

- Wirkungsbeobachtung zur Erfolgskontrolle und zur Erfahrungsauswertung

Wichtig ist auch ein klarer Zielgruppenfokus. Bestimmte benachteiligte Zielgruppen bedürfen der Durchführung von vorangestellten und begleitenden geeigneten Rehabilitationsmaßnahmen.

Aber auch ein elaboriertes Konzept für angepasste Berufsbildungsangebote muss in einen systemischen Zusammenhang eingebettet sein, zu dem neben dem Vorhandensein von unterschiedlichen Dienstleistungsanbietern (Beratung, Kredit, etc.) auch entwicklungsförderliche rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen zählen.

Interessenvertretung und politische Artikulation

In fünf Bundesländern Äthiopiens wurden Berufsbildungsräte ins Leben gerufen, in denen neben zuständigen staatlichen Behörden auch Berufsverbände, Unternehmer, sowie profit- und gemeinwohlorientierte Trainingsanbieter vertreten sind, um regional und lokal angepasste Strategien zu entwickeln. Damit die in den Räten partizipierenden NRO nicht nur Einzelinteressen vertreten, sondern als Fürsprecher ihres Sektors wahrgenommen werden, wird zusammen mit dem nationalen NRO-Dachverband ein Programm zur regionalen Vernetzung und Förderung der Meinungsbildung von NRO im Bereich der beruflichen Bildung entwickelt und umgesetzt.

Die zukünftigen zentralen Aufgaben in der Förderung von NRO in der non-formalen beruflichen Bildung sind: In Zusammenarbeit mit dem NRO-Dachverband wird ein Großteil der relevanten NRO identifiziert, regional vernetzt und in die Konzept- und Kapazitätsentwicklung eingebunden. Interessierte NRO werden in der Beantragung von zusätzlichen finanziellen Ressourcen unterstützt. Ziel ist die Durchführung des entwickelten Konzeptes mit verschiedenen Zielgruppen, in verschiedenen Regionen (Stadt, Land) unter Einbeziehung von verschiedenen Dienstleistungsanbietern und wissenschaftlicher Begleitforschung. Schließlich werden NRO unterstützt, ihre Interessen in den Berufsbildungsräten zu artikulieren und die regionale Strategieentwicklung in ihrem Sinn zu beeinflussen.

Wahlen 2005

Dieses Mal demokratische Wahlen?

Bernhard Schulte-Kemna

Am 15. Mai 2005 soll das äthiopische nationale Parlament gewählt werden. Die Regierung teilte dazu mit, dass sich 10 nationale – und 57 regionale Parteien um die 479 Mandate bemühen werden. Obwohl diese Zahl eine große Auswahl unterschiedlicher Parteien mit verschiedenen Programmen andeutet, ist Zweifel an der Vielfalt angebracht.

Zumindest die letzten beiden Wahlen waren gekennzeichnet von massiven Behinderungen bis hin zu Repressionen gegen verschiedene Oppositionsparteien, deren Führungskräfte, Kandidaten und sogar wiederum deren Familien. Mit Einschüchterungen, Polizeikontrollen, Verhaftungen, Entlassungen, Beschlagnahmungen u.v.a. Methoden sollten Personen, die gesamte Presse und eben auch die politischen Parteien

auf Regierungskurs getrimmt – oder ausgesondert werden. Verschiedene Menschenrechtsgruppen aus Äthiopien, der nationale und internationale Journalistenverband und Amnesty International haben hier viele Fälle aus der Vergangenheit dokumentiert.

Das offizielle Äthiopien versteht sich bisher (noch) nicht als eine Demokratie im westlichen Sinne, sondern eher als eine gelenkte Demokratie, bei der echte Gewaltenteilung zwischen Gesetzgebung, Ausführung, Rechtssystem, Polizei und Armee nicht verwirklicht ist. Aus historischem Blickwinkel ist eine etwas demokratische Regierung sicher schon eine gewaltige Leistung. Erinnert sei an Jahrhunderte des Feudalismus, 15 Jahre der Militärregierung und die zu Beginn nicht gewählte, sondern erkämpfte, Legitimation der heutigen Regierung. Und erinnert sei an die wenig entwickelte „politische Infrastruktur“ im Land mit vielen Ethnien, Sprachen, Religionen, Kulturen – und das bei mangelnden Informationsmöglichkeiten, oft fehlender Ausbildung und dem verinnerlichten Bewusstsein aus der Geschichte, dass die Macht von oben ausgeht (s.o.). Dass also in nur 15 Jahren das erreicht sein soll, wofür Europa Jahrhunderte gebraucht hat, wäre auch etwas viel verlangt. (Wobei natürlich auch noch zu diskutieren wäre, ob die europäische Demokratievorstellung wirklich die beste der möglichen Varianten ist).

Nichtsdestotrotz hat die äthiopische Regierung eine Verpflichtung, für demokratische Verhältnisse zu sorgen. Und zwar einerseits aus ihrem Auftrag aus der äthiopischen Verfassung und andererseits aus der Verpflichtung gegenüber vielen Ländern, die – auf Anforderung der äthiopischen Regierung - beträchtliche Mengen Hilfe ins Land pumpen, und zwar meistens mit der Auflage zur Einhaltung der Menschenrechte.

Neben diesen formal – rechtlichen Begründungen gibt es aber noch die Verpflichtung aus der politischen Vernunft heraus. In einem Land mit so vielen Gegensätzen im modernen Leben und so vielen Wunden aus der Geschichte ist der Aufbau eines einheitlichen Staates mittelfristig nur durch Einbeziehung sowie durch Üben des (z.T. auch kontroversen) Dialoges und der Kompromiss-Kultur zu erreichen und nicht durch Ausgrenzen, Unterdrücken und in den Untergrund treiben. Wie sich an vielen Stellen in der Welt zeigt, führt das zu Hass, Kampf und sinnloser Zerstörung von Menschenleben und gewachsenen Strukturen.

Es bedarf schlicht und ergreifend der Einbeziehung aller politisch relevanten Kräfte zur weiteren Entwicklung und Einübung der demokratischen Kultur. Und ob eine Kraft politisch relevant ist, zeigt sich nirgendwo so gut, wie bei den Wahlen.

Deshalb ist die Forderung nach fairen, demokratischen Wahlen aus den Reihen vieler Äthiopier im Ausland und in Äthiopien sowie auch vieler ausländischer Beobachter und Organisationen berechtigt. Das Land muss die Demokratie lernen. Und das geht nur durch die Einübung des gleichberechtigten Dialogs, ggf. auch mit Menschen und Gruppen, die eine andere Auffassungen von Politik und Entwicklung haben als die Regierung.

Da der Prozess der Parteien – Registrierung bereits im vollen Gange ist, appellieren die oppositionellen Parteien an die mit Äthiopien befassten Institutionen und Organisationen:

- die Wahlvorbereitungen zu beobachten
- die Regierung zu drängen, eine **unabhängige** Wahlkommission einzusetzen, die die Opposition nicht benachteiligt,

- die Regierung und die Verwaltung zur Neutralität gegenüber Oppositionsparteien zu verpflichten, und zwar insbesondere die z.T. übereifrigen, regierungs-loyalen lokalen Behörden,
- von der Regierung die Öffnung der Medien für die Opposition zu verlangen und schließlich auch
- die Wahl selber genau zu beobachten.

Im Interesse einer langfristig friedlichen Entwicklung im Lande wäre dies nur zu begrüßen. Besser eine schwierige Demokratie zu üben, als eine einseitige Politik, d.h. eine Politik **gegen** große Bevölkerungsgruppen, solange fortzusetzen, bis der Wandel durch politische Uргewalten herbeigeführt wird. Denn nichts ist ewig! Und die letzten Regierungswechsel waren immer mit heftigsten Turbulenzen für das ganze Land einhergegangen.

Addis Ababa, October 21, 2004 (WIC)

EC sets 8m birr for voter education

The European Commission (EC) disclosed that it has earmarked more than eight million birr for the implementation of voter education programs in the country. According to *state media*, the head of the Delegation of the European Commission in Ethiopia, Ambassador Timothy Clarke, told *WIC* that the initiation of the program is part of the Commission's support for free and fair elections in the forthcoming national and state elections in Ethiopia. He said the voter education program would be undertaken in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation up until the start of the election to be conducted for the third time in the country. He said the program would mainly focus on educating eligible voters from all segments of the society on the rights and obligations in the election process, basic concepts of democratic elections, the need for participation and other pertinent election issues.

