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## Ethiopian Cultures and the Illusion of Ethiopian Culture

By Tasew Dejene

When I was in high school in Jimma, and in University in Addis Ababa, this is how we learned our history:

Ethiopia is four thousand years old, and has been Christian for those four thousand years. The current borders of Ethiopia (at that time, before Eritrea's secession) were presented as something having existed also for hundreds of years. Due to the dominance of historians attached to Mengistu's regime, and before that, to the Emperors, history became the glorification of those regimes. For example, the unsuccessful struggle of Oromos to occupy the northern part of the country (unlike the successful Amhara occupation of southern, eastern and western parts) is seen as Oromo 'migration' rather than 'invasion'.

In 1963, Geertz referred to Ethiopia as an "old new state", in which one ethnic group, the Amhara, 'sees itself as the bearer of a 'civilisation' amid a largely barbarian population that would be well advised to model itself upon it'. So, there has been a tendency to see national 'culture' from a viewpoint which favours the ruling elite. Thus, the outside world has come to recognise certain features of northern Ethiopian cultures as emblems of the nation as a whole. Military victories particularly over Italy in the battle of Adwa, have become symbols of the nation. The Ethiopian Orthodox church is also well recognised overseas, and along with it associated musi

cal traditions, ways of dressing, and styles of architecture and craft-work. An interesting exception is the 'Ethiopian' coffee ceremony, which originates from the coffee growing areas of the south but is now celebrated as part of Ethiopian heritage.

There is no unity of 'culture' in Ethiopia – it is an illusion. Unless we talk about the culture of different groups of people living there, we cannot talk of 'Ethiopian culture'. Nor can we solve the problem simply by dividing the nation among its many 'ethnicities' – Somali, Tigre, Hadare, Oromo, Wolaita, Afar, Amhara, Nuer, Anwak, Gurage... We can talk also of culture as diverse even within these groups, and indeed each has its 'famous' bits of culture: the Hadare are known for their baskets, the Oromo for their spiritual rituals, the Nuer for their relationship with their cattle. And again the categories can be broken down: Christian Gurages are known for their Meskal celebration (the New Year ceremony which commemorates the finding of the cross), whereas Muslim Gurages are known for their strong family ties and their trading culture...

But it has often been important for rulers to make it seem as though a homogeneous culture does exist. This issue has been a source of conflict throughout Ethiopian history. Secessionist clashes in recent years show this to be the case: the Ethio-Eritrean thirty years' war (which began as an internal conflict) is an example, and Oromo and Somali nationalists' struggles for secession too. Culture has been a resource in these conflicts. For example people in times of need, may form a group out of smaller groups by emphasising their shared culture.

This has been the foundation of Oromo nationalist politics in the diaspora. Otherwise, differences may be emphasised – for example between Ethiopia and Eritrea, the border regions have long shared a common language, ways of farming, food customs, and so forth. But as Geertz emphasised that cultural difference is not a simple matter of customs: 'even vitally opposed groups may differ rather little in their general style of life' (Geertz 1963). The strength of the Eritrean secessionist movement depended on emphasising differences in culture that had arisen out of Italian occupation. The complexity of the reality is shown by the diversity beneath the gilding of Eritrean nationalism, where as in Ethiopia, many different peoples with different ways of life coexist (Afar, Kunama, and so forth).

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In recent years, the ruling party has propagated a vision of Ethiopia as a nation unifying the ethnic diversity of its people. We see a triumph of peaceful governance over disparate groups speaking over 80 languages. Within this newly federalised 'unification', ethnic diversity is publicly cele-

brated, and publicly emphasised – by the tourist board, by the government, by ETV (the government-run television station). Silent footage of cultural festivities, or simply of daily life in diverse parts of the country, are shown between programmes. At Christmas etc. regional traditions – the music, dances and clothes of people from different parts of the country – are celebrated. A tourist map of the Ethiopia reads 'The peoples of Ethiopia bid you welcome to their country. Welcome to the land of thirteen months of sunshine!', while it rains through out a year in western part of the country. (Though I am not intending to discourage tourists: I can assure you, you will feel seven years younger, at least in calendar!). This government is not the first to present images of unity: Graham Hancock has said he regrets his involvement in the production of a 'coffee table book' commissioned by the Dergue to 'proclaim the underlying unity in the country's cultural diversity, and to emphasise the ancient historical integrity of [its contested] political boundaries' (Hancock 1992).

While successive governments apparently take pride in the national 'cultures', most of the different ethnic groups or nationalities within the country have been given little opportunity to take pride in their own cultures. Some twenty years ago, if you asked an Oromo from the South, he might have been proud to tell you that he was an Amhara. It was common to see Oromos, or other people from the South, saying that they are Amharas, especially in the cities. This can be attributed to an education system dominated by Amhara and the Amharic language. Starting from the top with government cadres or officials, and with the educated classes, the culture of Ethiopians became visibly homogeneous, at least from the outside. In a way this has followed logically from the fact that the Amharic language has its own script, which is unusual for an African language, and has been a source of Ethiopian national pride. (Tigrinya also has its own script, and both these languages are derived from Ge'ez, the language of the Ethiopian Orthodox church.) The early development of the Amharic script began the establishment of a heritage of literary and historical texts, which other ethnic/national

groups have mostly neither contributed to, nor had access to. Meanwhile, Ethiopia's many other languages have been given little space to develop. This has also been the result of an educational system based on the British one, which has made English, rather than Ethiopian languages, the primary language of education, with Amharic in the earlier school years. In recent years, the current government has introduced teaching in several other languages – Oromifa, Somali, Tigrinya, and to a lesser extent, in Wolaita, Afar and Sidama. The possibility of using your own language has been extended to local administrations in some federal states. Whilst this is nothing compared to the number of languages found across Ethiopia, it is a good start. Since the establishment of the federal regions, Oromifa has begun to be written in the Roman script – which is phonetically more suited to the language according to some Oromo scholars. This has initiated the production of many more Oromifa publications – newspapers and magazines as well as literature, and notably collections of oral literature, proverbs and songs. Similarly, Sidama and Tigrinya publications are flourishing.

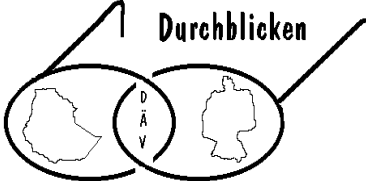
The establishment of the ministry of culture by the current government as also helped in encouraging cultural diversity rather than containing it. Museums, which used to exist only to show the histories of Imperial classes, have been established in different parts of the country, and have adopted a less elite approach towards material culture. The protection of cultural heritage has been extended to everyday culture and customs.

Although many of these changes have been initiated by the current government out of necessity – as a way to cling to political power – the changes themselves can be seen as the beginning of a process of recognition. There is now recognition of cultural differences, and on the basis of that recognition, Ethiopia is allowing diversity to flourish. Ethiopia has always been a multicultural nation, so now let's start to see it in that way.

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## „Semena Werq“ Wachs und Gold

*zusammengestellt von  
B. Schulte – Kemna*

Äthiopien – Kenner werden den Einfluß, den diese uralte amharische Tradition bis in die heutigen, modernen Zeiten hat, sicher bestätigen. Gewachsen in den Jahrhunderten feudalistischer und kirchlicher Untertanschaft, wurden Wege gesucht (und gefunden), um der Obrigkeit sozusagen „durch die Blume“ Botschaften zu stecken – ohne die Gefahr bei einer offenen Aussage eingehen zu müssen.

Derartiges passierte meist in Gedichten, Liedern, Reden oder auch Rätseln. Hinter dem offensichtlichen Sinn der Aussage (Wachs) wird eine „Gold“ – Botschaft versteckt, die sich nur dem Eingeweihten (nach Schmelzen des Wachses) erschließt. Durch die Wahl von doppeldeutigen Wörtern, Redewendungen und anderer stilistischen Möglichkeiten, an denen die amharische Sprache reich ist, wird bewirkt, daß praktisch zwei verschiedene Botschaften im Raum stehen: die offensichtliche Aussage und die geheime Botschaft.

So groß die Kunst einer derartigen Ausdrucksmöglichkeit ist, so tief hat sie sich in den äthiopischen Alltag eingegraben. Als Ferendschi in Kontakt mit Äthiopiern wird man immer wieder mal mit diesem Phänomen konfrontiert. Die Geheimbotschaften in der Konversation sind nicht leicht zu erkennen, wenn sich z.B. Situationen ergeben, über die man sich wundert, und wo man später evtl. feststellt, daß eine „hidden agenda“ im Spiel war, die - einmal erkannt – die Situation verständlich werden läßt. Auch in der äthiopischen Politik hatte Geheimdiplomatie schon immer einen besonderen Stellenwert (des Kaisers mehrere Geheimdienste, die anfangs geheime Zusammensetzung des DERG etc.). Andere Gelegenheiten für Wachs und Gold gibt es bis heute, wenn v.a. auf dem Land die „Asmaris“, die (Bänkel) Sänger, bei allen erdenklichen Anlässen und Festen ihre Lob- oder Spott-Reime und Lieder produzieren.

Da es einerseits nicht nur für Ferendschis einer gewissen Übung bedarf, dieses alte „Wachs und Gold Spiel“ zu erkennen und da es andererseits eine in Jahrhunderten gewachsene virtuose Kunst der Rede und Sprache ist, sind im Folgenden einige Beispiele und Erläuterungen aus drei Büchern angefügt.

„Tradition and Innovation in Ethiopian Culture“ (S. 227)

Donald N. Levine; University of Chicago Press, 1965; ISBN 0-226-47563-8;

[www.geocities.com/neterisporagroup/wg\\_chapter6.html](http://www.geocities.com/neterisporagroup/wg_chapter6.html)

- „The Injera I have my lass, I wait for you the Wat to pass.

Gold: „I'll wait for you, until the others leave“

- „Your father and your mother have vowed to keep from meat, but you, their very daughter, innards do you eat.

Gold: „You made me love you“ („to eat someone's innards“ is an idiom meaning „to make someone fall in love“).

„Notes from the Hyena's Belly“

Nega Mezlekia; Picador Verlag, New York, Jan. 2002; ISBN: 0 312 28914 6

- We have waited long enough for Mr. Limadae to come home. It is now late in the evening. Please latch the door; I don't feel at ease to go to bed with the door still unlocked.

Gold: Now that you have decided to deny me what I had come to expect as my due, there is no point in keeping up this relationship. I am not a person who can easily forgive and forget.

„Geschichte Äthiopiens“ Bd. 2; Akademie Verlag Berlin 1978

Andrzej Bartnicki, Joanna Mantel-Niecko

Im Internet auf der Homepage des „**Äthiopischen Zentrums Deutschland**“ befindet sich ein Auszug aus diesem Buch, der sich mit der Literatur und Kunst Äthiopiens beschäftigt:

„[http://home.t-online.de/home/aetzd/Index/Seite\\_3.html](http://home.t-online.de/home/aetzd/Index/Seite_3.html)“

- Ich kann dich haben, Geliebte aus Gondar, und auch dich kann ich haben, Freundin aus Lasta.

Gold: Es ist mir angenehm – Freundin - daß ich Dich pflegen muß, und nicht deshalb - Freundin – weil du, wie ich, aus Gondar stammst.

Erklärung: Um den Inhalt von Gold zu verstehen, muß angemerkt werden, daß der äthiopische Brauch gebietet, den Kranken zu lieben und

zu achten. Der eigentliche Sinn von Gold besteht darin, diesen äthiopischen Brauch zu betonen.

Dieses „Getem“ (spezielle Art der amharischen Poesie) bringt einen politischen Gedanken zum Ausdruck, der mit einem Liebesgedanken verflochten ist. Es stammt aus der Periode der Vereinigung des Landes und bringt das Streben nach Gleichberechtigung aller Provinzen zum Ausdruck.

- Obwohl sich meiner die Dämmerung auf dem Besello bemächtigt hat, so habe ich immer noch Dämonen zu überwinden.

Gold: Bevor ich die Schulden meines Lebens mit dem Tod bezahlt haben werde, erfaßt mich die Dämmerung auf dem Berge über dem Besello.

Erklärung: Ein philosophisches Getem. Wachs ist nur eine Beschreibung. Gold hingegen enthält eine Klage des Menschen, der eine Niederlage im Leben erlitten hat

- Weshalb sind die Felder von Motta bis Qeranyo nicht gepflügt? Ich habe dort keinen Ochsen auf dem Felde gesehen.

Gold: Die Felder, die ich von Motta bis Qeranyo durchwandert bin, sind nicht gepflügt, sondern mit Leichen bedeckt.

Dieses Getem mit historischem Inhalt entstand in einer Periode der Verwüstung des Landes durch innere Kriege und durch Hungersnöte im 19. Jahrhundert.

Aus dem zuletzt genannten Buch vielleicht noch ein paar Anmerkungen zur Herkunft und Art der äthiopischen Dichtkunst. Wie der überwiegende Teil der amharisch – tigrischen Kultur wurzelt auch die Literatur im kirchlichen Umfeld, speziell in der Kirchensprache „Geez“.

„Bei der Erhaltung des mündlichen Überlieferten und der Erschließung seines Inhalts und künstlerischen Wertes müssen die Arbeiten über das „Getem“, eine Form der amharischen Poesie, hervorgehoben werden. Obwohl sich die amharische Poesie

von den klassischen „Qene“ (Anm.: klassische Geez – Dichtung) unterscheidet, verbindet sie dennoch eine spezifische äthiopische Form. Sie besteht darin, den Inhalt eines Gedichtes so darzulegen, daß man ihn in doppelter Weise deuten kann. Dieses Prinzip beruht auf der Eigenschaft beider Sprachen, häufig mehrdeutige Wörter zu benutzen bzw. nicht immer eindeutige Sätze zu konstruieren. Dieser Grundsatz trägt die Bezeichnung „Semena Werq“ – „Wachs und Gold“. „Wachs“ ist die Bedeutung, die einem zuerst klar wird, „Gold“ ist diese, die unter dem ersten versteckt, erst nach dem Schmelzen des Wachses verständlich wird. Die Kunst der Poesie besteht also vor allem in der Fähigkeit, sich des großen Reichtums der Sprache zu bedienen, nach Ausdrucksmöglichkeiten zu suchen, bei denen die charakteristische Eigenschaft des äthiopischen Gedichtes „Wachs und Gold“ voll zur Wirkung bringen. (...) Zum Verständnis der klassischen „Qene“ oder der amharischen „Getems“ muß man also über großes Wissen verfügen, um die Absicht des Dichters zu verstehen. (...) Das Verfassen von „Getems“ ist eine beliebte Unterhaltung, an der sich jedermann beteiligt. Wer seine Sprache so beherrscht, daß er Verse mit „Wachs und Gold“ dichten kann, erntet Sympathie und Achtung.

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## Die Hadiyya: Ensete-Bauern im äthiopischen Hochland

Von Alke Dohrmann

Die Hadiyya leben im südwestlichen Teil des äthiopischen Hochlandes oberhalb des ostafrikanischen Grabenbruchs und zählen rund eine Million Mitglieder. Ihr Land liegt auf einem Höhenzug, der im Westen vom Omo (Gibe) und im Osten vom Bilate begrenzt ist.

