



Women in Ethiopia

by Tassew Dejene

Ethiopia counts approximately 60 million inhabitants of whom, of course, some 30 million are female. As women all over the world, these women differ from each other as all individuals do. Therefore, it is somehow impossible to generalise about women in Ethiopia. Differences in economic position and possibilities, social status, marital status or opportunities, geographical situation, age, religion and many other aspects are influencing the lives of each individual, man and woman. It should be taken into account that each person's life is her or his own life and has her or his own ideas about it. Moreover, other people have ideas about it as well. For instance, a woman who lives in town can be considered by her family who live in a small 'hager bet' as leading a prosperous life. She will of course not inform them that the money which she sends them every month, is earned by prostituting herself. In order to give a picture about women in Ethiopia, I have decided to describe life histories of several women who happen to be born in the country. During my research in several parts of the country, I came across various persons who gave me insights in their daily existence which I try to summarise below, doing justice as much as possible to their ideas. They can be considered as representatives of specific groups of women with their specific backgrounds, but most of all they should be considered for what they are: themselves.

The first woman I would like to refer to, is called Abebech. She is born in northern Shoa. At the age of ten she went to Addis Ababa together with her uncle who al-

ready lived in the capital city. The initial idea was, that she would get an access to school in Addis, while working in the family household after school hours. However, she turned out to be one of the many 'family slaves' in the country, having time to attend classes only in evening school being too tired to learn much. As she told me, it was impossible to continue going to school for more than half a year. She remained a 'maid' for some years. She started as a prostitute to be able to earn her 'own' money in order to be independent. By having to leave her uncle's house she also, unwillingly, had given up her bonds with the family back home in northern Shoa. Being a prostitute she saved each birr for years to be able to pay 5000 birr to a broker in Addis Ababa to arrange a trip to Lebanon to work there. She even changed her name to a Muslim name, Aisha. She was lucky and could work as a housekeeper. Many women are less fortunate and are expected to prostitute themselves. Some women in Addis are enabled to travel to a foreign country 'for free', which means that all the income they earn in that country is taken from them to repay their debt for the (coming and return) ticket. After staying in Lebanon for two years she desired to return to Ethiopia. In order to receive her passport, which was taken by her employer when she arrived in Lebanon, she was not in a position to ask for the money she had actually earned. Back in Addis she had no other alternative as to continue working where she had left: as a prostitute. It should be added that the number of prostitutes who are HIV-positive is enormous.

Another unhappy story is that about the life of Roman. She lived in a small town in Tigray all her life and struggled with her family to survive several seasons of drought and famine. In a certain year the situation became so harsh that the family could no longer stay in their town. All other coping strategies to tackle the deprivation of food had failed or turned out to be insufficient. As a family they turned to the Sudan, to a refugee camp. After several years of harsh life, the situation in the camp improved a bit. Having lost family members and having experienced horrific situations, Roman managed to put her life a bit in order by starting a small enterprise of selling home brewed beer. She earned a bit of money which she of course saved in order to be able to return to her home town; she felt home sick. During her stay in the camp, she had married a refugee who was brought up in an other part of the Tigray region. He, however, did not have the desire to join her in her return. When she did manage to travel back, she arrived in a

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town which had changed a lot over the past years. Some people, however, did remember her and her family. She could return to her own house because she could afford to pay the rent again. However, after several months her savings had finished and she had not managed to find a new means of income again. She was forced to start selling home brewed beer to earn herself a living again.

Both Ababech and Roman were forced to try their luck in another environment. Both felt home sick and desired to return home. A sad similarity between the two stories is also, that they returned to a similar harsh situation as which forced them to leave.

Mahlet is the name of the third woman, whose life I want to describe. She is a daughter of merely well-to-do parents living in Addis Ababa. She had the opportunity to follow education up to university level. Living with her husband, who has a good job, Mahlet is now a mother and house wife which she never desired to be.

Even though people consider her situation to be very successful,

she has dreams and ambitions which she fears will never become true. However she is not allowed to share her fears and desires, since people will not accept her complaints.

Elsa is a woman who grew up in a small village with poor parents.

She did not have a chance to go to school since she had elder siblings who already were going. When fighters passed her village she was attracted by their way of life and the promises which were related to being a soldier: she joined the fighters. While being a fighter she learned how to read and write and she enjoyed discussing the future of the country for which she was fighting. She felt like she was one of the people enhancing this change. While being with other fighters she shaped her ideas about her role in society as a person and even more clearly as a woman. The ruling ideology of the fighters contributed a lot to her thoughts. After the victory of TPLF over the Dergue she returned to her village after she was receiving the opportunity to have land and a fixed amount of money. With her newly adopted ideas about gender roles she could not fit into a traditional marriage. No man who had not left the village would accept this woman as his wife, not only because she passed the general age for a woman to marry. Since it is a general taboo to till the land being a woman, she had no alternative but to make an 'illegal' agreement with her male neighbour to till her land with oxen in return for part of the harvest.

Fatuma is a 17-year-old woman who lives in a small town in Oromyia. As all women in Ethiopia she does not have an individual right of access to land. Therefore, she has to wait until she married. Then the harvest of the land on which she and her husband are working will belong to the household. Her parents had chosen a man with whom she was arranged to marry. However, she had fallen in love with a young man living in town, who was not accepted by her parents. Once, when she was fetching water and he, as many times, joined her, they decide to run away. He, so to say, eloped her. When they returned to the village after staying with his relatives living in another village for six weeks, her parents had no other

choice but to accept him as their son-in-law.

Coping strategies

Ababech, Roman, Mahlet, Elsa and Fatuma all have to deal with their specific circumstances. A life led by an individual is never directed by that individual alone. In certain cases there exist certain surviving or coping strategies. For instance when there is a famine a household can first send a member as a labour migrant to a neighbouring area, then sell their assets and in the last resort leave their house to flee for the hunger. This is an extreme situation. In the life histories mentioned above, I was focusing on economic strategies. Specific strategies for women can be summarised as follows:

In villages

- Women marry a man who has access to land.
- If they do not accept the choice of husband made by their parents, they can elope with their lover or they can run away. Of course a woman can also be 'kidnapped' by a man who desires her, which does not involve her personal preferences.
- Women and girls can go to towns to work as a 'maid' in the households of relatives.
- During war times, women can join the army or guerrilla fighters to have a chance to leave their village.

In towns

- In towns more than in villages women may have better access to education. By getting a diploma they are able to join the labour market. However, there are many people who have a diploma, but cannot find a job these days.
- Young women sometimes find out through friends that there are magazines in which they can have their picture (sometimes scarcely dressed) printed along with a few personal details. These magazines are read by men in foreign countries who are interested in them. It is presumed to be for selecting pen pals, but both parties most often know what it is really about. Now that more

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people have access to the Internet, these contacts are even made more easily. It shows already that people who do have access to this information (and Internet specifically) are not the poorest women in the country. Most of them are highly educated and try to seek an opportunity to leave the country.

- Women with less high education try their luck in neighbouring or Arab countries as a maid (often as a prostitute). They have the impression that if they have to work hard in Ethiopia in the households of their families for free, they might as well work hard for strangers to earn some income.
- For an independent income women can sell home brewed beer or in the worst case their own body. This counts for women in towns as well as in villages.

General situation for women

As in most parts of the world, women in Ethiopia have less access to land, education and financial income than men do. The inheritance system is organised in such a way that only male people can inherit. Land always belongs to a man. A woman can only have land, after marrying a man. In case of a divorce, the land remains the property of the husband. The Dergue initiated to put an effort in creating organisations to mobilise women, in the so-called 'Revolutionary Ethiopian Women Associations'. These associations were not so much aiming to empower women, as aiming at stabilising the power of the government. Some critics of the current government say that EPRDF is continuing this process without trying to change the position of women in the country. Somehow, while fighting against the Dergue, TPLF considered women equally apt as fighters as men. In education as well, it treated women equal to men. TPLF tried to put a halt to harmful traditional practices like female circumcision; female genital mutilation. Therewith, it gave an example to encourage the inhabitants of the current northern region. However, in most instances the custom is still daily practice. This is not only the case in the northern parts of Ethiopia, but

also in the other parts of the county. In bigger towns some families have stopped to circumcise their baby girls, but this is more exception than rule. In general, it can be said that most women in Ethiopia are circumcised. NGOs, Ethiopian as well international, are also putting effort in stopping these practices. Sometimes the results of the efforts are better than other times.

A generally accepted custom is also elopement. Sometimes it is a very romantic story, that two lovers run off to the bush and hide for a few weeks before returning to their village to be accepted as a couple. In other situations, a young woman is taken by a group of men of whom one is intending to 'marry' her by force. There are cases known of women running away from these forced marriages, who are not accepted by their community for this reason (once a woman is abducted, the relationship between her and the man is accepted). Women who (tried to) escape(d) are not considered to be new marriage candidates and often they feel and are obliged to go and live in a (bigger) town. NGOs are trying to stop these events from happening as well. However, they often lack an understanding of the basic causes and therefore do not change anything. Writing about women, one always ends up writing about the hardships of being a woman. Of course, there are stories of women who are fantastically strong and each of the women described above, is managing in a very strong way. Nevertheless, a lot remains to be changed. In case you are interested in discussing this issue, contact me at t188937@hotmail.com.

There is a recent case of an Ethiopian woman, Yeshiwork Desta Zewdu, who killed her employer in Bahrain for repeated sexual harassment. This kind of harassment happens regularly and sometimes a woman manages to defend herself. The current case is the first in which the Ethiopian Embassy involves to assist the woman. To sign a petition to support her, please turn to the website of Addis Tribune (date issue 29-12-2000).

Der Raub der kleinen Bräute

Wenn arme äthiopische Männer eine Frau brauchen, entführen sie ein Kind

von Maritta Tkalec

ADDIS ABEBA, im Dezember. Sie heißen Amina, Danuti, Nasra und Namine. Mit gesenkten Augen sitzen sie da und sehen aus, als würden sie kein Wort reden. Die Mädchen sind 13 und 14 Jahre alt, doch sie haben Erfahrungen hinter sich, die man keiner erwachsenen Frau zumuten dürfte. Und doch ist das, was ihnen widerfuhr, normal in Äthiopien, weil es häufig geschieht. Nur dass diese Mädchen sich auflehnten, macht sie nach den Maßstäben ihrer Gesellschaft zu Außenseiterinnen.

Amina ist 13 und ein schmales Mädchen mit großen, wachsamem Augen. Vor zwei Jahren war sie ein Kind, das zur Schule ging, wenn es nicht hart arbeitete - Wasser vom Brunnen holte, Holzbündel für das Kochfeuer schleppte oder die kleinen Geschwister hütete. An jenem Tag vor zwei Jahren bereitete sie vor der Hütte der Eltern gerade das Feuer vor, als dieser Mann kam. Ihr großer Bruder stand in der Nähe und sah, wie der sie packte. Amina schrie, doch der Bruder half nicht. "Er lachte", erinnert sie sich. Später erfuhr sie, dass der Bruder eingeweiht gewesen war. Der Mann verschleppte Amina und vergewaltigte sie sofort. "Es war schrecklich. Blut lief aus mir heraus und ich konnte nicht mehr gehen", sagt Amina. Tränen steigen in ihre Augen.

Sofort vergewaltigt

Diese Vergewaltigungen gehören zu der Entführung einer Braut. "Sie sind nicht nur ein Akt der Gewalt, sondern auch der dauerhaften Inbesitznahme", sagt Margherite Amodeo vom Unicef-Kinderhilfswerk in Äthiopien. "Die Mädchen werden durch die Entjungferung für den Heiratsmarkt unbrauchbar gemacht, die Eltern verzichten dann meist auf die Rückgabe ihres Kindes." Der Entführer ist gemeinhin ein

Mann, der zu arm ist, den Brautpreis zu zahlen. Normalerweise folgen der Entführung Verhandlungen mit den Ältesten der Gemeinde, bis die Eltern den Schwiegersohn akzeptieren. Nur das Mädchen hat nichts zu sagen.

So hätte es auch Amina ergehen sollen, war ihr Bruder doch mit dem Entführer schon so gut wie einig. Doch es kam anders. Mitschülerinnen aus der Nachbarschaft hatten Aminas Lehrerin gerufen und die alarmierte die Polizei. Nur wegen des Krawalls, den die Frau schlug, umzingelten die Polizisten die Hütte, in der Amina festgehalten wurde. Dem Entführer gelang die Flucht, Amina kam ins Krankenhaus.

Ihr Fall wurde dem "Komitee gegen schädliche traditionelle Praktiken" bekannt. In diesem Verein haben sich äthiopische Frauen und Männer zusammengeschlossen, die sich nicht mehr mit Unsitten wie Mädchenraub und Mädchenbeschneidung abfinden wollen. In vielen Orten versuchen sie, mit Hilfe von Unicef, ihre Landsleute aufzuklären und den Opfern zu helfen.

Dem Staatsanwalt des Ortes Arsi Negele, Nenau Aisa, ist der ganze Aufruhr um die entführten Mädchen nicht ganz geheuer. Unicef-Mitarbeiterin Margherite Amodeo fragt ihn nach dem neuem Gesetz, das Hochzeiten unter 18 Jahren untersagt. Bis vor einigen Monaten galt das Mindestalter von 15 Jahren. Dieses neue Gesetz sei ihm noch nicht zugestellt worden, sagt der Vertreter der Staatsmacht. Außerdem verheiratete die Mehrheit der Leute die Töchter auf traditionelle Art eben mit zwölf. "Was können wir tun, die Gesellschaft ist eben so", sagt er. Wenn es, wie in Aminas Fall, um Vergewaltigung geht, kann sich der dem Gesetz verpflichtete nicht ganz so leicht in Ausreden flüchten. Doch der Entführer ist weg.

Amina lebt derweil Tag und Nacht in Angst. "Er droht mir, er hat mir sagen lassen, er wolle mich holen", sagt sie. Ihre Eltern haben sie verstoßen, "weil ich beschmutzt bin". Sie darf bei einem Onkel wohnen, in einer Ecke seiner Hütte, doch sie weiß nicht, wie lange noch. Sie geht zur Schule, aber niemals allein. "Sonst verlasse ich nie das Haus", sagt sie.

Was soll Amina tun? Wovon soll sie leben? Daß Amina je heiraten wird, scheint unwahrscheinlich. Andere von ihren Familien verstoßene Mädchen wurden Prostituierte. Unter ihnen soll in Äthiopien die HIV-Infektionsrate bei 90 Prozent liegen.

Auch Danuti, Nasra und Namine erzählen ähnliche Geschichten, auch sie wollten das durch einen Vergewaltiger aufgezwungene schreckliche Ehe-Schicksal nicht akzeptieren. Die drei flohen mit zwölf Jahren vor ihren Entführern. Sie, Amina und sechs weitere Mädchen haben sich zu einer Gruppe zusammengetan. Sie treffen sich wöchentlich. Mit Hilfe von Unicef lernen sie die Grundbegriffe des Kleinhandels und der Arbeit in einer Garküche auf der Straße. Mehr Hilfe ist bislang nicht möglich. "Diese Mädchen sind so stark", sagt Frau Amodeo, "sie haben es verdient, daß ihnen geholfen wird, auf eigenen Füßen zu stehen."

Quelle:

Berlin Online, Artikel vom 16. Dezember 2000

The Role of Women in the Oromo National Liberation Movement

by Na'amat Isa

1. Introduction

In any given liberation movement, the role of women is equally important as the role of men to make the objectives of the movement a reality. Without women's full participation, the struggle for the social, political, economic and cultural independence cannot achieve its goal, at least in the shortest possible period.

The Oromo women constitute nearly 50 per cent of the total Oromo population. Therefore we cannot talk of a genuine national liberation struggle if we ignore or marginalize half of the Oromo population. For the Oromo women, it is their national duty as well as their right to take part in the national liberation movement and in the socio-cultural, political, and economic developments of future democratic Oromia.

Since their fate is related to the fate of their nationality, the Oromo women share all the political persecutions, economic oppressions and human rights abuses perpetrated against the Oromo people by the Abyssinian regimes. Therefore, the Oromo women also have great desire for freedom. But the potential has neither been fully exploited by the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) nor consciously and systematically interpreted into practice by the Oromo women themselves.

In addition to national oppression, the Oromo women face gender discrimination. However nominal for the Oromo as a whole, Oromo women are denied equal access as men to political, economic and social rights. Even the Gada system, the most democratic system of its time, has not given equal opportunities to men and women in its political and military structure. But in the traditional Oromo society, Oromo women still had quite significant authorities on their administrative domains, particularly on family matters.

The Abyssinian occupation which imposed its language and culture on the Oromo people, totally raped the Oromo women of the

rights they had in the traditional Oromo society. Cultural barriers combined with the most oppressive Abyssinian colonial rule have curtailed the political participation of the Oromo women in the Oromo liberation struggle. However, even under such an oppressive Abyssinian colonial rule, many Oromo women have still made considerable contributions to the struggle.

2. Contribution of Oromo women to the National Liberation movement

It is more than two decades since the OLF has provided the Oromo people with a secular political organisation and concrete political program which reflects the socio-political and economic interests of the Oromo people. At the early stage, after the formation of the OLF in 1974, there were a few Oromo women who, consciously and actively, participated in Oromo politics and who directly or indirectly tried to contribute to the Front. A few names come to my memory, including, Addees Tsahai Tolasaa, Demekech Bekela, Kuwee Kumsa, and Addis Alem Genetii.

3. Personal Narrative

Even if it may seem superfluous to speak about one's accomplishments, I would like to say few words about myself. Almost from the beginning, I became a member of the OLF and served in my capacity in the foreign relations and logistics. Using my relations with diplomatic circles, I tried to establish contacts between the OLF and the diplomatic circles, in some of which I succeeded. This relation enabled the Organisation to send to and get from the OLF foreign office important documents and information. Working with the then co-ordinating committee in Finfinnee, I also contributed my best to logistics. Being arrested during pregnancy in 1980 I gave birth to my son whose health is permanently affected because of lack of timely help during delivery. I was released in September 1989.

I mentioned the contributions of the above few Oromo women, because I personally know them and I worked with some of them. In the last two decades, there have been many Oromo women who joined the OLF, particularly the Oromo Liberation Army. They

have made great contributions and sacrifices, including their precious lives, to the independence of their country and for the freedom of their people.

There are also many other Oromo women in the diaspora who have played active roles in the Oromo student Unions, like TBOA, and others in North America and Canada, which are the integral parts of the Oromo national liberation movement. Some active Oromo women have also devoted their knowledge, time and energy for Oromo humanitarian works.

A struggle for liberation is not confined only to politically structured hierarchy. Under a dictatorial regime like in Ethiopia, no one has the right to organise oneself. Therefore, people participate in underground organisations and the backbone of these organisations is logistics. Many Oromo women have provided the bulk of the logistics to the struggle for freedom. They have allowed their houses as meeting places, feed and sheltered the freedom fighters, relayed information and materials, took the responsibility of bringing up the children and taking care of the elderly members of the absentees.

Most of the Oromo women whose family members have been arrested have suffered equally as those in the prison. They had to provide the prisoners with food, clothes and other necessities. During their visits to their relatives in prisons, they faced all the arrogance of the Abyssinian colonial security forces, verbal and physical abuses like touching their private parts² and the like. But rather than being discouraged, they became more and more conscious of the just causes that their relatives were detained for. Instead of abandoning them, they gave them full support.

4. Obstacles to Women's Participation.

Although there are aspirations on the part of the Oromo women to fully and actively take part in the Oromo national liberation movement, they are confronted with many problems to interpret these aspirations into practice. The following are among the major contributing factors to the low level of Oromo women's conscious and active participation of Oromo women in the national liberation movement: Lack of education, traditional cultural

barriers combined with colonial repression, lack of Oromo women's organisation, and, family responsibilities.

a) Education

Education plays an important role in the general political, economic, social and cultural development of a society. But, the colonial education system is discriminatory against the oppressed nationalities in general, and against women from Oppressed nations and nationalities in particular. Although the opportunity is minimal for the Oromo in general, Oromo women are particularly discriminated against in this important field. Therefore the number of Oromo women who have a chance to get formal education to develop their talents and to be politically, economically and psychologically self-sufficient is limited. This has contributed to their low level of political consciousness and lack of self-confidence, which have in turn limited their participation in Oromo politics.

b) Cultural and political problems

Traditional cultural barriers combined with colonial repression: Before colonisation, even though Oromo women's role was better, compared to their Abyssinian neighbours, there were still very important areas in the Oromo society from which women were excluded. Gadaa which is a socio-political and cultural expression of the Oromo society' excludes the Oromo women from its political and military structure. This combined with the most oppressive Abyssinian colonial system have totally denied the Oromo women a chance to play active role in the political, social and economic activities of the society. Even though there are some Oromo women who tried to break these cultural and colonial barriers, they have not yet overcome the problem.

c) Lack of organisation

The Oromo Women lack the most important instrument, organisation, which would have made their role more effective. As I have already mentioned, individually, there were many Oromo women who have participated in different activities, from humanitarian to armed struggle. There are many who sacrificed their lives to the cause. But they are not organised. "Without organisation, the best intentions of the most talen-

ted individuals can yield only scattered results". (Eisen, Arlene, Women and revolution in Vietnam, 1984:119).

The OLF fully recognises the Oromo women's equal rights and the importance of their political participation in the national liberation movement. I interviewed a person who had field knowledge to know if Oromo women's role is different there than we generally know here.

According to my source, the OLF seems more effective in encouraging and mobilising Oromo women to participate in the struggle. Women and men have equal rights in the armed struggle. Women participate in military medical and communication sectors. There are also women combatants. Promotion depends both for men and women upon individual merits. However, the OLF still did not form or encourage the formation of Oromo women's organisation.