Ambassador Clarke also said that the Commission would soon deploy a team of experts consisting of its representatives and specialists on election law and logistics as well as representatives from some member states. The mission of the team is to assess the overall situation with regard to election so as to provide the available support in the facilitation of the election process, Clarke added. The ambassador noted that the team would also make recommendations following its two-week assessment on possible ways of deploying adequate election observers during the election. He pledged that the Commission would provide support to the concerned bodies before and during the election process.

Addis Ababa, 7.10.04 - ENA

Media should be committed toward ensuring mutual understanding among peoples: Official

In a country where democratic culture is younger and development is at its infancy, the major role of the media should be geared towards the creation of national consensus, Member of the House of Peoples Representatives said. The media should work toward bringing about mutual understanding among peoples with a view to ensuring good governance and sustainable economic development, Deputy Head of Information and Cultural Affairs Standing Committee with the House, Amanuel Abraham said. Amanuel, who is also Board Member of the Ethiopian Press Enterprise, said the media should act as an agenda setter for the

public and the government in a bid to reduce poverty and bring about speedy economic development in the country. The official made the statement here on Thursday at a panel discussion that dwelt on problems and solutions of the print media.

Especially, he said, the media should provide accurate and balanced information to encourage the public to actively participate in the upcoming national election. The media of the government have historic responsibility to serve all political parties impartially, Amanuel said. The panel discussion, which was undertaken for the 3rd time, conferred on six research studies conducted on, among others, election reporting, conflict reporting, development journalism, covering HIV/AIDS. The daylong panel discussion has attracted representatives from governmental and private media, regional information bureaux, civic societies as well as more than 100 journalists.

New York, September 7, 2004

ETHIOPIA: Imprisoned journalist released

Jailed Ethiopian journalist Tewodros Kassa was freed yesterday after serving out a sentence of more than two years in prison for "press offenses," according to CPJ sources. With Kassa's release, no journalists are jailed in Ethiopia, but many have criminal charges pending against them, the sources said. Kassa, the former editor of the Amharic-language weekly *Ethiop*, was sentenced to two years in prison in July 2002 on charges of defamation and "disseminating information that could incite people to political violence." In June this year, just as he was nearing the end of his prison term, Kassa was sentenced to a further three months on criminal defamation charges. The 2002 sentence for defamation stemmed from a 1997 article in *Ethiop* alleging that a private investment company specializing in natural-resource development had connections in the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) government. The 2002 sentence for "disseminating false information that could incite people to political violence" stemmed from two stories published in 1997. The first reported that the EPRDF had fired personnel at the Debre Zeit air force base who worked for the former regime of Mengistu Haile Mariam and replaced them with pro-EPRDF workers. The second article alleged that unidentified individuals unsuccessfully tried to bomb a popular hotel in the capital, Addis Ababa. The 2004 defamation sentence stemmed from a November 2000 article in *Ethiop* alleging that state security forces may have killed local businessman Duki Feyssa. A relative of Feyssa brought the charge against the journalist.

"While we are relieved that our colleague has been freed from prison, it is outrageous that he was put there in the first place," said CPJ Executive Director Ann Cooper. "We reiterate our call for the Ethiopian government to remove criminal penalties for press offenses."

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<http://www.cpj.org> - E-mail: info@cpj.org

Addis Ababa, 4.10.04 - ENA

A trainers' manual has been prepared on non-regular civic education program aimed at raising the awareness of the public on the upcoming national elections, the civic education ad hoc joint forum said. The announcement was made by forum chairman Aberra Hailemariam at a meeting organised to discuss the

manual. The joint forum that embraces 22 non-governmental organisations has prepared the manual with the objective of providing standard civic and election lessons for the public, Aberra said. The manual comprises chapters on basic democratic principles, constitutional government, the structure and power sharing of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the rights of citizens as well as on election procedures. The manual has points that enable the provision of lessons on the need and significance of elections, the rights and responsibilities of voters, the nature of democratic election as well as on election and women, he said. Member organisations of the joint forum will use the manual to provide relevant lessons for over 11 million people in all the regional States, he said. Training of trainers will be offered at the grassroots level, he indicated. The ad hoc joint forum was organised a year ago bringing together NGOs, professional associations as well as women's and youth associations.

Addis Ababa, September 29, 2004 (WIC)

Opposition Unity Party not invited to dialogue as it doesn't have legal entity: IAG

Inter Africa Group (IAG) said that it could not invite the Opposition Unity Party to the civil society and good governance dialogue held over the weekend, as the Unity is not legally recognised. In a press briefing held yesterday, Policy Dialogue Co-ordinator with the IAG, Nebyou Samuel said that the Opposition Unity Party with 15 member parties was not invited to the dialogue because it was not given legal entity by the National Electoral Board. He recalled that the parties had said that they could not participate unless the Unity is invited, but the forum does not have any power and intention of inviting organisations without legal entity. Making the dialogue free, transparent and focused was the objective of the forum and IAG didn't have a room to manipulate the discussion, he stated. IAG would organise similar forums at national and regional levels and parties that have legal entity can participate in them, he added.

Addis Ababa, 27 Sep 2004 (IRIN)

ETHIOPIA: Federal parliamentary elections set for May 2005

Ethiopia will hold national elections for its federal parliament on 15 May 2005, officials told IRIN. Ten national and 57 regional parties will run in the polls, with results announced on 8 June 2005, officials from the National Election Board (NEB) said on Saturday. Ethiopia's Information Minister Bereket Simon said that the elections were likely to be fought on the issues of the economy and democratic reforms, adding that it would allow the electorate to vote on the government's economic and development record. "The most important issues in the 2005 elections are going to be economic progress, good governance and development," he said. "The issue of conducting a free and fair election is going to be a priority for the government." International election observers have been invited into the country to monitor the polls, which were previously marred by serious irregularities. Some 38 million people are expected to vote at 35,000 polling stations in Ethiopia's 547 constituencies, costing US \$5.2 million.

Voting is a mammoth logistical exercise in the ethnically and linguistically diverse country. Ethiopia is over 1 million sq. km in size and less than half of the 70 million people can read or write. "These will be very significant elections," Mekonnen Wondimu, from the NEB, told

IRIN. "We are a backward country so the issue of economic development will be crucial - how to develop this backward nation. On these issues the political parties differ."

It is widely expected by analysts that the ruling Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) coalition of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi will retain power. They currently control 479 seats in parliament since the 2000 elections. Elections are held every five years. Affiliated parties make up the majority of the remaining seats.

The EPRDF came to power after overthrowing former ruler Mengistu Haile Mariam in 1991 following nearly two decades of guerrilla war. Opposition groups have called for electoral reform ahead of the elections, saying polling is skewed in favour of the ruling party. Lidetu Ayalew, general secretary of the Ethiopian Democratic Party, also called for access to the state-run media to stand a chance of defeating the incumbent government. But government spokesman Zemedkun Teckle insisted the authorities want to ensure "free and fair elections".

Addis Ababa, 26.9.04 - ENA

Policy dialogue held among EPRDF, two opposition political parties

The Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) says it is through the wide and direct participation of the people that both good governance and development are ensured. Attending the policy dialogue organised by the InterAfrica Group (IAG) here on Sunday, EPRDF representative Bereket Semeon said the Front has gained numerous achievements by working closely with the people. Bereket said EPRDF will enhance its development and good governance activities, adding the Front will do all that are necessary to making the upcoming national elections free and fair. Three political parties attended the dialogue. These are EPRDF, All Ethiopia Unity Organization (AEUO) and Ethiopians Democratic Unity Party (EDUP). The Ethiopian Democratic Union did not attend the event though it said it would. The Oromo National Congress and the Council of Alternative Forces did not accept invitation to attend. The policy dialogue forum was held on the issues of civil society and good governance, concerning which each of the parties that participated have voiced their stand and outlook.

Addis Tribune, 24.9.04

Prime Minister Welcomes International Observers for Forthcoming Elections

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said last week that he would welcome observers from Ireland and other countries to the upcoming national elections to be held next year. During a meeting with the chairman of joint committee on Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Dr Michael Woods (MP), the prime minister, said that his invitation to foreign observers was an indication of the Ethiopian government's commitment to transparency in strengthening a democratic process in Ethiopia. The Irish delegation noted that the invitation was a positive development, which would be welcomed by the European Union and its member states. In a separate meeting, the Irish delegation had an opportunity to hear the views of representatives of opposition parties on the issue of election observation. Michael Woods told Addis Tribune Saturday that opposition parties doubted the neutrality of the electoral board. The purpose of the Irish delegation to visit Ethiopia is to familiarise the joint committee with the development co-operation support

which Ireland provides to Ethiopia. It is to be recalled that Ethiopia banned international observers from monitoring the last elections in 2000, restricting the observer status to Ethiopian civil societies, the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and diplomats resident in Addis Ababa. Meanwhile, the Irish government gave 275 million birr in 2004 to support development activities in Ethiopia.