Die Ethnie der Hadiyya ist in sechs Untergruppen gegliedert: den Sooro, den Baadoogo, den Leemo, den Shaashoogo, den Baadawwaachcho und den Libido (Maraqo). Die Libido stellen einen Sonderfall dar, da sie bereits seit dem 16. Jahrhundert eine weitgehend unabhängige geschichtliche Entwicklung durchlebt haben. Dies ist heute besonders an der

Sprache abzulesen, die sich eigenständig weiterentwickelt hat und eine Verständigung mit den anderen Hadiyya kaum mehr möglich macht. Ihr Wohngebiet liegt isoliert nördlich der übrigen Hadiyya-Gebiete umgeben von Oromo- und Gurage-Gruppen. Die Baadawwaachcho im Süden sind durch die Ethnie der Kambata vom Hadiyya-Kernland abgetrennt, was aber nicht zu einer Entfremdung geführt hat. Zwischen allen Hadiyya-Gruppen außer den Libido gibt es nur geringfügige Unterschiede in der Sprache, die nicht zu Kommunikationsschwierigkeiten führen. Die Unterschiede liegen nur in der Verwendung von Begriffen, die aus den Sprachen der benachbarten Ethnien entlehnt sind. Die Sprache der Hadiyya gehört zum 'Highland East Cushitic'. Im Zuge des gestiegenen und politisch geförderten ethnischen Selbstbewusstseins ist die Sprache mithilfe des lateinischen Alphabets verschriftlicht worden. Inzwischen sind viele Schulbücher in der Hadiyya-Sprache verfasst worden und ein Großteil des Unterrichts wird in der einheimischen Sprache abgehalten. Welche Auswirkungen der neue Unterricht auf die Sprach- und Schriftkenntnisse des Amharischen haben wird, ist noch nicht abzusehen.

Die heutigen Hadiyya entstammen einem historisch bedeutsamen politischen Machtblock (13. bis 16. Jahrhundert), dessen Territorium zwischen dem Harar-Plateau und den Hochländern westlich des Grabenbruchs gelegen war. Der Zerfall des Hadiyya-Reiches begann mit der Eroberung durch den muslimischen Kriegsherrn Ahmad „Graf“ in der Mitte des 16. Jahrhunderts. Endgültig zersprengt wurde es durch die anschließende Expansion der Oromo. Dieser Prozess war im 18. Jahrhundert nach rund hundert Jahren abgeschlossen. Viele Hadiyya wurden dabei von den Oromo assimiliert; andere Hadiyya-Gruppen wanderten getrennt voneinander in westliche Richtungen. Einige schlossen sich mit den Ethnien zusammen, denen sie auf ihren Wanderungen begegneten. Bis heute sind in diesen Ethnien die Hadiyya-stämmigen Klane auszumachen, und das historische Wissen über einen gemeinsamen Ursprung aller Hadiyya-Klanen in den verschiedenen Ethnien wird tradiert.

Nur die oben genannten sechs Hadiyya-Gruppen haben ihre ethnische Eigenständigkeit bewahren können.

Durch die Einbindung der Hadiyya-Gebiete in den äthiopischen Staat am Ende des 19. Jahrhunderts, kam es zu Veränderungen der traditionellen politischen und rechtlichen Strukturen. Die gewählten Vertreter der Sub-Lineages, Lineages und Klane (*danna*) werden heute von der staatlichen Verwaltung höchstens als Berater an politischen Fragen beteiligt. Einen größeren Einfluss besitzen sie im rechtlichen Bereich, da nur schwere Vergehen an die Justiz weitergeleitet werden. Der überwiegende Teil der Konflikte liegt im Bereich von Landnutzungsrechten und der Grenzziehung zwischen den Grundstücken sowie familiären Auseinandersetzungen. Auf den Versammlungen der Ältesten (*donza*) wird das jeweilige Problem diskutiert und nach einer Konsenslösung gesucht.

In Bezug auf die Religion hat es im Verlauf des 20. Jahrhunderts erhebliche Veränderungen gegeben. Bis in die 1950er Jahre hinein war die einheimische *fandaa-no*-Religion mit ihren muslimischen Elementen vorherrschend. Danach kam es zu, zum Teil erzwungenen, Massenkonzertierungen zum Islam oder zum äthiopisch-orthodoxen Christentum. Die Missionstätigkeit protestantischer Kirchen und Sekten, die Ende der 1920er Jahre begonnen hatte, führte dazu, dass sich heute ein Großteil der Hadiyya-Bevölkerung zu einem protestantischen Glauben bekennt.

Das Hadiyya-Gebiet ist eine Hüggellandschaft, die von vielen kleinen Flüssen durchzogen ist. Das Land wird wegen der hohen Bevölkerungsdichte (häufig mehr als 300 Einwohner pro Quadratkilometer) in starkem Maße agrarisch genutzt; ungenutzte Flächen gibt es so gut wie keine. Durch die starke Parzellierung des Landes, bei der die einzelnen Grundstücke mit Hecken und Büschen umgeben sind, erhält die Landschaft den Charakter eines großen Gartens oder Parks. Die Hauptanbaupflanzen sind *Ensete ventricosum* (die 'falsche Banane') und Getreide (v.a. Weizen und Gerste). Während die Männer sich in erster Linie um den Anbau von Getreide als 'cash crop' kümmern, übernehmen die Frauen den

überwiegenden Teil des Ensete-Anbaus zur Subsistenzversorgung.

Die Ensete ist eine bananenartige Pflanze, die keine den Bananen vergleichbare Früchte liefert, sondern große Mengen an Stärke produziert, die sie in ihrer Knolle und in ihren Blattscheiden einlagert. Sie ist sehr ertragreich und ermöglicht eine Versorgung mit Nahrung von einem kleinen Stück Land, das für den Getreideanbau nicht ausreichend wäre. Sie wächst in der Höhenlage zwischen 1500 und 3000 Metern mit seinen durchschnittlichen Temperaturen zwischen 16 und 20 Grad Celsius und benötigt jährliche Niederschläge zwischen 1100 und 1500 mm. Die Ensete ist eine mehrjährige Pflanze, die je nach Höhenlage nach vier bis acht Jahren geerntet werden kann. Sie weist trotz der benötigten relativ hohen Niederschläge eine große Dürre-resistenz auf: Sollten in einer Regenzeit die Regenfälle verspätet einsetzen oder sogar ausbleiben, stellt die Pflanze ihr Wachstum ein und lebt bis zum nächsten Regen von ihren Reserven. Desweiteren ist sie widerstandsfähig gegen heftige Regenfälle und Stürme, gegen Hagel und gelegentliche Fröste. Nur der Befall mit dem Bakterium *Xanthomonas musacearum* kann unter Umständen große Ensete-Bestände vernichten, da es ein Verwelken der Pflanzen bewirkt. Die Ensete liefert den Menschen kohlenhydratreiche Nahrung, die jedoch mit protein- und vitaminhaltigen Lebensmitteln ergänzt werden muss. Alle übrigen Teile der Pflanzen können als Werkstoffe oder als Viehfutter verwendet werden. Besonders die in den Blattscheiden enthaltenen Fasern sind ein begehrtes Ausgangsmaterial für Schnüre und Seile. Die Fasern sind das einzige Ensete-Produkt, dass in der Region gezielt aufgekauft und in einer Fabrik in Addis Abeba zu Seilen und Säcken weiterverarbeitet wird. Die Pflanzen bietet den Menschen somit auch Einkommensmöglichkeiten in einem bescheidenen Umfang. In den lokalen Märkten können desweiteren Nahrungsprodukte sowie Blätter der Ensete verkauft werden.

Die Wirtschaftsweise der Hadiyya ist in der heutigen Situation den regionalen Gegebenheiten angepasst. Von Hungerperioden bleibt die Bevölkerung verschont. Probleme werden in Zukunft jedoch

verstärkt auftreten, wenn keine Lösung gefunden wird, das hohe Bevölkerungswachstum zu mindern. Denn ein Grundstück wird beim Tod des Besitzers unter seinen Söhnen aufgeteilt. Das führt zu immer kleineren Parzellen, die ein Auskommen für die Familie immer schwieriger werden lassen. Bisher müssen nur wenige Hadiyya von nur einem halben Hektar leben. Die meisten haben noch 1,5 bis 2 ha Land zur Verfügung. Bei einer weiteren Verkleinerung könnte dann noch der Anteil der Ensete zu Ungunsten des Getreides erhöht werden, um die Ernährung zu sichern. Dies schiebt das Problem jedoch nur weiter auf. Irgendwann wird eine weitere Aufteilung des Landes nicht mehr möglich sein. Dann müssen sich die erwachsenen Kinder eines Haushaltes zunehmend eine Arbeit außerhalb der Landwirtschaft suchen. In geringem Umfang ist dies heute schon der Fall.

Die intensive Nutzung des Landes für den Pflanzenbau hat zu einer starken Verknappung der Weideflächen geführt. Die wenigen Rinder, Schafe, Ziegen, Esel und Maultiere, welche die Hadiyya besitzen, werden als Arbeitstiere, Einkommensquelle und Lieferant proteinhaltiger Nahrung benötigt. Für den Ensete-Anbau ist ihr Dung unerlässlich. Inzwischen sind sie jedoch sogar während der Regenzeit unterernährt. Diese Probleme zeigen, dass die Hadiyya gefordert sein werden, neue Strategien zu entwickeln, um ihr Überleben von dem ihnen zur Verfügung stehenden Land zu sichern.

Ein Problem, das bereits aktiv angegangen wird, ist die Erosion des Bodens. Sie ist in Hadiyya im Gegensatz zu vielen anderen Gegenden des äthiopischen Hochlandes ein vergleichsweise geringeres Problem. Die Hanglagen werden nicht für den Anbau einjähriger Pflanzen wie Getreide genutzt, der den Boden in der Regenzeit schutzlos den Regenfällen ausliefert. Stattdessen sind sie mit Bäumen bepflanzt, die durch ihren dauerhaften Bewuchs den Boden halten. Inzwischen wurde auch erkannt, dass Eukalyptusbäume für den Erosionsschutz nicht geeignet sind, weil sie dem Boden zuviel Wasser entziehen und jegliches Wachstum von Unterholz verhindern. Von staatlicher Seite werden deshalb Aufforstungsmaßnahmen mit einem gemischten Baumbestand betrieben.

Sollten die Hänge in Zukunft auch für den Anbau von Nahrungspflanzen genutzt werden, wäre es sinnvoll dafür auf die Ensete zurückzugreifen, da sie eine mehrjährige Pflanze ist und zwischen den Pflanzen Wildkräuter den Boden bedecken.

Die Ensete ist heute nur im südlichen und südwestlichen Teil des äthiopischen Hochlandes als Nahrungspflanze verbreitet. Auch für andere Regionen des äthiopischen Hochlandes wäre sie wegen ihrer Vorteile für die Ernährungssicherung interessant. Bisher gibt es jedoch erst wenige Bemühungen die Ensete in neue Gegenden einzuführen oder überhaupt erst bekannt zu machen.

Von großer wirtschaftlicher Bedeutung für die Hadiyya ist die Stadt Hossana, Verwaltungs- und Handelszentrum der Hadiyya-Gebietes und Hauptstadt der 'Hadiyya zone'. Die 'Hadiyya zone' gehört zu der südwestlichen äthiopischen Provinz 'Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region' (SNNPR) mit der Hauptstadt Awassa. Hossana mit seinen mehr als 30.000 Einwohnern bietet höhere Schulen, medizinische und kirchliche Einrichtungen, eine Post und ein Telegraphenamt, Banken, Geschäfte und Märkte, Hotels und Restaurants, Tankstellen und einen Busbahnhof.

Für die ländliche Bevölkerung bietet Hossana Möglichkeiten, ihre agrarischen Produkte anzubieten bzw. für ihr Getreide eine staatlich garantierte Abnahme zu finden. Auch gelegentliche Möglichkeiten zur Lohnarbeit bieten sich dort. Auf den Märkten und in den Geschäften können sie dann für ihr Geld Konsumartikel wie Kleidung, Haushaltswaren oder Musikkassetten erwerben. Die Stadt Hossana ist darüber hinaus ein Ort an dem viele verschiedene Völker und Religionen zusammenleben.

(Die Verfasserin promoviert über kulturelle Aspekte des Ensete – Anbaues der Hadiyya. Email: alkedohrmann@gmx.de)

## Art that heals

(The image as Medicine in Ethiopia)

Jacques Mercier; Pestel Verlag München & New York; 1997; ISBN 0-945802-19-6

Jacques Mercier, eine Welt – Autorität in Sachen äthiopische Kunst, Kultur und religiöse Bräuche, hat in seinem Buch die Aufmerksamkeit auf ein Detail der äthiopisch – orthodoxen Kultur gelenkt, das bisher in seiner (medizinischen) Bedeutung noch kaum erkannt wurde. Er zeigt an vielen Beispielen, daß christliche Bilder – und v.a. die mit Texten und Bildern versehenen Schutzrollen – nicht nur im seelisch - religiösen Bereich als Stärkung verwendet wurden, sondern auch zur medizinischen Therapie eingesetzt wurden.

Während heutzutage Psychosomatik als Erfindung der westlichen Psychologie und Medizin (vor ein paar Jahrzehnten) gilt, enthüllt sich bei Lektüre dieses Buches, daß das Abbilden von religiösen Symbolen und das Bannen von „bösen Geistern“ in solchen Abbildungen schon jahrhundertlang in Äthiopien (und Afrika) zum Wiederherstellen oder zum Schutz der körperlichen und mentalen Gesundheit eingesetzt wurden.

Mercier gibt zuerst eine allgemeine Einführung in „heilende Kunst“ und derartige Erfahrungen im Westen, bevor er ausgiebig äthiopische Beispiele darstellt und analysiert.

Als Appetit - Anreger für dieses wirklich eindrucksvolle Buch sollen einige Passagen aus dem Klappentext dienen.

*Art that heals* will introduce the public to Ethiopia's boldly graphic, medicinal healing scrolls. Whereas Westerners have long considered art and medicine as separate realms, Ethiopians consider them to be intimately and inextricably connected. Challenging the West's narrowly conceived definition of art, Ethiopians believe artworks to be active forces that ensure health. The ability of Ethiopian artworks to heal believers demonstrates

the interrelationship between art and religious faith and their effect on physical and mental health.

... The history and ideas of healing images in the Mediterranean world (Greek, Jewish, Christian, Muslim) is traced. This ancient link between art and therapy, reestablished by Prinzhorn and Morgenthaler, is presented through their pioneer work with the art of the mentally ill.

Part two relates the most fundamental Ethiopian healing images to the various underlying ideas about their effectiveness. Some of those included are images having sacrificial status, images of fascinating spirits who dwell in our body, images representing the sum of the visions of the sick and images which are both real and fake medicine. Images, chosen from the centuries-old parchment scrolls, are made of intricate abstract patterning and fascinating, semi-figurative images, some are derived from Greek Gorgon, and Christian iconography. ...  
B. Schulte - Kemna

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## Reiseeindrücke aus Äthiopien

Von Eggert Göttisch

Im Juli diesen Jahres habe ich eine dreiwöchige Reise nach Äthiopien unternommen. Schwerpunkt dieser Reise war der äußerste Südwesten des Landes, insbesondere das untere Omo - Tal. Den Omo hatte ich seit 15 Jahren nicht mehr gesehen und in Äthiopien war ich das letzte Mal 1995 gewesen.