At home, it is difficult to think of an independent Oromo women's organisation under the current repressive Tigrean dominated regime. But there are still a good number of active Oromo women in the Diaspora who could form such an organisation. But they did not make efforts to organise themselves, and therefore, they have no common voice. Their efforts are individualistic and scattered.

Without organisation, the individual efforts cannot be effective to liberate us from the Abyssinian colonial rule. Without national liberation there cannot be women's emancipation. Without women's emancipation, there will not be effective contribution of women to the socio-political, economic, and cultural development of our country. Therefore, it is high time that we have recognised the importance of women's organisation to play an important role in the National liberation Movement as well as in building our country in the future.

d) Family responsibility

In the Oromo culture even though the breadwinner of the family is the father, the mother plays a much more important role in the lives of the children. She looks not only after their material needs which is cooking, washing, and house-keeping but also their emotional problems. Mostly children believe that their mother is always there for them whenever they need her. Consequently,

they find it easier to open up to her when they are faced with problems. Because of the above-mentioned reasons the responsibility bestowed upon mothers hinders most of them from leaving the children to be cared for by the father and join in active political participation.

5. Ways to improve Oromo women's participation

To encourage the participation of the Oromo women both in the current and in the future socio-political, economic, and cultural development of Oromia, recognition and acceptance of their equal rights, in all fields are vital. The status of Oromo women in both traditional Oromo society and under the oppressive Abyssinian colonial rule must be improved and changed respectively. That means, the Oromo nation must be open to change.

1. The Gada System must be upgraded in a way to include women in its political and military structure. Otherwise under the guise of division of labour based on gender, housekeeping and child up bringing remain women's domain whereas politics and military matters are reserved for men. I think this is a fundamental question which should be addressed.

Another important point is that Oromo men must free themselves from the occupiers alien culture, which has low esteem for women, and which allows men to treat women as their personal effects or objects.

2. Within the family structure equal education opportunity should be given to members of both sexes. This would enable women to continue higher education, exploit their talents and practice their skills, and participate in the building up of their country.

3. The Oromo women in the Diaspora should organise themselves to make a fruitful contribution to the struggle for freedom and to the abolishment of discrimination based on gender in the future democratic Oromia. Without organisation we cannot undertake any collective action. Without collective action we cannot be effective. It is only in an organised manner that we can coordinate our work with Oromo women in the armed wing and

also be voices of the majority of the voiceless Oromo women at home.

The OLF foreign office has the responsibility to organise, politicise and mobilise the Oromo women in a way that they could be more effective in their contributions to the Oromo National liberation movement. Also from TBOA and other OLF mass organisations, more efforts are expected to help the formation of such an organisation.

"The battle for democracy and liberation can only be won when women, mothers of the nation-half of the whole population- can take their rightful place as free and equal partners with men". (Anonym, My spirit is not banned, Zimbabwe publishing house, 1986).

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http://www.sidamaconcern.com/articles/role_of_women_in_national_liberation.html

The paper was first presented in TBOA conference in Berlin, Germany, July 1998. Mrs Naimat Issa is an Oromo woman activist residing in Europe.

OCCUPATIONAL STATUS AND EDUCATION OF WOMEN IN DIRE DAWA

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INTRODUCTION

Gender has been an issue of serious attention in the past and continues to be a major development issue in the world, particularly in the developing world where social, economic and political factors aggravate the existing gender imbalance.

Women constitute more than half of the world's population and are expected to share and control the wealth of the world equally. However, studies pointed out that women perform two-thirds of the working hours, receive one-tenth of the world income and own less than one-hundredth of the world property. World development report (1990) put the situation:

"...the available figures on health, nutrition, education and labor force participation show that women are often severely disadvantaged. Women face all manners of cultural, social, legal and economic obstacles that men - even poor men do not. They typically work longer hours and, when they are paid at all, for lower wages."

Ethiopia being one of the poorest countries in the world, the situation of women is not different. Nationally, Dire Dawa rates the second largest commercial city next to Addis Ababa. The estimated women population in Dire Dawa is 60 percent of the total population based on surveys conducted by ACCORD. Their position, access to resources and power, vary from one ethnic group to another, the overall picture is such that the majority are at the bottom compared to men. Furthermore female-headed households represent 32 percent of the total households in Dire Dawa.

The purpose of this paper is to present some findings about the relationship between education and occupational status based on

the data from organizations in Dire Dawa Administrative Council collected by Women Affairs Office, and to look into future prospect of women based on the educational data available from the Dire Dawa Education Office.

OCCUPATIONAL STATUS OF WOMEN IN DIRE DAWA

According to data collected from 29 offices in Dire Dawa (most of them are government-owned) 50% of the workers are female. This is a misleading data if we consider it as it is because at the labor-intensive Dire Dawa Textile factory the low-paid and unskilled female workers constitute 67% of the workers. When we pull out the data of the textile factory the participation of female drops from 50% to 37.4%.

The above fact of low participation in the formal sector is also observed in a survey done by ACCORD. In this case, women are mainly earning their livelihood from informal business, which extend from retailing firewood, food items, contraband business, cleaning, prostitution etc.

Women participation in the formal business sector according to the Domestic Trade Department retail and wholesale trades are dominated by males; and servicing sectors like hair dressing, beauty salons, bars, etc. are dominated by females.

In another data compiled from the Dire Dawa Civil Service Office only 35% of the civil servants are female. In 1990 Ethiopian Calendar, the Education Office reported that out of 717 primary school teachers 33% are female, and out of 136 secondary school teachers 5.9% are female. Teachers at the secondary school are required to have a degree or diploma from a recognised institution.

From these we can note that women dominate the informal sector. They are engaged in low-paid, unskilled, or semi-skilled occupations whose rewards are very low compared to men.

LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND WOMEN

As we can easily observe from the table below, when females have low educational level (lower primary), their participation and interest to join the labor force is minimal. Females at this level usually engage in household chores as housewives.

Here the important observations are females at the secondary education leave the school either because of failure, dropout or to join the labor force. These are the possible reasons why at the higher primary and secondary education level females number decreased significantly. The services at this stage are unskilled and labor intensive (like cleaning, messenger, etc.), which are not preferred by male counterparts usually. This phenomenon, among other things, usually forces females to terminate their education to join the labor force unlike male; this significantly reduces their employment in professional category. As we can see from the table only 6% of the professionals are female in the civil servants in Dire Dawa Administrative Council.

Since the level of qualification and experience is a major factor that determines promotion in the civil service, currently promotion to the rank of team leader and above requires to be a degree holder. Therefore, schooling is a key factor to earn higher salary in the civil service employment.

The following findings signify the fact that we have to do a lot to increase women participation in decision making level.

ENROLMENT (PARTICIPATION) RATE

It is the ratio that relates enrolment at different levels to the corresponding school age population. The official age for primary is 7 - 14 years and 15 - 18 years for secondary.

From the table (**table 1**) below we can observe that 84.6% of the rural school age population (100 - 15.4) are out of the school system. Moreover, 93.8% of the rural and 30.5% of the urban school age population of the girls had no chance to go to school.

The participation rate at the secondary level is 19.3% of which 22.4% and 16.5% are boys and girls, respectively. The observation here is that the participation decreases from 51% at primary to 19.3% at secondary, and girls' participation decreases from 46.3% at primary level to 16.5% at secondary level i.e. 83.5% of the secondary school age girls are out of secondary school.

Table 1: Enrolment by Sex 1990(97/98) (%)

		Boys	Girls	Total
Primary Urban	77.2	69.5	73.3	
Rural		23	6.2	15.4
Total		55.5	46.3	51
Secondary Urban	22.4	16.5	19.3	

Source: Dire Dawa Education and Culture Office, Annual Educational Statistics 1998.

* No secondary school in rural area.

REPEATERS

In a particular year, pupils may have been promised to the next higher grade, repeated the same grade or may have left the system all together (drop out). Unfortunately we have not found gender disaggregated data for promotion and drop out rate which is supposed to be high for females for a number of socio-economic reasons (i.e. early marriage, joining the labor force to win daily subsistence, participation in home activities like: cooking, child bearing, etc.)

The important thing from the above table is that girls repeaters are proportionately low compared to boys in lower primary education. Here the possible assumption is 'equal treatment of boys and girls at the early stage of childhood' unlike Sara Longwe and Roy Clarke's "Life Cycle Discrimination of Women". The fact that girl repeaters are proportionately low in primary schools has changed and this fact is amplified by the well-known fact that dropout rate of female increased (above the age of 14).

CONCLUSION

The current low occupational status of women in the labor force particularly in decision making level is due to, among other things, low educational level of women compared to men.

This low participation rate of females in the education system, especially in secondary level, coupled with the increased repetition and dropout rate in the secondary cycle makes the prospect of women progressing in the labour force very bleak.

Therefore, policy makers and others involved in women empowerment activities should give due attention to increase girls participation (enrollment) in primary education and decrease

Table 2: Number of Students who Repeated the Same Grade

	1-5	6-8	9- 11	Total
Male	1729(58)	452(46)	456(46)	2637(53)
Female	1266(42)	527(54)	534(54)	2327(47)
Total	2995(100)	979(100)	990(100)	4964(100)

Source: Dire Dawa Education and Culture Office, Annual Educational Statistics 1998.
Figures in parenthesis are percentage

repetition and subsequent drop-out of girls from schooling so that women can participate equally in employment and decision making process. This might be a good step forward in the process of women empowerment.

Quelle:

<http://www.ethiopiaonline.net/Info/econfoc3-3/giseifu.htm>

Genderfragen und Informationen zur Lage der Frauen in Äthiopien

Ein Text-Patchwork aus dem Internet

Zusammenstellung von Wolfgang Siegmann und Rudolf Schoppmann

Zur Situation von Frauen und Mädchen

"Women and War":

In 1999 and January 2000, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Ethiopia issued a number of appeals to solicit support for UN humanitarian operations to assist war- and drought-affected populations and refugee/returnee operations. In 2001, the UNCT will prepare an appeal covering the same components but this

time as part of the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) and in context of the regional approach for humanitarian assistance to the Horn of Africa. ...

This year's global theme for the CAP is "Women and War". This theme is particularly relevant to the Ethiopian context given the high percentage of women and children among the war- and drought-affected populations in Ethiopia. Humanitarian agencies will therefore continue to pay particular attention to their specific protection and assistance needs as a vulnerable category when providing emergency and recovery assistance in 2001.

Quelle:

http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/Hornet/uninter0101.html

and

[HTTP://WWW.RELIEFWEB.INT/](http://www.reliefweb.int/)

Study Undertaken to Help Street Children in Tigray Eastern Zone

Adigrat, Nov. 25, 2000 (WIC) - The Labour and Social Affairs Department of Tigray Eastern Zone disclosed that a study aimed at improving the lives of street people in the zone has been conducted last month.

Ato Hailu Gebreyesus, Department Representative, told WIC recently that the study was conducted jointly by the Swedish save the children and the Relief Society of Tigray (REST).

The study was carried out to enable street children rejoin their families and obtain financial support and loans, to help them engage in small-scale businesses and help street children without families to enrol in boarding schools, Ato Hailu said.

He said various charity organizations had consented to fund the project, adding that when the study is put into practice, it would provide solutions to the problems of street dwelling.

According to Ato Hailu, there are 200 street children in Adigrat town who are compelled to lead that type of life because of the impact the Eritrean war of aggression had on their lives, the negligence of foster parents and death of family members.

Gesundheit

EFGA Branch Educates 25,000 Women

Nekemte, January 1, 2000

(WIC) - The Ethiopian Family Guidance Association (EFGA) branch in Nekemte town, Oromiya state, has offered reproductive health education during the last four months to 25,000 women in the town and environs.

Ato Guyasa Debe, Project coordinator, said the branch also gave cancer diagnostic services, in addition to offering treatment to various types of communicable diseases.

According to Guyasa, the branch plans to provide similar service to a further 50,000 women during the fiscal year.

EFGA's Nekemte Branch was established a year ago.

Mit Behinderungen leben

Die Kindernothilfe engagiert sich seit 1972 in Äthiopien. Heute werden dort 10 593 Kinder in 113 Einrichtungen und Programmen gefördert. Partner sind neben der Mekane-Yesus-Kirche die Äthiopisch-Orthodoxe Kirche, die Kalehiwot Kirche sowie die Evangelische Gemeinde deutscher Sprache. Am Stadtrand von Addis Ababa liegt das Zentrum für geistig behinderte Kinder, das 1986 mit 8 Kindern begann. In mehreren Pavillions arbeiten hier 29 gut ausgebildete Lehrer, Physio-, Gestalt- und Sprachtherapeuten mit mehr als 340 Kindern. Das von der Kindernothilfe geförderte Zentrum ist eines der wenigen Einrichtungen für geistig Behinderte in Äthiopien. Adanech Mekonen, Leiterin des Zentrums, kennt die Vorurteile vieler Landsleute: Wenn die Kinder mit einer Behinderung zur Welt kommen, haben die Eltern Angst davor, dass die Nachbarn mit Fingern auf sie zeigen und sagen: "Ihr habt gesündigt." Behinderung gilt immer noch als Strafe Gottes. Die Konsequenz: Kinder werden im Haus versteckt, vernachlässigt, sich selbst überlassen. Die Sozialarbeiterinnen des Zentrum beziehen deshalb neben den Müttern auch die Nachbarn mit in ihre Beratungen ein: "Wir laden die Frauen aus der Umgebung zu einer Kaffeezeremonie ein und erklären ihnen, dass Behinderung nichts mit einer Bestrafung Gottes zu tun hat. Wir nehmen ihnen die Angst vor den Kindern. Viele denken, dass ein Unglück passiert, wenn sie sich mit den Kindern beschäftigen. Außerdem erklären wir ihnen, was die Kinder alleine können und wobei sie Hilfe benötigen." Ein reger Austausch mit Krankenhäusern und Kinderärzten gewährleistet die medizinische Versorgung. Für die älteren Kinder besteht die Möglichkeit einer Ausbildung in der Lederverarbeitung, Gärtnerei, Druckerei und Schneiderei. Im Juni haben bereits die ersten 30 Jugendlichen ihre Ausbildung beendet. Gemeinsam mit ihnen und ihren Eltern versuchen Sozialarbeiter und Lehrer, kleine Einkommensmöglichkeiten für die Absolventen zu schaffen.

Auszug aus der Zeitschrift der Kindernothilfe Nov. 2000

Sexuelle Gewalt/ "harmful traditional practices"

Rape is Murder

There was a report of a health worker who raped a young girl who was attending a sick family member at the hospital, after inviting her into his office pretending to give her some medicine. In other similar reports of the media there was the case of a 70 years old man who has violated a child under 2 years of age. A 12 year old girl has lost her life due to rape and sexually violation by a 25 year old and a one year old child died in a similar bestial act of sexual violation by a 13 year old. There were also recent police reports of sex related cases of violence in which a young husband tied up his young wife in bed and battered and stabbed her to death out of jealousy and of such cases of murder.

Scarcely a day passes without such sexual abuse or sex-related violence being reported. As a matter of fact, it is becoming so commonplace that the issue, these recent strange stories, are becoming cause for serious concern.

Our society is becoming much too tolerant to social evils it is hosting. It is being insensitive to the threats of its very existence. Among such threats is rape. Under the prevailing situation, rape is murder even when there is no loss of life in the act as in the above mentioned reported cases. At a time when only one to one relationship or sexual abstinence may guarantee safety from certain death by contracting HIV/AIDS, rape/forced sex is murder.

Forced sex/ rape has been not only tolerated but also approved in various cultures of our society as manifested by child marriages and marriages through abduction. The rapist takes pride in his actions while the victim remains with her shame, shock, terror and pain, deprived of all self-esteem and confidence. She is not even entitled to that ruined future, for, HIV/AIDS looms to take its toll.

Education is recommended as the most effective way to deal with the problem. UNICEF recommends that schools must educate against gender discrimination. Such discrimination it argues often leads to forced sex, which helps fuel the HIV/AIDS epidemic. UNICEF made this recommendation in a press release in connec-

tion with "World AIDS Day" which was observed Wednesday with the theme "Men make a difference" (see page)

Men are the agents to this tragic situation and educating them may "make a difference".

Short of education which will have impact in the long run, the society has to enable itself to stop this abominable act. Objections to practices of rape/forced sex are recent developments championed by the Ethiopian Women Lawyers' Association. The association is engaged in an honorable duty behind which every member of the society must rally to do away with this social evil. The other silent voices in the society who consider rape as crime and hence a serious threat to the health of society have to make their voices heard in order to look for ways to stop this violence.

Addis Tribune 01.12.2000

Association Provides Legal Support To Women

Assaita, December 29, 2000

(WIC)- The Ethiopian Women Lawyers' Association branch in Afar has provided legal support and counselling to 38 Women who were victims of various forms of abuses.

Branch Head Fatuma Mohamed said the Women had been subjected to various abuses, including denial of matrimonial rights, being forced into marriage at early age and denial of justice to victims of abuses.

Fatum said the cases involving 22 women has been resolved through the mediation of local elders, while 16 other cases are in courts as the victimizers refused to heed the decisions of the local elders.

The Head added that a further ten women, who were victims of abuse in the last two months, have requested the service of the Association. Their cases are being tried in courts, Fatuma said.

Traditional practices are still widespread in the state, mostly inhabited by nomads, and Fatuma says recent initiatives by some bold women to challenge injustices was encouraging.

The new penal code said instrumental Against harmful traditional practices

Addis Ababa Dec. 12, 2000 (WIC) An American Human Rights activist and law scholar says the revised new Ethiopian Penal code which is due to be introduced within a year is instrumental in the fight against harmful traditional practices in particular and in effectively implementing in the international conventions of women and the Right of the Child."

Speaking at around table discussion on the theme "The Rights of the Child" yesterday Ms. Jane Rocamora said that the new penal code which will include criminal sanctions on harmful traditional practices will be of immense help in invigorating the already institutionalized national campaign against harmful traditional practices.

"Given that you are going to have a legal framework soon, I would urge you to start thinking about strategies on how you want to use the frameworks to accomplish your mandates" she told the officials of the national committee on traditional practices of Ethiopia (NCTPE) who organized the round table discussion.

"I understand that the government is quite supportive of your work" she added.

Ms. Rocamora told the officials that they should acquire the experience of international NGOs on fund raising skills in order to secure sufficient financial resources to undertake their activities effectively.

Speaking also on the occasion Executive Director of NCTPE Abebech Muluneh said that moves have already started among some NGOs to introduce net working system in their activities with a view to exerting concerted efforts toward ensuring the protection of rights of women and children by fighting harmful traditional practices.

NCTPE combats traditional practices which have negative effects on the health and psycho-social development of the women and children, she said.

Mass advocacy campaigns using the multimedia, awareness seminars for community leaders and teachers were among the major activities of NCTPE in the fight against traditional practices, she noted.

Representatives of governmental and UN agencies attended the round table discussion.

Bildung

Bureau Provides Educational Access to Over 23,000 Street Children Mothers

Addis Ababa, Nov. 25, 2000

(WIC) - The Education Bureau of the Addis Ababa City Administration announced yesterday that in its effort to alleviate the problems of street dwellers, it has this year provided more than 23,000 of them with access to education.

At a one-day workshop that deliberated on the problems of children and mothers living in the streets, Ato Workye Tegegn, Head of the Education Programme Department with the Bureau, said some 1,318 street children and street mothers in woredas 3, 15 and 21 were participating in the basic education programme the Bureau was providing.

Ato Workye said that the Bureau was providing education to these people at a cost of 400,050 birr earmarked especially for this fiscal year in addition to the 38,000 street dwellers it has been providing with basic education programme for the last five year. He said the basic education programme being given to the street dwellers would help to prevent crime and vandalism besides redeeming the people who are forced to go out into the streets because of social and economic problems.

Ato Awgichew Ergetie, Bureau representative, said on his part that with the support of the Education Bureau, Labour and Social affairs Bureau, Addis Ababa City Administration and non-governmental organizations, the street dwellers living in woredas 3, 15, 21 have become beneficiaries of various social and economic services.

UNICEF challenges leaders to do more with schools in fight against HIV and Aids

ADDIS ABABA Nov. 28, 2000

(WIC) UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy today urged AIDS - ravaged countries to devote more resources, energy and creativity to using schools in the battle against the epidemic a press release from the agency said.

... The annual report released today by UNAIDS underscores how education can halt the

spread of HIV/AIDS. It says studies in Africa have found an increase in condom use and a decrease in casual sex among teenagers who attend school.

The press release cited figures in the UNAIDS report which indicated that the number however, show that HIV is infecting the young at an alarming rate elsewhere.

Since the publication of last year's report, an additional 600,000 children have acquired HIV and 500,000 have died.

... A recent UNICEF survey also revealed widespread ignorance about how HIV spreads, and found in several countries, almost half of all girls age 15 -19 did not to know that a person who looks healthy can be infected with HIV.

World AIDS Day Observed, Role Of Schools, Education Noted

Citing new figures on the staggering impact of HIV/AIDS on children, UNICEF executive director Carol Bellamy challenged AIDS ravaged countries to devote more resources, energy and creativity to using schools in the battle against the epidemic. Young people are motivated and eager to contribute in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and schools are well placed to provide them with information, develop their life skills and facilitate their involvement in their own communities to prevent infection and provide care for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS, it was learnt from a press release of UNICEF office here.

The UNICEF director made the statement in connection with the World AIDS Day observation to be marked with the theme "Men make a difference"

Bellamy challenged governments, local leaders, teachers, and young people themselves to make schools a hub of activity and enterprise centered not only on reading and writing but on stopping HIV. "We are talking about moving boldly beyond the conventional," Bellamy said. "We are talking about getting young people more engaged in AIDS education, about schools relating differently to young people-accepting their role as leaders in their own right. We're talking about communities bravely embracing needed change."