The Daily Monitor (Addis Ababa) May 31, 2004

Opposition Parties Voice Concern Over Election, Human Rights

Dagnachew Teklu

Four opposition parties operating in Ethiopia voiced their concern over the upcoming election activities and the ongoing human rights violation in the country. Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP), Oromo National Congress (ONC), Ethiopian Peace and Democracy Alternative Forces (EPDAF) and South Ethiopia Democratic Union (SEDU) were the political organisations that gathered on Sunday at Meskel Square to voice their concern over the current political situation in Ethiopia. They said to the thousands of their supporters who were gathered that the ruling party is violating the country's various proclamations, particularly those on election and human rights. They said that the government's "wrong policy" resulted in the violation of human rights and mass killing in Gambella and Southern regions in different times and places. "The government has a responsibility for the killing of these innocent people in Gambella, and human rights violations as well," they said. According to the opposition parties, it is time to bring a "publicly elected body" to power and bring a lasting peace to the country and its people. The parties also asked for the re-establishment of a neutral election board to make the upcoming election "free and fair". "The current elections board is under the ruling party's control. It is unthinkable to see free and fair election unless this board is re-established," they said. The parties also accused the government for not subsidising opposition parties during election period and campaign. "The government is not implementing the proclamation, which allows opposition parties to be subsidised during election period. We do not even have opportunities to utilise the government owned electronics media for election. It is an illegal act being taken by the ruling party, they added". They indicated that financial constraints of the opposition parties paralysed them from being active during election. They also said that none of EPRDF's promises were implemented during its 13 years of governance.

"That is why we are struggling, for a change to the people and the country," they added. The parties also vowed to strengthen their alliance and play a role in the political struggle that is taking place in the country.

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Election 2005

UEDF and the 2005 Elections: The way forward

By: Neamin Zeleke

http://www.ethiopiafirst.com/news2004/Jan/UEDF_and_2005.html

Coalition formation and Ethiopian Politics: Lessons learnt from experiences with UEDF

By: Teketel Hailemariam

http://www.ethiopiafirst.com/news2004/Jan/Lessons_from_UEDF.html

Election 2005 in Ethiopia: The Conundrum and the possibilities; By Fekade Shewakena

http://www.ethiopiafirst.com/news2004/Jan/The_Conundrum_and_the_possibilities.html

The Elections of 2005 - Will There Be Fair and Real Election in Ethiopia? By Zewge Fanta, August 2004

<http://www.ethiopiafirst.com/news2004/Jan/Election2005.html>

"... if you don't nurture a loyal opposition, what you nurture is a violent opposition."

Dr. Costantinos Berhe

The issue of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and particularly that of Non-governmental Organization (NGOs), has come to the forefront following the drafting of legislation with respect to them. The government appears to recognize only NGOs as civil society and wants to trim and control their activities. The civil society, understandably, is not happy with this draft legislation because they view it as hindering their activities and giving the executive part of the government unlimited power over them. This issue was the theme of a Public Policy Forum Organized by the Inter-Africa Group on 17 Sept. 2004. Zerihun Tadesse caught up with one of the chairs of that Forum, Dr. Constantinos Berhe, who is also a permanent member of the civil society here in Ethiopia, and discussed the issue with him.

<http://www.ethiopianreporter.com/displayenglish.php?id=1429>

NGOs

Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation

Strengthening the judiciary at the federal and regional level

<http://ethiopia.fes-international.de/Activities/CivilSociety.html>

forces who had been ordered to disband all protests and demonstrations.

After several hours of fighting, schools, churches and offices decided to send their staff home and close their doors. Traders at the Mercato, Africa's biggest market, decided to close during business hours as the city fell apart. Taxi drivers went on strike, sending text messages urging each other to switch off their engines and stay at home. The government tried to organise bus services but with no success...

Three major political parties reach agreement to peacefully conclude electoral process, Addis Ababa (ENA) 10.6.05

AU Welcomes signing of joint declaration by EPRDF, CUD, UEDF Three political parties have reached agreement yesterday to peacefully conclude the May 15 national elections pursuant of public interest, law and constitutional system.

The United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF), the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) have reached agreement yesterday to wrap up the electoral process in a legal and peaceful manner. In addition to representatives of the parties, Chairman of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE), Kemal Bedri and representatives of ambassadors vowed in the presence of representatives of the UN, AU and ambassadors to do their level best towards the implementation of the agreement.

The signatories have re-asserted their condemnation of all acts of violence or incitement to violence and agree to make all possible efforts to prevent such violence or incitement to violence, to exercise restraint, and seek resolution of all issues through legal and peaceful means only. They also declared their commitment to the decision making procedures established by the proclamation on electoral law for deciding upon complaints of election irregularities and to abide by them. The signatories have accepted the legal authority of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia and the courts in those procedures and commit to abide by the decisions they make on the basis of the authority invested in them by the laws of the country, and refrain from all acts intended to subvert such decisions, without prejudice to their constitutional rights.

The three parties recognize the positive role being played by the Joint Political Party Forum in resolving disputes between the parties in a consensual manner and in enhancing the transparency of the process. They also noted the decision of the NEBE to review and investigate the 299 complaints of electoral irregularities that have been submitted by political parties. Meanwhile, the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Alpha Omar Konare, welcomes the signing yesterday of a Joint Declaration on the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) complaints review and investigation process by three political parties.

The Joint Declaration was signed at the office of the NEBE by the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) yesterday 10 June 2005.

In a communiqué it issued later yesterday the Chairperson of the Commission commends the parties for having reaffirmed their commitment to the successful and peaceful conclusion of the electoral process, in a manner that fully respect the wishes of the people, the rule of

law and constitutional process of the country. The Chairperson further commends the parties for their condemnation of all acts of violence or incitement to violence and their commitment to make all possible efforts to prevent the recurrence of violence. The Chairperson of the Commission reaffirms AU's commitment to assist the parties in their efforts and to provide all necessary support for the implementation of the Joint Declaration, so as to ensure the early peaceful and transparent completion of the electoral process.

Ethiopian Opposition Leaders Arrested

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) -- Jun 11, 7:00 AM EDT

Two Ethiopian opposition leaders were placed under arrest Saturday, a day after the ruling party agreed to work with its foes to end violent protests that have left 29 dead. The leader of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy, Hailu Shawel, and a senior official in the party, Lidetu Ayalew, have not been allowed to leave their homes by police, said coalition vice chairman Berhanu Nega. "Nobody can go in and nobody can leave," said Berhanu. "We are extremely concerned about what is going to happen next."

Tim Clarke, the European Commission chief in Ethiopia, who helped negotiate the agreement between the parties, was trying to secure the leaders' release. Journalists who went to Hailu's home to check reports he was under house arrest were beaten by police using fists and clubs.

50 000 Fuel Saving Stoves – Walta, News Agency 21.4.2005

The German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) disclosed that it has distributed 50,000 fuel-saving stoves worth 535,000 USD with a view to preventing deforestation in Tigray state, northern Ethiopia. The Mekele Branch Manager of Sustainable Development Utilisation Project with GTZ, Samson Atsbeha said the distribution of the stoves was part of the two-year project launched by GTZ to prevent forest destruction in the state. He said GTZ supplies the stoves at low price in co-operation with Shell Foundation, adding that training has also been given to stove manufacturers and pertinent governmental sector offices. The stoves, which would enable to bake injera and stew at the same time, would additionally help in mitigating and preventing smoke that would pose danger to personal health. The Manager said 6,000 birr and training has been offered to each of the 54 stove manufacturers who have been supplying over 4,000 stoves in 40 towns of the state.

Internet-Zugang über 10 000 km Glasfaser-Netzwerk –The Daily Monitor, Addis, 6. April 2005

Äthiopien hat damit begonnen, eine Investition von mehreren Millionen USD in ein Glasfaser-Netzwerk zu tätigen, das Äthiopien mit den unterseeischen Kabeln im benachbarten Djibouti verbinden wird. Premierminister Meles Zenawi erklärte, dass Äthiopien mit dem Verlegen von 10.000 km Glasfasern im ganzen Land begonnen hat. "Wir haben nun angefangen, 10.000 km Glasfaserkabel im ganzen Land zu verlegen und werden diese mit den unterseeischen Kabeln in Djibouti verbinden, auch mit Hilfe von Glasfasern", sagte Meles. Das Glasfaser-Netzwerk mit Djibouti wird erwartungsgemäß 2007/2008 in Betrieb gehen. Der Premierminister erklärte auch, dass ICT ein entscheidendes Mittel zur Bekämpfung der Armut in Ländern wie Äthiopien ist, wo die Mehrheit der

Sweetness in the Belly

Camilla Gibb

From an award-winning author and Oxford-trained anthropologist comes a searingly honest and emotional portrayal of people facing extraordinary hardship and loss in the wake of revolution. From the walled Ethiopian city of Harar during the dying years of Haile Selassie's empire, to the council estates of Thatcher's London, Gibb offers nuanced and poignant portraits of refugee experience and the politics of place and displacement.