Ich möchte hier nicht den Verlauf dieser sehr aufregenden Reise schildern, sondern mehr oder weniger unsortiert einige Eindrücke wiedergeben:

Die ersten Tage verbrachten wir notgedrungen in Addis, um Formalitäten zu erledigen. Der erste Eindruck hier war überwältigend: der Verkehr hat unglaublich zugenommen und es sind zahlreiche neue Hochhäuser gebaut worden. Insbesondere die Debre-Zeit-Road ist kaum wieder zu erkennen. Die große Ring-Road

um Addis herum steht kurz vor der Fertigstellung. Es gibt neue Luxusrestaurants und ein elegantes Kaufhaus. Insgesamt ist Addis aber viel beliebiger geworden; das Typische, der verträumte kaiserliche Charme, den die Stadt in den 80' igern zumindest an einigen Plätzen noch hatte, ist kaum noch erkennbar. Die Stimmung in der Stadt habe ich als resignativ empfunden. Es liegt viel Hoffnungslosigkeit in der Luft. Es kam mir so vor, als hätten Armut und Elend sehr zugenommen. Es sind viel mehr Menschen in den Straßen unterwegs. Erschreckend viele davon sind jung, ohne Job und mit wenig Aussicht, jemals einen zu finden. Die meisten Menschen, mit denen ich gesprochen habe, sind enttäuscht von der Regierung. Es passiert einfach zu wenig, das Hoffnung machen könnte. Der staatliche Sektor wird als unfähig empfunden, er liegt fast bewegungsunfähig danieder. Immer wieder hörte ich den Vorwurf, die Regierung sorge gut für sich selbst, sei aber unfähig, das Land effektiv zu verwalten. Lediglich im militärischen Bereich wird ihr Kompetenz und Entschlossenheit bescheinigt.

Ein völlig anderes Bild bietet der private Sektor, der sich seit meinem letzten Besuch gewaltig ausgebreitet hat. Er scheint mir gut organisiert und effizient zu sein. Ein Blick auf die nicht übersehbaren „neuen Reichen“ zeigt, dass hier offenbar auch gut verdient wird. Und solange die Geschäfte gut laufen, hält man sich in diesen Kreisen meist mit Kritik an der Regierung zurück.

Ein allgegenwärtiges Thema ist der Multimillionär Al-Amoudi. Es gibt kaum Bereiche der Wirtschaft, in denen er nicht in großem Stil investiert. Eine seiner letzten Errungenschaften ist die ehemalige Staatsfarm von Awassa, die heute einen hervorragend geführten Eindruck macht.

Jeder meiner Gesprächspartner wusste von zahlreichen jungen Frauen zu berichten, die nach einer Nacht mit Al-Amoudi so großzügig entlohnt wurden, dass sie heute erfolgreiche Geschäftsfrauen sind. Überwiegend wird sehr positiv von ihm gesprochen. Kritiker der Regierung werfen ihm allerdings vor, dass er mit seiner gewaltigen Finanzkraft die Regierung stützen würde, die ohne seine Hilfe am Ende wäre.



Ein gutes Beispiel für eine unverständliche und bornierte Maßnahme der Machthaber und ihre Gleichgültigkeit den Interessen anderer ethnischer Minderheiten gegenüber ist der „Fall“ Awassa. Die Stadt war bisher nicht nur die „Hauptstadt“ der Südprovinz, sondern gleichzeitig des Regierungsbezirks Sidamo. Auf Beschluss der Regionalregierung wurde im Mai die Kleinstadt Aleta Wondo zum neuen Verwaltungszentrum für Sidamo erklärt. Als die in Awassa lebenden Sidama friedlich gegen diese Maßnahme demonstrierten, griff die Staatsmacht gewaltsam ein; man schätzt, dass etwa 50 Menschen dabei getötet wurden. Als Reaktion auf diesen Zwischenfall ordnete die Regionalregierung daraufhin an, dass alle Angehörigen der Sidama-Ethnie aus Awassa auszuweisen seien! Der stellvertretende Regierungschef der Südprovinz, ebenfalls ein Sidama, hatte die Wahl, dies Edikt zu unterzeichnen, gegen seine eigene Gemeinschaft, oder seinen Job zu verlieren. Er unterzeichnete, - und damit auch sein eigenes Todesurteil: sein eigener Sicherheitschef (ein Sidama) erschoss ihn Ende Juli in der Nähe von Dilla.

Die Bevölkerung von Sidamo ist außerordentlich beunruhigt über alle diese Vorgänge. Im August gab es erneut eine große Demonstration in Awassa, bei der es wieder zahlreiche willkürliche Verhaftungen von Seiten der Sicherheitskräfte gab. Es ist – nicht nur mir – unverständlich, wie die Regionalregierung in einer ethnisch eh' schon aufgeheizten Situation eine derartige Entscheidung treffen konnte.

Die Regierung ist offenbar derzeit auch nicht in der Lage, die Sicherheit selbst auf den größeren Überlandstraßen zu gewährleisten. Zumindest lässt sich das für den Süden Äthiopiens sagen. So wurde etwa im Juli ein Konvoi von 5 Fahrzeugen der NGO „Farm Africa“ zwischen Arba Minch und Konso/Ketama von Wegelagerern ausgeraubt. Wir hörten von mehreren derartigen Vorfällen (z.B. nahe Woyto). In der Regel wird nur ausgeraubt, aber es hat auch schon Tote gegeben. Bevorzugtes Ziel der Räuber sind „reiche“ Touristen. Bei den Tätern handelt es sich meist um ehemalige Soldaten, die nicht mehr in das Zivilleben zurückkehren können oder wollen, gut bewaffnet sind und

kaum eine andere Überlebenschance sehen.

Auch auf dem religiösen Sektor gibt es deutlich sichtbare Veränderungen.

Schon auf dem Flug von Frankfurt nach Addis mit „Ethiopian Airlines“ wurde den Passagieren mit jeder der heute üblichen Positionsanzeigen immer auch sowohl die Richtung als auch die Distanz (in Meilen) nach Mekka angezeigt.

Bei einer islamischen Airline hätte mich das nicht weiter verwundert, aber bei „Ethiopian“ fand ich es denn doch erstaunlich.

Fast jeder auch kleinere Ort im Rift-Valley bis hinunter nach Borana besitzt heute eine deutlich sichtbare Moschee (natürlich gab es auch in den 80'igern Moscheen, aber längst nicht so viele und die Vorhandenen waren oft eher unauffällig). Heute sind die Moscheen in einem sehr gepflegten Zustand, häufig nagelneu und deutlich sichtbar nahe der Hauptstraße. Es gibt auch einige neue orthodoxe Kirchen aber der Islam scheint mir deutlich und auch mit Erfolg in der Offensive zu sein.

Das gilt auf jeden Fall für die Oromo-Gebiete. Wie mir von Oromo-Freunden bestätigt wurde, sehen viele Angehörige dieser Ethnie in der Wahl der Religion eine Möglichkeit, sich jetzt von der ehemals dominierenden und – zumindest in der Rückschau – auch als unterdrückend empfundenen Kultur der Amharen und Tigre abzusetzen.

Die Kosten für die neuen Moscheen werden zu einem großen Teil von den Gemeindemitgliedern aufgebracht, aber es ist auch die Rede von großzügiger Unterstützung aus arabischen Ländern. In Addis lernte ich auch Oromo kennen, die sich wieder ihrer traditionellen Religion zugewendet haben, und sich regelmäßig zu religiösen Zeremonien treffen. Gerade unter gebildeten Oromo findet der traditionelle Glauben Anhänger. Auf christlicher Seite treiben fanatische sogenannte Evangelisten ihr Unwesen.

Undenkbar zu Zeiten des Sozialismus. Unter diesen selbsternannten Kündnern der wahren Lehre tut sich ein Deutscher namens Bonke durch seinen besonderen Fanatismus besonders unruhlich hervor.

Die Hauptstraße von Jinka wird allabendlich von einem Missionsgebäude aus mit den Hetzreden des Herrn Bonke lautstark be-

schallt. Die dort wiedergegebene Rede hat Bonke bei einer Massenveranstaltung vor einiger Zeit in Arba Minch vor angeblich 30000 begeisterten Zuhörern gehalten. Es gab jedoch auch massiven Widerstand von Teilen der Bevölkerung. Nach meinen Informationen kam es zu gewaltsamen Ausschreitungen mit zahlreichen Toten.

Ein Problem – zumindest für den Reisenden – sind die „Gangs“ von Halbwüchsigen im Alter zwischen ca. 16 und 25 Jahren, die einen in den Dörfern und Landstädten entlang der Hauptstraßen in kürzester Zeit lärmend, schreiend und fordernd umringen. Wir waren in der (äthiopischen) Ferienzeit unterwegs und viele dieser – ausschließlich männlichen – Jugendlichen nannten sich „students“, die nach eigenen Angaben Internatschulen besuchten und die Ferien in ihrem Heimatdorf verbrachten. Nach meinen Erfahrungen mit diesen - von wenigen Ausnahmen abgesehen – frustrierten, aggressiven und halb-bis ungebildeten Jugendlichen muss sich das allgemeine Niveau der höheren Schulen im Lande rapide verschlechtert haben. Ein Eindruck, der mir von vielen Seiten bestätigt wurde. Der Bildungsstand der meisten Schulabgänger sei so schlecht, dass sie auf dem Arbeitsmarkt kaum Chancen hätten. Das erklärt natürlich auch das oben beschriebene Verhalten.

Vor 20 Jahren gab es insbesondere auf dem Lande noch eine stärkere Kontrolle durch die staatlichen Organe, vor allem aber auch durch die traditionellen Autoritäten der jeweiligen Gemeinschaft. Ich habe damals noch als Regelfall so etwas wie Höflichkeit dem Gast gegenüber erfahren. Das ist zumindest bei der jüngeren Generation heute nicht mehr automatisch der Fall. Mein Eindruck war, dass die traditionelle soziale Kontrolle durch die Älteren offensichtlich ohne größeren Einfluss auf die beschriebene Gruppe ist. Mich beunruhigt der Gedanke, was passieren wird, wenn Unzufriedenheit und Wut bei diesen jungen Männern weiter wachsen.

Die Regierung versucht, einer möglicherweise einmal nicht mehr zu kontrollierenden Situation durch eine radikale Umstrukturierung des Bildungswesens entgegenzuwirken. Statt wie bisher nach 12 Jahren Schulzeit jährlich

etwa 100 000 Absolventen mit hohen Erwartungen auf gut dotierte Jobs zu „produzieren“, von denen die meisten nur schwer oder gar nicht zu vermitteln sind, will man zukünftig die Masse der Studenten weniger mit theoretischem, jedoch für den Arbeitsmarkt nutzlosem Wissen überfrachten.

Die zukünftigen Schüler werden nur noch zehn Jahre die Schule besuchen und sich dann ihren Fähigkeiten entsprechend mehr praktisch („Ten plus one“ oder „Ten plus two“) oder mehr akademisch („Ten plus six“) weiterbilden. Über diesen grundlegenden Umbau des äthiopischen Bildungswesens werde ich versuchen, zu einem späteren Zeitpunkt ausführlicher zu berichten.

Als besorgniserregend habe ich auch die ökologische Situation empfunden.

Die Entwaldung im Rift-Valley gab auch vor 20 Jahren schon zu Sorge Anlaß, aber zumindest gab es dort damals auch noch Schutzgebiete. Heute hat sich die Situation rasant verschlechtert. Die fragilen Böden des Rift-Valleys sind damit immer stärker den Kräften der Erosion ausgesetzt. Vor 20 Jahren wurde zwar auch Holzkohle an den Straßen verkauft, dieser Handel war jedoch illegal und wurde vom Staat hin und wieder auch verfolgt.

Heute findet dieser Verkauf ganz offen und ungehindert überall an den Hauptstraßen statt, mit fatalen Folgen für z.B. die letzten Gehölzsavannen zwischen Shashamane und Arba Minch.

Die Nationalparks befinden sich in einem trostlosen Zustand. Ich habe drei Parks besucht (Abiata/Shala, Nechisar und Mago), von anderen habe ich sehr genaue Schilderungen bekommen (Omo und Awash). Was jedoch in allen Parks gut funktioniert, ist das Kassieren des Eintrittspreises (immerhin 30 EB !). Ansonsten gibt es fast keine Infrastruktur mehr. Viehzüchter dringen mit ihren Herden in die Parks ein und lassen sich dort dauerhaft nieder. An anderer Stelle sind es Bauern, die die Savanne abholzen und den Boden unter den Pflug nehmen (z.B. ganz schlimm: Abiata/Shala). Im Süden sind es in erster Linie die Viehzüchter, die einst um die Parks herum lebten und diese heute ganz selbstverständlich als Weidegründe und auch als Jagdgebiet nutzen. Da heute in diesen Stämmen buch-

stäblich jeder Mann, der älter als 16 Jahre ist, ein automatisches Gewehr besitzt (fast ausschließlich Kalaschnikows, aber auch das G-3 der Nato), kann es nicht weiter verwunderlich sein, wenn es kaum noch wilde Tiere gibt und die wenigen noch vorhandenen eine enorm große Fluchtdistanz haben. Die Parks im Süden sind buchstäblich leer geschossen worden. Man kann heute niemandem mehr guten Gewissens empfehlen, nach Äthiopien zu fahren, um dort Wildlife zu beobachten (das gilt allerdings nicht für die Vogelwelt).

Die Regierung scheint dieser Entwicklung gegenüber gleichgültig zu sein. Da kann es dann nicht weiter verwunderlich sein, wenn das Personal in den Parks meist frustriert und desinteressiert ist. Was kann man bei unregelmäßigen Gehaltszahlungen und mangelnder Unterstützung auch anderes erwarten?

Die verschiedenen Stämme, die am Omo entlang siedeln (Mursi, Karo, Bume, Hammar und Geleb) sind heute wieder mehr sich selber überlassen. „Gestört“ werden sie dabei eigentlich nur von Missionaren und Touristen. Es ist auffallend, wie viele Missionsstationen neu entstanden sind (insbesondere amerikanischer Missionsgesellschaften). Touristen, die es vor 20 Jahren fast gar nicht gab, sind heute ein ganz normales Bild. Sie stellen eine wichtige Einnahmequelle für die Menschen am Omo dar ( pro Foto werden verlangt: von den Hamar 1 Birr, den Karo 2 Birr und den Mursi 5 Birr, akzeptiert werden nur neue Scheine!). Auf die vielen modernen Waffen im Besitz der Stämme hatte ich schon weiter oben hingewiesen. Eine Folge dieser Ausrüstung ist es, dass bei den traditionellen Auseinandersetzungen um knappe Ressourcen (wie Wasser und Vieh) heute fast regelmäßig viele Tote zu beklagen sind.

Interessant ist vielleicht der Hinweis auf ein neues Museum der „Southern Nationalities“ in Jinka, das auf Initiative des Mainzer Ethnologen Ivo Strecker und mit deutscher finanzieller Hilfe entstanden ist. Bis heute stellt es in erster Linie das Leben der Familie Strecker bei den Hamar zur Schau, aber das kann sich ja noch ändern

Abschließend möchte ich noch kurz übers Wetter reden. Wir

wurden zwar in Addis, wie es sich für den Juli gehört, von der Regenzeit empfangen. Es stellte sich dann aber schnell heraus, dass die obligatorischen Güsse eher unregelmäßig fielen und es auch insgesamt viel zu warm für die Jahreszeit war. Schon ab Debre Zeit und dann sich nach Süden verschlimmernd, hatte es bis Anfang August noch gar nicht geregnet. Von offizieller Seite wurde für mehrere Regionen des Landes eine gravierende Dürre mit entsprechendem Ernteausfall vorhergesagt. Diese Vorhersage hat sich leider bestätigt, das konnte man vor einigen Tagen der Zeitung entnehmen und zwar in viel schlimmerem Ausmaß, als zunächst angenommen.

