continuing struggle of refugees and political prisoners．
Meanwhile，the Sybil Shack award recipient is Anna－Celestrya Carr，for her work with the Sisters in Spirit National Campaign．The campaign works to raise awareness of the high rates of violence against Aboriginal women．Carr has taken this message to universities and institutions across the country．
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## NOW I KNOW WHY I＇M OUT OF WORK！

## Bob Cook

## For 25 years I worked at Citytv／Much－

 Music doing all kinds of things and I was lucky because I actually loved what I did．But since leaving four years ago the business has changed dramatically．Let me explain．I grew up listening to radio to hear the latest songs by the Beatles， Rolling Stones you name it．It＇s one of the reasons I got into radio．If you can＇t sing or play music the next best thing is to work in a place where you can listen to it all day plus get a dental plan．I then moved to TV and started at MuchMu－ sic the day it went on the air Aug．31st 1984．MUCHMUSIC and it＇s equivalent in the States MTV would change the way people thought and listened to mu－ sic forever．We now SAW Michael Jack－ son and Madonna who together made over 50 videos combined．Other bands of the era included Aha，Duran Duran， Pet Shop Boys the list goes on and again it was a cool way of making a living be－ cause I got to HEAR \＆SEE the bands who were creating the music．But time marches on and computers became the new TV and they got small－ er and they got faster and then one day someone told us that you could connect to the world via THE INTERNET．Well that became the new window to the
world and as things got faster they also got more complex and the young were empowered by the web and soon ev－ ery desk，table and lap had a computer which lead to music downloads，which brings me to where I＇m at right now．
This past weekend I was at my fam－ ily Christmas party and we were in the garage and someone said put on some tunes．
So my niece Ashley came in with an MP3 player that was the size of a pack of matches and hooked it up to a set of speakers and presto digital stereo mu－ sic．It was clearer than what John Len－ non heard when George Martin played him Abbey Road for the first time．The MP3 player held 245 songs and again it was the size of a pack of matches．I was staggered because the first radio station I worked at didn＇t play that many songs in a week．And it was music you chose and no commercials．By the way you should see me dancing to Marvin Gaye in a garage，I look marvelous．
Anyway I realized then that radio and music television were over．If you can have something the size of your wallet hold 10,000 songs so be it．I will work again and I will do well but not in the business I loved and that＇s OK because time marches on and as John Lennon once said＂Imagine a world．．．＂I have and I like what I see．


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# CARNEY WARNS CANADIAN CONSUMERS, BANKS TO PREPARE FOR HIGHER INTEREST RATES 

## bank of canada govcernor mark carney speaks TO THE MEDIA DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE

By Kristine Owram, The Canadian Press

TORONTO - The head of Canada's central bank is warning consumers and chartered banks not to get caught by surprise when interest rates inevitably start to rise again.
Expanding on previous warnings, Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney told a business audience in Toronto that the current low interest rate environment may be luring Canadians to borrow too much, and banks to extend loans they will later regret.
Canadians have taken on more debt even during the recession, which is unusual, Carney said Wednesday.
But while Canadians may be able to afford the added debt burden now when interest rates are at historic lows, they may get caught short when rates return to more normal levels.
"The combination of sustained growth of household debt relative to income and a rising interest rate environment could increase the vulnerability of households to an adverse shock," he said in his speech.
Carney reiterated the central bank's commitment to keep interest rates at their historic low of 0.25 per cent until June 2010, although he said this approach could change if the economy bounces back more quickly than expected.
"Things can change and if things change we would change that guidance," the bank governor told reporters after his speech.
"What we're really looking for is supply-demand conditions in the economy... Demand's starting to come back, that's good, but there's a lot of slack still to be picked up, and that's important for the profile of how we would adjust monetary policy."
While there is nothing to be particularly concerned about in terms of household debt levels right now, CIBC senior economist Benjamin Tal said that when interest rates do begin to rise they will rise quickly, and could catch some consumers - particularly those with large mortgages - off guard.
"He's definitely saying, 'Just be careful, because interest rates eventually will rise, because those are, after all, emergency interest rates.' They will rise, and usually we know that when they rise they rise faster than they go down," Tal said. "What Carney's telling you is - if you cannot afford this house that you're buying now (at rates) 200 or 300 basis points higher, than buy a smaller house."
Mortgage rates have been hovering at low levels for months while housing prices have rebounded dramatically, creating the perfect environment for consumers to take on big debt loads.
Although Carney said he doesn't believe Canada is in the midst of a housing bubble, Scotiabank economist Derek Holt said this environment won't last, and as interest rates start to rise and the number of new home listings starts to increase, it could post a downside risk to home


Mark Carney - Bank of Canada Governor
prices, which would in turn hurt consumers with large mortgages.
"I would argue that we're in a housing bubble that inflates for another year before material risks emerge by 2011 or thereabouts," Holt said.
Wednesday was not the first time Carney and the central bank have voiced concerns about consumer debt levels. In the central bank's semiannual Financial Systems Review last week, it cited household debt as the number one risk factor to Canada's economic well-being.
Since then there has been more evidence that Canadians have not paid heed. The Canadian Real Estate Association reported Tuesday that

Canadians continued to snap up houses at near record levels, increasing their purchases of resale homes by 73 per cent in November.
Carney emphasized that he's not telling consumers to stop borrowing, but is rather cautioning them to keep an eye on their finances.
"Everything in life is a question of degree, and it's a question of, within the broad spectrum of consumers, who's already borrowed enough and who else has additional capacity," he said.
Among signs that Canadians may be getting in over their heads was a 41 per cent jump in personal bankruptcies in the July-to-September period compared to a year
ago. Personal bankruptcies are now at the highest level as a proportion of the population since 1991.
As well, delinquency rates are rising and the proportion of mortgage payments in arrears by three months or more has increased by 50 per cent in the past year.
The Canadian economy is particularly vulnerable to household defaults since consumers are expected to be the key driver of economic recovery, the governor said.
But Carney added that while Canadian consumers have a responsibility to avoid credit risks, so do financial institutions.
"Financial institutions should actively monitor risk stemming from households and not take comfort from mortgage insurance and past performance of household credit," he said.
"As our simulations suggest, the overall credit profile of Canadian households could well shift if debt continues to grow at current rates.
Carney noted that he still believes the Canadian economy is coming out of the recession and will grow in the next few years.
He said he expects Canada to outperform the other G7 countries with a three per cent advance in 2010, but said growth going forward will be more modest than previous post-recession bounce-backs and more reliant on domestic demand.
"The behaviour of Canadian households will thus be particularly important," Carney said.

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