“A wonderful feat of imagination and empathy.” Louis de Bernières, author of *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*.

Publisher: Doubleday Canada

Termine**Äthiopienseminar 21. bis 23. Oktober 2005****Kultur und Entwicklung**

Wir gehen in einer Kultur der technischen Zivilisation wie selbstverständlich davon aus, dass es ständigen Fortschritt und ständige Verbesserungen gibt. Auch in äthiopischen Kulturen keimt die Hoffnung, wachsende Konsummöglichkeiten zu erhalten. In diesem Seminar wird untersucht und diskutiert, inwieweit äthiopische Kulturen auf Veränderungen und Wachstum, auf Modernisierung und wirtschaftliche Konkurrenz ausgerichtet sind. Und es wird gefragt, ob ein kultureller Wandel Voraussetzung für wirtschaftliche Entwicklung ist.

Ziele:

Information über die aktuelle wirtschaftliche und politische Lage. Kennen lernen der kulturellen Rahmenbedingungen für wirtschaftliche Entwicklung. Respekt für nicht auf Wachstum und ständige Veränderungen ausgerichtet Kulturen entwickeln. Möglichkeiten für Unterstützung von außen für einen u. U. notwendigen kulturellen Wandel entwickeln.

Zielgruppe:

Äthiopien interessierte Öffentlichkeit, Gruppen und Institutionen, die in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit mit Äthiopien aktiv sind.

Leitung: Reinhard Benhöfer

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<http://www.elm-mission.net/deutsch/arbeitsgebiete/aethiopien/index.html>

Öffentliche Vorträge im Rahmen des Äthiopien-Jahres an der Universität Hamburg

15. Juni 2005, Stefan Brüne, Deutsches Übersee-Institut, Hamburg: Äthiopien im Jahr 2020. Akteure, Szenarien und Optionen.

Äthiopien wird im Jahr 2020 eine regionale Hegemonialmacht sein, deren Außen- und Entwicklungshandeln vorausschauender Analyse und einer strategischen

Kultur bedarf. Welche demografischen, ökonomischen und kulturellen Trends zeichnen sich ab und wie könne und sollten die politischen Akteure darauf reagieren?

13. Juli 2005, Volker Matthies, Universität Hamburg: Deutsche Forscher entdecken Aksum.

Aksum, das urbane Zentrum des gleichnamigen antiken Reiches in Nordäthiopien und Keimzelle der äthiopischen Kultur zog schon seit Jahrhunderten europäische Entdecker und Forscher an. Deutsche Reisende und Wissenschaftler wie Rüppell, von Heuglin, Rohlf und Littmann hatten an der Erforschung Aksums wesentlichen Anteil. Dies gilt insbesondere für die berühmte "Deutsche Axum Expedition" Anfang des 20. Jhs. Im Kontext der allgemeinen auf Äthiopien und Aksum bezogenen Reise- und Entdeckungsgeschichte soll unter Rückgriff auf Originaltexte die besondere Rolle deutscher Forscher beleuchtet werden.

26. Oktober 2005, Wolbert Smidt, Universität Hamburg: Die ersten Äthiopier in Deutschland 1840 bis 1893: Sprachinformanten, Missionsschüler, Übersetzer, Studenten.

Die ersten Äthiopier kamen nach Deutschland dank der Aktivitäten deutscher Forscher und, vor allem, Missionären. Nach Deutschland angekommen, mussten sie sich auf ein neues Leben einstellen, aber nicht nur sie, sondern auch die Deutschen konnten bei dieser Begegnung viel lernen und davon profitieren.

9. November 2005, Wolfgang Bender, Universität Mainz: Centenary of the Recording of Ethiopian Music in Germany: Tessema Eshete.

Tessema Eshete wird wohl der erste Sänger und Musiker Äthiopiens - und vielleicht sogar ganz Afrikas gewesen sein, der in Berlin im ersten Jahrzehnt des vergangenen Jahrhunderts von der Firma ODEON professionell aufgenommen wurde und dessen Aufnahmen auf Schallplatten veröffentlicht wurden. Von Kaiser Menelik II. nach Deutschland geschickt, um zum Chauffeur und Automechaniker ausgebildet zu werden, kommt er als reicher Mann aus Deutschland wieder und wird u.a. unter Kaiser Lij Yasu sogar Minister. Es wird wichtiges historisches Bildmaterial vorgeführt und auch die Musik selbst vorgestellt

Alle Veranstaltungen finden in der Abteilung für Afrikanistik und Äthiopistik des Asien-Afrika Instituts der Universität Hamburg, Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1, Flügel Ost, Raum 221, um 19 Uhr statt.

Elections**Mission Statement 24 May, 2005****EUROPEAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION ETHIOPIA 2005****ASSESSMENT OF VOTE COUNTING AND RELEASE OF ELECTORAL RESULTS**

Election Observation Mission regrets the way in which the counting of the votes at the constituency level is being conducted as well as the way in which the release

of results is being handled by the electoral authorities, the government and the political parties, especially the EPRDF. Contrary to voting day when the people of Ethiopia demonstrated a high sense of citizen responsibility and patience, and contrary to vote counting at the polling stations, where order and transparency prevailed, the following irregular practices are of concern:

1. In a press appearance on Monday 16, EPRDF claimed victory in the absence of any results having been made public by the National Electoral Board. A similar statement was released on May 23.

2. Ten days after the election, although electoral results had been posted outside the polling stations in most of the country, the National Electoral Board has only released results from 121 out of 547 constituencies.
3. Since election day, the state-owned media have been releasing on a daily basis provisional, unofficial results mainly showing the partial victories of the EPRDF in a number of constituencies and regions across the country. However, the same media outlets have ignored press conferences or any other statement about results made by opposition parties. For example, on May 18, while international media (e.g. CNN and BBC) covered the press conference by CUD, Ethiopian TV and Radio Ethiopia as well as the next day editions of the state-owned newspapers Addis Zemen and The Ethiopia Herald completely ignored it.
4. Regarding the European Union Election Observation Mission Preliminary Statement of May 17, the state-owned media reported the positive side of the statement while disregarding any critical comments.

These practices, taken as a whole, are seriously undermining the transparency and fairness of the elections. They also risk increasing the scope for manipulation and consequently putting in doubt public confidence in the process. The European Union Election Observation Mission would like to recall that the state media has a duty to report on post election events in an even-handed manner. This duty includes allowing all parties access to the media, albeit while respecting the public interest.

Ethiopia ruling party near victory-early results

By Tsegaye Tadesse

ADDIS ABABA, Sat May 28, 2005 05:10 PM BST (Reuters) - Ethiopia's ruling party and its allies won enough votes in the country's May 15 election to form the next government, provisional election results showed on Saturday. But the opposition said it would not accept the figures released by the Ethiopian Electoral Board, based on returns from more than two-thirds of constituencies, until its charges of vote-rigging are investigated.

The latest results appeared to show that the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi had staved off its strongest challenge since Meles fought his way to power in 1991.

The EPRDF, which had already claimed victory a day after the election, has so far secured 269 seats in the 547 federal parliament, just short of an absolute majority on its own, the electoral board said. Together with four allied parties which won 14 seats it would have 283 seats, above the 274 needed to form the next government and choose the prime minister under Ethiopian law. The election board is due to announce final results on June 8.

But the main opposition party, the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD), said it rejected the provisional results. It has also said it has the votes to form the next government. "We will not accept any result before allegations of rigging in 159 polling stations are verified by a neutral body," CUD spokesman Bebebe Eshetu said.

The election was only the second true multi-party poll in the Horn of Africa nation of 72 million, Africa's largest coffee producer and second most populous country after Nigeria.

The CUD has said the ruling party has harassed, threatened or intimidated its voters, and that it does not consider the electoral board a neutral body. Both the CUD and the ruling party have accused the other of irregularities including vote rigging and improper counting.

"The figure issued by the election board is a confirmation of the report we issued earlier," said Bereket Simon, the government information minister and EPRDF spokesman. "The fact that the election board has come with the facts clearly reveals that the counting and tabulation of results has been done in a proper manner."

The electoral board said the CUD won 108 seats followed by the United Ethiopian Democratic Front (UEDF) with 35 seats. Nine other opposition parties have a total of 25 seats, it said. Diplomats said an allied opposition, which campaigned on a platform of free-market reforms, with more than 168 seats would create a serious challenge to the ruling party in the next parliament.