Zum Schluss noch ein Wort zur Globalisierung: mein Freund Woko schickte mir im August eine Mail, um mir seine Anteilnahme, aber auch seine Sorge über die Flutschäden in Deutschland auszudrücken. „Wenn bei Euch in Deutschland weniger Getreide geerntet wird, dann habt Ihr zu wenig davon, um den durch die Dürre entstandenen Mangel bei uns auszugleichen und dann müssen wir hungern!“

Ein schönes Beispiel, dass auf dieser einen Welt doch irgendwie und irgendwo alles miteinander verwoben ist.

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## Jacaranda Tours

### REISETIPP

Wer eine Äthiopienreise plant und sich im Lande individuell per Auto bewegen möchte, sei es mit Fahrer als auch ohne, dem möchte ich ein Unternehmen in Addis Abeba empfehlen, mit dem ich im Sommer bei einer schwierigen Reise an den Omo sehr gute Erfahrungen gemacht habe. Sowohl bei der Planung als auch bei der Durchführung der Reise waren die Zusammenarbeit und der Service hervorragend. Darüberhinaus sind die Preise gerade auch im Vergleich zu anderen Unternehmen relativ moderat.

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## Verschiedenes

### Eritreans and Ethiopians in Germany pray for peace and reconciliation

(The African Courier - Oct./Nov. 2002; Excerpts)  
While the 2 Horn-of-Africa countries are at peace with each other, enormous problems of poverty, economic instability, health, internal displacement and risk of famine remain. To achieve economic progress in the region, peace and reconciliation must be promoted. As part of efforts to promote reconciliation between the 2 countries, a conference was held from 24 - 27 July 2002 in Frankfurt. Sponsored by the Fellowship of the Ethiopian Evangelic Churches in Germany, the meeting was attended in a spirit of reconciliation, on invitation by the Fellowship of Eritrean Full Gospel Churches in Germany. The emotionally and spiritually laden conference injected a sense of optimism and hope into the reconciliation process which is well underway between the 2 countries.

### German pledges More Help to Ease Drought Situation in Ethiopia

(Addis Ababa, October 14, 2002; ENA)  
Germany would make available to ease the drought situation in Ethiopia 1.6 million Euros. The Ambassador Herbert Honsowitz has dwelt at length on the current political, economic and cultural relations between the two countries, as he was just completing three years of diplomatic work in Ethiopia. "Political Relation between Ethiopia and Germany is currently at an excellent level, especially after the signing of the

peace accord between Ethiopia and Eritrea," the Ambassador said. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's successful visit to Germany in February this year has been the first meeting of two heads of governments between Ethiopia and Germany for 30 years, he said. Asked to comment on the human rights situations and the democratization process in Ethiopia, the Ambassador said despite some shortcomings, he has been able to witness positive developments. Speaking about the development co-operation between the two countries, Ambassador Honsowitz said Germany was a key development partner for Ethiopia. Germany had offered some 28 million USD worth of technical and financial assistance to Ethiopia in 2001, he said, adding his country has earmarked 65 million USD for development co-operation with Ethiopia for the next three years from 2002 to 2004. The total amount of bilateral technical and financial cooperation between the two countries amounted to 564.5 million Euros since the two countries re-established diplomatic relations in 1954, the Ambassador said. Germany contributes one-fourth of the EU services to Ethiopia, the ambassador said. Germany is the third biggest shareholder in the major multilateral financial institutions like IMF and the World Bank. Germany is the major destination of Ethiopian export items, he said. However, he added, trade exchanges between the two countries have been sharply affected last year due to the decline of coffee price in the world market. In 2001 Germany has granted debt relief to Ethiopia amounting to 25 million USD on the basis of the Paris Club Accord, according to the Ambassador. "There is more in the making in the framework of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC)," he added. Speaking on consular affairs Ambassador Honsowitz said German grants 6,000 visas to Ethiopians every year. Germany offers scholarships to Ethiopian students at any given time, the Ambassador said, adding about 300 Ethiopians were currently studying at German universities.

### German Town Sets-Up Club To Support Alem Ketema

Addis Ababa, October 12, 2002 (WIC) –  
The Mayor of the town of Vaterstetten, located near Munich in Germany, Mr. Robert Niedergesass, has disclosed that the sister-city relationship between Vaterstetten and Alem Ketema in North Shoa, Ethiopia, was gaining momentum. According to press release by the Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin Mr. Niedergesass noted at a meeting with the representatives of the Ethiopian Embassy, that the two towns, had a relationship for the past eight years in the course of which Alem Ketema benefited from medical assistance and the construction of a Kindergarten. Plans are also being made to set up a hostel, a library as well as to help the people utilise alternative sources of energy, as it is getting more and more difficult to get firewood, the Mayor told the Embassy representatives. It has also been reported that some 120 dwellers of Vaterstetten have established a "Club of People" dedicated to support Alem Ketema regularly. It has been learned that Mr. Karheinz Böhm of Menschen für Menschen NGO was instrumental in setting up the relationship between the two communities, the release pointed out.

### Muslim-Christian Religious Tolerance in Ethiopia said Exemplary to World

Addis Ababa, Sept. 18, 2002 (ENA)—  
The religious tolerance exhibited among Muslims and Christians in Ethiopia could be exemplary to other communities around the world, diplomats and scholars said here on Wednesday. Speaking at a press conference held at the German Cultural Institute, Dr. Dr. Dietrich Pohl, Director of the Institute said Ethiopian Muslims and Christians have been enjoying peaceful co-existence for many centuries now. Dr. Dr. Pohl, who is also Cultural Attaché in the German embassy here, said the experience of Ethiopia could serve as a good input for international co-operation among peoples. The press conference was organized in connection with a forthcoming symposium entitled 'Cross and Crescent: Christian-

Islamic Relations in Ethiopia' convened from September 23 to 26, 2002 at the Institute.

#### Ancient Hominid Remains Discovered At Konso Site

Addis Ababa, September 14, 2002 (ENA)- Archaeologists have discovered the remains of two types of hominids at the Konso site range, which is located in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples State, the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritages announced. In a lecture he gave here at the National Museum yesterday, Dr. Yonas Beyene said the remains of Australopithecus Boisei, 1.4 million years old, and of Homo Erectus, 1.45 to 1.35 million years old were discovered at the site. Along with the hominid remains ancient stone tools have also been discovered, which has a very long age that dates back to 700,000 to 2 million years. The result of the discovery would be compiled in a magazine. The Konso research site, established in 1991, is mainly known for its importance in filling the gap missing in the Omo deposits.

#### Rom will Obelisk an Äthiopien zurückgeben

DONAUKURIER, 22.07.2002  
Nach jahrzehntelangem Streit mit der äthiopischen Regierung will Italien den weltberühmten "Obelisk von Axum" endgültig zurückgeben. Ein entsprechendes Dekret hat Ministerpräsident Silvio Berlusconi unterzeichnet. Der etwa 2000 Jahre alte und 24 Meter hohe Steinpfeiler stammt aus Axum, der Hauptstadt des einstigen äthiopischen Kaiserreichs. Italienische Truppen hatten ihn 1937 auf Befehl des faschistischen Diktators Mussolini nach Rom geschafft.

#### Afar State to build Cultural Heritages Museum Palaentropological Research Center

Assaita, December 06, 2001 (WIC)- The Afar State Government is to build a Palaentropological Research center and a regional Museum that will exhibit

the cultural and historical heritages of the people of Afar.

Ato Mohammed Ahmed told WIC that the Museum which would be built in Semera town with the fund earmarked by the Federal Government, would help to preserve the historical and cultural heritages of the Afaris.

He said the Museum would have such facilities as video film recording and video film staging hall, tourists reception rooms and offices.

The Museum would be built in the shape of traditional Afari hats called Debora and will be located close to Hadar, the area where one of the oldest fossils of human kind named Lucy was been discovered. Many of the archeological findings discovered in the State had previously been stored at the National Museum in Addis Ababa because of the absence of a Museum in the State, Ahmed said.

#### Äthiopier in Deutschland

Heute leben schätzungsweise 15000 bis 17000 Menschen äthiopischer Herkunft in Deutschland. Von Ihnen haben ca. 50% einen deutschen Paß. In England sollen ca. 30000 bis 40000 – und in USA ca. 300000 bis 400000 äthiopischstämmige Menschen leben. Bei den Eritreern liegt die entsprechende Zahl für die BRD bei ca. 25000 bis 30000, ca. 70 % von ihnen mit deutschem Paß.

#### Workcamp Eritrea Kalender 2003

Seit vielen Jahren unterstützen junge Menschen aus Berlin das Dorf Nefasit in Eritrea, indem sie dort in Workcamps arbeiten, Bäume pflanzen, Spenden sammeln und jedes Jahr einen Kalender herstellen und verkaufen. Mehr Informationen und den Kalender bekommen Sie bei

QuaBS e.V.  
Tel: 030-7918964  
Fax: 030-7931316

## Veranstaltungen und Links

05. - 08. November 2002

VIIth International Conference on the History of Ethiopian Art in Addis Ababa

Institute of Ethiopian Studies - AAU  
P.O.Box 1176 Addis Ababa  
e-mail: [IES.AAU@telecom.net.et](mailto:IES.AAU@telecom.net.et)

International Conference on Electrical & Computer Engineering  
ICECE-2003, Bahir Dar  
<http://www.telecom.net.et/~bdu/icece2003/>

[http://www.unesco.org/whc/nwhc/pages/sites/maplist/f\\_africa.htm](http://www.unesco.org/whc/nwhc/pages/sites/maplist/f_africa.htm)  
UNESCO - Projekte Afrika / Äthiopien (Lalibela, Simien - National Park, Fasil Ghebbi - Gondar, Aksum, Lower Valley of the Awash, Lower Valley of the Omo, Tiya - Soddo Region)

The Society of Friends of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies (SOFIES) has launched a website to publicize the campaign for a new library. The website can be found at [www.ethiopiaheritage.org](http://www.ethiopiaheritage.org)

<http://www.jaduland.de/afrika/ethiopia/aethiopien.html>  
interessante Links der Tabor Society

<http://ntama.uni-mainz.de/~somarc/brochure/index.html>  
South Omo Research Center in Jinka

<http://www.the3rdman.com/ethiopianart/contents.html>  
Ethiopian Art Gallery

## Äthiopische Verwaltungsexperten zu Besuch bei ver.di in Berlin

Von Anne Schorling

Was interessiert äthiopische Beschäftigte am Verwaltungsmodernisierungsprozess in Deutschland?

Zur Zeit sind drei äthiopische Verwaltungsexperten für einige Monate in Deutschland, um an der Universität Potsdam Verwaltungswissenschaften zu studieren. Daheim in Äthiopien arbeiten sie im Ministerium für Bundesangelegenheiten, in einer Regionalverwaltung und auf kommunaler Ebene.

Sie interessieren sich insbesondere für Themen wie z.B. Bürgerbeteiligung, Demokratisierungsprozesse und ‚Good Governance‘ auf kommunaler-, regionaler- und auf Bundesebene. Zudem haben sie viele Fragen zur Rolle des Öffentlichen Dienstes auf dem Arbeitsmarkt und sind interessiert an Informationen über Beschäftigtenbeteiligung, Personalentwicklung und Personalmanagement. Von besonderem Interesse sind außerdem Problem- und Fragestellungen zum föderalen System in Deutschland und diesbezüglichen Arbeitsweisen von Politik und Verwaltung auf Bundes-, Länder und kommunaler Ebene.

Neben dem Studium an der Uni, haben auf Einladung der vereinten Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft ver.di, wo im Fachbereich Bund und Länder das Thema Verwaltungsmodernisierung bearbeitet wird, bisher drei Besuchstermine stattgefunden: ein Gespräch mit Christian Zahn, der als Mitglied im ver.di-Bundesvorstand politisch verantwortlich ist für den Fachbereich Bund und Länder, ein Gespräch beim Hauptpersonalrat des Innenministeriums (HPR-BMI) und ein Gespräch im ver.di-Bereich ‚Internationales‘. Dabei wurde unter anderem auch über die Rolle und Aufgaben der Gewerkschaft ver.di und der Personalräte im Verwaltungsmodernisierungsprozess in Deutschland informiert und diskutiert.

Die drei äthiopischen Verwaltungsexperten haben die Gelegenheit gerne wahrgenommen, um das an der Uni erworbene theoretische Wissen zu verglei-

chen und anzureichern durch die Gespräche mit den Praktikerinnen und Praktikern aus Gewerkschaft und Personalrat.

Bis Ende Mai 2003 werden die drei Äthiopier ihre Studien über die Verwaltungsmodernisierung in Deutschland fortsetzen. Wir wünschen ihnen dafür viel Erfolg und alles Gute.

ver.di-Bundesverwaltung, Berlin  
Fachbereich 6 – Bund und Länder  
Tel.: 030/6956-2117  
Handy: 0160/7075102

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## Forschung

Linguistic contacts in central and south-west Ethiopia

(Sep./Oct. 1997)

A Project supported by the German Research Council  
Johannes Gutenberg University  
Mainz: Dr. Renate Richter, Ronny Meyer, M.A., and  
Petra Kellermann; Mrs. Askale Lemma, M.A., Head of the Oromo Unit, Department of Ethiopian Languages & Literature, Addis Ababa University, Institute of Language Studies.

### Conclusion

These preliminary findings suggest that Amharic is the most important means of communication in the visited areas. It is known as the mother tongue or second language by the entire student population investigated. This seems to be the typical linguistic situation in urban centres of the regions investigated. Another interesting feature is that the distribution of the parents' and grandparents' mother tongues reflects a wide range of languages. In the students' generation, however, was registered a remarkable shift towards Amharic. It appears that language use in the family, with neighbours, and in the market acts in favour of the preservation of many Ethiopian mother tongues. But in more official situations (e.g. in schools and other institutions of higher learning), Amharic is the preferred means of communication.

We are convinced that this picture reflects the general linguistic situation in adequately investigated urban centres. In order to get a detailed description of language use within other

Ethiopian towns further analysis and fieldwork (with cross-checking and correlation of the data) is planned for the next years.

Theme group: Culture, Politics and Inequality

Researcher: G.J. Abbink

Cooperation: Centre d'Etudes Africaines, Paris, France

Institute of Ethiopian Studies and Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Location: Djibouti; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Somalia

Period: 2002-2006

Prof. Dr G.J. Abbink is an anthropologist and carries out research on the history and cultures of the Horn of Africa, in particular Ethiopia. His current projects are a historical-cultural study of the relation between liberalisation, democratisation and ethnicity in Ethiopia, and a study of violence and culture among south-western Ethiopian ethnic groups. In preparation is a comparative research project on ethnic arts and material culture in southern Ethiopia.

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Political culture in north-east Africa: Ethnicity, religion and conflict

This project will deal with crucial aspects of political change, ethnic conflict and conflict regulation in the Horn of Africa, considering the interplay of ethno-regionalism, religious identity and elite power politics in the context of growing international or global pressures (political, economic and cultural). Apart from studying systemic political change in Ethiopia, the most important sub-project here is entitled 'Religion and ethnic identity in Wällo, Ethiopia: A historical-anthropological approach to changing Christian-Muslim relations'. The project considers the history of Muslim-Christian symbiosis in the Wällo region, northern Ethiopia, a historic core of the Ethiopian state. Under the impact of recent secular state policies (emphasizing ethnicity and linguistic identification) and of religious revivalists refusing the pattern of hitherto fluid communal interactions, Christians and Muslims are facing new challenges with a potentially great political

impact. Changing religious identifications express themselves in a rethinking and rearranging of community relations, whereby 'religious belonging' may act as a new strategic asset to claim material rights in the post-1991 Ethiopian political context and the resource-poor, drought-prone area of northern Ethiopia.