"Schools give the state a unique capacity to touch nearly every

family, in every community, every day," Bellamy said as the UN unveiled the latest statistics on the AIDS pandemic. " Young people are motivated and eager to contribute in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and schools are well placed to provide them with information, develop their life skills and facilitate their involvement in their own communities to prevent infection and provide care for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS. Why then, if this resource is so potentially powerful, aren't we investing more substantially in schools and education system?" the UNICEF director forwarded a rhetorical question.

Annan's Message

In a related news, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stressed the role of men in fight against HIV/AIDS in his message for World AIDS Day 2000 to be observed December 1. He said that men

"can make a particular difference: by being more caring, by taking fewer risks, and by facing the issue of AIDS head-on."

While noting some success in containing new cases of the virus, Annan also said that the "explosive spread" of the disease requires "a constant renewal of the struggle."

Addis Tribune 01.12.2000

Solide Ausbildung bewahrt vor Armut

Verein AGOS hilft
Jugendlichen in Äthiopien

Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe leistet schon seit drei Jahren der Mannheimer Verein Agos/Äthiopien. Er unterhält eine Ausbildungswerkstatt für Jugendliche in Äthiopiens Hauptstadt Addis Abeba.

Die Abkürzung Agos steht für Abebech Gobena Orphanage and School, ein Waisen- und Schulhaus, das 1980 von der Namensgeberin gegründet wurde. Seit 1995 arbeitet dort auch Berhanu Berbe, der 15 Jahre in Mannheim als Jugendbildungsreferent tätig war. Seine Mannheimer Berufskollegen und Freunde nutzten diese Gelegenheit zu einer ungewöhnlichen Zusammenarbeit und gründeten 1997 den Verein.

... "Die Jugendlichen müssen mit 18 Jahren aus dem Waisenhaus. Wir wollten ihnen eine Ausbildung ermöglichen, damit sie nicht in die Armut entlassen werden", begründet Vereinsmitglied Doris Mack die Einrichtung der Ausbil-

dungswerkstatt. Von Juni bis September 1999 gelang es dem Verein sogar, einen so genannten "Senior Expert", einen Handwerker im Ruhestand, aus Deutschland nach Addis Abeba zu entsenden. In die Lehrwerkstatt brachte er seine Fachkenntnisse und seine beruflichen Erfahrungen als Hilfestellung ein. "Wir wollten sinnvolle Berufe bieten. In Addis Abeba herrscht großer Bedarf an der Verbesserung sanitärer Anlagen und der Wasserversorgung", so Uli Depper, der nach Äthiopien gereist ist, um sich die Situation vor Ort anzuschauen.

Die ersten Jugendlichen, drei Mädchen und drei Jungen, haben ihre Ausbildung im Gas-, Wasser- oder Elektroinstallationshandwerk inzwischen abgeschlossen und sind dabei, sich mit Hilfe des Vereins selbstständig zu machen. Ein Kleinbus als rollende Werkstatt wurde bereits mit Hilfe von Fördergeldern des Vereins angeschafft. ... (fzd)

Info: Karl-Heinz Paskuda, Forum der Jugend, Neckarpromenade 46, Telefon (0621) 2937661, E-Mail: SJR-Mannheim@t-online.de
Spendenkonto: Sparkasse Mannheim, BLZ 670 501 01, Kontonummer 3286820.

RON - RHEINPFALZ ONLINE,
Dienstag, 2. Jan 2001

Die

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

engagiert sich am Horn von Afrika seit 1992 mit Bildungsprogrammen in den Bereichen Umwelt- und Ressourcenschutz und Frauenförderung und bereitet einen grenzüberschreitenden friedenspolitischen Dialog besonders mit Nichtregierungsorganisationen in der Region vor.

Das Horn von Afrika mit den Staaten Äthiopien, Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia und Sudan ist seit langem eine Krisenregion. All diese Länder sind auf der Suche nach einer politischen und wirtschaftlichen Ordnung - einer Ordnung, die Frieden, Demokratie und Entwicklung erst möglich machen wird. Unser wichtigstes Ziel ist die Förderung der Entwicklung von Zivilgesellschaften am Horn von Afrika. Neben der laufenden Projektarbeit in den Bereichen Menschenrechte, Umwelt und politische Bildung werden neue Ansätze in der Friedensarbeit, der Frauenförderung und im Medienbereich unterstützt.

http://www.boell.de/index01_uk.htm

Establishment of Environmental Clubs in Schools, LEM, Addis Ababa, 1993 – 1999

The aim of the co-operation with the ecology movement LEM, Environment & Development Society of Ethiopia, founded in 1987, is to establish environmental clubs in secondary and trade schools. The clubs are designed to sensitise young people to humanity's responsibility to engage in ecologically sustainable development. LEM assists teachers in establishing the clubs. Thereafter, students are encouraged to develop their own environmental projects. The clubs may apply for small grants to implement their ideas.

Ecological Projects - ESAT / CSE - Addis Ababa, 1996 - 1998

Addis Ababa has ecological problems typical of those for a large African city; for example, the lack of household garbage collection, as well as the wild and unregulated disposal of industrial waste. A project by the Chemical Society of Ethiopia (CSE) addresses ecological problems faced by urban industrial areas. In one-year courses, environmental representatives from businesses are trained in environmental audit techniques which have garbage prevention as their goal. ESAT, the Ethiopian Society for Appropriate Technology at the University of Addis Ababa, teaches residents of Addis's poorer neighbourhoods skills in growing edible and marketable mushrooms, for which diverse waste products may be used as soil. This also promotes productive uses for waste materials.

Education to Promote Democratic Civil Society, A-BU-GIDA, Addis Ababa 1993 - 1999

Since the overthrow of the Ethiopian Marxist dictatorship in 1992, the new government is attempting to build up a democratic political system that respects the ethnic differences within the country. In co-operation with the Heinrich Böll Foundation, A-BU-GIDA, the Ethiopian Congress for Democracy, offers courses for the leadership of this new Ethiopian NGO. Topics include:

- Public Administration and Civil Rights

- Democracy and Labour
- Planning, Leadership, Management
- Democracy within the Family

Weitere Informationen:
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Arbeit, wirtschaftliche Situation

Women in Afar Create Income Generating Schemes

Aysaita, Nov. 29, 2000 (WIC)-

Some 46 women organized into a cooperative in Gowane woreda, zone three of Afar State, are reportedly benefiting from various income generating development schemes.

Association co-ordinator, w/ro Arsiya Mohammed said yesterday that members of the association are now making about 400 birr by producing and supplying the market daily with over 40 litres of milk as well as dairy products.

They started their business by raising their own fund of 1,000 birr in addition to the dairy cows they secured in donations from Farm-Africa, she said.

The women were extricating themselves from economic dependency and creating jobs for non-member women by involving themselves in carpet making and petty trading, she added.

She further noted that the association's capital has grown to 6000 birr following its launching of the supply of its carpet products to the market, which was made from the local palm leaves.

Head of the woreda economic development office, Hussien Ibrahim said his office was looking for local and foreign donor agencies that could financially support the activities of the women.

An All-women Soil and Water Conservation Project Underway in Tigray

Adi-Grat, Nov. 30, 2000

(WIC)- A soil and water conservation project involving only women is reportedly underway in two districts of East Tigray zone.

According to the weekly Tigrigna language newspaper "woin" the project which aims at raising women's level of participation in development in a sustainable manner was being undertaken through the food for work Programme supported by the World Food Programme and World Vision Ethiopia.

The project to run for three consecutive months as a pilot scheme is involving 5000 women from the districts of Atsbi wonberta and Saisee Tsada Emba.

Women said Unable to Share the Benefits of Agricultural Development

Mekele, Dec. 12, 2000 (WIC)

Women are said to be unable to get fair share of the results of the agricultural development as the majority of women farmers are not entitled to own a farmland.

At a workshop, entitled "Gender and Agriculture development" which wound up today in Mekele town, it was noted that peasant women were not able to benefit from the extension programme because they were considered as subordinates eventhough they work independently.

The participants of the workshop further noted that peasant women were not seen as equals even though they account for over 50 percent of the labour force.

Planning and Programme head with the regional Agriculture and Natural Resources Development Bureau, Tsige Gebretsadik, said the workshop has shown the way forward for promoting the participation of women in the agricultural development by identifying the problems and demands of the peasant women.

Representatives of the regional Population Office, Agriculture Development and Natural Resources Bureau, as well as media professionals attended the workshop.

WIBS Allotes Eight Million Birr to Support of women In Benishangul Gumuz State

Assossa, Dec. 14, 2000

(WIC) The Planning and Economic Development Bureau of Benishangul Gumuz State disclosed that the Woreda Integrated Basic Service (WIBS) has earmarked a sum of eight million birr for the

coming year to support women living in the state.

Ato Goshu Urga, Programme Coordinator with the Bureau, said today that the fund would be used to look after the health of mothers and children as well as for the provision of water and grain mill services.

Ato Goshu further said that the programme would also help women to engage in the production of vegetables and fruits in addition to helping them obtain small credit and saving services.

The Programme is expected to benefit over seventy thousand people living in Kamash and Wonbera towns and Bullen woreda.

Women's Fund To Launch Activities Soon

Addis Ababa, January 11

(WIC)- The Ethiopian Women's Development Fund, established under the women's sub-sector office at the Prime Minister's Office, will be launched soon.

Mekia Mohammed, senior expert at the office told "Abyotawi Democracy", organ of the EPRDF, that the Fund is being set-up with the view to alleviate the economic hardship faced by Ethiopian women through micro-financing schemes.

Mekia said the Fund has already obtained 64 million birr as an initial capital from the World Bank and the Italian Government through a long-term loan.

According to her, the fund will start trial activities in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa Administrations and Amhara, South Ethiopia Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional States in the near future. Mekia indicated that properties of former Women organizations have been placed under the Fund in an effort to give it a strong capital base.

Buchtipp

von Manfred Drewes

Erschienen in epd-
Entwicklungspolitik 23/24 2000

Äthiopien am Scheideweg

Leenco Lata, The Ethiopian State at the Cross Roads: Decolonization and Democratization or Disintegration? The Red Sea Press, Lawrenceville, NJ, USA, 1999, 270 Seiten, 21,95 US-Dollar

Ende Mai 1991 wurde das Militärregime des Mengistu Haile Mariam durch Guerillaorganisationen aus Eritrea und Tigray gestürzt. Die Macht in Addis Abeba übernahm eine von der Tigray Peoples' Liberation Front (TPLF) ins Leben gerufene Dachorganisation, die Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). Schon Anfang Juli trat eine Nationalkonferenz zusammen, an der über zwanzig Vertreter politischer Parteien sowie gesellschaftlicher und ethnischer Gruppierungen teilnahmen. Es wurde eine Übergangsverfassung, die "National Charter", verabschiedet, eine vorläufige Regierung eingesetzt und ein Repräsentantenrat als Parlament für die Übergangsperiode konstituiert. Die Charter bekennt sich zu den Menschenrechten, sie garantiert den verschiedenen Volksgruppen das Selbstbestimmungsrecht und legte fest, dass in absehbarer Zeit demokratische und föderale Strukturen und Verfahren einzuführen seien.

Verspielte Chance

Die Charter wurde im Wesentlichen von dem damaligen stellvertretenden Generalsekretär der Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), Leenco Lata, erarbeitet. Er hatte sich auch dafür eingesetzt, dass sich Vertreter der OLF an der Übergangsregierung beteiligen. Es gehört zu den tragischen Kapiteln in der Geschichte Äthiopiens, dass dieser vielversprechende Versuch, die Grundlage für ein friedliches und konstruktives Miteinander der politischen Akteure zu legen, nur etwa ein Jahr gehalten hat. Vier Tage vor Beginn der Bezirks- und Regionalwahlen am 21. Juni 1992 erklärte die OLF, dass sie nicht daran teilnehmen werde. Die von ihr ge-

stellten Minister wurden daraufhin entlassen und des Landes verwiesen.

Das von Leenco Lata im vorigen Jahr vorgelegte Buch versucht die Gründe zu beleuchten, die zu diesem Entschluss geführt haben. Ohne Frage: der Hauptgrund besteht nach seiner Meinung darin, dass die "Internationale Staatengemeinschaft unter Führung der USA" aus Naivität oder Berechnung nicht bereit war, ihr Versprechen einzulösen, nämlich sofort entschieden zu intervenieren, wenn die von ihr favorisierte TPLF demokratische Spielregeln verletzt. Dazu kam es recht bald, denn die Führungsriege der TPLF ließ keinen Zweifel daran, dass sie nicht bereit war, die Macht fair zu teilen, sondern sie ging sofort daran, politische Strukturen einzuführen, die ihren Herrschaftsanspruch für alle Zeiten abzusichern in der Lage waren. Dabei wurde nicht davor zurückgeschreckt, dieses Ziel mit drakonischen Maßnahmen wie "präventivem Terror", willkürlichen Verhaftungen, "Verschwindenlassen" u.a.m. durchzusetzen.

Anstatt nun diesen Anfängen zu wehren, hörte man zu jener Zeit von Vertretern der internationalen Gemeinschaft, dass es sich hierbei um Übergangsschwierigkeiten handele, die dann überwunden seien, wenn das Land befriedet und stabilisiert sei. Dabei hätte man wissen können, wes Geistes Kind die Führungsriege der TPLF ist. Leenco Lata beschreibt im zweiten Teil seines Buches die kulturellen und ideologischen Prägungen dieser verschworenen Gruppe von Berufsrevolutionären. Sie hatten in den sechziger Jahren bei Lenin und Mao Tse-Tung gelernt, dass die Befreiung der Unterdrückten nur gelingen kann, wenn die als wissenschaftlich richtig erkannten revolutionären Konzepte von der Intelligenz mit Entschlossenheit und unter Einsatz aller dafür erforderlichen Mittel umgesetzt werden. Dazu gehören auch Täuschungsmanöver und taktische Umwege, denn immerhin bewegt sich der Revolutionär in einem "feindlichen Umfeld".

Mitarbeiter der Hilfswerke hätten diese Praktiken im Rahmen der sog. Cross Border Operation durchschauen können. In den achtziger Jahren hatte sich eine Reihe europäischer Hilfswerke in einem Konsortium zusammengefunden, um vom Sudan aus Not- und Hilfemaßnahmen für Menschen in

den "befreiten" Gebieten in Tigray und Eritrea durchzuführen. Unter Hinweis auf die Untersuchung von M. Duffgeld und J. Prendergast (Without Troops and Tanks), ermuntert Leenco Lata die Verantwortlichen der damals beteiligten Hilfswerke zu überprüfen, ob und inwieweit sie sich haben hinteres Licht führen lassen und möglicherweise die Rolle des "nützlichen Idioten" gespielt haben.

Peinliches Huntington-Gutachten

Nun mag man derartige Fehlleistungen politisch naiven NRO-Vertretern nachsehen, nur ist es unentschuldigbar, wenn seriöse Wissenschaftler ihre Regierung irreführend beraten. Als ausgesprochen peinliches Beispiel zitiert Leenco aus einem Gutachten von Samuel Huntington, der meinte, nach einer Woche Äthiopienaufenthalt erkannt zu haben, wie die Probleme in diesem Land zu lösen sind. Durch seine Empfehlung, dass man sich in Äthiopien vorläufig mit einem demokratischen System bescheiden müsse, das von einer "dominanten Partei" getragen werde, lieferte er die Rechtfertigung für die einseitig regierungsfreundliche Politik der US-Regierung.

Im dritten Teil des Buches geht es um die historischen Wurzeln der äthiopischen Misere. Den "schrecklichen Vereinfachern" wird ins Stammbuch geschrieben, dass es den Herrschern in Addis Abeba bis auf den heutigen Tag nicht gelungen ist, die am Ende des letzten Jahrhunderts unterworfenen Völker im Süden des Landes in die "äthiopische Nation" zu integrieren. Wann immer die Zentralregierung versuchte, durch Einführung der amharischen Sprache, Religion und Kultur - nicht zuletzt durch Öffnung von Bildungsinstitutionen - ein gesamtäthiopisches Nationalbewusstsein zu forcieren, hatte dieses zur Folge, dass sich die so Umworbenen verstärkt auf die eigene kulturelle Identität besannen. Wörtlich heißt es dazu: "Wann immer die äthiopischen Staatslenker versuchten, einen Stein beiseite zu räumen, der die nationale Integration behinderte, so fiel dieser auf ihre Füße."

Im Schlusskapitel geht es um die Frage nach der Zukunft Äthiopiens. Wie der Titel des Buches signalisiert, meint Leenco, die Entwicklung dieses Landes am Horn von Afrika sei an einer Weg-

kreuzung angekommen. Wenn es keinen Richtungswechsel gibt, ist eine Katastrophe wie in Ruanda nicht zu vermeiden. Nur wenn die TPLF anerkennt, dass sie eine Minderheit ist und bleibt und deshalb auf eine faire Kooperation mit den übrigen Akteuren angewiesen ist, kann sie eine konstruktive Rolle in Äthiopien spielen. Sie muss aufhören, den Erhalt der Macht mit verlogenen oder auch brutalen Mitteln absichern zu wollen. Sie muss sich bemühen, das Vertrauen der Menschen zu gewinnen. Dazu gehört vor allem, dass sie die Gesetze befolgt, die sie selbst erlassen hat, aber auch, dass die Menschen eingeladen werden, ihre Beschwerden und Vorschläge offen und angstfrei zu artikulieren. Eine solche "Dialogkultur" könnte durch die Einführung von Appellationsinstanzen, eines Ombudsmanns o.ä. befördert werden.

Tagesordnung erweitern

Den Eliten des Landes, insbesondere den Vertretern der "Herrschaftsvölker aus dem Norden" empfiehlt er, den Wunsch nach kultureller Eigenständigkeit der "kolonialisierten" Völker zu respektieren und nicht als "tribal" oder "engstirnigen Nationalismus" zu verunglimpfen. Auch sollte in einem breit angelegten Diskussionsprozess geklärt werden, welche Sprachen in den Behörden und Schulen zugelassen werden sollten etc.

Schließlich geht es um die Aufgaben, die den Führern der südlichen Völker bevorstehen. Sie werden sich z.B. darüber zu verständigen haben, ob sie sich

grundsätzlich mit föderativen Strukturen in einem äthiopischen Staat befunden können oder ob sie separatistische Lösungen bevorzugen. Natürlich muss für die Oromos geklärt werden, ob ein selbständiges OROMIA nach wie vor eine Option ist. Für Leenco Lata ist dieses keine prinzipielle Frage, wohl wissend, dass er damit herbe Kritik bei einem Teil seiner politischen Freunde provoziert. Er möchte die bisherige Tagesordnung erweitern und zunächst einmal diskutieren, wie die Kooperation mit den benachbarten Staaten und Völkern zu organisieren ist. Seine Gedanken und Vorschläge erinnern an Überlegungen, die bei der Konzipierung des "Balkan-Stabilitätspaktes" ins Feld geführt wurden. Nicht zuletzt erfordern nach seiner Meinung die durch die Globalisierung bedingten ökonomischen Zwänge neue Justierungen der politischen Entwürfe zwischen Unabhängigkeit und Interdependenz.

Leenco Lata hat ein Buch vorgelegt, das weiterführende Vorschläge für eine Bearbeitung der Konflikte am Horn von Afrika aufzeigt. Er macht deutlich, dass die Katastrophe nur verhindert werden kann, wenn die internationale Gemeinschaft - allen voran die USA - die Versäumnisse und Beurteilungen der vergangenen Jahre korrigiert. Möglicherweise kann dieses dann gelingen, wenn einschlägige Institutionen der Zivilgesellschaft die dazu erforderlichen Klärungsprozesse in Gang bringen.

Weitere Buchtips & Buchbesprechungen

Ethiopia - An Introduction into Culture, Economics, Politics and Cooperation

Edited by Christian Fellner,
Jep Book - 3 -
1st Edition 2000 , Brandes & Apsel (Frankfurt) + Südwind (Wien)

The present book is issued as a special edition of the „Austrian Journal of Development Studies“. The editor insisted on having primarily Ethiopians represent their country (Hirut Terefe, Abrar Suleiman, Alem Abraha, Ayalew Shibeshi, Eyob Tadesse, Seyoum Gebre-Selassie, Teferi Regasa). Those who intend to work or live in Ethiopia or who have a scientific interest in the country will find

here a balanced introduction based on profound expertise. Following a short description of cultures and traditions, attention is drawn to the fact that gender-relations have to be taken into consideration at all levels. Then, the Ethiopian economic system is analysed and a special article examines the agricultural sector as it is considered the motor of economy. The educational system is described carefully and a brief introduction is given into the health system. An article on population and development introduces an in-depth discussion of environmental issues, a subject which is granted particular attention. Following a presentation of the complex Ethiopian political system an article on development cooperation with Ethiopia gives valuable information for those involved in the development business. These carefully documented articles facilitate access to more specialised study material on the different subjects.

Urban Environmental Management in Addis Ababa, Problems, Policies, Perspectives and the Role of NGOs

Sandra Dierig (Hamburg African Studies 8)

The most severe environmental problems in Addis Ababa are part of the so-called "brown agenda": the problems of pollution, poverty and environmental induced hazards are threatening the health and life of the majority of the city's inhabitants, especially the urban poor. The author analyses policies, strategies, ongoing projects and constraints; special emphasis is laid upon the role of NGOs which is evaluated based on the analysis of selected projects. (Hamburg 1999, XVI + 220 p., 9 tables, 17 maps and graphs, ISBN 3-928049-59-3, DM 28,-)

RIDING THE WHIRLWIND

An Ethiopian Story of Love and Revolution (A Novel)

by Bereket Habte Selassie

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mas Keneally, author To Asmara, and Schindler's List. "Mr. Bereket has shown both candor and courage. The novel goes beyond a mere object of aesthetic contemplation and asserts itself as a political testament as well as a lesson in history." —Yonas Admasu in UFAHAMU. Bereket Habte Selassie has written a gripping epic novel, which is absolutely thrilling. This is an historical novel of modern times, full of intricacies and suspenseful drama. The main events occur in Ethiopia during the revolutionary period of 1969-1974, ending with the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie. The chief protagonist and narrator, Desta, is a well-placed official of the Emperor's government who is a close confidante of the Prime Minister and is at the same time a member of an underground revolutionary movement.