A European Union voting observer mission on Wednesday criticised the EPRDF for manipulating state-owned media to favour its own agenda, and also chastised the electoral board for its slow release of results.

Elections Update 31.5.2005

National Electoral Board of Ethiopia ,May 31 Midday - Of 524 constituencies where the vote was held, (in 23 constituencies of the Somali region, the vote will take place on August 25), 499 preliminary results have been posted by the Board. The results are as follows:

EPRDF (ruling party) 293
 CUD (Opposition) 120
 UEDF (Opposition) 52
 OFDM (Opposition) 11
 BGPDUF (ally/ruling party) 8
 ANDP (ally/ruling party) 8
 SMPDUO 1
 SPDP 1
 HNL (Harar) 1
 OALF 1
 ANDO 1
 SLM 1
 GTDM 1
 Independent 1

Tripartite Enquiry Teams To Be Assigned To Investigate Election Alleged Irregularities

Addis Ababa, 5/30/2005 (ENA) - Contesting Political Parties Forum had agreed to send tripartite enquiry teams which will investigate complaints of political parties over alleged election irregularities in constituencies, whose provisional election results have already been disclosed.

During a meeting the Forum held here on Monday at the hall of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia, the teams, which will be presided over by the Board would be comprised of all contesting political parties including international observers.

The teams will investigate the complaints in constituencies, where election irregularities were alleged to have been witnessed in accordance with law.

Forum Chairman Kemal Bedri said the public should know that there might be situations in which the existing provisional election results might be changed or not. The Board will give the final decision after the completion of investigation of the enquiry teams, Kemal said. The Board would announce the date for the final disclosure of the results, as consensus has been reached by the

Forum that the investigation of complaints would not be finalised before June 8, 2005, he said.

Referring to a question raised by opposition parties that provisional election results should not be disclosed to public, Kemal said there would not be a problem if provisional results are announced. The disclosure of provisional results is aimed at ensuring transparency and openness, he said, adding that announcement of provisional results would continue by adding votes of higher learning institutions with their respective constituencies.

Kemal said those political parties who filed complaints over election results need to submit their evidences until June 3, 2005. The Board may investigate itself or turn-down certain complaints which cannot meet the criteria set by electoral law, he said. However, he said, if the irregularities are found to change election results, the Board would cancel the election.

Kemal told journalists that the enquiry teams would be set up next week. Meanwhile, Deutsche Welle a German Radio wrongly reported on Monday that re-election would be held in those constituencies, where election irregularities had occurred. Kemal said in a statement he gave to Radio Fana that an agreement was reached among contesting political to set up enquiry teams which will investigate election irregularities not to run re-elections in all constituencies where there are alleged irregularities. If the radio announces that re-elections would be held in all constituencies where alleged irregularities occurred, it was absolutely incorrect.

Certain people said they were disappointed over the dissemination of unfounded and incorrect information to its audiences particularly about the election in Ethiopia.

Verschiedenes

CD mit Liedern, gesungen von Schülern der GCS

Obwohl ich das in unserem Reisebericht auch erwähne, möchte ich doch noch einmal besonders auf die CD hinweisen, die ich produziert habe. Die Tonaufnahmen dazu habe ich während unserer Reise gemacht. Gewiß ist die Aufnahme nicht mit einer Studio-Aufnahme zu vergleichen, vielmehr soll durch die Live-Atmosphäre der frische Eindruck vermittelt werden, den ich so oft mit Bewegung gespürt habe, wenn die Kinder sangen.

Nähere Infos dazu unter
<http://www.germanchurchschool.de/2005cd.html>

Bitte unterstützen Sie dieses kleine Projekt, indem Sie die CD kaufen und auch bei Freunden, Verwandten und Bekannten bewerben. Der Erlös soll für die GCS bestimmt sein.

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Gerhard Reuther, Ruhla

Symposium "Repatriation and cultural memory"

8.5.2005 Ethiopian Herald - A one-day symposium under the theme "Repatriation and Cultural Memory" was held at the Institute of Ethiopian Studies (IES) on May 4, 2005. The symposium, dedicated to the return to Ethiopia of the celebrated Axum Obelisk brought together Ethiopian and international scholars who commented on various aspects of restitution of cultural objects and the history of Axum.

Professor Richard Pankhurst's closing remarks

People who live differently, as we know, think differently. Thieves and robbers think differently from the people from whom they have stolen and robbed.

And more relevant to today's Symposium: Those whose countries have inherited loot tend to be complacent, and to think differently from those whose ancestors were plundered.

"The Obelisk in Rome is too heavy to transport!"

"If we return one item of loot from country X, may we not be pressurised into returning something to country Y? Where will it end?"

"We can look after the manuscripts better in Europe than in Africa!"

"The natives are not interested in their cultural heritage!"

The culturally disinherited see things very differently!

"Why should Italy retain the obelisk in violation of its Peace Treaty of 1947? -"Whose culture is it anyway?" an indignant Ethiopian scrawled in Amharic on the ancient stone.

"Why should the finest Ethiopian manuscripts ever produced be held in the Royal Library in Windsor Castle?"

"Why should Nigerian children have to go to London to see the Benin bronzes their ancestors produced?"

The above is, in a way, a continuation of the old debate between Colonised and Colonisers.

When the peoples of Africa and Asia were struggling for their political emancipation:

They were told by their European masters: "We know better how to rule than you do. We are experts in colonial government. We even have professors of colonial administration.

You, on the other hand, are too stupid, or inexperienced, to rule yourselves".

The ruled, the disinherited colonial subjects, replied:

"We want our birth-right!!"

"We want to enter into our inheritance!"

"We want the right to make our own mistakes!"

The present debate on the Loot from Africa and the Third World has its roots in that debate about the rights of historically oppressed peoples.

This is because people who in the past had to struggle against foreign rule are now beginning to struggle to regain their cultural heritage from which they were deprived as a direct consequence of that foreign rule.

How did the obelisk, the aeroplane Tsehai and the Ministry of the Pen letters end up in Rome; why are the Maqda treasures and the Benin bronzes in Britain?

There is but one answer: They were taken by force: Might not Right!

Food aid in Ethiopia is in critically short supply with cereal stocks likely to run out next month, the UN World Food Program (WFP) said on Feb. 21. Paul Turnbull, head of WFP's emergency unit, told that only 11% of the requirements for 2.9 million people in March had been covered. The shortfall comes as the government launches a new strategy to try and end the on-going dependency of millions of people on food aid. The strategy, known as the safety net program, seeks to support 5.1 million people depending on food aid, regardless of annual harvests (*IRIN, Feb. 23*).

Food Security:

The European Commission delegation to Ethiopia has signed grant contracts with eight NGOs for the implementation of eight food security development projects, totaling euro 7.1m. The total contribution of the EC amounts to euro 6.3m. These projects will be implemented during 2005-2007 in 21 districts in Tigray, Amhara, Oromia and SNPP Regional States. These projects are complementary of the food security program of support channeled through the government and ensures that the most needy do not slip through the net, The Head of EC Delegation in Ethiopia said. - NGOs were requested to focus on strengthening the capacity of the district administration partners and the respective beneficiary communities to make them effectively implement their food security development initiatives and in particular the safety net program. Since 1997, 56 NGO projects have received funding through the EC Food Security Budget Line with a total contribution of the Commission amounting to Euro 45.2m (*Radio Ethiopia, Feb. 7*).

A tripartite three-year technical cooperation agreement, providing for 1.2m USD to increase Ethiopia's agricultural productivity was signed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Israeli Centre for International Cooperation (MASHAV). State Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Belay Ejigu, said that the main components of the program are technology transfer in the field of horticulture, dairy, capacity building and water harvesting and utilization. The introduction of agricultural biotechnology to improve crop and livestock productivity and short-term on-the-spot training are also part of the components, according to Ato Belay. The State Minister said that the government has given top priority to the promotion of 'high growth agendas' to transform the rural economy, thereby improving the livelihood of the rural poor. - The Ambassador of the State of Israel said MASHAV will provide training and technical assistance designed to assist Ethiopian small-holder and commercial farmers to plant high-yield disease-and-pest resistant crops. In the 2004/05 to 2006/07 technical cooperation accord, USAID and MASHAV will contribute 1.02m and 180,000 USD respectively (*ETV, Feb. 9*).

According to, a new International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) supported program will help reduce the effects of fluctuating commodity prices on the incomes of smallholder farmers in Ethiopia and thereby contribute to improved incomes and food security. According to Reliefweb, the 35.1m UDS program will be largely financed by a 27.2m UDS loan to Ethiopia from IFAD (*Daily Monitor, Jan. 26*).