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## Museen in Addis Ababa

[http://www.waltainfo.com/Regional\\_States/AddisAbaba/Content.htm](http://www.waltainfo.com/Regional_States/AddisAbaba/Content.htm)

### Entonto St. Mary Museum

The church, built by Emperor Menelik in 1882, is situated on the extensive mountain range of Entonto. Articles of historical significance, donated by members of the royal families, are exhibited in a small museum. The drum that announced the march to Adawa against the Italian invasion, the bed Menelik II used while in Ankober, ceremonial dresses of the king and the queen, Menelik's crown and a Persian carpet are only few of the numerous exhibits depicting Entoto's glorious past. The most breath-taking view of the city and the surrounding areas, the sites of the beautiful architectural styles of archangel Raquel and St. Mary Churches, and a visit to Menelik's old palace add to an experience the visitor will always cherish.

### Ethnographic Museum of IES

The institute of Ethiopian studies was established in 1963 with three major components: a research and publication unit, a library and a museum. The museum is found in the old palace, Genete leul, of the late Emperor Haile Selassie. It has ethnographic items of more than eighty ethnic groups. The museum is accommodated on the first and second floors; comprising the bedroom of the late Emperor, Haile-selassie I and ethnographic section and gallery, which concentrates on the history of sacred arts.

### The National Museum of Ethiopia

It was established in 1944 and began its activities by exhibiting a few archaeological collections as well as some ceremonial costumes and ethnographic objects. Today, it exhibits fascinating items like the oldest hominids skeleton (Lucy) of 3.5 million years; traditional and ceremonial costumes; jewelry; paintings sculptures and other archaeological findings.

### The Zoological Natural History Museum (ZNHM)

The ZNHM is the only one of its kind in Ethiopia where samples of the rich Ethiopian wildlife is on display. The ZNHM contains different species of rodents, bats, hoofed mammals (ungulates), carnivores, primates, birds, snakes, lizard (Frogs and toads), fish and a diverse collection of invertebrates (Lower animals)

### Beata St. Mary Museum

Built in 1911, is situated in the premises of Emperor Menelik's palace. The remains of the king, his concert, Taitu and daughter Empress Zewditu are in the underground crypt. Fascinating wall paintings and articles of historical significance are observed.

### Ethiopian Tourism Commission Permanent Exhibition

The purpose of this exhibition is to try to transport the visitor through a few of the many atmospheres of Ethiopia's tourist attractions. It starts with a panel followed by prehistoric cave, a room of Axumite palace, Lalibella Church, Gondar Castle Area, and a Harrar House.

In addition to this, many transparencies and a video library together with an-upon-request coffee degustation the visitor will share as a witness that the long legacy from the past has been not only preserved but also transposed in every event of the present day life. Therefore, while in Addis Ababa, whether you are a tourist, a diplomat, a student, a national or an expatriate, don't forget to pay a visit to the Tourism Commission for "a journey through Ethiopia".

### Addis Ababa Museum

On the road to bole International air port, just behind the Ethiopian Trade Union building is the Addis Ababa Museum. It was established in October 1986 on the occasion of the Centennial Anniversary of the foundation of Addis Ababa capital city. The objectives of its establishment were to collect and display the heritages that depict the development of the city since its foundation; to record the future progress of the capital in the social, political and economic spheres; and to assist researches in their study about Addis Ababa. The museum is housed in one of the first and the oldest buildings of the city. The house belonged to one of the warlords during the regime of emperor Menelik II. The museum has eight sections each department exhibits materials of significance at different stages of the development of the city. At Fin Fine hall, for example, photographs that depict the progress of the city are exhibited and at Adwa hall weapons used during the battle of Adwa are displayed.

### Ethiopian Postal Museum

The Ethiopian National Postal Museum is located on the ground floor of the post office building on Churchill Road, Addis Ababa. The museum contains samples of Ethiopian stamps issued since 1894. Stamps from universal postal union member countries, original drawings, proofs and bromides are displayed. Philatelic literature is available for reading. Gibbons and other catalogues are placed to give the necessary philatelic information.

### St. George Cathedral Museum

The Octagonal church was built by Emperor Menelik in 1896 in commemoration of Ethiopia's victory over Italian invaders at the battle of Adwa. Paintings by Metire Artist Afework Tekle decorate the interior; and other ecclesiastical wealth and cultural heritages of the past are displayed.

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## Buchbeschreibungen

Verlag für wissenschaftliche Literatur – Münster - <http://www.lit-verlag.de>

Ulrich Braukämper

Islamic History and Culture in Southern Ethiopia

Collected Essays

Reihe : Göttinger Studien zur Ethnologie

Bd. 9, 2002, 208 S., 20.90 EUR, br., ISBN 3-8258-5671-2

Studies on Islam in Ethiopia have long been neglected although Islam is the religious confession of almost half of the Ethiopian population.

The essays focus on the following topics:

- Islamic principalities in South-east Ethiopia between the 13th and the 16th Centuries;
- Medieval Muslim Survival as a Stimulating Factor in the Re-Islamization of Southeastern Ethiopia;
- The Sanctuary of Shaykh Husayn and the Oromo-Somali Connections in Bale;
- Notes on the Islamization and the Muslim Shrines of the Härär Plateau;
- The Islamization of the Arsi-Oromo.

The essays are based on the study of written records and on field research in southern parts of the country carried out during the first half of the 1970s.

Ulrich Braukämper is Professor for Anthropology at the Georg August University of Göttingen.

Ahmed, Hussein:

Islam in Nineteenth-Century Wallo, Ethiopia

Revival, Reform and Reaction

Verlag Brill Leiden

231 Seiten (2000), ISBN : 90-04-11909-4

gelesen von Ursula Scheubel:

Hussein Ahmed ist bestrebt, den kulturellen Einfluß der moslemischen Händler, die bei der kulturellen Entwicklung des Landes eine entscheidende Rolle gespielt haben, aufzuzeigen. Das Buch läßt sich gut lesen und enthält eine Fülle von geschichtlichen Informationen über die Entwicklung des Islam und die Bedeutung der

alten Handelswege und Stationen hierbei. Es hat hervorragende Fußnoten und hohes wissenschaftliches Niveau.

Backcover:

While presenting an historical account of the internal dynamics of Islam in Wallo, Ethiopia, with particular emphasis on the modes of its introduction and dissemination, and on its relationship with the Ethiopian state and regional power structure, this book describes the background to, and manifestations of, the revival and consolidation of Islam in the region in the nineteenth century by assessing the role of Muslim scholars, traders and chiefs in that process. It also traces the origin of the tradition of Islamic renewal and reform, and analyzes the response of Wallo Muslim religious intellectuals to the attempt of the Ethiopian Christian monarchs of the period to bring about the political unification of the kingdom by imposing a policy of religious coercion on the Muslim of Wallo.

Based largely on hitherto-untapped oral and written indigenous sources, and supplemented by external archival and documentary evidence, the study is aimed at redressing the historiographical and interpretive imbalance embedded in the scholarly, institutional and popular perceptions on Islam in Ethiopia.

Hussein Ahmed, Ph.D. (1985) in Islamic History, United Kingdom, is Associate-Professor at the Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He has published numerous articles both on historical and contemporary Islam in Ethiopia including "The Historiography of Islam in Ethiopia", *Journal of Islamic Studies*, 3,1 (1992), "Aksum in Muslim Historical Traditions", *Journal of Ethiopian Studies*, XXIX, 2 (1997), and "Islamic Literature and Religious Revival in Ethiopia (1991-1994)", *Islam et Sociétés au sud du Sahara*, 12 (1998).

# Nachrichten

Auszüge aus ETHIOPIA Seven Days Update<sup>1</sup>, zusammengestellt von Harmen Storck

## 1. Conflict with Eritrea

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

The UN has filed an official protest against the Ethiopian Government following a confrontation between UN peace-keeping forces and Ethiopian troops. No casualties were reported during the armed confrontation that took place six days ago. A UN spokesman said Ethiopian militiamen armed with AK rifles opened two rounds of firing on the peacekeepers. UNMEE authorities said the Ethiopian officials have agreed to investigate the causes of the confrontation. The Irob locality has been tense following last April's decision on the border demarcation (VOA, Oct. 11).

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan disclosed in his recent report to the Security Council that UNMEE would stay for an additional six months after its mandate expires on Sep. 14, 2002. He said UNMEE would play its role during the border demarcation to ensure stability in the area. So far, the two sides have shown relative restraint despite mutual recriminations about ill treatment of citizens in the southern part of the Temporary Security Zone (TSZ). Annan noted that the disputes between local residents had centered on grazing rights and had worsened (Reporter, Sep. 9).

The United Nations Mission for Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) said that due to the absence of a direct high-altitude flight route between Addis Ababa and Asmara, it had incurred costs amounting to over \$1.7mio. A report submitted to the Security Council indicated that there still has not been any progress made regarding the establishment of a direct flight route. He said that the flight deviations also have serious operational and security implications (Daily Monitor, Sep. 7-8).

The United Nations has condemned the failure to open an air corridor that would directly link Addis Ababa and Asmara by flying over Ethiopia's and Eritrea's long disputed border. UNMEE troops have to fly via Djibouti, east of Addis Ababa, before heading northwest to Asmara, which lies virtually due north of the Ethiopian capital (Daily Monitor, Aug. 23).

### Border Commission and Border Demarcation:

The UN Security Council had called on Eritrea and Ethiopia to fully cooperate with the border demarcation process between the two countries. In a statement on July 12, Council President Jeremy Greenstock of the UK said the process was a "key benchmark" for lasting peace between the two countries (The Reporter, July 17).

The independent Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC) is to open a field office in Tigray region to ensure the speedy implementation of border demarcation. In a statement the EEBC said the office in Adigrat would enable staff to "resume" survey work. The move follows a call by the president of the commission, Sir Elihu Lauterbach, for Ethiopia to lift a ban on EEBC surveyors carrying out their work in the contested border area. The Ethiopians imposed the ban on April 27, but reports say it has now been lifted so that the field office in Adigrat could be up and running by the EEBC's deadline of July 31 (Daily Monitor, July 30).

The special envoy of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Ambassador Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, had reportedly disclosed plans by the UN to have residents on the Ethio-Eritrea border choose their citizenship. This will follow the border demarcation on the ground. This will involve about 10,000 families who will be allowed to choose their nationality (Ruh, July 19).

### Displaced Persons, POWs:

About 278 Ethiopian prisoners of war (POWs) returned home from Eritrea on Thursday in an operation carried out by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (State media, Aug. 29).

Ethiopia and Eritrea have said they would immediately release all prisoners of war. The announcement came during a visit to the two countries by the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Eritrea and Ethiopia signed a peace agreement on Dec. 12, 2000, following two years of fighting. But few prisoners of war have been released by either side, making relations between the two countries extremely strained. - The ICRC says it has helped repatriate 718 Ethiopian prisoners of war, plus 5,055 civilian Ethiopian internees from Eritrea since Dec. 2000. In terms of Eritrean returnees heading home from Ethiopia, the ICRC says it has helped repatriate 937 POWs and 991 civilians in the same period (Daily Monitor, Aug. 24-25).

### Land Mines, Demining:

Eritrea has asked most of the international humanitarian organizations demining the area along its border with Ethiopia to leave by the end of the month - saying that it can do the job better itself. It has accused the organizations of working too slowly and costing too much. The UN has denied the allegations saying that the group had succeeded in clearing over 20 sqkm of land

in little over a year, returning it to productive use. Correspondents say that a lot of foreign aid is being allocated to the demining exercise and the Eritrean Government is thought to want to secure some of this money itself. All five international demining organizations were originally asked to leave, but two were later allowed to stay on (BBC, Aug. 29).

According to UN Security Council Resolution 1430 (2002), the 15-nation Council voted unanimously to expand the UN mission's mandate to include mine clearance as well as to provide the Boundary Commission with administrative and logistical support. The Commission is now reportedly physically marking the new boundary on the ground, a politically touchy task made more difficult by the many minefields dotting the landscape, the Council said (ENA, Aug. 15).

The UN made an impassioned plea to the international community on June 28 to help speed up demining in Ethiopia and Eritrea after the spate of serious injuries. One man was killed and four injured in several blasts this week alone (IRIN, June 28).

### Other Issues:

The reconstruction of Zalambessa town, which was destroyed by the Eritrean war of aggression, will start in this Ethiopian calendar year. The head of the Tigray State Rehabilitation Office said over 1,487 residential units would be built with an outlay of 156mio birr secured from the World Bank (Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 26).

The 5<sup>th</sup> regular conference of the Alliance of Eritrean National Forces (AENF) wound up Tuesday by electing a chairman and secretary general. The Alliance also agreed to organize a national conference that will involve all sections of the Eritrean people. The conference elected Abdella Idris as chairman and Hiruy Tedla as secretary general. Hiruy Tedla on the need to hold a national conference that would spell out the objectives of the opposition and design a transitional structure based on the democratic, parliamentary and constitutional rights of the people and mobilize all sections of the Eritrean people to "remove the PFDJ as quickly as possible and with minimum damage" (State media, Oct. 22).

Eritrean opposition groups are expected to start a meeting in Addis Ababa on Oct. 8 to discuss the political situation in Eritrea. Four new political groups will participate in the meeting, which will examine the formation of a front. If they fail to form the front, they will discuss on how to cooperate (Addis Admas, Oct. 5).

## 2. Economics, Finance, Commerce State Revenues, Budgets, Economic Growth:

The latest economic report by the Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA) has revealed



that Ethiopia's gross domestic savings have dipped below 0% of the gross domestic product (GDP). The gross domestic savings stood low at a negative 1% point of the GDP in the year 1999/2000 for the first time in the country's economic history, down from 7.7% in 1997/98 and from a high of 12.5% in 1987/88. The second Annual Report on the Ethiopian Economy adds that the trend will affect the country's economic growth in the future and expose it to greater foreign debt (Fortune, Sep. 8).

By the end of June 2001, Ethiopia's debt stock had stood at about 5.6 billion \$. This included debt owed to Russia after the negotiated reduction from 5.9 to 1.3 billion \$, which was a substantial reduction from what it was in 1998 (Reporter, Sep. 11).

The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) disclosed Wednesday that the country's foreign currency reserve has increased by 45.5% in 2001/2. But exports continue to suffer, down this year by nearly 10%. The Bank also noted a substantial growth in the country's imports this year. The highest income generating imports are capital goods, machinery, and vehicles used for the country's various industries. Petroleum imports and unfinished products follow close behind (Sub-Saharan Informer, Aug. 30).

Ethiopia's economic performance during the 2001/2002 fiscal year was rated as the 10th best performing economy in the "good" category" by the Economic Report on Africa (ERA). The report estimates growth in Ethiopia's GDP to be 7%, 1.7% less than the previous year. The reasons for the favorable economic performance, according to the report, are recovery of agricultural outputs, increased rural income and domestic expenditure and the cessation of conflict with Eritrea. It noted that the country had good medium-term prospects for better performance. However, the report pointed out that Ethiopia was still one of the world's poorest countries with a precipitate income of \$ US 110 in 2001 as the country suffered from high illiteracy, low school enrollment, short life expectancy and with half of its people living below the poverty line (Reporter, July 17).