340 pages, Discount price: \$11.96

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FIRE FROM THE ASHES

by Jenny Hammond

Fire from the Ashes tells the extraordinary story of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) revolution, from its beginning in February 1975 by a handful of students, its expansion into the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) coalition, and their victory in May 1991 over the Soviet-backed military dictatorship of Mengistu Haile-Mariam. The story accumulates slowly through multiple voices and perspectives. It is presented from the point of view of an external observer learning as she goes along.

Discount price: \$ 23.96,

<http://store.yahoo.com/africanworld/redseapress.html>

BEING & BECOMING OROMO

Historical and Anthropological Enquiries Edited by P.T.W. Baxter, Jan Hultin & Alessandro Triulzi

The workshop, Being and Becoming Oromo, held in October 1994, was hosted jointly by the

Nordic Africa Institute and the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Gothenburg. The purpose was to bring together scholars from different disciplines working on the Oromiffa speaking people of Ethiopia and Northern Kenya.

Contents:

- "The Development of Oromo Political Consciousness From 1958 to 1994" by Herbert S. Lewis
- "The Survival and Reconstruction of Oromo National Identity" by Mekuria Bulcha
- "The Development of Oromo Nationalism" by Mohammed Hasen
- "Perceiving Oromo: 'Galla' in the Great Narrative of Ethiopia" by Jan Hultin
- "Oromumma: Tradition, Consciousness and Identity" by Gemetchu Megerssa
- "Re-Examining the Galla/Oromo Relationship" by Thomas Zitelmann
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311 Pages , Discount price: \$19.96

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OROMIYA REGIONAL STATE

Äthiopien 1997, Zitelmann, Thomas, Bericht aus der Konfliktforschung

Hrsg. v. Eckert, Julia, 33 S., Preis: DM 17.90, ISBN: 3-86093-215-2, Arabische Buch, Erscheinungsdatum: 05/1999, Reihe: Sozialanthropologische Arbeitspapiere

THE ETHIOPIAN STATE AT THE CROSSROADS:

„Decolonization, Democratization or ... "

„As with many other aspects of behavior and culture, the standard view of Ethiopia is very often formed by the nature of society in the north"

BACKCOVER: "This is a timely historical account of political events in the transitional period in Ethiopia from 1991 to 1995 by

one who was deeply involved in conceptualizing the monumental undertaking to democratize the Ethiopian Empire State and perhaps create a democratic country and a better future for all its peoples. Unfortunately, that hope for a democratic future was shattered when the TPLF leaders aborted the democratization process of Ethiopia. Leenco Lata, the former deputy Secretary General of the Oromo Liberation Front, also gives voice to the aspirations for self-determination of the Oromo people, the majority national group within the Ethiopian Empire State. Clearly, this is an important book cogently presenting the options facing the Ethiopian State at the moment - the stark choice between Decolonization and democratization on the one hand and disintegration and disastrous consequences for all the peoples of Ethiopia on the other."

Prof. Mohammed Hassen, Author of *The Oromo of Ethiopia* (RSP, 1994)

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TWENTY YEARS TO NOWHERE

Property Rights, Land Management and Conservation in Ethiopia by Yeraswork Admassie

BACKCOVER: Agriculture, Development Studies, Economics/AFRICA

The point of departure of this work is the problem of introducing soil conservation and innovations in afforestation on a sustainable basis in rural Ethiopia. This book attempts to answer why a major conservation program introduced and implemented in Ethiopia during the twenty years of the Derg regime failed to induce the changes in land use and management practices that it sought to bring about, and why it was not sustained by indigenous farmers. The study concludes that property rights conditions have contributed most to the failure of the program, first by directly undermining farmers' motivation and local institutions; and, secondly, by helping create conditions conducive to the annulment or invalidation of indigenous systems.

AUTHORBIOGRAPHY: Yeraswork Admassie is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Administration of Addis Ababa University. He received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Uppsala. He is currently serving as president of the Ethiopian Society of Sociologists, Social Workers and Social Anthropologists.

Discount price: \$23.96
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POLITISCHE PARTIZIPATION IN EINER BLOK-KIERTEN DEMOKRATIE

Antonie K. Nord

Das Beispiel Äthiopien, 163 S. Broschiert, Preis: DM 20.00 , ISBN: 3-928049-57-7, Erscheinungsdatum: 1999, Reihe: Arbeiten aus dem Institut für Afrika-Kunde.

In der neueren Afrikaforschung wird die Rolle von Interessengruppen in Demokratisierungsprozessen betont. Anhand einer qualitativen Befragung von Vertretern äthiopischer Interessengruppen zeigt die Autorin, daß die Erwartungen an diese Gruppen und Bündnisse nicht zu hoch gesteckt werden dürfen. Die Autorin ermittelt sowohl strukturelle als auch akteursbedingte Ursachenfaktoren für dieses Partizipationsdefizit. So wirken sich Elemente der im städtischen Raum Äthiopiens dominierenden politischen Kultur, wie starke Autoritätsorientierung und Mangel an interpersonellem Vertrauen, hemmend auf die individuelle oder kollektive öffentliche Artikulation von Interessen aus und tragen dazu bei, daß sich in Äthiopien bisher keine starke Zivilgesellschaft entwickelt hat. Zugleich werden am Beispiel Äthiopiens Möglichkeiten und Grenzen einer externen Förderung politischer Partizipation untersucht. Konkreten Maßnahmen zur Demokratieförderung sollte eine detaillierte Analyse der Zivilgesellschaft vorangehen, denn insbesondere in einer blockierten Demokratie wie Äthiopien besteht die Gefahr, durch eine einseitige Förderung regierungskonformer Gruppen bestehende Machtverhältnisse zu stärken.

DIVIDED HISTORIES, OPPORTUNISTIC ALLIANCES

Background notes on the Ethiopian - Eritrean war.

Richard M. Trivelli , In: *afrika spektrum* 33 (1999) 3 : 257 - 289.

„Der Autor spürt den Hintergründen des Konfliktes nach. Dabei geht er nicht nur auf die historischen Beziehungen zwischen den Tigray-sprachigen Völkern im heutigen Eritrea und Äthiopien seit Ende des 17. Jahrhunderts ein, sondern analysiert auch die Beziehungen zwischen den beiden Bewegungen EPLF und TPLF. Ein lesenswerter Beitrag, der ein tieferes Verständnis der Beziehungen beider Länder ermöglicht.“

DER ÄTHIOPISCH - ERITREISCHE KRIEG

Stefan Brüne und Wolfgang Heinrich

Jahrbuch Dritte Welt 2000, Verlag C.H.Beck, München 1999 (ISBN 3.406.42.1423).

Die Autoren zeichnen die Chronologie der Ereignisse seit dem 6. Mai 1998 nach und versuchen, die politischen, wirtschaftlichen und historischen Ursachen des Konfliktes zu analysieren. Ihr besonderes Augenmerk gilt den langfristigen Implikationen für die Politik am Horn von Afrika.

ECCENTRIC GRACES

Eritrea and Ethiopia Through the Eyes of a Traveler

Julia Stewart

This is a travel narrative about Eritrea, a tiny sun-drenched country along the Red Sea, and Ethiopia, its giant southern neighbor and former colonial overlord. Among the oldest civilizations on earth, these two African countries can boast over 2,000 years of recorded history. Breathtaking landscapes, attractive citizens, intricately spiced foods, a gently culture and rich history-it was all waiting for her. all of these things, Stewart came to experience and appreciate with

abundance. What she did not predict were several mysterious happenings: harassment at the hands of "union buster," an in-promptu running of the bulls, coming face to face with abject poverty, and her own reactions to these unpredictable events.

AUTHORBIO: Julia Stewart lived in Nairobi, Kenya, for six years where she worked for Interaid International and the United Nations' World Food Program. Over the past decade she has traveled and worked in 14 African countries. She is the author of four books and currently resides in Westerville, Ohio.

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GESCHICHTEN AUS ÄTHIOPIEN / ERITREA

von Hans A. Maier: Selamta

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Gebunden, Preis: DM 36.80,
ISBN: 3-901551-33-6, Der Wolf-
Verlag, Erscheinungsdatum: 1999

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cm, Broschiert, Preis: DM 89.00,
ISBN: 3-7890-5848-3, Nomos
Erscheinungsdatum: 1999, Reihe:
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tik

ES GEHT UM UNSERE EXISTENZ

Die Politik der DDR gegenüber
der Dritten Welt am Beispiel von
Mosambik und Äthiopien

Hans - Joachim Döring

Forschungen zur DDR - Gesell-
schaft, Ch. Links Verlag, Berlin,
Okt. 1999, ca. 350 S., 38,- DM,
ISBN 3-86153-185-2

Die Beziehungen der DDR zu
Äthiopien seit 1973 werden kon-
kret auf den Seiten 103 - 141
beschrieben, während im ersten
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personelle Verankerung der Süd-
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Erlebnisse der "mitreisenden
Ehefrau" eines DDR-Dozenten in
Alemaya in den Jahren 1988 bis
1990 geschildert. Dabei erfährt
man viel vom Land, aber auch
vom Gruppenleben der Dozenten
und - im letzten Jahr - von den
Veränderungen in der Heimat.
Man spürt die Liebe der Autorin
zu Land und Leuten und erinnert
sich wohl schmunzelnd an man-
che ähnliche Begebenheiten.

Harmen Storck

Nachrichten

zusammengestellt von Harmen Storck

Auszüge aus
ETHIOPIA Seven Days Update¹

1. Conflict with Eritrea

Deployment of UN Mission on Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE):

The United Nations Mission in
Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)
has announced that it has de-
ployed 3,279 peacekeeping
troops in the mission area. The
troops represent over 3/4 of the
authorized strength of peace-
keepers. 71 countries have so far

contributed 3,433 military and 125
civilian personnel to UNMEE,
formed under Security Council
Resolution 1320 of Sept. 15, 2000
(*Radio Ethiopia, Jan. 11*).

The Ministry of Defense stated
that Ethiopia might indefinitely
prolong the presence of its troops
in the captured high grounds in
Eritrea because of Eritrea's hesi-
tations (*state media, Jan. 3*).

The 2nd Military Coordination
Commission (MCC) meeting of
the United Nations Mission in
Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)

¹ Waag Communications News Digest
Service, Addis Ababa

ended in Nairobi on Dec. 28 without result. The failure was due to Eritrea's objection to the UNMEE provision on the creation of the 25-km. Temporary Security Zone within Eritrea. A spokesperson for the office of Ethiopia-UNMEE Coordination Bureau said that the meeting failed because of Eritrea's refusal to accept the redeployment plan submitted by Ethiopia to the meeting based on § 9 of the Agreement on the Cessation of Hostilities between the two countries. - The Eritrean delegation to the meeting objected to the provisions in § 9 by claiming that prior to May 6, 1998, Ethiopia had never administered Badme, Zalambessa and Badda. The next MCC meeting will be held in Nairobi on January 23, 2001 (*ETV, Dec. 28*).

Ethiopia and Eritrea opened three air corridors for UN peacekeeping troops to fly between the two countries. The UN Mission for Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) said the corridors had become operational on Dec. 18. The UN mission's task is to patrol the border between the two countries (*Monitor, Dec. 20*).

UNMEE had opened two additional land routes on Dec. 7 through the front lines. (*State media, Dec. 8*).

Two weeks after the full deployment of UNMEE's 4,200 troops, Ethiopian troops are expected to withdraw from Eritrean territories (*Reporter, Nov. 27*).

The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) on Nov. 28 opened the first land access route through Adigrat and Adi Keyih. The access route will facilitate the deployment of the peacekeeping force which will be deployed on both sides (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 29*).

The Special Representative of UNMEE, Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, Botswana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, said that the peacekeeping mission would be fully deployed until January 2001 (*ENA, Nov. 13*).

Canada will send a contingent of 400 troops to observe a cease-fire agreement on the Ethio-Eritrean border (*Eletawi Addis, Nov. 2*).

The Government of Denmark plans to contribute up to 300 troops in support of UNMEE (*State media, Oct. 31*).

The United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, has named a Dutch General as force commander for the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia. Brigadier-General Patrick Cammaert will lead the 4,200-strong UN force that will supervise the cease-fire along the two countries' common border (*BBC, Oct. 31*).

The Netherlands Parliament has decided to participate in the United Nations Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) in response to the request of the UN Secretary General. The Netherlands will avail a total of 1,100 men/women that will include 700 peacekeepers, helicopters and support personnel (*Addis Tribune, Oct. 20*).

The UN Security Council voted unanimously on Sept. 15 authorizing the deployment of 4,200 UN peacekeeping forces on the borders between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The UNMEE (UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea), which includes 220 military observers, will be given an initial mandate of six months. (*Asqual, Sept. 19*).

Cease-Fire and Peace Negotiations:

Ethiopia, as a party to the Algiers Peace agreement, whose appointment and filing deadline expires after Friday, Jan. 26, says that it is bound by the deadline. Sources disclosed that the appointment deadlines of two commissioners and two arbitrators to the Neutral Boundary Commission and the Claims Commission to be based in The Hague and the filing deadline to the Secretary of the Commission, are being met. Jan. 26, 2001, marks the forty-fifth day of the signing of and the entering into force of the peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea signed in Algiers on Dec 12, 2000 (*Reporter, Jan. 24*).

Ethiopia and Eritrea signed the OAU-brokered peace agreement in Algiers heralding an end to the two-year border conflict. Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Eritrean President Issayas Afewerki signed the document (*ETV, Dec. 12*).

One of the key elements of the agreement is the acceptance by the parties of the principle of respect for the border existing at independence. The borders shall be determined on the basis of pertinent colonial treaties and applicable international law. To prevent a recurrence of claims on

land, a neutral five-member "Boundary Commission" shall be established "with a mandate to delimit and demarcate the colonial treaty border based on pertinent colonial treaties (1900, 1902 and 1908) and applicable international law." (*Monitor, Dec. 12*).

Ethiopia and Eritrea have still to agree on the third phase of their peace deal regarding normalization of relations. If they sign this agreement, they will be able to address the question of the size of the Eritrean army and the use of the port of Assab (*Reporter, Dec. 11*).

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said that even with the peace agreement, Ethiopia would not establish good relations with Eritrea until the Asmara administration is replaced by what he termed as a responsible government (*Eletawi Addis, Dec. 9*).

Ethiopians there, Eritreans here:

Ethiopia released 914 Eritrean detainees with military background under the auspices of the ICRC. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the Eritrean detainees were considered as a security threat to the country following Eritrea's invasion of Ethiopia in May 1998. The Eritreans, who were in detention in Dedesa, are expected to be joined by about 50-60 other Eritrean detainees in Tigray before crossing the border. About 200 Eritreans from among those that were in detention in Dedesa have asked that they not go back to Eritrea (*Radio Ethiopia, Jan. 4*).

The ICRC has said it had repatriated 1,414 Ethiopians from Eritrea on Dec. 22. The Ethiopians crossed the border between the town of Adi Quala and Rama via the Mereb River with the assistance of ICRC. They had been kept in Ala Camp in Dekemhare, in Eritrea, and were repatriated in accordance with the Geneva Convention (*ENA, Dec. 23*).

The ICRC disclosed that 360 Ethiopian and 359 Eritrean POWs have so far returned to their respective countries in accordance with plans to repatriate the first group of POWs (*ETV, Dec. 24*).

In a press release, the ICRC said that the 172 people of Eritrean origin were living in Addis Ababa and had contacted the ICRC to organize their departure to Eritrea. It said that the Eritreans were assisted by ICRC delegates

based in Ethiopia and were later taken care of by ICRC delegates based in Asmara who finally handed them over to the Eritrean authorities.

The Ethiopian Embassy in Geneva has released a list of some of the names of Ethiopians recently killed by Eritrean security and those in concentration camps and detention centers in Eritrea. In a letter addressed to all diplomatic missions, human rights organizations and relevant international organizations, the embassy attached the names, photographs and biodata of 19 Ethiopians recently killed by Eritrean authorities. The source of the information about the victims was also included. Also attached was a list of 103 sites where the concentration camps and detention centers are located. The embassy also revealed that the total number of Ethiopians in the concentration camps and other places was about 30,000 (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 9*).

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has said that about 880 Ethiopians or persons of Ethiopian origin were repatriated from Eritrea. ICRC delegates based in Asmara registered the persons, who had been living in Eritrea before the outbreak of the war, and conducted individual interviews to confirm their wish to go to Ethiopia, the committee said. ICRC said that the remaining Ethiopians would return to their country with the assistance of ICRC and ERCS (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 14*).

6,500 Ethiopians had been expelled from Eritrea in four rounds without the foreknowledge of the ICRC and the Ethiopian government. In the past two weeks the deported Ethiopians had to trek miles on foot in minefields and had to cross the overflowing Mereb River (*Ethio-Time, Aug. 13*).

Displaced People:

United Nations agencies need \$70mio to help hundred of thousands of civilians displaced by the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, a senior UNHCR official said. The United Nations wants the funds to finance demining operations, reconstruction, farming and school materials, he added (*Monitor, Oct. 26*).

Troops and Weapons:

The outgoing administration of President Clinton has reportedly disclosed that it would abandon its attempt to persuade the UN

Security Council to lift the arms embargo on Ethiopia and Eritrea for lack of support. Two council members, Canada and the Netherlands, vehemently opposed the proposal which the U.S. abandoned right after the return of the then U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Susan Rice, from a visit to both countries (*Reporter, Jan. 21*).

Ethiopia has demobilized nearly 65,000 soldiers in the last month, an official said on Jan. 1, as the country begins to return to normal after the end of its two-year border war with Eritrea (*Monitor, Jan. 3*).

In line with an agreement signed between the Ministry for Economic Development Cooperation and the World Bank, an Emergency Recovery Program with a budget of \$170mio has been formulated to reintegrate the demobilized soldiers into the society. In the near future, 150,000 soldiers are expected to be demobilized (*Reporter, Dec. 11*).

The Ethiopian Ground Forces have disclosed that over 236,000 anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines planted by Eritrea at the various fronts have been cleared. 226,399 of the cleared mines were anti-personnel and the rest anti-vehicle (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 4*).

RTL, a Dutch television station, reported on Nov. 24 that Ethiopia and Eritrea are both purchasing arms on the black market in Amsterdam. Following the disclosure, major political figures and parties are reported to have called on the Dutch parliament to discuss the issue immediately and take appropriate measures (*Atkurot, Nov. 28*).

Eritrea's permanent representative at the UN, had reportedly accused Ethiopia of preparing for further hostilities by ordering its occupation troops inside Eritrea to dig trenches and lay mines (*Goh, Oct. 25*).

A sum of over 35mio USD is needed to diffuse landmines buried in the border areas between Ethiopia and Eritrea, according to UN sources. Members of the UN team, who during the past four days visited the border localities, said the landmines have so far killed 180 civilians and wounded several thousand others. Moreover, they said, the landmines have made it impossible for war-displaced people to return to their localities (*Eletawi Addis, Oct. 21*).

2. Economics, Finance, Commerce

State Revenues, Budgets, Economic Growth:

The Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation (MEDaC) has disclosed that Ethiopia's GDP for this year is expected to grow by 10% while the per capita income will reach 137 USD. According to MEDaC, the estimated growth rate is directly attributable to the prospect of good weather and the expected acquisition of considerable foreign exchange which will facilitate import-export trade activities (*Radio Ethiopia, Jan. 19*).

Officials drawn from the Federal Inland Revenue Authority (FIRA) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) announced that tax reforms would be carried out in the near future. The 10% surtax, imposed to cover the unforeseen developments due to the Eritrean invasion, would be lifted, and that the 12% sales tax would, on the other hand, be increased to 15%. A 5% tax will also be imposed on savings interest. In addition, people engaged in various income generating activities with no permanent location will be obliged to pay 2-5% of their income. A 5% withholding tax will also be levied on imports (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 27*).

Ethiopia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow by 10% this year. With inflation, the country's GDP will grow by 14 to 15%. The projection was made taking into account the bumper harvest anticipated this production year (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 18*).

The House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR) ratified this year's budget proclamation by approving a 15.7 billion budget for the fiscal year. The House allocated 8.6 billion birr for recurrent and 2.7 billion birr for capital budget. 4.4 billion birr was allocated as a budget subsidy for the states and the Addis Ababa City Government, as well as 49.3mio birr as a Federal Government subsidy for the Dire Dawa Administrative Council. (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 16*).

41.1% of the total federal capital budget will be used for roads, 15.8% for transport and communications, 14.8% for agricultural development, 7.1% for water resources development and 7%

for education (*State media, Oct. 31*).

Out of the total, the defense budget is 4.2 billion birr, an amount even higher than when the country was at war last year. The Ground Forces will get 3.6 billion birr while the Air Force has been given 531.6mio birr (*Tomar, Nov. 1*).

Debts, Grants, Loans and Credits:

Some of Ethiopia's 5.5 billion USD in foreign debt is expected to be written off this year, an official in the Ministry of Finance said. He said that the country's debt would be rescinded in the context of the Enhanced HIPC/Cologne Debt Initiative. Members of the Paris Club creditor countries are expected to cancel 90% of Ethiopia's debt soon, he said. (*Radio Ethiopia, Jan. 13*)

Ethiopia and the World Bank signed a loan agreement worth over USD 400mio in Washington D.C. (*State media, Dec. 22*).