Environment:

The number of elephants in the Babilie Elephant Sanctuary has reportedly rocketed from 60 to 242. The head of the sanctuary, Wondwossen Sisay, said that the over fourfold increase in the population was registered following the census carried out in Jan. 2005. The dwindling number of birds and mammals in the sanctuary has similarly shown an increase as human encroachment had declined, he said. The Babilie elephant sanctuary shelters more than 250 birds and 22 mammals (*WIC, April 7*).

Afar members of the All Ethiopia Unity Organization (AEUO) have said that Yangud National Park in Afar State has been threatened by man-made problems created by the EPRDF. Lions, ostriches and zebras are among the wild animals that live in the park. They said, Issa pastoralists completely control the park and are illegally hunting the wild animals (*Tobia, Feb. 10*).

Forum for Environment, a local NGO, has said that Conservation International has registered Ethiopia's two bio-diversity hotspots in its list to better introduce the country's natural resources across the world and improve conservation activities. NGO professionals in the field said that since 2000, 25 bio-diversity hotspots had been registered. After a detailed study made at the end of 2004, nine new bio-diversity hotspots were added to the list bringing the number of the hotspots to 34. Eastern Afromontane and Horn of Africa that embrace Ethiopia are among the new entries, according to the professionals. The Eastern Afromontane covers three highland areas, namely Eastern Arc Mountains, Southern Rift and the Ethiopian Highlands, where there are over 7,600 plant species, out of which 2,350 are endemic. The professionals further said despite the fact that the so far registered hotspot areas constitute only 2.3% of our planet, 75% of the endangered bio-diversity is found here. The Horn of Africa bio-diversity hotspot, Ethiopian highlands being at the heart, goes up to the eastern part of the coastal areas of Somalia, including the Red Sea islands (*ETV, Feb. 11*).

The forests in the environs of Arba Minch town are under severe depletion. Natural Resources Protection Expert in the Arba Minch Zuria District Rural Development Coordination Department, Eskindir Bekele, said that the 1,200-ha dense forests around the town had dwindled to a mere 186 ha in the last five years. According to the expert, population increase, wildfire and felling trees for fuel are the reasons for the depletion. Eskindir, who predicted complete destruction of the forest after 20 years if nothing is done about it, said the town is already warming up due to the massive deforestation. He said there is also wildlife migration, drying up of water bodies and extinction of some fish breeds. Many fuel users, according to the expert, have been reluctant to substitute electric energy for fuel. A project is under preparation to involve the public in afforestation and to diversify energy sources, he said (*WIC, Feb. 8*).

Other Issues:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development says that it would issue land use certificates to four million farmers in Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples states. The new strategy will enhance productivity by guaranteeing ownership, the ministry said. All farmers across the country are expected to be issued with the certificates in the next three years, it said. Some two million people have been provided with land use certificates to date, according to the ministry (*State media, Feb. 19*).

Poor families in Ethiopia could be hit by unusually high cereal prices, according to a report by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS Net). Current high prices could be pushed up even further by local purchase of food aid that is planned for this year, the USAID-funded FEWS Net said. The high prices, it added, had come as a surprise to many aid organizations because it comes on the heels of reports of a bumper harvest in the country. - Traditionally, the price of cereals drops at this time of year because it is the main harvest period. However, current maize prices are around US \$170 per MT - compared with previous years of \$105 per MT. The government and donor organizations had been looking at local purchases of food for the safety-net program, aimed at supporting five million people. It is estimated more than 200,000 MT of food aid may be purchased locally this year as part of the safety-net program (*IRIN, Jan. 25*).

- Social, Cultural and Political Aspects -

Elections:

➤ Compare EU-Observer statement under Heading "Elections" in this issue

CUD has called on the people to prepare to protect their rights and interests, if the ruling party is not ready to accept the decision of the people in the election by immediately stopping its illegal activities. CUD's leaders said that people should prepare for peaceful means of struggle like prayers, national strikes and peaceful disobedience. Such kinds of protests are peaceful and internationally accepted, they said (*Addis Zena, May 25*).

Ethiopia's main opposition party threatened to boycott the next parliament unless its accusations of fraud and rigging in 139 constituencies are investigated and new polls are held. CUD said on May 23 that evidences of irregularities must be investigated by a neutral body made up of international observers, CUD, ruling party, and the Ethiopian Election Board. Unless the investigations and re-votes are held, "our party will not join the next parliament," CUD Chairman Hailu Shawel said (*Reuters, May 23*).

The elite force called Agazi, which was stationed in Tigray was dispatched to the capital because of fear of civil unrest. It has been stationed in three camps in Addis Ababa. There is speculation that EPRDF deployed the elite force as a deterrent to any form of civil disobedience that may be organized by opposition political parties. - Since members of the police force were not willing to be part of the government plan to crush protests and demonstrations, the government has turned its face to the Agazi army to crash the protests, the sources said (*Hadar, May 26*).

The NEBE had asked four senior judges to start investigating complaints received from all political parties, said spokesman Getahun Amogne. "We consider every complaint, but we have to decide which complaints need to be investigated," he told reporters. "Some we might reject, some we can give immediate decisions on and for some, we have to make further investigations. We expect to give immediate decisions or very quick responses to these complaints." The ruling party has also lodged more than 50 complaints - mainly in Oromia, the country's largest region, he added (*IRIN, May 24*).

The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) has decided that voting at 16 polling stations in Arsi and Hadiya zones, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples states respectively, be conducted again. The polling stations are in six constituencies, the acting registrar of political parties' registration, Mekonnen Wondimu, said. The Board reached the decision after verifying that voters' rights were violated and voting was disrupted at the polls in question, he said (*State media, May 26*).

CUD and the UEDF have protested against the arrests of their observers in all states. Both organizations demanded the immediate release of the arrested people. UEDF and CUD also said the arrests took place right after the opposition parties released the names of their observers on May 13. Their observers were arrested in 13 places in Gurage, Sidama, North Omo and Wolaita zones as well as in North Wello, Dessie, Ibbat, Esetie, Farta and Merhabete, they said (*Reporter, May 18*).

CUD said it had won majority votes in Addis Ababa and other major towns in the country. CUD officials said in a news conference on Monday their party had won in all constituencies in Addis Ababa City Administration except in two where the results are not yet known. CUD said the result of the election had not reached the party so far from the National Electoral Board. CUD had won a majority vote in the towns where CUD had contested (*BBC News, May 16*).

There was an overwhelming turnout in Sunday's election, with voters queuing for hours and polling extended. Foreign observers said they could not verify opposition claims of rigging. The chief EU election monitor, Ana Gomez, called the election a victory for democracy, and a credit to all parties who had participated. She told the BBC it was a bit absurd for the opposition - who have alleged fraud and intimidation - to dismiss the poll at such an early stage (*BBC, May 15*).

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has banned all demonstrations in the capital, Addis Ababa, and its surrounding areas for one month, following Sunday's nationwide balloting, which the opposition has already claimed fraudulent. Prime Minister Meles' announcement on national television late Sunday surprised many Ethiopians, who had come out in their millions earlier in the day to vote in a hotly contested election between Mr. Meles' ruling party and a coalition of opposition parties. The Ethiopian leader said that, in addition to the month-long ban on demonstrations, he was also assuming direct control of police and other security forces to ensure post-election peace and stability (*VOA, May 15*).

The High Court overturned election rules that had effectively banned thousands of local observers from monitoring Ethiopia's May 15 parliamentary polls. High Court Judge Berhanu Teshome said Tuesday that the rules "contravened" the laws of the country. Mekonnen Wondimu, a lawyer for the National Election Board, said it would appeal the decision (*Associated Press, May 3*).

Thousands of voters in Ethiopia's national elections have to be re-registered because of serious abuses, the chairman of the national election board said. Kemal Bedri said that less than two weeks to the 15 May polling, investigators had discovered irregularities, including underage voters and people with multiple ballots. He added that police were now investigating the abuses - which included 10-year-old children being registered to vote - and would prosecute those found responsible. - Kemal said re-registration would take place in 15 polling stations in Afar, in northeastern Ethiopia, and in three polling stations in Sidama, in the south of the country. Each polling station has around 1,500 voters. It was the second time that abuses including underage voters have been discovered. In March, election board officials discovered that children as young as three were registered to vote and that multiple ballots had been handed out. The problem was discovered in Hadiya district, 200 km south of Addis Ababa, where elections in 2000 had to be re-run because of similar abuses. Traditionally, the district had strongly opposed the ruling party (*IRIN, May 2*).