The Council of Ministers has approved a 17.2-billion birr budget for the 1995 (EC) fiscal year, the Ministry of Information said. According to the proposal, 11.1 billion birr of the total is to cover federal government recurrent and capital expenditures, while the balance will go to the various state governments. - The proposed capital budget shows a 4 % growth compared to that of last year's. The subsidy exceeds that of last year's by 18.3 %. Inland revenue will cover 10.5 billion birr of the budgetary demand, while 6.1 billion birr will be secured from foreign grants and loans. The subsidy, which stood at 5.1 billion birr last year, has now gone up to nearly 1 billion birr. About

500mio birr is expected to be secured in loans from the local banks, the statement said (State media, June 22).

### Debts, Grants, Loans and Credits:

It was which disclosed that the World Bank had earmarked over 400m USD in loans and grants to Ethiopia for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. The Country Representative of the World Bank, Ishak Diwan, told journalists that this fiscal year's loans and grants significantly increased because other countries had reduced their support due to the 1998-2000 war with Eritrea (The Reporter, Oct. 23).

The Minister of State for Finance and Economic Development, has stated that the World Bank and the IMF have accepted Ethiopia's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). He said that the two financial institutions, after endorsing the final strategic paper, called the paper "comprehensive and a workable instrument to eradicate poverty in the country" (state media, Oct. 24).

The World Bank has approved a 132.7mio \$ loan for Ethiopia's Energy Access project, which consists of expanding the population's access to electricity and improving the quality and adequacy of power supply. Institutional and capacity building, improving the urban distribution of electricity, establishment of a load dispatch center (LDC), and rural electrification giving access to 164 towns are among the major components that the government plans to implement with the approved loan. The allocated finance for urban distribution system, rehabilitation and expansion will primarily go to the largest load centers - Addis Ababa, Nazareth, Dire Dawa, and Bahr Dar. The expansion will allow about 70,000 new consumers get connection to these major towns (Fortune, Sep. 29).

The IMF Executive Board has reportedly judged that Ethiopia had satisfactorily executed the 3-year Poverty Reduction Strategy and Growth Facility, and has released US \$14mio. However, it said, it still expects Ethiopia to effect policy and organizational reforms in some areas. So far, Ethiopia has received US \$77mio of the total US \$133mio granted by the IMF at 0.5% interest rate. The loan will be paid within 10 years, and has a grace period of 5 1/2 years (Reporter, Sep. 30).

The African Development Fund (ADF) has approved a loan of 19.89mio Units of Account (UA) and a grant of UA 1.1mio, totaling \$27.78mio to finance the Harar water supply and sanitation project. The objective of the project is to provide better access to water supply and sanitation services to the population of Harar, Alemaya, Awedai, Adele and Dengego through improved water production, distribution and sanitation (Daily Monitor, Sep. 6).

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has disclosed that Ethiopia had secured over 14.2 billion birr in loans and grants from donor countries and organizations during the previous budget year. The country has also enjoyed debt relief amounting to 429mio birr. Officials of the Ministry told a press briefing that 10.3 billion birr was secured in grants while the balance of 3.9 billion birr was in loans. Ethiopia signed agreements with 16 bilateral development partners, and the fund will be mobilized in the coming five year (state media, Sep. 6).

Japan had granted 384.4mio \$ to Ethiopia from 1993 to 2001. The grant constituted cash grant, technical assistance, and counterpart fund. Technical assistance accounted for 18 % of the grant. Cash grant is commonly used by the government for foreign exchange sale and it would enter the central treasury (Reporter, Aug. 28).

In the past two months the World Bank had approved a combined loan of 140.2mio \$ for two separate projects on capacity building. The Decentralized Service Delivery Project will get 26.mio \$, while the Structural Adjustment Credit Project takes up 120mio \$ which Ethiopia is launching as part of its medium term development strategy. - According to the WB, the 120mio \$ loan that will be channeled towards the structural adjustment program aims at supporting the government strategy of achieving a stable macro-economic environment and improving the business climate for increased private investment (Fortune, Aug. 18).

State Minister of Finance and Economic Development Dr. Mulu Ketsela and U.S. Ambassador Tibor P. Nagy signed five USAID grant agreement amendments totaling 139.6mio USD. According to a release by the U.S. embassy, the first grant of 8.8mio birr supports planned activities that improve the lives of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in the Borena Zone of Oromiya State and Afder and Liben Zones of Somali State. The second grant, 26.3mio birr, supports Ethiopia's program to improve agricultural productivity and increase food security through research and extension, increasing agricultural market competition, and identify alternative income generation opportunities. The third grant, 39mio birr, supports improvements in the health care system. USAID is also providing additional 79.6mio birr through direct mechanisms for contraceptive procurement and social marketing and polio eradication. The fourth grant of 65.5mio birr supports quality improvements in basic education system.

### Foreign Trade:

The revenue Ethiopia earned from the export trade during the year 2001/02 has shown a decline of 249mio birr (6.9%)

compared with the previous year. The country earned 3.4 billion birr in foreign currency from the export of 429,898 tons of different commodities and collected 3.6 billion birr from the export of 302,870 tons in 2000/2001. The revenue earned from export trade has shown an annual decline of 4.8 % over the last five years. On the other hand, the quantity of commodities exported had shown a 12 % annual growth. The decline in revenue was attributed to the slump in the price of coffee in the international market (*Fortune, Oct. 27*).

The volume of coffee exports had increased by 8.1 % from 98,239 tons exported in 2000/01 to 106,245 tons in 2001/02 while its value declined by 12 % from 1,499.3mio birr in 2000/01 to 1,319.2mio in 2001/02. Although export earnings from coffee dropped significantly, export earnings from cereals, which increased significantly, have offset the decline in coffee export earnings. The export of cereals soared by 301.2 % from 70.3mio birr in 2000/01 to 282.3mio birr in 2001/02. *Khat* export earnings, which had shown a positive trend since 1997/98, have also plummeted significantly. Export earnings from *khat* declined by 62 percent % from 510mio birr to 193.7miobirr. Coffee export, which has been contributing more than 60 % of the country's export earnings, contributed only 39.3 % in 2001/02 (*The Reporter, Oct. 30*).

German Ambassador Dr. Herbert Honsowitz stated that German export is not like it used to be six years ago. In 1996, export from Germany to Ethiopia was rated at \$95mio but at the end of 2002, it amounted only up to \$62mio (*Daily Monitor, Oct. 15*).

Ethiopia's Coffee Authority had said that it plans to get its coffee certified as organic to boost the slumping prices of the product that makes up two-thirds of its foreign exchange earnings. So far, only a small proportion of annual exports are certified as organic, but 10,500 out of Ethiopia's three million coffee farmers have been registered for the new program. They would have a capacity to grow 5,000 tons by June 2003. To certify a few hundred farmers in the southwest of the country would cost the CTDA \$201mio over three years. The certification process, undertaken by a German organization, Naturland, involves site visits to inspect soil samples, leaves and farming methods.

Ethiopia's hard currency earnings from gold had soared to 318.8mio birr in the just ended fiscal year, rising by 67.2% from the 190.6mio birr revenue obtained in the previous fiscal year. The country earned the reported revenue by shipping 5,264 kg of gold to Germany, Switzerland and USA. Gold now ranks among the top four foreign currency earners next to coffee, hides and skin and *khat*, contributing to 9.5% of the country's total export

earnings of 3.52 billion birr during 2001/02, according to data obtained from the Ethiopian Customs Authority. The considerable increase in gold export is attributed to the privatization of the largest gold mine, Legedembi Gold Mine to Midroc Gold (*Fortune, Sep. 1*).

Ethiopia has, for the first time, earned over 7.2mio euro from the export of tax-free raw sugar to Europe, the Ethiopian Sugar Industry Support Share Company disclosed. The earnings, secured from the export of 14,617 metric tons to a Portuguese sugar processing plant, were the outcome of the tax-free export opportunity offered by the EU to highly impoverished sub-Saharan African countries to help them boost their export earnings. The next Ethiopian consignment is 15,000 tons of raw sugar due for export to another Portuguese sugar processing factory in the coming year (*Radio Ethiopia, Aug. 22*).

### Investment and Investment Policy:

The 2002 UNCTAD World Investment Report has rated Ethiopia as an "underperformer". The country has a low direct foreign investment and low capacity performance, the report said. ECA's director for economic policy, Patrick Assia, accused Ethiopia of having policies that discourage foreign investment. Mr. Assia said that the Ethiopian government had prohibited foreign investors from engaging in banking, insurance and the media (*Reporter, Oct. 7*).

The Ethiopian Investment Authority (EIA) and the Regional Investment Offices approved 7,081 private investment projects between July 1992 and July 2002 with an estimated capital of 65.6 billion birr. Ato Mohammed Seid of the EIA said that out of the totally approved investment capital, the share of industry stands at 37.3%, real estate 15.2%, construction 13.1%, and agriculture at 12.0%. Ato Mohammed noted that 2062 projects with 14.4 billion birr capital have become operational employing about 82,800 permanent workers. On the other hand, 1,246 projects with a combined investment capital of Birr 15.2 billion are presently under implementation and are expected to employ 72,100 permanent workers when they become fully operational. According to Ato Mohammed, out of the total approved private investment projects between July 1992 and 2002, foreign investors own 308 projects with an estimated investment capital of 15.3 billion birr. Out of these, 67 projects with a capital of 3.8 billion birr have become operational employing 11,000 permanent workers (*Capital, Oct. 6*).

Ethiopia is still struggling to attract overseas investment compared to other African countries, according to the United Nations. UNCTAD revealed that last year,

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) amounted to just 2mio \$, the lowest level for almost a decade. The figure shows a marked decline on previous years where Ethiopia attracted over 200mio \$ per year. But the war with Eritrea sparked a massive downturn (*Fortune, Sep. 22*).

Michael Gebru, an Ethiopian American, is undertaking an investment with an initial cost of \$15mio to establish a plantation and manufacturing plant for Fiber cane, a bamboo like crop that can be used as a substitute for wood. Michael, president of Pan African Nile Fiber Inc., has purchased a 40,000 hectare bamboo plantation from the Benishangul-Gumuz region and will start implementing the project in 2 or 3 months. The plantation will employ up to 500 people and the factory will employ 900 people, according to Michael (*The Scope, Sep. 19*).

The State Minister of Infrastructure has said that over 52 billion birr has been earmarked for the construction sector for the next five years. The fund will go to road construction and repair, water development works, power generation, the health and education sector (*Radio Ethiopia, Sep. 15*).

An Indian investor has signed a contract with the East Wellega Zonal Council to establish a sugar-processing factory with an outlay of 131mio birr. Mr. Raji Sangis will launch the factory on 3,492 ha in Wama locality. Mr. Sangis said he plans to launch the sugar cane plantation within three months and the construction of the factory six months later. He added that the agreement was effective for 40 years, and that the factory would employ 250 permanent and 2,500 temporary workers when operational after four years.

The construction of the Tekeze Hydroelectric Power project, to be undertaken at a cost of over 3.1 billion birr, was officially launched. The project has a capacity of generating 300 MW. When operational, the project will raise by two-fold the country's power supply. In addition to the Tekeze Project, the government plans to construct four other HEP projects in the next five years, according to Ato Haile, who added that the Gilgel Gibe Hydroelectric Power Project would start operation next June. The Chinese Minister of Construction, Mr. Wang Guangtao, said on his part that the project would be undertaken by an Ethiopian and two Chinese companies, and would be finalized in five years time. The Tekeze dam will help irrigate large tracts of northern Tigray region. The Tekeze River is a tributary of the Nile, running through the northern Tigray region and then into Eritrea. The general manager of the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation said that 60 to 70 towns would receive electricity annually once the project is completed (*State media, Aug. 13*).

The Ethiopian Investment Authority (EIA) has said it has taken various measures to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The minimum capital required for a foreign investor's joint venture with local investors was reduced. The requirement for foreign investors to deposit USD 125,000 in blocked account prior to actual investment has been removed. In addition, EIA has allowed foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin to engage in hydropower generation and invest jointly with the government in defense industries and telecom services, and open areas which were reserved for joint investment to 100 % foreign participation (*ENA, June 24*).

The Fincha Sugar Factory (FSF) has inaugurated one of its ethanol-kerosene blending stations constructed at a cost of 0.6mio birr. The factory, which has a crushing capacity of over 40,000 quintals of cane per day in the first phase, produces 8mio liters of ethanol from molasses. The ethanol plant, which is annexed to the factory, produces a power alcohol (99.5%) that can blend with benzene and kerosene to be used both as motor fuel and cooking fuel respectively (*Radio Ethiopia, June 22*).

### Technical Assistance, Development Projects:

Care-Ethiopia has carried out urban development projects worth 10.2mio USD in Addis Ababa in the last 10 years. The projects included the construction of alleys, bridges, open ditches and public toilets. The development projects also included food for work programs. Local communities and the Addis Ababa City Administration contributed USD 200,343 and USD 51,613, respectively to the projects. Wheat grain and vegetable oil worth 1.5mio USD were distributed through the food for work program. 325,965 residents of the city benefited from the projects (*ENA, Oct. 15*).

World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) and the Oromia State Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Office have signed an agreement worth 94.6mio birr. The fund will be used to carry out development activities in the state. The projects include the construction of irrigation dams, health posts, veterinary clinics, primary schools and kindergarten. The drilling of 38 wells and the development of 56 springs are also part of the projects. WVE undertakes development projects worth 150mio birr in six states (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 9*).

World Vision Ethiopia (WVE) has signed an over 107.6mio birr project agreement with various bureaus of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' State to carry out an integrated rural development program in the coming five years. The projects will be undertaken in eight drought-affected districts, and are expected to serve over 1.3 million people in the state (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 3*).

Action Aid Ethiopia and five bureaus of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' State have signed an agreement worth 14.9mio birr in Awassa to undertake integrated rural development projects. The development project includes small irrigation, informal education, health and potable water facilities, and will focus on poverty alleviation by strengthening credit and savings associations. Over 100,000 people in the Mareka and Yem special districts will benefit from the projects (*ENA, Oct. 4*).

The Deputy Chief of Mission of the Norwegian Embassy in Addis Ababa said his government was currently financing about 160mio birr worth of development projects and supporting the democratization process in Ethiopia. Major Norwegian-financed NGOs are carrying out 10-15mio birr worth of development activities annually. Among the projects are capacity building and food security programs (*ENA, Sep. 21*).

The Austrian government has allocated 12.5mio EUR to finance various development projects and programs aimed at strengthening the democratization process in Ethiopia. The Austrian government has been offering primary health care services in the pastoralist areas in the Somali state. An integrated livestock development project was also being carried out in North Gonder Zone as part of measures to ensure food security in the area. There are negotiations for the restructuring of two Austrian loans amounting to nearly 16mio EUR equipment for the Gilgel Gibe hydropower station (*Radio Ethiopia, Sep. 27*).

The governments of Ethiopia and Italy have signed three specific grant agreements amounting to 371.4mio birr. The grant will be used to finance the education and health sectors as well as capacity building programs. The first grant of 216.7mio birr was allocated to support the education sector development program (ESDP) at the federal level and in four states. The second agreement amounting to 132.7mio birr will be used to fund the Health Sector Development Program (HSDP). According to the embassy release, the balance will be allocated to capacity building and rural development activities in the Benishangul Gumuz state (*Radio Ethiopia, Sep. 20*).