The World Bank Board of Directors approved on Dec. 5 two credit loans totaling USD 400.6mio to assist the government of Ethiopia with its post-war recovery program.. USD 170.6mio of the credit will be used for the emergency, demobilization and reintegration project. The project will address the special needs of an estimated 17,000 disabled veterans. USD 230mio will be for the emergency to address the immediate needs of about 620,000 war-affected people (*ENA, Dec. 6*).

A senior German government official has said that Ethiopia's commitment to the peace proposal was crucial to resume Ethio-German financial cooperation, which was interrupted at the outbreak of the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The reduction of military expenditure, deployment of UN troops, and the withdrawal of Ethiopian soldiers from Eritrean territory and solving the humanitarian problems are the criteria set to resume cooperation with the two countries (*ETV, Nov. 21*).

International financial institutions and donor agencies have stated their decisions to release 4.2 billion birr in loan following a new round of negotiations with the Ethiopian Government. Indicating that the loan is interest free, Finance Minister Sufian Ahmed said it would be payable in 40 years with a grace period of ten years.

The loan will be utilized mainly for power generation, the construction of airports, schools, and health establishments, as well as to undertake agricultural research and buy fertilizers (*Eletawi Addis, Nov. 19*).

Some 16,562 people, out of which 3,051 are women, in Hosana, Southern Region, have received a loan of 8.8mio birr from the Omo micro-finance credit enterprise. The recipients work in agriculture, small scale enterprises, handicraft and service rendering institutions (*Addis Tribune, Oct. 13*).

The Board of Directors of the World Bank has approved a USD 59.7mio soft loan under a Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Program (MAP) for Africa. A press release issued by the bank indicated that the loan will finance the Ethiopian government's 2000-2004 strategic plan. Ethiopia and Kenya are the first two countries to benefit from the program and projects which were approved as part of the MAP (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 13*).

A speaker at a panel discussion said that because of the conflict with Eritrea, Ethiopia has been denied development commitment of over one billion USD. This, he said, is apart from additional allocations for potentially new projects by bilateral and multilateral partners. He said that in the last two years, international development partners either froze ongoing projects or suspended new grants (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 7*).

Foreign Trade:

Earnings from Ethiopia's exports of hides and skins have reportedly fallen by over half in the past ten years, i.e. from \$67.5mio to \$31mio. Some of the reasons suggested to explain this fall are the poor handling of hides, the practice of suppliers who hoard in stores, shortage of agricultural workers willing to go into the countryside to teach farmers, and the absence of some body to take charge of the sector (*Reporter, Dec. 4*).

The Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority has announced plans to provide 133,900 tons of washed and unwashed coffee to the world market this Ethiopian calendar year. The authority intends to earn 270mio USD from the coffee export. They stressed the need to enhance the quality of coffee from the Southern Peoples' State which provides 66% of the country's total washed coffee supply.

The agriculture bureau said that the state would provide over 40,000 tons of coffee to the central market out of which 17,190 tons is washed coffee (*state media, Nov. 23*).

Ethiopia earned over 46.7mio birr in hard currency from the export of cattle and meat products last Ethiopian fiscal year, according to the Animal Products Marketing Development Enterprise. The income generated from the export surpassed that of the preceding year by over 9mio birr. The income obtained from the sector has been rising over the past three years. 24 private institutions are engaged in the export of meat and meat products (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 11*).

The Djibouti government is reported to have cut by half daily imports of khat from Ethiopia (from 15,000 kg to 8,000 kg), thus causing a fall in tax revenue and foreign currency to Ethiopia. The move followed disputes between Djibouti's "Sojat" and the Ethiopian khat exporter group "Biftu Dinsho". (*Tobia, Nov. 9*).

The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) has disclosed that the amount of money expended for fuel purchases has risen from 177mio USD in 1998/99 to 254mio USD in just a year. The bank explained that oil price increases on the world market have a negative impact on the quality of locally-produced goods, and also discourage competition by firms producing exportable products (*Eletawi Addis, Nov. 6*).

EUE, the UN disaster prevention body in Ethiopia, announced in its October report that Saudi Arabia's decision to ban the import of animal meat on account of Rift Valley fever has seriously hurt the economy of the Somali region over 2/3 of whose income is based on dairy farm exports, especially live sheep (*Reporter, Oct. 23*).

The Ministry of Trade and Industry has said that a 3.6 billion birr revenue was obtained in hard currency from the export of various products during the last Ethiopian budget year. The year's export performance showed a 14.7% increase in volume and a 3.1% growth in foreign currency over that of the previous year (*Monitor, Oct. 8*).

A proposal has been submitted to the Ethiopian government to consider a 60% tax reduction on imports from COMESA member

countries as of Oct. 31, 2000. Ethiopia has postponed acceptance of the zero tariff decision which member countries have to implement as of Oct. 31, 2000. This was explained by fears about the loss of state revenues and the impact of the tariff reduction on the development of domestic industries (*Reporter, Oct. 9*).

The Ministry of Trade and Industry said that it has issued licenses to 7,175 exporters, importers and distributors as well as to manufacturing and service rendering business during the past Ethiopian budget year. According to the report, the ministry renewed 4,934 licenses on similar engagements during the same period and earned a total of over 1.66mio birr (*Capital, Oct. 8*).

Ethiopia's livestock export to Saudi Arabia and Dubai has stopped following the ban on East Africa by six Gulf states. The livestock division of the Ministry of Agriculture exported 14,400 sheep and 291 camels in 1999 and 42,640 sheep in 2000 to Saudi Arabia (*Monitor, Oct. 4*).

The value of khat export increased from 107.9mio birr in 1993/94 to 172.3mio birr in 1994/95, a rate of increase by 59.6%, a high rate by any measure. Furthermore, the value of khat export increased from 199.5mio birr in 1996/97 to 272.3mio birr in 1997/98 by 36.4%. It also showed an increase from 272.3mio birr in 1997/98 to 369mio birr by 35.7%. Khat has become the second export earner in recent years by surpassing hides and skins and oil seeds and pulses. Ethiopia will start importing fuel from Sudan as soon as the rainy season ends, according to officials at the Ethiopian Petroleum Enterprise (EPE) and the Sudanese Embassy in Addis Ababa. Ethiopia will import Kerosene, Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) and benzene from the recently-built Khartoum refinery, located 50 km north of the capital. However, the fuel import will only be used for the consumption of the northern part of the country, according to information obtained from EPE (*Fortune, Sept. 3*).

Ethiopia's coffee exports fell by 5.2% to 115,793 tons in the 1999/2000 fiscal year, officials said. Earning in the year ended July 7 and fell by 20.9% to \$252.9mio - the result of de-

pressed world prices. The general manager of the state-owned Coffee and Tea Authority, said the 1999/2000 tonnage was 15% t below projections, with earnings 26% below (*Monitor, Aug. 15*).

Investment and Investment Policy:

Midroc Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EPCO) signed an agreement towards the construction of the Gojeb hydro-electric power plant. The General Manager of EPCO said that the main objective of the agreement was to give Midroc Ethiopia the responsibility to produce electric power and to sell back to the corporation. However, he said that the distribution and the sale of the electric power would be carried out by the corporation network. The agreement, the first of its kind in Ethiopia, would enhance the country's electric power capacity by 25%. Upon completion, the project will have the capacity to produce 150 MW electric power and will create job opportunities for three thousand Ethiopians. He also indicated that the project would cost close to US \$300mio making it the second largest electric power station next to Melka Wakena hydro-electric generation plant which has the capacity to produce 153 MW electric power (*Monitor, Jan. 3*).

Construction machinery and equipment rental is Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Alamoudi's latest business venture in Ethiopia. The Saudi tycoon has added a new company, GIBE Construction Machinery and Equipment Rental PLC, to the arm-long list under his business empire. Alamoudi formed the company in partnership with two Ethiopians registering an initial capital of 30mio birr and having a total of 30,000 shares valued at 1,000 birr each (*Fortune, Dec. 10*).

An Ethiopian-American businessman has invested 46.1mio birr to establish a soft drinks industry in Dire Dawa. Summit Partners Company will build a factory on 35,000 square meters of land and produce Schweppes, Canada Dry, Orange Crush and Schweppes Tonic for supply in eastern Ethiopia (*ETV, Dec. 12*).

The Ministry has issued work permits to 32 local and international companies to engage in the exploration of various minerals in different parts of the country, during the last five years. 15 local

and 17 foreign companies were licensed with an aggregate capital of 301.6mio birr (*Fortune, Dec. 3*).

Dashen Brewery, established in Gonder town, Amhara State, with an outlay of 340mio birr, was inaugurated on Nov. 21. The manager, Ato Haile Aragaw, said the brewery has a capacity to brew 50 million liters of beer annually and has created employment for 250 people (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 21*).

Pharmacure Ethiopia, a 100mio USD pharmaceutical company owned by Sheikh Mohammed H. Alamoudi has signed a consultancy deal with Bovis Tanvec Limited of the United Kingdom. Bovis Tanvec Ltd will provide Pharmacure Ethiopia with a range of consultancy services in design engineering and construction for its newly-proposed production facility. The huge plant will produce over 80 different dosage forms. The plant is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2002 (*Monitor, Oct. 31*).

Sun Optics, a local company that has been importing eyeglasses, is finalizing preparations to launch the first eyeglasses manufacturing line. Production is scheduled to start next Nov. with an investment of 4.3mio birr. The manufacturing line will have a capacity to produce 600,000 pairs of glasses a year. The factory's prices are less by 25% from that of imported glasses (*Fortune, Oct. 8*).

Mesfin Industrial Engineering (MIE) is finalizing preparation and design work to start manufacturing four types of public transport vehicles -- city buses as well as 60 and 45 seater cross country models suitable for rural roads. Arkebe said MIE would launch its products in January 2001, though tests are planned to be conducted prior to the official launch. MIE will produce 250 buses in the first year for the local market, followed by 500 units the following year both for the local and export market. Meanwhile, MIE will also set up a new assembly plant for automobiles in 2001. Arkebe disclosed the vehicles would be replicas of the Korean-made Tico and Daewoo models.

Corrugated iron sheet and powdered soft drinks factories established by ROPACK International Plc. at a cost of over 47mio birr have become operational. The corrugated iron sheet manufacturing factory was set up with a

total capital of over 26mio birr while the powdered soft drinks factory was established with 21.5mio birr. The factories have created employment for over 160 people. ROPACK will also shortly launch the construction of 1,500 residential units in the outskirts of Addis (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 3*).

The General Manager of the Ethiopian Investment Authority said that 611 local and foreign investors with a combined capital of about 8.4 billion birr were licensed during the just-ended fiscal year. Investors with a capital of 2.6 billion birr are engaged in industrial activities, while others with 2.6 billion birr are involved in construction work. Other investors with 568mio birr will start agricultural development ventures. The capital share of foreign investors is about 1.6 billion birr. Over 50% of the investment capital will be invested in Addis Ababa and the rest in the regions (*Abiotawi Democracy, Aug. 5*).

NGOs:

Sixty-two NGOs are currently carrying out development activities in Addis Ababa at a cost of over 259mio birr. The head of the Administration's NGO coordination desk, Ato Mogus Feleke, told newsmen that 12 are international NGOs and the remaining 50 are indigenous NGOs (*Addis Lissan, Nov. 8*).

About 39 NGOs allocated over 100mio birr during the past fiscal year to transform the life of Addis Ababa residents. The NGOs carried out significant activities in health, education, environmental protection, credit services and water supply services (*Addis Lissan, Aug. 9*).

Privatisation:

The Ethiopian Privatization Agency is inviting investors, to buy 14 public enterprises including tanneries, and food and shoe factories. The government intends to sell at least 51% of the shares of these companies to one investor or a group of investors. Companies slated for privatization are Fafa Food, Hamaressa Edible Oil, Addis Mojo Edible oil, Bahr Dar Edible Oil, Yerer Flour, Tigrai Flour, Addis Ababa Tannery, Mojo Tannery, Ethiopia Tannery, Kombolcha Tannery, Anbessa Shoes, Tikur Anbessa Shoes, Blue Nile Ras Hotel and Senkele Lime Factory. The Blue Nile Ras Hotel and Senkele Lime Factory are reserved

for local investors only (*Capital, Dec. 10*).

The Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU) has called on the government to stop auctioning off state development enterprises as the already privatized ones have failed to create favorable conditions for workers. CETU said the investors who bought the former state enterprises have resorted to violation of the workers' civic and labor rights. Therefore, the government needs to stop privatizing state development enterprises. Indicating that the government is currently preparing to privatize 123 state development organizations, CETU warned this trend would only expose workers to a dangerous situation (*Eletawi Addis, Nov. 11*).

Three private companies have offered a total of 1.4 billion birr in auction to buy three government-owned breweries, the Ethiopian Privatization Agency (EPA) said. The agency said that the three breweries up for auction are the Harar, Bedele and Meta Abo breweries. The South African Brewery, Star Business Group, and BGI offered 447.7mio, 585mio and 407mio birr respectively to buy the three breweries (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 2*).

The Ethiopian Privatization Agency privatized a flourmill in Awassa, two dairy farms and a hotel at a total price of 25.7mio birr in the second half of this year. Since EPA has launched "restricted sale" as a privatization option, in addition to open tenders, it has sold the Fogera Hotel at 950,105 birr, the Mulu Dairy Farm at 4.0mio birr and the Mojo Dairy Farm at 2.2mio birr (*Capital, Sept. 24*).

Transport and Communication:

Djibouti has denied reports that it has increased port fees. The Djiboutian Minister of Ports and Transport, Mr. Osman Idris, told the *BBC* that his government has not decided anything concerning the matter, which in the first place could only be determined by a cabinet level meeting. He said the matter would come up for discussion at a meeting of Ethiopian and Djibouti ministers in February (*Eletawi Addis, Jan. 23*).

The Ethiopian Minister of Transport and Communications has disclosed that a technical committee drawn from Ethiopia and Sudan has been

established to conduct studies to build a railway system between the two countries (*Efoita, Dec. 27*).

Despite promises by Djiboutian officials that the management change at the port as of June 2000 would not entail any increase in port tariffs, the new boss, Dubai Ports International (DPI), which took over the management and operations of the Port on a 20-year lease agreement, is to increase the tariff rate by a staggering 150% as of Jan. 15, 2001 (*Fortune, Dec. 24*).

The Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA) and the Netherlands Civil Aviation signed a memorandum of flight agreement between the two countries. The ECAA General Manager said the agreement would enable passenger planes to fly three times a week and cargo planes as often as possible. The direct links between Addis Ababa and Amsterdam will allow Ethiopia's agricultural products to have access in markets in the Netherlands (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 7*).

The Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA) has announced that it would repair regular asphalt and gravel roads and highways this year with a total length of 14,730 km at a cost of 169.7mio birr. In detail, 3,289 km of asphalt and 11,441 km of gravel roads will be repaired in ten districts. Similarly, the Amhara Rural Roads Authority said that it would undertake design and construction work at a cost of 50mio birr this budget year. The roads includes the Debarik-Mekane Selam, Sekota-Amdework and Mehalmeda-Gishe Rabel roads (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 21*).

Construction work to upgrade the corridor that links the port of Djibouti to the Ethiopian border, which is in a state of complete disrepair, has started. The United Nations World Food Program (WFP), under its special operations program in the region, is funding the project that costs US \$4mio. The maintenance of the 227-km-long road from the port to Gelafi, a border town between the two countries, is being undertaken. WFP will also spend another 1.7mio dollars to make the route linking the port of Berbera to Jijiga an all year road corridor. The Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA) will receive funds to carry out emergency repair work on the Kelabeyh-Togochale-Jijiga road while a contractor will be recruited

to rehabilitate the road from Kela-beyh to the port.

The 211-km. Gode-Hargele rural road built at a cost of over 75.4mio birr in Somali State has been completed. The road links Gode, Afder, Korit and Harbelo districts. The road construction was started five years ago (*Radio Ethiopia, August 27*).

The Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA) has said that about 85% of the construction of a new runway at Bole International Airport has been completed. ECAA's project coordinator, The construction of the taxiway is part of the expansion activities of the airport, which is being carried out at a cost of about 819mio birr. The fund for the expansion work was secured from the federal government and various international creditors (*ENA, Aug. 19*).

The Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA) has built and repaired over 13,555 km of roads during the concluded budget year. The construction and repair work cost 218,8mio birr and constituted 95% of the target. ERA built 325 km of asphalt and all weather roads and repaired 13,220 km of asphalt and gravel roads (*ETV, Aug. 16*).

Housing:

The construction of 2,400 residential houses to accommodate people displaced from their homes in the center of the city for reasons related to investment is 94% complete. It was also disclosed by the Housing Agency of the Addis Ababa Administration that there are plans to build 1,500 additional houses during the current year (*Addis Lissan, Nov. 8*).

The Lease Office of the Addis Ababa City Administration obtained 414mio birr over the last five years by leasing out about 16,000 urban plots. The plots were leased to 16,398 home builders and real estate developers while 953 plots were leased to investors to build factories and business institutions. An additional 998 plots were also granted to investors under a special arrangement. 37 plots were given to investors who will establish education, health and sports facilities, at rates 65% less than those given under regular lease rates (*ETV, Oct. 26*).

The Addis Ababa City Administration's Lease Office has announced the 33rd round lease auction offering 481 plots of land for interested leasers. The office offered a total of 82,823 sq. meters of land that

would serve for the building of residential apartments, offices, shops and small-scale industries (*Fortune, Oct. 22*).

Other Issues:

The price hike of printing costs has become the nightmare of publishers, journalists and distributors working in more than 42 newspapers published in Addis. All of them fear that the hike will soon put them out of the market if the 30.5% increment in printing cost is not revised. Publishers that sell less than 5,000 copies are operating on a loss basis and the journalists are working without salary. According to the publishers, distributors have refused to sell newspapers if the publishers increase the price (*Fortune, Sept. 3*).

3. Agriculture, Food Aid, Drought

Extension, Investment and Credits:

The Oromiya State investment office has disclosed that it has set aside 500,000 hectares of land for investors interested in engaging in agricultural projects in Oromiya State.. About 14,000 hectares of the land can be used for irrigation development while the rest is for regular farming activities (*ENA, Nov. 12*).

The west region office of the Oromiya Irrigation Development is undertaking four irrigation development projects in three zones of the state at a cost of 3.3mio birr. The report indicated that through the projects, 221 ha of land in Jimma would be developed and more than 446 farmers in the area would harvest twice in a year when the projects are fully operational (*Capital, Oct. 8*).

Agricultural Inputs and Production:

Fertilizer demand forecast for 2000, including a 20% buffer stock, was below the supply. This was revealed by the National Fertilizer Industry Agency recently (NFIA). During the year, the demand for fertilizer was 422,000 MT, of which the sales target was of 337,600 MT. Most of the sales were made during the year (belg and meher seasons) and amounted to 290,017 MT or 85.9% of the sales target. Overall, fertilizer consumption in the year 2000 was almost equivalent to that of 1999, which was 290,264

MT. A decrease in sales of fertilizer in 2000 compared to 1999 was observed in Oromiya and Southern Peoples' Region. The decrease was reportedly due to problems associated with the increase in retail prices as a result of the depreciation of the birr and an increase in internal transport costs.

The agriculture bureau in the Southern Peoples' Regional state has said that over 10.7mio coffee seedlings have been planted in the state during the current production season. Ato Teshome Menjere, senior coffee expert at the bureau, said that the coffee seedlings, prepared by the extension and regular programs as well as by associations and individuals, were planted on 2,300 hectares of land (*Addis Tribune, Oct. 6*).

Drought, Flood, Famine and Food Aid:

The Federal DPPC Commissioner told donor organizations that the number of the needy in Ethiopia this year had registered a marked drop of 4.3 mio against that of last year, resulting in lower requirement for relief assistance. The number of the needy throughout the country this year has dropped to 6.2 mio from 10.5 mio last year. Owing to the fall in the number of the needy, the relief food requirement this year stays at only 470,658 t in addition to the 168,587 t of food grain currently in stock (*Reporter, Jan. 24*).

The Oromiya Regional Council is reported to be planning to implement a voluntary resettlement scheme of farmers from overcrowded and drought-prone areas to selected areas in a bid to improve food production. Accordingly, farmers from seven Oromiya zones, including western Hararge, eastern Hararge, eastern Bale, Borana, Arsi, western Shoa and north Shoa will be resettled in six zones, i.e., western Shoa, western Wellega, eastern Wellega, Illubabor, Bale and Borana. However, critics argue that the necessary health and other social infrastructures have not yet been put in place (*Seife Nebelbal, Dec. 1*).

Over 15,600 people in two weredas of the Gambella State were verified to have fallen victims to floods due to the overflowing of the Baro River. They were in dire need of urgent relief assistance, a Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission

team sent to the area reported (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 27*).

About 75% of farmers of northern Ethiopia will not be able to feed themselves in nine years from now if the present population growth rate continues and if agricultural technology is not improved. A study paper presented at a conference on weather conditions and drought in Ethiopia by an expert in the Environmental Protection Authority said the soil is being eroded fast and becoming unproductive. Besides, most of the localities get only two or three months of rain a year, while forest resources are being depleted because of continuous arbitrary felling. The study paper said urgent and sustainable rehabilitation of the national resources is essential to avert an impending crisis (*Eletawi Addis, Oct. 19*).

Environment:

Ethiopia is one of the three countries in the world which are faced with serious soil erosion, a senior agricultural expert said. Two billion tons of soil is washed away annually from Ethiopia. Ethiopia stands third in the world, after India and Colombia, on the risk of facing drastic erosion, the expert said quoting a recent World Food Program (WFP) report. He said continuous soil cultivation, deforestation, overgrazing, backward traditional farming methods were among the underlying causes that have exacerbated the soil erosion (*Eletawi Addis, Dec. 27*).