Officials of the five major opposition parties told journalists that members of opposition parties and supporters are being tortured and are facing imprisonment throughout the country. They said that only in the last few weeks, eight members of the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) and the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) have been killed in South Wello and East Gojjam zones. The opposition parties said members of the All Ethiopia Democratic Party, Oromo Federalist Democratic Party, UEDF and the Pan Africanist Party were facing "continuous election harassment" throughout the country. They said that 150 supporters in South Wello and 120 supporters in South Gondar are currently being investigated by the ruling party because of membership and activities. "We have detailed information that this illegal action is being taken by the ruling party," they said (*Daily Monitor, April 28*).

52 EU long-term election observers flew into Ethiopia on April 15, officials said, to act as the "eyes and ears" of the mission - one month ahead of the national elections. Rafael Lopez Pinto, deputy chief observer, told reporters in Addis Ababa that the observers were the core element of the EU mission to assess Ethiopia's third ever democratic ballot (*IRIN, April 18*).

The EU criticized Ethiopia's election board for introducing a rule, which will bar thousands of local observers from monitoring parliamentary elections next month. The state-appointed electoral body issued a directive last week saying civic groups would not be allowed to act as monitors unless they had declared they wanted to observe the May 15 polls when they were registered. The regulation has effectively excluded thousands of Ethiopian monitors from observing the polls (*Reuters, April 17*).

International observers will monitor only 10% of polling stations throughout the country. There are 34,000 polling stations in the country. Local observers will cover 90% of the polling stations, the sources said. The National Electoral Board (NEBE) will set down criteria to nominate local observers (*Reporter, April 3*).

The EU has fielded one of its largest ever teams of election observers to Ethiopia for the 15 May general polls, the mission chief, Ana Gomez, said. Gomez told reporters on March 21 in Addis Ababa that the forthcoming national elections could play a critical role in fostering democracy in Ethiopia and greater stability in the Horn of Africa. The 159-strong observer mission, which would cost about Eur 2.8m, had some initial concerns over whether the elections would be free and fair, she added (*IRIN, March 22*).

Some 3,000 observers are to be deployed throughout Ethiopia on 15 May to monitor elections, the Christian Relief and Development Association (CRDA), an umbrella body of civil-society organizations, said. "This represents a major stride for CSOs [community-based organizations] and NGOs in terms of their engagement in the election as compared to the preceding general election, when only a few were involved in the area," CRDA, which has over 200 members, added in a statement (*IRIN, March 3*).

According to a senior NEB official, the number of voters registered to cast ballots in the upcoming national elections is estimated to reach 25 million. The highest number of registered voters are from Oromia (9 million) followed by Amhara region (7 million), the Southern Na-

tions, Nationalities and Peoples State (4.5 million), Addis Ababa Administration (1.5 million), Tigray State, including disputed Badme, (1.5 million), and Harari State (70,000) (VOA, Feb. 18).

NEB has said that it has given permits to 672 organizations that will be observing the national elections. The office of the Board said that seven local organizations have received permits to delegate their observers in line with the applications they had submitted. Accordingly, six civic organizations and the Ethiopian Democratic Unity Party (EDUP) have received permits to delegate observers. The Ethiopian Human Rights Congress has deployed 74 delegates to observe the process of voter registration. The Ethiopian Teachers' Association has indicated that it has assigned 93 members as observers of voter registration in various parts of the country. The Addis Ababa Women's Association has also deployed 273 permanent and temporary observers in all the ten Sub-City Administrations in Addis Ababa. 30 members of the Society for Victims of Torture of the Red Terror as well as 57 delegates assigned by the Ethiopian Civic Society Coalition will be observing the process of elections. The Oromia Youth Association has received permit for 142 observers (ENA, Feb. 2).

Internal Conflicts:

Ethiopia's armed forces have said they have killed more than 30 rebels during several days of fighting in the Ogaden. Officials say 300 rebels from the Ogaden National Liberation Front crossed over the border from Somalia. They said 30 of them had been captured, along with various weapons, but there is no word of any army casualties. The rebels, who are ethnic Somalis, have fought for the secession of the Ogaden region since the early 1990s. The government blames ONLF's activities for a lack of meaningful development in the region (BBC, April 21).

Political Parties:

The United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) and Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD) could not reach an agreement to work together. UEDF said that it was unfortunate that opposition political parties are forced to compete against one another in the election. According to UEDF, there was no response from CUD so far. UEDF had written a letter to CUD earlier this month asking that both coalitions should not compete with one another (Tomar, March 30).

News about Culture and History:

Thousands cheered the homecoming of the third and final piece of the Axum Obelisk on April 25 after 68 years in Rome. The handing over of the obelisk was also formally concluded. President Girma Wolde Giorgis, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, other senior government officials, ambassadors and invited dignitaries as well as residents of the town welcomed the last segment of the 1,700-old obelisk as it arrived at the Yohannes IV International Airport (state media, April 25).

Experts have discovered a major network of underground funerary chambers and arches near the original site of the ancient obelisk, UNESCO said. The discovery was made last week during a surveying mission in preparation for the return of the final piece of the 1,700-year-old Axum obelisk from Italy, the agency said. Teams from the Paris-based UNESCO found the chambers using high-technology imaging equipment. "It is likely that some of the tombs identified through underground imaging are intact," said Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO's director-general, in a statement. Welcoming this important discovery, Matsuura said: "Archaeological excavations would now be required to uncover possible vestiges of major historical interest," he said (Daily Monitor, April 27). - UNESCO has asked the Ethiopian government to delay the erection of the Axum obelisk for some time. The vast chambers, part of a royal necropolis predating the Christian era, are located beneath a parking area built on the site in 1963, UNESCO said. Italian researchers were examining images and were creating three-dimensional models of the royal tombs, the agency said (The Monitor, April 29).

Thousands of Ethiopians cheered and cried joyously as Italy on Tuesday returned the first piece of the Axum obelisk, an ancient

national treasure Rome's fascist regime plundered 68 years ago (Daily Monitor, April 20). - The second segment of the Axum Obelisk had arrived in Axum on Friday. This segment is the base of the obelisk and weighs 58.9 tons and is 7.1 m high (ETV, April 22).

Ethiopia has appealed to Britain to match Italy's gesture by repatriating hundreds of artifacts plundered by the British Army in the 19th century, The Times reported. The plunder of Ethiopian treasures after the Battle of Maqdala in 1868 was not one of the finest chapters in British imperial history, it said. An expeditionary force under General Sir Robert Napier invaded Ethiopia after the British consul and several missionaries were taken hostage by the Ethiopian ruler, Emperor Tewodros. The victorious troops looted the imperial treasury and the Church of the Savior of the World, taking crucifixes, Bibles, Christian manuscripts and other irreplaceable religious artifacts. Many items were sold by soldiers, but much remains in British hands. The British Library has nearly 350 manuscripts, the British Museum 80 objects, the Victoria and Albert Museum a gold crown and gold chalice and the Royal Library in Windsor Castle six ecclesiastical manuscripts, according to the newspaper. A few items have been returned, and the British Museum has offered to transfer nine tablets (engraved wooden tablets representing the Ark of the Covenant) to the Ethiopian Church in London on long-term loan, according to the paper (Radio Ethiopia, April 21).

A team of U.S. and Ethiopian scientists have discovered the fossilized remains of what they believe is humankind's first walking ancestor, a hominid that lived in the wooded grasslands of the Horn of Africa nearly four million years ago. The bones were discovered in Feb. at a new site called Mille, in the northeastern Afar region of Ethiopia, said Bruce Latimer, director of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in Ohio. They are estimated to be 3.8-4 million years old. The fossils include a complete tibia from the lower part of the leg, parts of a thighbone, ribs, vertebrae, a collarbone blade, and a scapula. There also is an ankle bone which, with the tibia, shows the creature walked upright, said Latimer, co-leader of the team that discovered the fossils (AP, March 6).

A 635-page book on pre-historic site of Fejej in South Omo which has taken 15 years of study, was launched on Feb. 21. The Fejej area, not far from the Omo sites, was first discovered by the Ethiopian paleoanthropology inventory team in 1989. Beginning from 1993, Fejej site was studied by the French scientist Prof. Henri de Lumley and Dr. Yonas Beyene. Ato Jara H/Mariam, general manager of the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage, said that the book, which contains extraordinary findings of earlier ancestors, would contribute a lot to promoting Ethiopia with regard to research opportunity. The book contains many illustrations, diagrams, and pictures (state media, Feb. 21).