Ethiopia and France have signed an 11.8mio birr project financing agreement aimed at improving the living standard and food security of the pastoralist community in Afar State. The project includes providing animal health services, water supply for the local population and cattle, as well as training in technical management skills (*ETV, July 24*).

The Ministry of Water Resources has announced a 7.2-billion USD financial requirement for Ethiopia's 15-year water resource development and capacity building programs. The Vice Minister said

funds are being solicited for the implementation of water supply and sanitation, hydropower generation as well as irrigation development projects. He said the water sector development program envisages raising the urban water supply coverage from the current 74 % to 90 %, and that of the rural from 23 % to 71 %. Irrigation schemes capable of developing 243,696 ha and an additional hydropower of 2,726 MW would be constructed, he indicated. Of the total financial requirement, 4 billion dollars is expected to come from donors and the government and other sources will cover the balance (*ETV, June 24*).

### Transport and Communication:

The Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA) is preparing to inaugurate Mekele International Airport, the fourth international airport in the country. The construction of the airport terminal and runway, including other airport facilities, cost 154.4mio birr. The project was financed partly by the government and partly from the authority. According to ECAA, the construction of the terminal, which was undertaken by Satcon Construction since Aug. 1998, is expected to be completed next month (*Fortune, Oct. 20*).

The general manager of the Oromia Roads Authority has said that 93.7mio birr has been allocated to build and repair 3,026 km of road this year in Oromia. Ato Mulugeta Dinka said that 161 km of new roads would be built, while 565 km would be designed and 3,000 km repaired. According to Ato Mulugeta, the regional state of Oromia has allocated 66mio birr for the project while the government and the Roads Fund have set aside 27.7mio birr (*Abiotawi Democracy, Oct. 19*).

South African Airways (SAA) will start a twice-weekly flight to Addis as of the end of Oct. 2002. The airline plans to use its 737 New Generation aircraft to operate direct flights between Johannesburg and Addis. Ethiopian Airlines has been flying to the Southern Africa city three times a week (*Fortune, Sep. 1*).

The Ethiopian Shipping Lines (ESL) secured a 471-mio birr revenue during the last Ethiopian fiscal year from maritime services. ESL general manager said the income was obtained by transporting 415,280 tons of goods into the country and to different parts of the world. ESL transports merchandise from Djibouti to the U.S., the Mediterranean area, Asia and Africa (*ENA, Aug. 10*).

The Awash Arba-Mile asphalt road project undertaken at a cost of over 500mio birr has been completed and inaugurated. The construction was carried out with funds allocated by the Ethiopian Government and loans provided by the WB (*ENA, July 21*).

Ethiopian Airlines (EAL) has announced that it would acquire 12 airplanes over the

coming four years with the purchase of an additional five B-737 New Generation aircraft and three B-777 aircraft. It has also signed a memorandum of understanding with Boeing Company representatives. At a press conference prior to the signing of the agreement at Sheraton Addis, CEO Bisrat Nigatu said that six Boeing airplanes would be acquired through export credit guaranteed finance lease arrangement and the remaining on operating lease. The purchase of the airplanes would start within six to nine months, Ato Bisrat added (State media, July 26). - Airbus has battled long to break Boeing's 35-year-old monopoly of aircraft sales to EAL. The intensive campaign lasted for three years before culminating in the "super final" deal (Fortune).

The Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA) has announced it would launch the second phase of its ten-year Road Sector Development program (RSDP). The second phase, scheduled to begin in Sept. 2002, will be conducted at a total cost of 17.3 billion birr. ERA general manager said at a recent stakeholders meeting that during the second phase, ERA plans to repair 1,223 km, upgrade 2,539 km of low-grade roads, perform heavy and routine maintenance on several bridges, and conduct studies for follow up operations (*Daily Monitor*, July 14).

### Privatization:

The Ministry of Information has disclosed that 113 government-owned enterprises would be privatized within the coming two years. Since the establishment of the Ethiopian Privatization Agency (EPA) in 1994, 223 enterprises have been privatized generating 3 billion birr, while 428 various properties, which were nationalized outside the provisions of the law, were returned to their owners (*Business Review*, Sep. 12).

The long overdue privatization of the Ethiopian telecom industry is right at the corner. EPA is inviting what it calls "strategic partners" to express their interest in acquiring a 30% stake including management control of the incumbent state-owned Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation (ETC) (*Fortune*, Aug. 11).

EPA is preparing to sell 13 companies and enterprises that are currently under government ownership. At least 51 % ownership of these companies will be sold to investors in bids that will be opened in Nov. Seven share companies, three hotels, one textile company, one glass shop, one enterprise and one lime factory have been floated for privatization (*Daily Monitor*, July 18).

EPA had collected more than 177.7 million birr between July 2000 and April 2001, an outstanding settlement of the sales of state-owned enterprises that were transferred to private ownership (*Fortune*, June 23).

### NGOs:

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) has entered into agreement with seven NGOs to contribute a sum of approximately 2.2mio birr for the of policy dialogue between NGOs and the government. The grant is also intended for efforts aimed at capacity building for local administration and human rights related projects. The Head of DFID Office at the British Embassy, and representatives of Action Aid Ethiopia, CARE Ethiopia, World Vision Ethiopia, Management Development Forum, Ethiopian Human Rights Council, Ethiopian Women Lawyers' Association and Ethiopian Economic Association signed the agreements at the British Embassy (*Daily Monitor*, Aug. 9).

Participants at the on-going teachers' conference in Arba Minch have alleged that some NGOs licensed to give humanitarian aid and/or undertake development in rural areas in Southern Ethiopia are engaged in undesirable activities which contravene the country's rural development policy. Instead of promoting self-sufficiency, creating a good working atmosphere and respecting the traditional values and culture of the people, they said, some NGOs are engaged in making the peasants dependents and even in trying to convert the target groups to other religions (*Radio Ethiopia*, July 24).

### Other Issues:

The Addis Ababa trade and industry bureau revealed that more than 2,200 business have returned their licenses during the last budget year. According to insiders, the tax burden and exorbitant rent payments have forced many businesses to quit and return their licenses. From 30,818 licensed wholesale, retail and service industry and agricultural development businesses, 7.1% have returned their licenses (*Reporter*, Oct. 16).

In its second annual report on the Ethiopian economy, the Ethiopian Economic Policy Research Institute, which is under the Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA/EEPRI), said that the inflation rate in the country increased slightly from 3.9 % in 1998/99 to 4.2 % in 1999/2000. The director of EEPRI, Dr. Berhanu Nega, who presented the report, said the average growth of GDP during the reported period was 5.8% implying an average per capita income of 2.8% at 3% annual population growth. Dr. Berhanu said the service sector was the largest contributor to the GDP growth. He added that the contribution of the industrial sector to the GDP had remained very low - only 11% in 1999/2000. According to EEPRI's press release, the manufacturing sector was characterized by low export and competitiveness as well as declining productivity (*Radio Ethiopia*, Sep. 2).

The amount of foreign currency coming into the country through remittances by Ethiopians in the Diaspora has increased by 250 % in five years time since 1996. Remittance fees, which Ethiopians in the Diaspora send through local commercial banks, have reached 40mio \$. This does not show the whole figure since most Ethiopians in foreign countries send money through individuals and other illegitimate money transfer mechanisms. Although, there are no official figures that show the number of Ethiopians living in the Diaspora, close to 500,000 Ethiopians are estimated to reside in the USA (*Fortune*, July 14).

### **3. Agriculture, Food Aid, Drought**

#### Agricultural Input and Output:

The National Agricultural Inputs Authority (NAIA) has announced that 413,000 MT of fertilizers, 131,000 quintals of select seeds and 1,671 tons of pesticides were needed during the 2002-03 crop season. One of the officials said that 256,000 MT. of DAP and 157,000 MT of urea would be imported during the period. He said 100 % counterpart requirement during L/C opening and other additional payments (bid security and performance bond), high collateral requirement as well port congestion and decline in the number of importers, wholesalers and retailers were some of the major problems identified in the supply and distribution of fertilizers in the country (*State media*, Oct.30).

GTZ, will introduce on Oct. 8 a new grain that can potentially be used for national consumption. The new grain called Triticale is a crossbreed between wheat and rye, which can be used for the preparation of injera, kita , pasta, tella and kollo, according to the program coordinator. GTZ, in collaboration with regional bureaus of agriculture, including those in Amhara and Tigray, has been testing the suitability of the grain for growth and consumption in Ethiopia for the last six years. Triticale has a higher yield and mineral and protein content than wheat. It can be grown in difficult places as it is highly tolerant to drought, frost, hail, acidic soil and diseases (*The Scope*, Oct. 4).

Peasants of Western Oromiya have reportedly decided not to accept any more fertilizer and select seeds, which have caused them to suffer bankruptcy. They were allowed to take fertilizer on loan, which they were totally unable to pay back following this year's dramatic slump in grain prices. One of the issues raised by protesting Oromo students recently was this debt payment crisis (*Dagim Wenchif*, June 25).

#### Extension:

A new agricultural extension package involving the conservation and utilization of rainwater is in the pipeline, the Ministry of Agriculture disclosed. The new pack-

age will help ease the problem of food shortage in drought-prone areas. It aims at popularizing rainwater conservation technologies, which have been found to be feasible in rain deficient pilot demonstration areas. The package will make it possible to raise crop production, expand animal husbandry, help control flooding and soil erosion and contribute to making water available within reasonable reach (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 3*).

### Irrigation:

Small-scale irrigation projects to develop 7,000 hectares of land in drought-affected regions have been launched. The projects are being undertaken in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' States. According to the coordinator, the International Fund for Agricultural Development has donated 31.9mio US\$ and the French Development Agency has contributed 11.5mio Euro in loan and aid. Over 140,000 people will benefit from the projects (ENA, Oct.9).

CARE-Ethiopia has handed over two irrigation development projects, undertaken at a cost of 4.6mio birr, to farmers in East Shoa Zone. The projects have a capacity to develop 275 ha. CARE-Ethiopia earmarked 4mio birr for the project while farmers in the area contributed about 700,000 birr worth of labor. The two projects will help 269 farmers and 1,517 family members plant onion, maize, tomato and sugar cane twice a year (*Radio Ethiopia, July 23*).

### Drought, Flood, Famine and Food Aid:

The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) said more than 2,793,000 quintals of relief food has been apportioned among people affected by drought over the past three months (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 28*).

According to WFP, 1.5 million to 2.2 million tons of relief food would be needed next year. It is estimated that the number of needy people would jump from 10-14 million next year (*VOA, Oct. 25*).

The Federal Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (DPPC) has urged the donor community to respond to the immediate food needs of 6.3 million people from Oct. to Dec. 2002. Some 6.8 to 14.3 million people will be in need of food aid, DPPC said. Senior representatives of the UN and the donor community have reaffirmed their strong commitment to prevent the looming crisis. - DPPC Commissioner Simon Mechale also indicated that a total of 915,000 MT to 2.12 million MT would be needed (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 7*).

An early warning network financed by the United States says the failure rains in Ethiopia has left the country facing the prospect of drought on an unprecedented

scale. As many as 14 million people could need feeding by early next year (*BBC, Oct. 1*).

The World Food Program says that six million Ethiopians will need food aid in the next few months. WFP warns that it is facing a shortfall in its pledges of food from major donors of tens of thousands of tons. The report added that failed rains in many parts of the country have caused harvest to fall down by 15 % compared to the previous four years. The report said that timely delivery and distribution of additional food aid was crucial to maintain minimum nutritional levels. The report also warned that the months of March and June next year could be catastrophic as poor harvest from 2002 may run out (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 2*).

An *IRIN* report disclosed that child deaths in drought-stricken Afar region had risen dramatically over the past four months, according to the latest nutritional survey from the area. Some 36 children died in the regional capital Asaita alone, with high numbers of deaths in the other towns, according to a study by World Vision. Children in Afar region, mainly pastoralist and agro-pastoralist, also suffered from a high degree of stunting. Around 1/3 of children were stunted, it said. Acute malnutrition has reached around 6% while global malnutrition stands at 30 % (*Daily Monitor, Sep. 26*).

Pastoralists and their cattle have been seriously affected by the failure of the belg rains, the Prevention and Preparedness Commissioner said, adding that 12mio USD was needed for water supply and health care in the pastoral areas. (*Radio Ethiopia, Sep. 17*).

It is estimated that almost half the cattle in Afar have been wiped out during the severe drought that has hit the region, according to a report issued by the UN's Emergency Unit for Ethiopia (EUE). In an emergency report, it indicated that more than one in 10 livestock had died in the desert-like conditions of Oromiya, Somali and Afar regions. Market prices of livestock had also plummeted. In Afar, the Bureau of Agriculture has reported some 492,435 livestock deaths. It believes that cattle deaths could be as high as 44.4 % (*Monitor, Sep. 17*).

The government has disclosed that nearly 180,000 cattle had died in Afar, Oromiya and Somalia in the past three months because of severe drought. The MoA said the late arrival of rains last year and the failure of the rains this year have led to shortage of water and grazing (*Daily Monitor, Aug. 12*).

### Other Issues:

A study paper, presented at the first National Agricultural Symposium at Adama, disclosed that out of the total 1,415 agricultural projects with a total capital of over 7.6 billion birr, 1,262

projects with a capital of 5.8 billion birr had not been operational. Only 153 projects with a capital of 1.6 billion birr had been completed and are now operational, it was learnt. Of the projects that were not completed, some 635 were being undertaken while the remaining 627 had not yet been established. About 88.9 % of the investors have shown interest in the natural resources sector and 71.4 % in the agro-production processing sector (*The Reporter, Oct. 16*).

Grain prices, which have been continuously dropping since the previous harvest season, have shown a sudden surge in price by 50 % in the past 10 days alone, while severe food shortage is looming in most parts of the country. In Addis Ababa, wheat, that used to cost an average of 125 birr per quintal hiked to an average of 190 birr per quintal. Similarly, the price of barley jumped from 120 birr to 180 birr, while bean prices increased by 30 birr from the previous price of 150 birr (*Fortune, July 28*).

### Environment:

The World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has signed a 900,000-birr project agreement with two bureaus of Oromia state to undertake development and wildlife conservation activities in the Bale Mountains National Park. Capacity building training and a forest fire program are among the project components to be carried out in the park and in the Manna-Angetu Forestry Priority area (*ENA, Sep. 16*).

The Ministry of Agriculture has said that 45,000 ha of farmland would be terraced in four states this budget year through food-for-work programs. The Ministry said the terraces would be built in Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' States. The move is part of efforts underway to control soil erosion, he said. The Ministry also plans to distribute 200 million tree seedlings of various species to farmers in the four states. Some 300,000 farmers are expected to take part in the program (*Radio Ethiopia, Aug. 20*).

WFP had announced the launching of a four-year development program in Ethiopia with an outlay of 68mio USD. WFP's Ethiopia Deputy Director, Benedict Funitang said 45mio \$ out of the total funds would go to soil and water conservation projects in Tigray, Amhara, Oromiya and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' States. An HIV/AIDS intervention program will also be carried out with an outlay of 23mio \$ in Addis Ababa (*Radio Ethiopia, July 30*).