The Ethiopian Agricultural Research Organization (EARO) has said that Ethiopia loses 150,000 hectares to 200,000 hectares of forest annually. EARO's director of forestry research, Ato Demel Teketay, said the ever-increasing demand for fuelwood as well as for crop and grazing land was among the major causes for the rampant deforestation in the country (*ETV, Sept. 13*).

4. Tourism

A multi-million birr resort being built on Lake Langano will soon start services, the owner, Roberta Iacona, disclosed. The complex has been named the Abule Basoma Langano Tourist Resort. So far, over 5mio birr has been invested in the project in the last one and-a-half years. The complex lies on 800,000 square meters of land

about 200 km southeast of Addis Ababa. It includes a hot-spring island and has already started a bar, restaurant, bedroom and camping services. Mr. Iacona plans to add facilities for various types of outdoor activities including golf, boat rentals, tennis, and a zoo (*ETV, Oct. 16*).

About 11 potential tourist attractions have been identified in the Jimma Zone, Oromiya State including three water-falls, two lakes, four natural forests and a cave. The areas located in Beseka-Cherkos, Mana, Limucosa, Tiru-Afeta, Gera and Amenada districts of the zone are said to be rich in wild life and birds (*Monitor, Oct. 18*).

The general manager of the Ethiopian pavilion at Hanover Expo 2000 has said that visitors have admired the Ethiopian pavilion since it projects the country's natural and historical heritage and future directions. So far, there have been over 1.9 million visitors to the pavilion. The observance of National Day on Ethiopian New Year's day had attracted many Ethiopians from Frankfurt, Bonn, Cologne and other German cities (*ETV, Sept. 23*).

The Ethiopian Tourism Commission indicated that Ethiopia is unable to effectively utilize its tourism resources due to various constraints. According to the Commissioner, the tourist inflow had declined in the past two years as a result of the Ethio-Eritrean conflict. He said that the end of the war and the cessation of hostilities agreement has created a conducive environment for tourists to come to Ethiopia (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 19*).

Social, Cultural and Political Aspects

Elections:

Many candidates of the AAPO campaigning for the coming local elections have been subjected to harassment, fines and jailing. A number of them had their endorsement signatures rejected and disqualified. Despite appeals to the National Electoral Board, the problem has increased in Addis Ababa and Nazareth, a spokesperson charged. AAPO had fielded over 1000 candidates in Addis Ababa (*Andinet, Dec. 30*).

According to a report, 20 persons from Jimma and Keffa Shekicho zones have been imprisoned as being potentially dangerous for the coming elections. 8 persons have been held in Gisha district, Keffa Shekicho zone, accused of supporting the Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Coalition. In Jimma Zone, 11 members of the Yem National Democratic Movement in Jimma and Sekoru towns were jailed in Homochale kebele peasants' association where prisoners do not get prison food. All these persons were illegally imprisoned before the start of election activities, said the report (*Tobia, Dec. 21*).

The Oromo National Congress (ONC) has complained that representatives of the National Electoral Board (NEB) in various places and local officials were violating the rights of its members. It cited the case of its candidate in Gojo 01 kebele, western Shoa zone, who was ordered by the local representative of NEB, Abdissan Harko, to stop canvassing endorsement signatures. In this same district, it added, about 60 armed persons roamed rural areas threatening people that they would face difficulties if they endorsed ONC candidates. One such candidate in Tikur Enchine district, Gurmessa Semi, was arrested and jailed when canvassing signatures, while threats continued in Adaberga, Meta Robi, Jeldu District, Welisso and Ambo. ONC also charged that its members were being detained in Harerge, Shashemene, Siraro, Arssi Zone, and Munessa (*Ruh, Dec. 22*).

The All Amhara People's Organization (AAPO) has said it is fully confident of emerging victorious in the coming district and kebele elections provided the ruling EPRDF refrains from putting pressure on it. AAPO's Addis Ababa branch deputy representative indicated that the government is already bringing some pressure on the elections, and hence urged the people to take full participation in the elections (*Eletawi Addis, Dec. 4*).

The National Electoral Board (NEB) has announced that preparations are underway for the upcoming district and kebele council multi-party elections. NEB announced that district election offices in Tigray, Afar, Amhara and Oromiya states would begin dispatching election materials to kebeles for candidates' registration. Elections for membership in the district and kebele

councils are scheduled for Febr. 25 and March 4 respectively (*ENA, Nov. 28*).

Ethiopia's new parliament, meeting for the first time since elections in May, formally re-elected Meles Zenawi as prime minister. It also ratified his request for his pre-election cabinet to continue in office unchanged. The parliament, dominated by the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which holds 479 of the 547 seats, re-elected Dawit Yohannes as Speaker for a new term (*Monitor, Oct. 11*).

Opposition-Related Issues:

30 persons arrested in Dire Dawa on suspicion of having links with the OLF were transferred recently to Addis Ababa Central Criminal Investigation Coordination Bureau prison after months of detention at the Dire Dawa police commission. Now, the case of the detainees has been referred to a court (*Seife Nebelbal, Jan. 12*).

32 of the Oromo prisoners that were detained at Zway prison were given sentences ranging from life to 15 years in jail. The Federal High Court found all guilty of being OLF members and of committing various offenses (*Seife Nebelbal, Dec. 23*).

Ato Hailu Shawl, the new president of the All Amhara People's Organization (AAPO), in a press conference on Dec. 16 described the Algiers peace agreement as a betrayal of Ethiopia's interests since, it denies Ethiopia its legitimate right to a sea outlet, and is essentially flawed because it is based on irrelevant colonial treaties (*Atkurot, Dec. 19*).

About 500,000 people staged a huge demonstration in Hosanna town in support of the Hadiya People's Democratic Organization which has protested against the violations of the democratic and constitutional rights of the Hadiya people. A party spokesman claimed that, despite the fact that its members had been elected to the regional council, the ruling party has ignored the people's wishes and kept its cadres in power (*Atkurot, Nov. 28*).

Eleven persons were reportedly arrested and jailed in Harar, Shashemene and Arssi Zones charged with being members and supporters of the ONC. Seven of them were held in Harar and accused of recruiting ONC members (*Ruh, Nov. 17*).

Dr. Beyene Petros (MP) complained that deputies elected to the regional council of Southern Ethiopia Region were arrested, beaten up and imprisoned in Hadya and Alaba-Timbaro zones by members of special armed units and kebele officials. Presently, 78 members of opposition groups are known to be in detention in various zones of southern Ethiopia (*Tomar, Oct. 25*).

Members and supporters of ONC are being held in detention in Bale and Arssi Zones. Meanwhile, the National Electoral Board is reported to have successfully intervened to get the office of ONC in Harar reopened after it had been ordered closed by local officials (*Tomar, Oct. 25*).

Crime, Corruption and Legal Affairs:

The Sixth Criminal Bench of the Federal High Court sentenced six defendants convicted of genocide to rigorous prison terms ranging from 10 to 13 years. The court said the men were found guilty of murdering Arefayne Kifle Mariam for allegedly being a member of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). Two of the convicts were tried in absentia (*Radio Ethiopia, Dec. 29*).

The Woliso District Police in West Shoa zone has arrested seven people who, it said, were involved in misappropriating 111 quintals of relief wheat destined for distribution to the needy in the area. District Police Chief Lieutenant Asamenew Abdissa told the weekly newspaper *Oromiya* that the culprits were caught red-handed while loading 41 of the 111 quintals they hid in a warehouse (*Walta Information Center, Dec. 28*).

Over 2,293 traffic accidents occurred in Ethiopia last year making Ethiopia the country with the highest number of road accidents in the world, the Vice Minister of Transport and Communications said. Traffic accidents in Ethiopia have claimed the lives of 7,576 people in the past six years. It was also disclosed that about 47,000 of the 105,850 vehicles registered in 1999 did not have insurance (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov. 29*).

Over 1,200 people suspected of starting the wildfire that recently destroyed 67,000 hectares of forests in Bale and Borena have been brought to justice. The Oromiya police commission said that

at least half of those accused have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from three to eight years (*VOA, Aug. 28*).

Refugees:

The ARRA had announced that it would soon repatriate 11,000 Ethiopian refugees living in Sudan. ARRA said that it has verified the citizenship of 10,732 Ethiopian refugees wishing to be repatriated in accordance with the agreement reached between the UNHCR and the Ethiopian government. The refugees will be provided with food rations for nine months and 100 birr each along with blankets and plastic shelters (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov.22*).

ARRA said that about 48,000 Somali refugees returned home to North Somalia following relative peace in the region. Over half of the 255,484 Somali refugees, who fled to Ethiopia following the outbreak of factional fighting in Somalia, have been repatriated since 1997. Ethiopia currently hosts about 200,000 Somali, Sudanese, Kenyan and Djiboutian refugees (*Radio Ethiopia, Nov.22*).

News about Culture and History:

Kibran Gabriel Unity Monastery, a historic island on Lake Tana, is reportedly threatened by storms which are destroying its protective earthen walls. As a result, trees over 200 years old are falling and precious relics on the island are facing extinction. The Amhara bureau of culture, tourism and information has written letters urging that emergency funds be raised to save the island. A monk sent by the monastery, Abba Shiferaw, said that the roof of the church on the island is leaking and that several parchment books and paintings are being spoilt by rain. He added that unless the roof is repaired immediately, severe damages would follow (*Reporter, Nov. 6*).

Hamburg University in Germany is making intensive collaboration with a host of international scholars involved in Ethiopian studies to compile a five-volume Encyclopedia Aethiopia. Prof. Siegbert Uhlig, the editor-in-chief of Encyclopedia Aethiopia, said the team plans to compile the five volumes publishing annually one volume of approximately 1,150 pages each. The last volume, which is dedicated to index, would appear in 2006, he said. The time

span covered in the Encyclopædia Aethiopia extends from pre-history up to the end of Emperor Haile Selassie's era in 1974 (*Ethiopian Herald*, Nov. 8).

Britain's first elected mayor, Ken Livingston, was reported to have announced that he supports the return of Ethiopia's historic treasures looted from Emperor Tewodros's capital at Maqdala in 1868, the Association for the Return of the Maqdala Ethiopia Treasures (AFROMET) said. Ethiopian loot currently in London includes a crown and a chalice, both in gold and now in the Victoria and Albert Museum, over 300 fine manuscripts on parchment in the British Library, as well as numerous professional and other crosses and ten Tabots (holy altar slabs) in the British Museum (*state media*, Nov. 4).

The remains of His Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I, who was killed mysteriously a year after he was overthrown in 1974 by military officers during the Derg regime, were placed at the Holy Trinity Cathedral on Nov. 5. His remains were laid to rest in a private tomb during a memorial ceremony organized by the Haile Selassie I Memorial Foundation and members of his family. (*Capital*, Nov. 5).

Members of the East Africa Theatrical Group, comprising representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, will hold their first festival next Sunday in Awassa. The theatrical festival will focus on children and the youth. Theater clubs, circus groups and a traditional musical troupe from Addis Ababa, Bahr Dar, Dire Dawa, Durame, Awassa, Jimma, Debre Berhan and Mekele are expected to participate in the event. During a one-week tour, the festival will also be presented in Shashemene, Yirgalem and Leku towns (*Ruh*, Oct. 13).

Looting and theft of cultural and historical relics has worsened especially in four districts of East Gojjam zone. The zonal police said a number of people have been arrested suspected of stealing precious relics in the various churches. Residents complained that the concerned authorities are not providing the required protection to the churches (*Mahlet*, Sept. 30).

Gezahegn Aberra of Ethiopia won the Marathon race in Sydney with a time of 2 hours 10 minutes and

10 seconds. The silver was taken by the Kenyan athlete and the bronze was won by Tesfaye Tola of Ethiopia (*ETV*, Oct. 1).

Ethiopian truck heroes made history winning three gold medals for the first time in the Olympics, collecting two more gold and one silver in the 10,000 meter and 5,000 meter races in Sydney (*Ethiopian Herald*, Oct. 1).

Other Social and Political Issues:

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Hassen Abdella disclosed that there are an estimated over 27 million unemployed citizens in the country out of whom well over two million have had no job whatsoever in the past (*Eletawi Addis*, Jan 4).

73% of Ethiopian women have been circumcised according to a study, undertaken by the National Committee on Traditional Practices in Ethiopia (NCTPE). Female genital mutilation causes serious health problems including loss of blood, blood contamination and loss of mental balance (*SDU*, No. 35).

Ethiopian Scientist Dr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher shares this year's Rights Livelihood Awards known as the Alternative Nobels. This was announced by the Stockholm-based Livelihood Awards Foundation. Dr. Tewolde is among the four recipients of the prize for his role in international negotiations to safeguard biodiversity and the traditional rights of farms. Currently, Dr. Tewolde is managing director of the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority. He was a lecturer at the science faculty of Addis Ababa University and president of Asmara University (*Monitor*, Oct. 9).

Foreign Relations:

The Prime Minister of Somalia's transitional government, Ali Khalif Galaydh, has strongly attacked Ethiopia, accusing it of stirring up trouble. In a *BBC* interview Mr. Galaydh said Ethiopia was arming factions opposed to the government, occupying Somali districts and had recently increased its military presence in the country. - The accusation comes days after an attack on Somalia's parliamentary speaker, Abdallah Derow Issak, which he narrowly survived. Mr. Issak has blamed Ethiopia for the attack and accused the country of training militiamen in the town of Gode. (*Monitor*, Jan. 10).

During their meeting on the fringes of the recent Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) summit in Khartoum, President Hassan Al-Bashir and Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi had agreed that work should begin on drafting a program to strengthen bilateral relations in the political, economic and commercial fields (*Monitor*, Dec. 6).

Ethiopia has moved a step closer to formally recognize the newly established government of Somalia. After three days of talks with the Somali President Abdulkassim Salad Hassan, the Ethiopian authorities said they "affirm the Arta peace process" but urged it to reach agreement with its opponents, which include clan warlords and leaders of two breakaway regions (*Reporter*, Nov. 22).

Ethiopia has signed an agreement with what is called the Republic of Somaliland to expand trade and communications. Somaliland's foreign minister, Mohammed Nur, stated that Somaliland's Berebera port has "a large capacity, including oil storage facility" and that Somaliland is ready to share it with Ethiopia for its import-export trade. Nur reiterated that breakaway Somaliland was not interested in reviving the unity of Somalia. (*Monitor*, VOA, Nov. 13).

The EPRDF reportedly is not happy with the newly elected President of Somalia, Abdulkassim Salad Hassan, and his government perhaps because it believes Abdulkassim Hassan is pro-Egyptian and sympathetic to Muslim extremists, notably Al-Itihad (*Ethop*, Nov. 15).

Ten senior Ethiopian military officials traveled to the Somali town of Baidoa where the Rahanwein Resistance Army (RRA) is based. The group is believed to enjoy the support of Ethiopia, and the visiting Ethiopians reportedly held talks with RRA leaders (*Atku-rot*, Oct. 10).

Ethiopia has been listed by President Clinton as one of 58 sub-Saharan and Caribbean countries eligible to benefit from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act. The report indicates that eligible countries would receive a host of preferential treatment, including duty-free and quota-free U.S. market access for essentially all products and from additional security for

investors and traders in African countries (*ENA, Oct. 5*).

Ethiopia and Sudan have concluded an agreement to jointly produce arms near Gedarif. This is said to follow the improvement of relations between the two countries since last October (*Mahlet, Aug. 29*).

Nile Waters:

Sudan's head for water resources, Ahmed Mohammed Adem, has announced that his government seeks to get details on 14 Ethiopian projects on the Nile which would require 6.5 billion cubic m. of water. Khartoum is the venue of next month's meeting of Nile riparian states (*Mahlet, Dec. 5*).

6. Education

Unity College has graduated 1,051 students with diplomas and certificates after completing a two-year training in various disciplines. 1,029 of the graduates were trained in accounting, business administration, marketing, secretarial science and law while the remaining graduated in hotel and catering. 591 of the graduates were females (*ENA, Nov. 4*).

The first private college in engineering, architecture and town planning is going to start operation. KISAMA Africa University College, established last year by three Ethiopians, will give a Bachelor of Science Degree for its five-year program for regular students and eight-year program for extension students. It specializes in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Architecture and Town Planning (*Fortune, Oct. 1*).

The Educational Media Agency (EMA) has said that it has finalized preparations to launch a diploma program through distance education for over 24,000 teachers across the country as of October 2000. The program was designed to promote the capacity of the second cycle teachers, thereby improving the quality of education (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 16*).

A study paper has indicated that 72% of school-age children in Ethiopia do not have access to formal education. The disparity between states and the gender gap remain high even though the government budget expenditure on education has reached over 15%. The paper disclosed that dropouts

during the first cycle of primary education was as high as 26% (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 4*).

A private college, Addis College, which said it would be the first privately-owned college in providing technical and vocational courses at diploma level, has started registration. The college will provide diploma level courses for two years in auto-mechanics, electronics, building technology, surveying and drafting. (*Fortune, Aug. 20*).

7. Health

The World Health Organization (WHO) and Ethiopia have drawn up a joint program to eradicate river blindness. Ethiopia's Vice-Minister of Health, Lamesso Hayesso, said in a statement that the disease is already affecting over 2.5 mio people while another seven million Ethiopians are at high risk (*VOA, Dec. 7*).

The Ministry of Health (MOH) has said that the immunization campaign conducted in the last three years to eradicate polio from Ethiopia has been successful. She said polio vaccines had been administered to nearly 36 million children under the age of five throughout the country and in remote and inaccessible areas (*Monitor, Nov. 4*).

The Saudi-German Health Service Company has disclosed that an international referral hospital would be built in Addis Ababa at a cost of 100mio \$. The construction of the hospital, which will have 400 beds, will start in Jan. 2001. According to the director, the hospital would serve as a referral hospital for East Africa, and that it would give medical services assisted by satellite and modern communication technology (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 18*).

The Federal Government has earmarked a budget for the fight against HIV/AIDS and 500mio birr has been obtained in long-term loan and aid (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 12*).

The West Shoa Zone St. Luke Catholic Hospital and Nursing College, built by the Ethiopian Catholic Church at a cost of 44mio birr, were inaugurated in Wellisso last week. It has 120 beds and five wards medical, surgical, pediatric, obstetrics and gynecology and maternity. The College of Nursing offers boarding

for 90 students (*Radio Ethiopia, Sept. 23*).

The zonal health department of North Wello zone has said that highland areas of the zone have been hit by malaria in the last three years because of recurrent drought. Highland kebeles and districts which never had malaria before have been hit by a malaria epidemic since 1997 (*ENA, Sept. 24*).

The Pharmaceutical Import and Distribution Enterprise has said that it had bought medicinal drugs and medical equipment worth over 237mio birr during the previous Ethiopian budget year. 91% of the enterprise's target of distributing 260mio birr worth medicines and medical equipment to the health institutions had been fulfilled. Ato Girma attributed the decrease in the sale of the drugs and medical equipment to the failure on the part of health institutions in the country to get subsidy budget from the World Bank (*Radio Ethiopia, Aug. 20*).

8. Human Rights, Religion

Freedom of Press:

At EFPJA's 3rd general meeting, it was learned that 40 private journalists had chosen self-imposed exile to save their lives, while there are others who still languish in prisons (*Eletawi Addis, Dec. 26*).

The Ethiopian Free Press Journalists' Association (EFPJA) has issued an urgent appeal on behalf of Ato Zegeye Haile, vice president of EFPJA and publisher of *Genanaw* private newspaper, who has been detained since his arrest on Nov. 23. The statement claimed that already the editor of *Ethop*, Melesse Shine, has been jailed for failing to produce a 10,000-birr bail guarantee, and that the editors of *Goh*, *Abyssinia* and *Mahlet* were interrogated and released on bail by the Central Criminal Investigation Bureau (*Goh, Nov. 25*).

Other Issues:

One of the Oromos held at Zway prison on suspicion of having links with the OLF is reported to have been sentenced to death by the 5th Criminal Bench of the Federal High Court on Jan. 5, 2001. The death sentence on Ziki Degaga (Aka Mohammed Sani) is the first such verdict following earlier life prison terms passed on three

other defendants (*Seife Nebelbal, Jan. 12*).

A report by the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) has indicated that, during the last Ethiopian calendar year, there were 1,489 human rights violations. 44 persons were victims of extra-judicial killings, 50 were wounded, 57 were beaten up and tortured, 19 abducted, 989 incarcerated, 23 dismissed from their jobs, and 298 subjected to confiscation and loss of property. There were also 279 other human rights violations (*Ethop, Jan. 3*).

The Solidarity Committee for Ethiopian Political Prisoners is reported to have issued a report alleging that the EPRDF government maintains secret underground prisons inside large residential houses in Addis Ababa and in regional cities and towns. Here, it said, political prisoners abducted from various places suffer torture in dark underground holes. Such prisons, it noted, are fairly common in Tigray, notably in the Axum area and in Tembien. The statement called on the government to allow access to these prisoners by ICRC and human rights groups (*Goh, Dec. 9*).

EHRCO has issued its 35th special report detailing the recent attacks on the Geri people by the Boranas and Gujis acting together. As a result, it said, according to data available so far, 75 persons were killed, 33 were wounded, 9 houses were burned down, over 2,300 domestic animals and over 80,000 birr were looted. On the night of Sept. 8, about 60 Boranas and Gujis, armed with traditional and modern weapons, launched their attacks following long-standing disputes over grazing land and water wells in Arero district, Borena zone, Oromiya region. The statement accused the government of failing to act ahead of time to avert this disaster, and of further attempting to cover up the tragedy (*Tobia, Nov. 9*).

EHRCO has issued a special report on what it described as human rights violations in Nekempe and Ghimbi towns since last March. It alleged that local officials in Nekempe illegally shot and wounded two students. Two teachers, three students and a civil servant were severely beaten. 44 students, four teachers and school employees have been jailed, and two imprisoned students were subjected to torture.