#### 4. Tourism

The number of foreign tourists visiting Ethiopia this year is expected to reach 150,000, the Ethiopian Tourism Commissioner said. He said Ethiopia had hosted 148,000 foreign tourists in 2001. Ato

Yusuf said that problems associated with the issuance of entry visas for tourists had now been easier after the Immigration Office started issuing entry visas for citizens of 33 countries at Bole International Airport (ETV, Sep. 19).

An Austrian parliamentary delegation on a visit to the Semien Mountains National Park has laid a foundation stone at the future site of the Information Center of the National Park Administration in the town of Debarq in Gonder. The Austrian Embassy said the establishment of the center would be financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation as part of an integrated development program. - "The Semien Mountains National Park (SMNP) is increasingly threatened by population pressure, deforestation and the ensuing erosion and general environmental degradation," the statement said. Efforts are currently being made to promote activities that strike a balance between the need for development by combining infrastructure support to the park management and development of community based tourism with food security measures (Daily Monitor, Sep. 7-8).

## 5. Social, Cultural and Political Aspects

### Opposition-Related Issues:

OLF has issued a statement denouncing Major General Bacha Debele for claiming that the OLF had broken up and its factions have started fighting (Tikusssat, Oct. 23). - The OLF denounced some of its former members who turned themselves in as having been TPLF spies hidden all along in the ranks of the OLF (Dagim Wenchif, Oct. 22).

Three OLF executive committee members who defected from the Front have declared that the OLF had split into two. The three, who gave themselves up recently, said that they defected from the Front after being disappointed with the growing ethnic divisions within the OLF. Bikilcha Sagne, who was the commander of the Southern Zone, said a huge rift had been created within the OLF. He said that those who opposed the Front's ties with the Eritrean government were labeled as traitors. Lack of trust and a series of disagreements have recently led to fierce fighting among OLF troops along the Ethio-Kenya border, Bikilcha said (Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 17).

The All Ethiopia Unity Party has issued a call urging the Ethiopian people, civic groups, and opposition political parties to set aside their minor differences and prepare the conditions for a peaceful transfer of power in Ethiopia. It accused the EPRDF of adamantly rejecting calls by the people, the opposition and intellectuals to initiate a national dialogue. The party urged the EPRDF to prepare for a peaceful transition (Tobia, Oct. 17).

An announcement by ETV said the Tigray Hotel bombing was masterminded by

eight people. They told that they had detonated the bombs on orders from the OLF leadership (VOA, Sep. 28).

Dr. Beyene Petros, chairman of the Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Democratic Coalition and the Council of Alternative Forces for Peace and Democracy in Ethiopia told that the OLF had agreed to join the forum of Ethiopian opposition forces. The newly formed All Ethiopia Unity Organization has already joined the grouping. The Ethiopian National Electoral Board is reported to have granted legal recognition to the newly formed All Ethiopia Unity Organization (Tomar, Sep. 24).

Police has arrested several rebels of the OLF suspected of the Sept. 11 hotel bombings that killed 3 people. 38 people were also injured by the bomb explosion that virtually destroyed the Tigray Hotel as it was packed with revelers celebrating the Ethiopian New Year (Daily Monitor, Sep. 23).

The OLF has protested against the mass rounding up of Oromos in Addis following the attack. It urged the international community to denounce the TPLF for seeking to frame the OLF and Oromos for terrorist acts which they did not carry out. So far, police and the government have not given details of who launched the attack and why (Seife Nebelbal, Sep. 20).

In a statement issued on Sept. 17, the OLF denounced the attack on Tigray Hotel from which it firmly disassociated itself. The OLF said it denounces all acts of terrorism, and charged that Oromos were being hunted down in an attempt to smear its name (Mebrek, Sep. 19).

The government announced that a terrorist group of the OLF deployed to bring havoc and instability in Gambella State had been completely annihilated by members of the National Defense Forces. The Ministry of Information said that the OLF terrorists, trained and equipped by the EPLF-led government in Asmara to fight a proxy war and divert the attention of the people from development, had been destroyed including their leaders. It said 227 of the 247 OLF terrorists deployed in Gambella State to carry out terrorist activities had been captured. Some 20 terrorists who attempted to escape have been killed. The defense forces also seized weaponry and other valuable materials (ETV, June 28).

### Churches and Religion:

An old and revered mosque in Katbare, Gurage Kebena district, was reportedly burnt by unidentified wahabis at about midnight on Aug. 10, 2002. The fire consumed carpets, Korans, and relics hundreds of years old. The total damages are estimated at over 520,000 birr. This incident followed recent alleged burning of Sufi mosques and institutions by wahabi-oriented people (Ruh, Aug. 16).

A religious newspaper, *Semea Tsidik*, has revealed that armed Muslims had besieged the ancient Ethiopian monastery of Assebot. The Muslims had restricted the movement of the monks who were also physically threatened. The paper charged that the Muslims had burnt down the forests around the monastery and looted cattle belonging to the monks. The monastery is located in Meisso district, western Harerge. There have been four forest fires there since last February, the report said (Poletica, July 29).

A two-day symposium on Ethiopian Christian and Islamic music traditions is expected to be held in Addis Ababa July 24-25. The organizing committee said various studies pertaining to the origin and role of religious music would be presented at the symposium organized by the German Cultural Institute. One of the topics is the significance of folk music in Islam and Christianity. The Director of the Institute and member of the committee, Dr. Dietrich Pohl, said the symposium, which is the first of its kind in the country, would be an ideal forum for other nations to learn about religious coexistence. He said a similar forum would be organized next Sep. on issues concerning religious harmony and tolerance (ENA, July 23).

### News about Culture and History:

The Abebe Bikila International Stadium, built at a cost of over 20mio birr in Addis Ababa, was inaugurated officially on Oct. 20, 2002. The stadium can accommodate over 25,000 spectators (ENA, Oct. 24).

Archeologists have discovered the remains of two types of hominids at the Konso site range which is located in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' State, the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage announced. The head of the Archaeology and Anthropology Department of the Authority, Dr. Yonas Beyene, said the remains of *Australopithecus Boisei*, 1.4 million years old, and of *Homo Erectus*, 1.45 to 1.35 million years old, were discovered at the site. Along with the hominid remains, ancient stone tools dating back to 700,000 to 2 million years, were also discovered at the Konso research site, Dr. Yonas said (ENA, Sep. 13).

Ever since 1992, 790 licenses for 513 newspapers, 200 magazines, 3 news agencies and 74 electronic products have been issued. Of these, 455 newspapers and 155 magazines became operational. However, at present, only 81 newspapers, 22 magazines, 2 news agencies and 74 electronic products are in the market (State media, Sep. 13).

The Ethiopian National Theater will, for the first time, stage a musical play in Guragigna. "This musical play focuses on the culture and tradition of the Gurage people," said Ato Fekadu Feye, program



and production officer of the Ethiopian National Theater. The musical play, "Adabina", was written by Dagmawi Feyissa and directed by Tesfaye Gebre Mariam (*Reporter, July 29*).

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi told journalists that the Axum obelisk in Rome would be restored and sent back to Ethiopia. Mr. Berlusconi noted that the top of the obelisk struck by thunder a few months ago would first be restored (*Pole-tica, July 22*).

### Other Social and Political Issues:

The Addis Ababa Police Commission has disclosed that 269 people were killed in car accidents in the capital in the past nine months. The commission said that 1,376 people suffered injuries in the accidents. Some 5,683 traffic accidents were reported during the same period, it said, adding that property worth about 12mio birr was destroyed (*State media, Sep. 11*).

Some 80% of the over 2.7 million people in Addis Ababa live in shanty areas, a document prepared by the Metropolitan Master plan office said. The document indicated that 80% of the residential houses in the capital are dilapidated, and 18% are in very poor condition where maintenance is hardly possible. The report said that a quarter of the residents have no access to toilets, and that 24% of the dwellers use pit latrines. Only 1.3% of residents have access to modern toilets with sewers. The government has formulated a 10-year master plan to mitigate at least 50% of these pressing problems, the document said (*ENA, Aug. 29*).

The District 18 urban and development administration bureau has begun demolishing some 1000 illegally constructed houses. The demolition of illegal constructions will include restaurants, jewelry shops, kiosks, shoe shops, butchers, barbers and some residential homes (*Daily Monitor, Aug. 27*).

UNICEF has donated over 3.8mio birr to help rehabilitate street children in two zones of Amhara State, the state's labor and social affairs bureau said. The UNICEF project coordinator with the bureau, said that the fund would allow 200 street children in Dessie and Bahr Dar to engage in income generating schemes (*ENA, Aug. 6*).

Over 65 % of Addis Ababa's population as well as 45.5 % of Ethiopia's population live below the poverty line. This implies not only lowered income but also lack of education, health and other social services (*Addis Lissan, July 15*).

### Foreign Relations:

Ethiopia, Yemen and Sudan have agreed to consult and cooperate on issues related to the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. The leaders also discussed the 'war-mongering' policy of the Eritrean regime. Sudan accuses Eritrea of supporting the fighters in the south, Yemen

differs with Eritrea with regard to fishing in its waters and interpretation of the verdict of the international arbitration court regarding the disputed issue (*Radio Ethiopia, Oct. 15*).

The US says Ethiopia will be one of the next African nations to receive military training in peacekeeping and humanitarian relief operations. Greg Engle, the U.S. State Department's Director of the Office of Regional and Security Affairs for Africa said training for Ethiopian troops would go forward now that hostilities between Ethiopia and neighboring Eritrea are over. The training program calls for local troops to receive instructions in conducting peacekeeping and relief missions, but not training in the conduct of any kind of warfare (*VOA, July 24*). - Pentagon sources were quoted as saying that the training would enhance competence in international peacekeeping and humanitarian intervention. Ethiopia was part of the "African Crisis Response Initiative" until the program was suspended at the outbreak of the Ethio-Eritrea conflict in 1998 (*Menelik, July 26*).

### **6. Education**

The Ministry of Education has announced a 16.5% growth in the coverage of primary education enrolment during the past Ethiopian academic year. The number of primary school students reached 8.1mio in 1994 E.C. from 7.3mio in the previous year. An increase of more than 12 % was witnessed in secondary school enrolment during the same period. Enrolment in technical and vocational education grew dramatically. The number of specialized institutions grew from 22 to 508 and that of students from 4,561 to 34,777 (*ENA, Sep. 12*).

The Ministry of Education and the U.S. Government signed a five-year agreement amounting to 218.5mio birr. The agreement will cover the second phase of USAID's Basic Education Improvement (BESO II) program, according to a press release by the U.S. Embassy. Mr. Hull also congratulated the Ministry of Education for increasing the primary education enrollment rate in Ethiopia from 20% in 1994 to 57% in 2002/01 (*ETV, Aug. 14*).

Unity College has disclosed that it has finalized preparations to upgrade the college to university level, and would start operation in Sep. 2002. Unity University will have 10 new programs. The head of public relations of the college. said that the college had fulfilled all the requirements set by the Ministry of Education to operate at university level. The ministry requires a minimum of 5,000 students, at least 3 faculties, and 25 % of the lecturers to have PhDs (*Fortune, July 21*).

The Alemaya University will launch a training program in agriculture and social sciences up to PhD level in the next Ethiopian academic year. The dean of the Agricultural College, Dr. Assefa Asmare, said the university plans to train in degree

programs 240 agricultural professionals in animal and plant sciences as well as in agricultural research and dissemination. The college will begin regular training programs in agro-business and agricultural production next academic year (state media, July 2).

Jimma University has announced plans to launch over 20 new degree and diploma programs as of the next Ethiopian academic year. The president of the university, Dr. Damte Wolde Mariam, said that the university would start degree programs in law, economics, psychology, computer sciences and technology. The diploma programs will be in pharmacology, accounting, banking, marketing and secretarial science. The university will also start post-graduate programs in two fields of medical science. The new programs will raise the enrolling capacity of the university from 3,700 to 10,000 (State media, July 10).

Bahr Dar University has graduated 1,621 students with degrees and diplomas. The graduates studied engineering, education, business and economics. Some 502 of the students graduated with degrees and the remaining 1,119 with diplomas. The president of the university, Dr. Shimelis Haile, said a textile and garment technology institute has been established in the university as part of the national capacity building program. The university will also upgrade the law department to faculty level (*ENA, July 6*).

### **7. Health**

Abortion is the second leading cause of hospital deaths in Ethiopia, after tuberculosis, the World Health Organization (WHO) said. Dr. Angela Benson, acting representative of WHO in Ethiopia also indicated that several harmful practices like Female Genital Mutilation are practiced in one form or another by more than 70 % of the population (*Monitor, Oct. 25*).

An official of the Ministry for Labor and Social Affairs told a meeting on AIDS that, at the present rate, the AIDS epidemic in Ethiopia could increase by 7.3% a year. Right now, three million Ethiopians are said to carry the virus with one out of six citizens in the big cities infected with the virus (*Tobia, Sep. 12*).

Some 37 HIV/AIDS surveillance stations established in rural and urban areas have begun operation, the Ministry of Health said. The stations were established to study the magnitude of the epidemic in order to be able to launch a consolidated preventive campaign. The ministry's head of the Diseases Prevention and Control Department said there are 2.6 million people living with the virus, out of whom 250,000 are children under the age of 5, and 75,000 AIDS orphans (*Daily Monitor, Aug. 7*).

The Netherlands Government has signed an over 33.1 million birr cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Health to be used for the tuberculosis and leprosy

control program (TLCP) in the country (*Radio Ethiopia, Aug. 7*).

About 500,000 children in Ethiopia are exposed to blindness annually, two ophthalmologic specialists at Menelik II Hospital revealed. Dr. Argaw Mohammed and Dr. Samson Bayu indicated that 60 % of the reported number die of diseases affecting the eye.. Measles, Vitamin A deficiency, traditional treatments and trachoma, among others, are the major causes for child blindness. According to the study, most of the diseases that blind children are preventable (*ENA, June 24*).

According to a study conducted by the Central Statistics Authority malnutrition is the cause for the retardation of 57 % of children in Ethiopia. The physical development of children aged between 3-59 months is slowed down because of malnourishment (WIC).

#### **8. Human Rights**

More than two hundred people had lost their lives through extra-judicial killings and that 230 had unlawfully been imprisoned in the Ethiopian calendar year now closing to an end. This was disclosed in a report by the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) released on Sep. 2. The 27-page report shows also that there had been quite a significant number of people wounded as a result of being fired at and kidnapped, and also unlawfully fired from their work and made pensionless (*The Reporter, Sep. 4*).

#### **9. Internal Security**

On the night of Ethiopian New Year, Sept, 11, a big explosion had rocked the Tigray Hotel in the heart of Piazza leaving at least 30 injured and one dead. The blast occurred at app. 9:30 p.m. State Minister of Information Wro. Netsanet Asfaw was quoted by *CNN* as having said that it was an explosive devise that gutted the hotel. Soon after the explosion, fire broke out causing extreme damage to the place and injuring many people in the hotel (*Daily Monitor, Sep. 13*).

A bomb planted by unidentified individuals has exploded at the Dire Dawa Railway office building on June 24. There were no injured people, but one of the rooms in the building and a train compartment were damaged. The Security, Immigration and Refugees Affairs Authority is investigating the incident to identify those responsible for the crime, the report said (*Daily Monitor, June 26*).

the OLF has claimed responsibility for the bomb explosion at the Dire Dawa Railway Station. OLF Spokesman Ato Lencho Bati told that the attack was part of the nationwide offensive being taken by the OLF. The Ethiopian government has admitted the attack, but said the offenders were terrorist groups whom it did not specify (*VOA, June 25*).