The statement added that students of Ghimbi comprehensive secondary school were similarly persecuted, and that 15 students are still being held at Ghimbi prison (*Ruh, Aug. 18*).

9. Internal Security

The UN news agency IRIN has reported that at least 150 people had died in clashes between Somalis and Oromos in southern Ethiopia. Government troops have been sent to the area and a committee to investigate the problem has been set up by the office of the prime minister. The dispute between the two groups arose from land disputes, and a referendum has been proposed by the committee to resolve the problem, the report pointed out (*Menelik, Nov. 3*).

One person was killed and others wounded last week when unknown armed groups fired shots at a vehicle carrying 30 people traveling to Gambella town from Jikao district in Gambella State. The Gambella town police officer said the armed group was trying to stop the Isuzu car to rob the occupants but the driver managed to drive fast and escaped although some of the passengers were hurt (*Maebel, Sept. 2*).

Internationale Konferenz Äthiopischer Studien

Eine Reise nach Äthiopien

von Ursula Scheubel

Vom 6. -11.11.2000 trafen sich Äthiopisten aus aller Welt in Addis Abeba zur XIV Internationalen Konferenz Äthiopischer Studien. Es wurden Themen aus den Bereichen: Geschichte und Archäologie, Linguistik und Philologie, Literatur, Soziologie und Anthropologie, Erziehung und Kunst, Recht und Politik, Entwicklung und Umwelt, Religion und Philosophie behandelt.

Die Teilnehmer kamen aus 26 Ländern, wobei die Deutschen die größte Gruppe nach den Äthiopiern stellten. Insgesamt haben

sich 338 Personen registriert, mehr als jemals zuvor in der Geschichte dieser Konferenz. Zusätzlich konnten Studenten und Universitätsangehörige an den meisten Veranstaltungen kostenlos teilnehmen. Das Programm umfaßte sechs Plenarsitzungen, in den Bereichen Geschichte, Linguistik, Literatur, Entwicklung und Anthropologie. Geschichte und Entwicklung nahmen einen gesamten Vormittag ein, wo hingegen für die vier anderen Kategorien jeweils nur eineinhalb Stunden vorgesehen waren. Hier wurden die Entwicklungen in den vergangenen Jahren und die Zukunftsperspektiven behandelt.

Die Teilnehmer wurden von den dortigen Kollegen rührend mit allem versorgt, umsorgt und behütet, abgeholt, herumgefahren und spät abends ins Hotel gebracht. Manchmal erwischte einer den falschen Bus, aber das war denn erst recht ein besonderes Ereignis.

Die Konferenz

Das Programm der Konferenz war breitgefächert. Erstmals wurde gegen einigen Widerstand die Kategorie Recht und Politik gebildet, die außerordentlich gut besucht und von den Nichtäthiopiern kontrovers diskutiert wurde.

Von der Bedeutung der aussterbenden Kunst des Begennaspiels mit Hörprobe über die Geschichte des Maisanbaus in Äthiopien bis zu den Vorteilen eines neuen umweltfreundlichen Zweikammerabortsystems war für alle vielerlei und Interessantes zu finden und wer gleichzeitig an mehreren Orten hätte sein können, hätte noch viel mehr lernen und erfahren können. Die Kategorie Frauenfragen war in dem Programm ebensowenig zu finden wie die der Oromo. Beides hatte auf der Vorkonferenz in Tokio einen breiten vielbeachteten Raum eingenommen. Vorträge zu diesen Themen fanden in fast allen Sektionen statt und waren gut besucht.

Der Themenbereich der "harmful practices", was wohl am besten mit Gewalt gegen Frauen zu übersetzen wäre, wurde auch im Plenum der Konferenz in Addis diskutiert und die Notwendigkeit einer Diskussion mit den Ältesten betont, da letztendlich von ihnen diese Praktiken ausgehen und effektiver Schutz nur dann erhalten ist, wenn sie davon überzeugt werden können, daß eine Änderung nötig ist.

Die Vorträge zum äthiopisch-eritreischen Krieg führten zu überfüllten Räumen. Die Zuhörer standen teilweise bis hinaus auf die Gänge. In diesem Bereich erfolgten die Diskussionsbeiträge eher von den ausländischen Teilnehmern. Auf dem Podium waren keine Äthiopier zu erblicken, lediglich ein Skandinavier aus Eritrea, dessen Buch zu diesem Thema gerade erschienen ist. Er äußerte sich im privaten Gespräch dahingehend, daß er die

Abtrennung Eritreas schon damals nicht verstanden habe.

Besonders interessant erschienen mir die Beiträge zu den traditionellen Formen von Konfliktbewältigung, die in kleineren Einheiten erfolgreich praktiziert werden und über ganz andere wirkungsvollere Mechanismen verfügen als moderne Gesetze und Verfassungen.

Überall wurde lebhaft diskutiert, Erfahrungen und Neuigkeiten ausgetauscht, alte Freundschaften aufgefrischt und neue geschlossen. Nach allzu langer Zeit traf man sich wieder und die Tage waren viel zu kurz. Nicht alle, die bei der vorangegangenen Konferenz in Kyoto waren, konnten oder wollten kommen. Manche waren nicht erwünscht. Etliche äthiopische Wissenschaftler sind ins Ausland gegangen. Sie verdienen zu wenig, um ein angemessenes Leben führen zu können.

Am Unity College beispielsweise, an dem zur Überraschung einiger überwiegend Frauen studieren, und das auch eine Zeitung herausgibt, die hierzulande erworben werden kann, wird mehr als doppelt so viel verdient wie an der Universität. Auf die vielen Klagen über die schlechte Ausstattung hat die Regierung anlässlich der Konferenz ankündigen lassen, daß sie in Zukunft Wohnungen für die Professoren der Universität zur Verfügung stellen wird. Wer tatsächlich in den Genuß eines solchen Privilegs kommt bleibt abzuwarten.

Ein umfangreiches Rahmenprogramm sorgte für die Verpflegung und Unterhaltung der Teilnehmer. Die verschiedenen Botschaften gaben Empfänge und Essen- einladungen. Es wurden zahlreiche Ausstellungen eröffnet, Bücher vorgestellt und Arbeitstreffen veranstaltet. Unzählige private Einladungen ergänzten dieses Rahmenprogramm.

Hararstudien

Im Anschluß an die Konferenz veranstaltete das Französische Zentrum für Äthiopische Studien zusammen mit der Stadt und der Region ein Seminar zur Zukunft der Hararstudien im Rimbaudhaus. Die Honoratioren der Stadt waren anwesend. Die Vorstellung eines Projekts zu Kunst

und Tradition der Oromo führte unweigerlich zu der Frage, wieso denn nicht zu Harar geforscht werde. Die dort von einem Italiener der Universität Rom vorgestellte Karte der Stadt Harar, an der 10 Jahre gearbeitet worden war und die angeblich alle Moscheen und Grabstätten der Heiligen enthält, ist eine Rarität in dem Land. Gesucht werden Sponsoren für den Druck.

Auf dem Seminar wurden auch interessante Vorschläge zur Entwicklung des Tourismus gemacht. Dem Tourismus, wie er in Europa praktiziert wird, sind in dieser Gegend allerdings Grenzen gesetzt. Immer wieder gibt es kriegerische Auseinandersetzungen zwischen der Regierung und der OLF.

Zusammen mit einer Phillipinin, die vor Jahrzehnten von Kaiser Haile Selassie als Lehrerin geholt worden war und mehrere Jahre in Jijiga, der Hauptstadt des Bundesstaates Somalia unterrichtete, wollte ich dorthin fahren. Aber das war mit einem Privatwagen nicht möglich und am folgenden Tag sah ich die mir aus meiner Jugend wohlbekannten Militärkolonnen in diese Richtung fahren. In der Presse war dann zu lesen, daß die dortigen Oromo mit Hilfe des somalischen Militärs geschlagen wurden. Zwei Journalisten dieser Zeitung wurden kurz darauf verhaftet und konnten anschließend das Land verlassen. Eine der ältesten Zeitungen in Äthiopien erscheint jetzt nicht mehr und der stellvertretende Vorsitzende des freien Pressevereins muß die kommenden vier Jahre im Gefängnis verbringen, weil er die gegen ihn verhängte Strafe nicht bezahlen kann. Die Presse spart nicht an Kritik und manchmal trifft sie einen wunden Punkt, für den dann bitter gebüßt werden muß.

Im November in Harar zu sein, wenn die Bäume blühen, und die Häuser für den Ramadan gestrichen werden ist wirklich eine Reise wert. Besonders wenn man im Belayneh Hotel wohnt und von der Dachterasse auf die alte Stadt innerhalb der Mauern und die Vulkane in der Ferne schauen kann. Da kann man Reisepläne schmieden, die im Moment nur Träume sein können. Schade nur, daß die alten Paläste der kaiserlichen Familie verfallen.

Wirtschaftlich geht es den Harari gut. Sie profitieren auch durch den Handel mit Chat und dem "parallen Mark" über Somalia. Mittlerweile haben sie Dire Dawa in dieser Hinsicht überflügelt.

Nach den Ausführungen eines Franzosen während des Seminars, daß Touristen ihre Träume leben wollten, kann man auf die Idee den Teilnehmern auch einmal die Gelegenheit zu geben den Genuß des Chat auszuprobieren.

Auf dem Diwan lagen die Seminarteilnehmer am Schluß und haben Chat gekaut. Auch die Ziegen fressen Chat, wahrscheinlich schmecken sie deshalb so gut in Harar. Diejenigen, die nach der Abfahrt des Busses zum Flughafen noch übrig blieben, haben sich zu der Grabstätte des letzten Sultans führen lassen. Dort waren die Frauen wie üblich fleißig beim arbeiten, die Kinder beim Zitieren von Koranversen. Die erwachsenen Männer lagen ebenfalls auf dem Diwan und gaben sich ihrer Lieblingsbeschäftigung, dem Chatkauen hin. Nachdem ich mein Haupt verhüllt hatte, wagte auch ich die Gedenkstätte des letzten Sultans zu betreten und die Gräber außerhalb des Hauses. Ein Student aus Addis, der über die Wanderungsbewegungen der Harari, besonders der in Addis arbeitet, begleitete mich später noch zu dem Oromo Information Center und schlug vor das SOS Kinderdorf zu besuchen. Dort werden außer den Waisenkindern jedoch nur diejenigen in den Kindergärten aufgenommen worden, die einen Test bestehen bevor sie 4 Jahre alt sind.

Die Lehrlingswerkstatt von "Menschen helfen Menschen" der deutschen NGO, die Inländerstatus hat und Wert auf die Feststellung legt nicht mit allen zusammenzuarbeiten, war wie ein Ausflug ins wohlgeordnete Heimatland. Sauberkeit und Ordnung haben hier einen großen Stellenwert. Freitags wird gemeinsam der Hof gekehrt. Die Eingangstraße heißt Salzburg Avenue und die Werkstätten sind mit Maschinen aus Deutschland eingerichtet, der Leiter für die technische Ausbildung ist aus Ingolstadt und der für die Kosten und Rechnungswesen aus Aachen. Sie haben sich viel Zeit für uns genommen, alles vorgeführt und es ist wirklich

beeindruckend zu sehen, auf welch hohem Niveau hier auch Frauen ausgebildet werden. Der Ausbildungsabschluß ist nunmehr die Graduation.

Am Tag davor hatte uns zwei Jungen, ein Oromo und ein Harari, die Schmiede innerhalb der Mauern von Harar gezeigt, wo noch mit Blasebälgen die Glut hergestellt wird. Dort arbeiten sieben Schmiede in einem Anwesen aus Lehm und für die Bauernkinder ist das ein ganz wichtiger Platz. Da werden aus alten Fahrzeugteilen Hacken geschmiedet, die dann ausschließlich von den Männern benutzt und nach der Feldarbeit über die Schulter gelegt und durch die alte Stadt innerhalb der Mauern nach Hause getragen werden.

An zwei verschiedenen Stadttoren waren Kioske, die von Somalierinnen betrieben wurden. Eine führte mir stolz ihren französischen Sohn und seine Gesundheitspapiere vor. Sie stand unter dem Schutz der Torwachen, die sich gerne mit uns fotografieren ließen. Mir wurde erzählt, daß diese Frauen durch den Krieg ganz stark geworden wären, da sie allein die großen Familien versorgen mußten.

Frauen

Das Leben außerhalb der Hauptstadt macht einen beschaulicheren Eindruck als in Addis Abeba. Es scheint dort für diejenigen, die dem richtigen Volk angehören oder mit ihm über die Familie oder sonst freundschaftlich verbunden sind und sich nicht unbeliebt machen, auch Arbeit zu geben. Notfalls werden Stellen geschaffen für Dinge, die sich früher von selbst erledigt haben

Die Leiterin des Frauenbüros des Rates von Dire Dawa ist nach recht erfolgreich, weil jeder sie kennt und die Gerichte und der Kadi selbst an dem beteiligt sind, was den Frauen Probleme macht und daher von dieser Seite kaum effektiver Schutz zu erwarten ist. Mit Hilfe des Büro für Frauenangelegenheiten wird derzeit in den Bauernorganisationen und Kebeleverwaltungen das Problem der Beschneidung von Frauen diskutiert.

Als Erfolg ist zu verzeichnen, daß von den religiösen Führern festgestellt wurde, der Koran enthalte

keine diesbezügliche Vorschrift entgegen dem Gebot der Beschneidung von Männern. Der Stellvertreter der Leiterin des Frauenbüros kam ins Hotel und wehrte eine Bettlerin ab, die von mir Geld verlangte. Gleichzeitig gab er ihr hinter seinem Rücken mit der linken Hand einen Schein. Später im Büro wurde mir erzählt, daß die Poligamie das große Problem der Frauen sei, weil die Männer es für ihr gottgegebenes Recht hielten, sich in eine andere Frau zu verlieben und die vorangegangene mit den Kindern im Stich zulassen.

Die Beobachtung, daß die älteren Töchter häufig das Familieneinkommen solcher Restfamilien erarbeiten müssen und den Tagesablauf ihrer vielen Geschwister organisieren, machte ich häufig. Ihre Mütter haben keine Ausbildung erhalten und sind zu alt für eine Erwerbstätigkeit. Die ältesten Töchter würden auch gerne etwas studieren, aber das bleibt oft ein Traum für sie, wogegen auf die Ausbildung der kleineren Geschwister, besonders der Brüder großer Wert gelegt wird.

Der Krieg am Horn von Afrika

Äthiopien-Seminar vom 3.-5.11.2000 in Hermannsburg

von Harmen Storck

Veranstalter waren das Ev.-luth. Missionswerk in Niedersachsen (ELM) und das Eritrea Hilfswerk in Deutschland e.V. (EHD). Unter den rd. 50 Teilnehmern waren auch 7 Mitglieder des DÄV.

Günter Schröder, ein guter Kenner der Region, der erst kürzlich aus Äthiopien zurückgekommen war, stellte die aktuelle Lage und die Hintergründe des Konfliktes dar. Er vertrat die Ansicht, dass der Angriff Eritreas im Frühjahr 1998 von Äthiopien bewusst provoziert wurde. Dahinter stecke eine langfristige Hegemoniestrategie in der Region, die geschichtlich emotional, aber in Hinblick auf erwartete Konflikte mit Ägypten um das Nilwasser rational begründet sei. Die voraus gegangenen Bemühungen um eine enge Bindung Eritreas an Äthiopien seien gescheitert, u. a. an der Forderung Eritreas nach Freizügigkeit von Kapital in einer Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft, was von Äthiopien abgelehnt wurde.

Zum Verständnis des Konfliktes ist auch eine Rückschau auf die gespannten, teils sogar feindlichen Beziehungen von TPLF und ELF bzw. später EPLF hilfreich. Nach *Schröder* waren die Bündnisse stets nur taktischer Art. Seit 1985 sei die TPLF Gegner einer Unabhängigkeit Eritreas gewesen. Sie besetzte die heute umstrittenen Gebiete 1991, während die EPLF-Kämpfer sich am Vormarsch auf Addis Ababa beteiligten.

Folge des Krieges sei eine Stärkung und Verhärtung des äthiopischen Regimes. Der Krieg fand im Lande verbreitete Zustimmung, auch die Mekane Yesus Kirche nahm nicht öffentlich dagegen Stellung; gebildete Oromos zeigten eine gewisse Schadenfreude, Investitionen und wirtschaftliche Entwicklung des Landes wurden nicht stark beeinträchtigt, die Kriegslast der Bevölkerung über höhere Preise, Zwangsspenden und höhere Steuern aufgebürdet. Über die drohende Hungersnot gab es eine übertriebene Berichterstattung, die Dürre war nicht flächendeckend. Das Militär in

Stärke von 400-500.000 Soldaten trat nicht als Käufer von Lebensmitteln auf, wurde also offenbar durch Hungerhilfe mit versorgt.

Die Mai-Offensive dieses Jahres hat nicht nur die internationale Gemeinschaft, sondern auch Eritrea überrascht. Das Militär hat versagt. Trotzdem entspricht ein strategischer Rückzug eher der Wahrheit als die von Äthiopien behauptete totale Niederlage. Als Folge machte sich in Eritrea eine gewisse Wagenburgmentalität breit, aber auch die Fehler wurden diskutiert und könnten zu einer gewissen Öffnung führen. Über das kritische Berliner Manifest einiger namhafter Exil-Eritreer will die Regierung mit den Verfassern diskutieren.

Ein Blick in die Geschichte Eritreas zeigt nach *Nicole Hirt*, Politikwissenschaftlerin aus Hamburg, die in Eritrea promoviert hat, dass seine Anbindung an Äthiopien traditionell locker war. Schon im 14. Jahrhundert wurde Eritrea eigene Provinz mit einem Statthalter. Für die heutige Entwicklung nach dem Sieg der EPLF ist die Betonung der "Self-reliance" zentral. Die Erfahrungen der Kampf- und Untergrundperiode wirken fort und spielten bei der Mobilisierung der eigenen Bevölkerung eine große Rolle. Kämpfer brachten ein hohes Maß an Einsatz und Solidarität mit, zeigten aber Defizite beim Aufbau und bei der Leitung moderner Wirtschaftsstrukturen.

Die Regierung behielt die Kontrolle über die Wirtschaft. Die Bedeutung einheimischer Kräfte für Investitionen wird hervorgehoben. Entwicklungshilfe wird akzeptiert, aber durch die Regierung implementiert. Die Politik gegenüber NGOs war zunächst liberal, später restriktiv, so dass die meisten NGOs Eritrea 1998 verließen. In den sieben Jahren ihrer Tätigkeit ist viel erreicht worden. Eritrea ist heute von Nahrungsmittelhilfe abhängig. Durch Monetarisierung der Hilfe wird versucht, die Kontrolle zu erhalten.

Hartmut Quehl, Historiker aus Kassel, brachte sozialpolitische Aspekte der Gewaltbereitschaft und Konfliktlösungsstrategien zur Sprache. Traditionell ist das Gewaltverständnis in Eritrea beduinisch, feudal und blutsverwand-

tschaftlich geprägt. Zum Kampf um die Wasserstelle gehört auch der Angriff; feudaler Unterdrückung entzieht man sich durch Entfernung in den Busch (Schiftas), Unrecht an Blutsverwandten wird gerächt. Insgesamt ergibt sich ein eher defensives Gewaltverständnis mit offensiven Komponenten, aber ohne stärkeren Expansionsdrang.

Der Befreiungskampf basierte anfangs auf dem Schifta-System. Neue Elemente darin waren Ausbildung, politische Attentate und ein Feindbild. Mit zunehmender Stärke folgte eine vermehrte militärische Konfrontation. Die große Zustimmung zur Befreiungsbewegung war weniger politisch, als durch Alternativlosigkeit angesichts der täglichen Repression durch die äthiopischen Soldaten begründet. Im permanenten Ausnahmezustand entwickelte sich eine ideal-sozialistische Gesellschaft, deren zentrales kollektives Erlebnis der gewonnene Krieg darstellte. An die Befreiung hatten die Kämpfer stets geglaubt, aber nicht mit dem eigenen Überleben gerechnet. Gewalt erschien dieser Gesellschaft als probates Mittel im Befreiungskampf, nicht das erste, aber auch nicht das letztes Mittel. Tabu-Themen waren und blieben nach den Ermittlungen von *Quehl* Inhaftierungen von "Verrätern" und oppositioneller Gruppen, der Akt des Tötens, sexuelle Belästigung und Traumatisierung.

Ein wichtiges Element der Außenpolitik in der "Zwischenkriegszeit" war ein Abstecken der Grenzen, wie weit man gehen kann, und die Abwehr von Dominanz. Davon waren alle Nachbarn betroffen. Die innere Entwicklung galt in erster Linie einer Transformation der Kriegsgesellschaft; Wehrhaftigkeit und Zwangsdienst blieben erhalten. Bei der Integration der Kämpfer in die Gesellschaft wurde ihnen eine führende Rolle in der permanenten Entwicklung zugewiesen.

Der neue Krieg traf auf eine mit dem Aufbau des eigenen Lebens beschäftigte Gesellschaft. Nur noch 1/7 der Soldaten waren ehemalige Kämpfer. Trotz Ideologisierung als Verteidigungskrieg war eine gewisse Kriegsmüdigkeit vorhanden. *Quehl* hält die Möglichkeiten einer Einflussnahme von außen auf das Kriegsgeschehen in Eritrea für praktisch irrelevant.

Dieser Frage wurde am letzten Tag des Seminars weiter nachgegangen.

Regina Begander erläuterte, dass das EHD Informations- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit in Deutschland leiste sowie in Kooperation mit staatlichen Stellen Projektarbeit fördere. Eine Einflussnahme auf die Regierung in Eritrea sei naturgemäß gering.

Der Freundschaftsverein Eritrea in Darmstadt ist überwiegend im Raum Darmstadt tätig unter dem Motto "Nachbarländer kennen lernen". Er war im vergangenen Jahr Mitorganisator der Eritrean-Ethiopian Peace Conference in Bonn.

Hermann Torwarth erläuterte die Strategie der GTZ. Dazu gehören u.a. eine Unterstützung der Intergovernmental Agency for Development mit Sekretariat in Djibouti, die, 1986 gegründet, auch Aufgaben der Konfliktbearbeitung und Krisenprävention wahrnimmt. Der Einbindung von Konfliktpartnern in Entwicklungsprojekten der GTZ sowie der frühzeitigen Minderung des Konfliktpotenzials wird verstärkte Aufmerksamkeit zuteil. Auf den Krieg wurde mit Einstellung der finanziellen Hilfe reagiert; die technische Hilfe lief weiter, um Einfluss zu behalten, aber neue Regierungsverhandlungen wurden abgesagt. Die Rolle der GTZ beschränkt sich auf Hinterfragen und temporären Einfluss als Change Agent.

Herr Decke geht auf die Arbeit des Berliner Missionswerkes in Äthiopien ein. Traditionell haben Menschenrechte eine große Bedeutung in der Arbeit dieses Missionswerkes. Nach langen Gesprächen wurde in der Mekane Yesus Kirche ein Peace Office gegründet, das seit 1999 arbeitet. Aufgabe ist vor allem Friedenserziehung, öffentliche Stellungnahmen werden vermieden. Auch innerkirchliche Konflikte werden bearbeitet. Ein geplantes Partnertreffen wurde im Mai diesen Jahres von deutscher Seite wegen des Krieges abgesagt. Ein Dialog über friedensfördernde Maßnahmen wurde verabredet. Geplant ist die Entsendung eines "Elder Statesman" zur Diskussion der anstehenden Fragen.

Organisationen der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit und Kirchen sind nach *Günter Schröder* mit verschiedenen Landesbüros und beträchtlichen Mitteln in Äthiopien vertreten. Eine strikte Vorgabe und Überwachung der Rahmenvorgaben, die trotz Regionalisie-

rung von einer kleinen Klicke bestimmt werden, beschränkt eine Einflussnahme der Geber beträchtlich. Allerdings gibt es bei der Operationalisierung Spielräume. Eine Friedens- oder Menschenrechtsarbeit ist nicht möglich; man muss auf den Ausstrahlungseffekt von Projekten zur Verbesserung der Lebensbedingungen setzen. Im übrigen sei eine Einwirkung auf die eigene Regierung die einzige Möglichkeit der Einflussnahme. Auf den Einbau von Konfliktlösungsstrategien in die Entwicklungsarbeit und Konfliktbearbeitung in Projekten ist zu drängen. Dabei sollte auch die internationale Zusammenarbeit der Geberorganisationen und die Unterstützung von Solidaritätsbewegungen mehr beachtet werden.

Alles in Allem: Ein Seminar mit reichhaltigen Informationen, engagierten Referenten und interessanten Diskussionen, aber wenig Hinweisen auf konkrete Handlungsmöglichkeiten.

Ideenwettbewerb des DÄV

mit dem „Awassa College of Agriculture ACA“

(das inzwischen zur „Debut University“ geworden ist).

Zum dritten Mal ist der Ideenwettbewerb unter der Fragestellung: „How to solve a mayor problem of peasants in a self-help way?“ am ACA durchgeführt worden. Wie die letzten 2 Jahre auch, waren Lösungsansätze für Probleme in den Dörfern gefragt, und zwar Ansätze, die großteils auf Selbsthilfe beruhen. Aus der Kenntnis der lokal bestehenden Probleme, der lokalen Kultur (incl. Bräuche der Bevölkerung, vorkommende Pflanzen, Tiere, landw. Praktiken etc.) und der theoretisch – fachlichen Ausbildung am ACA sollten die Selbsthilfe – Lösungsansätze entwickelt werden.

Es wurden 18 Papiere bis zum 31.12.00 eingereicht. Nachdem Ato Berhanu Nega, der Dozent für Beratungslehre, die Erstbewertung durchgeführt hatte, haben wir am 18.1.01 die Endauswahl getroffen und am 19.1., am Abend des Timkatfestes, im ACA die Preise überreicht.

Der DÄV hat auch dieses Jahr wieder 4000 Birr bereitgestellt: 3000 Birr Preisgelder und 1000 Birr für das ACA (für kleine Verbesserungen und Maßnahmen, die den Studenten das Leben schöner machen sollen, und für die im normalen Haushalt kein Geld da ist). Eigentlich sollten die 6 Preise mit 1000 Birr, 800 Birr, 600 Birr, 300 Birr, 200 Birr und 100 Birr ausgelobt werden. Bei der Bewertung ergab sich aber, daß es keinen, die anderen Eingaben überragenden Vorschlag gab, für den der 1. Preis mit 1000 Birr angemessen gewesen wäre. Wir haben deshalb den 1. Preis nicht vergeben und das Geld den hinteren Plätzen zugeschlagen. Dies war einfach sinnvoll, weil die Qualität der „preiswürdigen“ Eingaben ziemlich ähnlich war. Es gab keinen „Überflieger“ und nur geringe Unterschiede. So gab es 2 zweite Preise à 750 Birr, einen 4. Preis à 600 Birr und 3 fünfte Preise à 300 Birr.

Die Themen der 6 ausgezeichneten Arbeiten waren:

- Wasihun Degu (2. Preis): Bekämpfung der Kornkäfer im Sorghum, das in Wollo tradi-

tionell in Erdsilos gelagert wird, mittels einer einheimischen Pflanze namens „Kim itita“.

- Miheret Dananto (2. Preis): Verlängerung der Haltbarkeit von Gemüse und sonstiger leicht verderblicher Produkte durch den Bau eines lokal herzustellenden Trockners (Angacha Woreda, Southern Region).
- Anteneh Getachew (4. Preis): Verringerung der Nachernteverluste bei Mais durch den Bau eines feuchtigkeits- und schädlingsabweisenden Maislagers (Sidamo Zone, Southern Region).
- Tarikua Fikre (5. Preis): Arbeiterleichterung bei der Kocho – Verarbeitung durch Verwendung eines Lufttrockners (Kembata Zone, Southern Region).
- Mulugeta Demiss (5. Preis): Wiederaufforstung mit einheimischen Bäumen durch Unterstützung von Priestern und kirchlichen Vereinigungen in Senebsie - Sarmeder Woreda, East Gojjam Zone.
- Jemal Hebeno (5. Preis): Verbesserung der Ziegenhaltung im mittleren Rift Valley durch Futterbau, Stallhaltung und Einkreuzung einer leistungsfähigeren Rasse.

Insgesamt ist der Ideenwettbewerb sicher sinnvoll, auch wenn eine überragende Leistung bisher nicht abgegeben wurde. Im äthiopischen Schulsystem (mit 80 – 100 Schülern pro Klasse) haben Diskussionen von Problemen und Ausarbeitungen von individuellen Themen oder Referaten praktisch keinen Platz. Und auch im Studium wird kreatives Problemlösungs-Denken wenig gefördert. Hierzu kann der Ideenwettbewerb ein Anreiz sein: Wenn einige Studenten dazu angehalten werden, Probleme intensiver wahrzunehmen, sie klar zu beschreiben und aus der Kenntnis der umgebenden natürlichen und kulturellen Bedingungen die lokal passenden Problemlösungen zu entwickeln, haben wir viel erreicht.

Ob und wie es mit dem Wettbewerb weitergeht, wird auf der

Mitgliederversammlung zu besprechen sein. Dorthin werde ich auch die Eingaben mitbringen, damit sich Interessierte einen eigenen Eindruck verschaffen können.

Bernhard Schulte – Kemna
30.1.01

Unsere Homepage

<http://www.deutsch-aethiopischer-verein.de>

So fanden seit März 2000 schon rd. 700 Besucher unsere Homepage. Inzwischen haben auch einige Organisationen unsere Homepage-Adresse in ihre Link-Liste aufgenommen, u.a. Afrikahaus, epo, Gerhard Reuther (German Church School); auch mit einer Reihe von Suchmaschinen lässt sich unser Verein mit seinen Aktivitäten im Internet finden. Was können wir bieten:

Wir über uns

Besucher können hier unser neues Falblatt mit Vereinszielen und –adressen finden.

Arbeitsgruppen, Projekte

Hier sind die Aktivitäten von 3 Arbeitsgruppen beschrieben:

- Nutzung der Moringa-Pflanze zur Wasserreinigung
- Initiierung von Ausbildung zu gewaltfreier Konfliktlösung an äthiopischen Schulen
- Durchführung eines Ideenwettbewerbes an der landwirtschaftlichen Universität Awassa.

Aktuelles: Alle 4 – 6 Wochen werden Nachrichten aus / über Äthiopien in Kurzfassung aufgeführt.

Äthiopien im Fernsehen: Das ist die aktuelle Fernsehvorstellung für Äthiopienberichte der verschiedenen Sendeanstalten.

Termine: Veranstaltungskalender des DÄV und anderer Organisationen.

Infoblatt: Unsere Infoblätter, auch die älteren Fassungen, sollen demnächst hier erscheinen; z.Zt. ist die Ausgabe Dez. 99 dort nachzulesen.

Restaurants: Wem läuft nicht schon beim Lesen der Worte „Injera + Doro Wot“ das Wasser im Mund zusammen; und wo man dies in verschiedenen Städten bekommt, verrät unser „kleiner Restaurantführer“.

Andere Vereine und Gruppen
Äthiopien-Initiativen und Vereine haben hier die Möglichkeit der Selbstdarstellung; bisher nutzen dies:

- Initiative zum Schutz und Erhalt der tropischen Wälder "Enat Afer" e.V.
- Arbeitsgruppe Äthiopien am Gottfried-August-Bürger Gymnasium in Benndorf, Sachsen – Anhalt
- Kuba dekkat maso ar:si - Der Mahlstein mit den unsichtbaren Händen - Eine Getreidemühle für die Arbore
- The Ethiopian Medical, Engineering, and Natural Science Society in Germany.

Literatur

Hier präsentieren wir eine Liste mit ausgewählten Büchern und kurzen Inhaltsangaben.

Äthiopien-Links

Nachrichten, Landesinformationen, Organisationen, NRO's in Äthiopien, Eine-Welt-Politik, Literatur, Kultur, Wissenschaft, Technik, Umwelt, Äthiopische Küche: Vieles findet man im Internet.

Pinwand

„aufgespickte“ Neuigkeiten und Interessantes zu Äthiopien.

Ausstellungen, Termine

Christliche Kunst aus Äthiopien

Eine Ausstellung vom

**12. Dezember 2000 bis zum
25. März 2001**

im Ausstellungsbereich "Glasgang" der Völkerkunde-Abteilung des Niedersächsischen Landesmuseums Hannover.

Pressekontakt und Information:

Dr. Thomas Hirthe
Niedersächsisches Landesmuseum Hannover, Kommunikation – Information – Marketing
Tel. (05 11) 98 07-6 26

Äthiopien unterscheidet sich in mehrfacher Hinsicht und deutlich von seinen afrikanischen Nachbarländern. Seine Sonderstellung tritt in den sprachlichen, wirtschaftlichen, sozialen, religiösen und historischen Eigenheiten, sehr stark aber in seiner Kunsttradition zutage.

Die für Schwarzafrika untypische Malerei und die Anfertigung feiner kunsthandwerklicher Arbeiten haben ihre Wurzeln im alten nordafrikanisch-vorderasiatischen Kulturbereich. Sie halten sich, eingebettet in der ungebrochen christlichen Tradition des Landes, bis heute.

In der Ausstellung werden vor allem äthiopische Prozessions-, Hand- sowie Halskreuze gezeigt. Die Hals- oder Anhängkreuze bilden die größte Gruppe unter den drei verschiedenen Kreuzarten. Sie sind in einer großen Vielfalt hergestellt worden. Daneben sind weitere Beispiele religiöser Kultgegenstände zu sehen wie Gebetstockgriffe, Sistrum (Rasseln) und ein Räuchergefäß. Auch die Manuskriptbücher, Pergamentrollen, Ikonen und Volksmalereien sind Zeugnisse äthiopischer Kultur.

Auszüge aus dem Veranstaltungskalender des CIC Bonn:

Treffpunkt Afrika: Eine Nacht unter dem Baobab

16. Februar 2001, 19:00 Uhr bis 00:00 Uhr
Ein Abend mit Geschichten, Musik, Essen...
Im Internationalen Frauenzentrum Bonn e.V.
53113 Bonn, Wesselstr. 16
Veranstalter: Internationales Frauenzentrum Bonn e.V.
Nur für Teilnehmerinnen
WWW-Seite:
<http://www.ifzbonn.de>
E-Mail: ifz.bonn@t-online.de
Telefon: 0228-9652465
Fax: 0228-9650245

Datenautobahnen und weltweite Vernetzung

23. Februar 2001 18:00 Uhr bis 25. Februar 2001 14:30 Uhr
Seminar „Ursprünge der neuen Kommunikationstechnologien/ Vorstellung der entwicklungsrelevanten Informations- und Kommunikationsdienste/ Nutzung und Verbreitung von Datennetzen in Entwicklungsländern“
Im Arbeitnehmer-Zentrum Königswinter
53639 Königswinter, Johannes-Albers-Allee 3
Veranstalter: AZK
Kontakt: Nisa Punnamparambil
WWW-Seite: <http://www.azk.de>
E-Mail: AZK.punnam@t-online.de
Telefon: 02223-73-161/167
Fax: 02223-73-111

Lebensgrundlagen schaffen

27. April 2001 bis 29. April 2001
Seminar „Land- und wasserwirtschaftliche Frauenselbsthilfeprojekte in Afrika, Asien und Lateinamerika“
Im Julius-Leber-Forum
20095 Hamburg, Rathausmarkt 5
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Informationstechnologie und das Internet in Afrika - Ein Traum oder Realität

22. Mai 2001 16:00 Uhr bis 23. Mai 2001 17:00 Uhr
„Wie kann das Internet im Sinne der Afrikanerinnen und Afrikaner in NRW und in Afrika eingesetzt werden?“
Eine Diskussionsveranstaltung
Veranstaltungsort: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bonn
Ort: 53170 Bonn, Godesberger Allee 149
Veranstalter: AYF (Afrikanische Jugendhilfe e.V.), zusammen mit der Landeszentrale für politische Bildung NRW, Düsseldorf (LZpB)
Teilnehmer: Journalisten, Lehrer/in, Nicht-Regierungsorganisationen (NRO's), internationale Einrichtungen
Kontakt: Paulyn Jansen oder Vincent Onyango (AYF) / Herbert Cormann (LZpB)
WWW-Seite:
<http://people.freenet.de/ayf/>
E-Mail: ayf-info@web.de, herbert.cormann@ma-sqt.nrw.de

Telefon: 0175 517 9953 oder 0211 679770
Fax: 02236 947303 oder 0228 32 304 22 oder 0211 6797733

Zwei Jahre rot-grüne Afrikapolitik: Partnerschaft oder Ignoranz?

25. Mai 2001 bis 27. Mai 2001
Bei der dt./engl. Jahrestagung der Initiative Pro Afrika diskutieren Akteur/innen aus Politik, Wirtschaft und NRO, was sich in der Afrikapolitik in den letzten zwei Jahren zum Guten oder Schlechten verändert hat.
Ort: Würzburg
Veranstalter: Initiative Pro Afrika in Kooperation mit der Akademie Frankenwarte, Würzburg
Kontakt: IPA-Koordinatorin Alja Epp-Naliwaiko
E-Mail: initiative-pro-afrika@t-online.de
Telefon: 0661 / 228 01
Fax: 0661 / 228 01

Die letzten Tips zum Schluß

Äthiopienkalender

Der Selbsthilfeverein Äthiopien e.V. Berlin hat für 2001 einen Kalender fertiggestellt: Gemeinsam mit Berliner Jugendlichen haben wir nach Motiven aus Äthiopien Linolschnittpostkarten hergestellt und diese zusammen mit handgesetzten Sprüchen im Buchdruckverfahren gedruckt. Natürlich ist das Kalendarium zweisprachig, amharisch-deutsch. Das Impressum enthält neben den Namen der Mitwirkenden Informationen zu unserem Verein und über Projekte, die wir mit dem Kalenderverkauf unterstützen wollen. Der Kalender wurde als Tischstandkalender (auch zum Aufhängen) im Din-Lang-Format hergestellt (d.h. doppelt so lang wie eine Postkarte); die Linolschnittkarten sind perforiert und können als Postkarte genutzt werden. Er ist gegen eine Spende von 25,-DM zu haben (mit Spendenquittung, falls erwünscht). Bestellungen richtet bitte an: Wolfgang Siegmann unter der Fax-Nr. 030 – 2156934 oder Wolfgang.Siegmann@t-online.de

Balageru

von Abonesh Adnew

Die Sängerin Abonesh Adnew ist in äthiopischen Kreisen gut bekannt, aber auch die Fans von "Sounds of Saba" haben ihre rauchige Stimme, ihre Ausstrahlung und ihre Präsenz auf der Bühne bewundern können.

Die CD "Balageru", was in ihrer Sprache soviel Bauer oder Landvolk bedeutet, ist nun ihre erste eigene CD mit neun neuen Kompositionen.

Zu beziehen ist diese CD über Ethio Sounds, USA (202) 232-0076

aus: BBV-Onlinedienst 4.12.2000

Bundesweit einmaliges Projekt

"Sieben Leben"

Theater mit Flüchtlingen

Hamburg (dpa)

Elend, Folter und Mord prägten den Alltag in ihrer Heimat. Weil das Leben zu Hause unerträglich war, kamen sie auf abenteuerlichen Wegen alleine nach Deutschland. Schwer traumatisiert und völlig auf sich gestellt, hoffen tausende von minderjährigen unbegleiteten Flüchtlingen, als Asylbewerber anerkannt zu werden. In Hamburg können sie in einem bundesweit einmaligen Theaterprojekt mit Bühnen-Profis Ängste abbauen, Freunde finden und durch künstlerischen Ausdruck Selbstbewusstsein entwickeln.

Die beiden Schauspielerinnen und Regisseurinnen Ella Huck und Dorothea Reinicke haben das "Hajusom"-Ensemble gegründet. Die Produktion "7 Leben", die am Dienstag (5.12.) in dem Hamburger Kulturzentrum "Fabrik" Premiere hat und später auch in Berlin, Bremen und Frankfurt/Main Station machen soll, wurde gemeinsam mit den 17 Ensemblemitgliedern erarbeitet. Die Jungen und Mädchen sind zwischen zwölf und 19 Jahre alt, sie kommen aus West-Afrika, Äthiopien, Iran und Afghanistan. In ihrem Stück erzählen sie von ihrer Liebe zur Heimat, dem Aufbegehren gegen politische Missstände und ihrem Lebensgefühl als Fremde in einem unbekanntem, manchmal feindseligen Deutschland. Dabei setzt sich die Gruppe immer wieder neu zusammen: Einige werden abgeschoben, andere tauchen unter, neue kommen hinzu. "Sie alle sind stolz und froh, etwas von sich und ihrer Kultur zeigen zu können und gleichzeitig eine positive Erfahrung zu machen, die ihnen keiner nehmen kann", sagt Reinicke.

Sounds of Saba

ist wieder unterwegs.

Nach 1998 und 1999 ist es wieder gelungen, für dieses ungewöhnliche deutsch/äthiopische Musikprojekt eine kleine Tournee zusammenzustellen. Wer es bisher noch nicht gesehen hat, sollte sich die Gelegenheit nicht entgehen lassen.

Im Zusammenspiel moderner Musikinstrumente, dem faszinierenden Äthiopischen Gesangsstil, den mitreißenden Tanzeinlagen und den farbenfrohen Kostümen, sowie den fast 2000 Jahre alten Musikinstrumenten Krar und Masinko verbindet Sounds Of Saba Vergangenheit und Gegenwart auf eindrucksvolle Weise zu einem in der Welt einzigartigen Musikprojekt.

Ihre zu Beginn fremden Stimmen haben sich im Laufe der Zeit musikalisch vereinigt und erzählen nun eine Geschichte. Eine Geschichte von der Fremde und vom Fremden aber auch vom Gemeinsamen und Verbindenden. Musikerinnen und Musiker aus Europa und Äthiopien kreieren einen neuen Sound. Einen Sound, bei dem sich Tradition und Moderne die Hand geben, ein Sound, in dem sich die Welt spiegelt, eine Weltsprache: Weltmusik!

Bei Fragen zu Sounds of Saba stehen wir Euch unter der tel.-Nr. 0561 – 739 66 40 (Jörg Pfeil) gerne zur Verfügung.

Suchanzeige

Gesucht wird Frau

Zinaye Kebede,

geb. am 20.01.1969 in Addis Abeba, Beruf: Radio- und Fernsehtechnikerin.

Letzte bekannte Adresse/Arbeitsstelle: c/o Gondar TV, P.O.Box15, Gondar, Ethiopia

Wer sie kennt und weiß wo sie sich aufhält, benachrichtige bitte Elke Hauser (grobie@cityweb.de)

Voraussichtlicher Tourplan

Premierekonzert Köln, Domforum	25.04.2001, 17:00 Uhr
Köln, Sendesaal der Deutschen Welle	25.04.2001, 20:30 Uhr
Leverkusen, Opladen, kath. Kirche	26.04.2001, 20:30 Uhr
Limburg/Lahn, Stadthalle	27.04.2001, 21:00 Uhr
Kassel, Weltmusikfestival	28.04.2001, 22:00 Uhr
Frankenberg/Eder	29.04.2001, 19:00 Uhr

Danach sind wir für eine Woche in Washington D.C. auf Tour. Neugierig???