The Ethiopian Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) has disclosed that the early modern human remains, the oldest dated fossils of modern humans from anywhere in the world, have been found in Omo Valley, Southern Ethiopia. Research team member Dr. Solomon Yirga, said that the fossils found in the Omo Valley and specifically called Kibish are approximately 165,000 years old. They exceed the previously found modern human fossils in an area called Herto by some 40,000 years, he said. ARCCH general manager Jara Haile Mariam said that the new finding confirms Ethiopia as a cradle of mankind and origin of the present modern man (ETV, Feb. 17).

A British lawyer, who had in his possession two Ethiopian paintings looted by members of a British expedition force from Maqdala, has handed over the paintings to the Ethiopian Embassy in London. Professor Pankhurst said the act of the British lawyer was exemplary. The looted Maqdala treasures, which are found in the British Museum and at Windsor Castle in Britain, will also be returned to Ethiopia, he said. Sources said there are six religious parchments in the possession of the British Royal Family. The government and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church are campaigning for the return of the Maqdala treasures, which are valued at 1.6 billion pounds (The Monitor, Feb. 11).

coffee ceremony, and live music performed by an Ethiopian resident playing the mesenko (Ethiopian violin).

Exhibition Opens in Benndorf

30.6.2005 - A photo exhibition on Ethiopia was opened on June 30 in the premises of the Gottfried-August-Buerger Secondary School in the small town of Benndorf, in Upper Saxony in the eastern part of Germany. The exhibition was organised by the Working Group on Ethiopia, a voluntary association of teachers, students and members of the Benndorf community, inspired by Martina Voeltz, a teacher who spent some time teaching in Jimma. The Working Group have organised fundraisers in the past to finance the upgrading of two schools in the Jimma area. The relationship between the two schools in Ethiopia and the school in Benndorf is continuing and appears to be full of life. The June 30 exhibition opening was attended by the Mayor of the town, Mr. and Mrs. Mauersberger who served as an Ambassador for the former GDR in Ethiopia, and Ethiopian Ambassador Hiruy Amanuel. On the occasion, Ethiopian food prepared by students was served, songs - including one with Amharic lyrics- were presented and a student staffed coffee ceremony was on show.

Ethio-German Centenary Marked at Bonn University

16.7.2005 - Bonn University and its Center for Development Studies held a meeting on July 15 in its premises dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Ethiopia and Germany. Some 200 persons, both Germans and Ethiopians, attended the meeting which featured a number of lectures and discussions. The meeting was opened by Ambassador Hiruy Amanuel who outlined the current stage of Ethio-German relations. The Rector of the University, Professor Winiger, made a presentation of land use and degradation in highland Ethiopia and Kenya. Professor Barthlott addressed the issue 'Biodiversity - Ethiopia's undiscovered wealth in the global context.' He gave a compelling account illustrating Ethiopia's contribution to biodiversity. Dr. Denich, also of the University, drew the attention of the audience to the theme entitled 'Protection and Use of Wild Coffee grown in the mountain rain forest of Ethiopia.'

Mr. A. Wein of Kraft Food-Jakob's Coffee, who described how it was possible for some coffee growers in Kaffa to trade in a way that raised their income threefold.

Mr. Girma Amentie, a doctoral student at the University of Freiburg, who had worked in forest protection in the Bale mountains, gave an interesting explanation of how farmers in the area had been organised in such a way that the forest is protected from unauthorised tree-felling, with tangible benefits to participating local people. Dr. Asfawossen Asserate informed the audience of the history of religious tolerance in Ethiopia, while Dr. Karl Heinz Boehm described the work of his Menschen fuer Menschen organisation in Ethiopia. The lectures were followed by a tour of the Botanical Garden, an Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony, and a look at pictorial displays and books on the subject of the meeting.

hierzu ein LINK: <http://www2.gtz.de/tourismus/download/materialien/Amente.pdf>

Eco-tourism in the Bale Mountains of Ethiopia: A potential tool in improving livelihoods and promoting forest conservation. By Girma Amente, GTZ-IFMP Project Coordinator. Forests can only survive if they become as beneficial as farming or livestock keeping

Ethiopia Day Marked in Erfurt

9.7.2005 - 'Ethiopia Day 'was marked at Erfurt University, in the capital of the German State of Thuringia. The commemoration was organised through the co-operation of the State Government of Thuringia, the Institute for Public Policy of Erfurt University and the Ethiopian Embassy in Berlin. The event is one of a number of activities dedicated to the commemoration of 100 Years of Diplomatic Relations between Ethiopia and Germany (1905-2005).

The event was opened by statements by Professor Dietmar Herz, Vice President of the University, Ambassador Hiruy Amanuel of Ethiopia and Hans-Jochen Schmidt, Head of the Division of Bilateral Cultural Relations at the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The speakers highlighted the current state of relations between Ethiopia and Germany, and the particular ties with the State of Thuringia. It was noted that the first scholarly contacts between the two countries took place in the late 17th Century in Gotha in Thuringia where the Erfurt-born scholar Hiob Ludolf worked on a Geez-German wordbook with the Ethiopian monk Aba Gorgorios. The two had met in the Vatican earlier.

Today, too, new ties are being established, such as those between the Institute of Public Policy of Erfurt University and the Civil Service College of Ethiopia. In line with this, 14 students went to Ethiopia in 2004 for a joint seminar on federalism. Four of them made presentations at the commemoration of Ethiopia Day.

A special lecture on historical contacts was presented by Professor Norbert Nebes of Friedrich Schiller University in the nearby city of Jena. This was followed by a panel discussion on present day Ethiopia and relations with Germany. Moderated by Professor Herz, it included:

- Dr. Brigit Froelich, an economic expert from Halle who was responsible for Ethiopia at the German Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development,
- Frank Lemke, Head of Training at the Deutsche Welle and acquainted with Ethiopia for over 40 years,
- Rainer Rehbein, of the German-Ethiopian Association who worked in Ethiopia between 1976-82.
- Frank Scheerer, a journalist from Hamburg who has travelled in Ethiopia.

An Exhibition on 100 Years of Diplomatic Relations was opened in the library of the University, followed by a meal of Ethiopian food from Langan Restaurant in Frankfurt.

Embassy holds meetings with Ethiopians in Germany

3.7.2005 - The Ethiopian Embassy has held meetings with groups of Ethiopians in Berlin, Hamburg, Koeln and Munich on the subject of the recent elections held in Ethiopia. The meetings included a presentation by Ambassador Hiruy Amanuel followed by extensive and lively exchanges of views on the situation in Ethiopia prior to, and particularly in the wake of the national elections held on May 15, 2005.

It was stressed in the meetings that the electoral process needed to be consummated peacefully, according to the law, and without recourse to violence. Similarly, the Ethiopian Consulate General in Frankfurt held a meeting with a number of Ethiopians residing in Frankfurt.

Ethiopian Foreign Minister winds up visit to Germany

5.6.2005 - Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin visited Germany between June 2 and 4, 2005. In talks he held with Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, views were exchanged on the elections in Ethiopia, the relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea, the situation in Somalia and the Sudan, and UN reform.

The same subjects were featured in discussions with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kerstin Mueller, The Chancellors Foreign Policy Advisor Bernd Muntzelburg, State Secretary Jansen in the Office of the President, and members of the German Bundestag.

The German side made it clear that it considers the recent elections in Ethiopia as a very significant step forward in the democratic process in Ethiopia. The officials congratulated the Minister on the successful holding of the elections and expressed the hope that the vote collation and investigation process where results were disputed would also be finalised with success.

The German side also understood the need for dialogue to be started between Ethiopia and Eritrea to resolve outstanding issues, including the demarcation of the boundary between the two countries.

Bike Ride, Duck Race for Ethiopia in Balingen

5.6.2005 - The south-western German town of Balingen, south of Stuttgart in the state of Baden-Wurtemberg, on June 5 held a bicycle ride, and organised a 'race' for 750 ducks, all in an effort to raise funds for the German Leprosy Relief Association (DAHW) activities against tuberculosis and leprosy in Ethiopia.

Among the bicyclists who completed the 38 km ride through the hills around the picturesque city were included Dr. Hammeliene, the Chief Executive Officer of the Wuerzburg-based DAHW, Dr. Reinhardt Mayer, a psychologist active in the Action Group that mobilises assistance, and Ambassador Hiruy Amanuel of Ethiopia.

Some 1,000 town-dwellers and people from neighbouring towns came to witness the race of 750 plastic ducks down a small river that runs through the town. Each duck was sponsored by a Euro 5.00 contribution and was given a number. The sponsors of the first 75 ducks are set to win prizes.

The Mayor of Balingen, Dr. Edmund Merkel, was present on the occasion and was impressed by the large crowd that turned out for the events. Among the organisers was the wife of Dr. Mayer named Margit Weinmann-Mayer, who served in the Bisidimo hospital in the early seventies and where one of her children was born.

Ethiopia, Germany to execute engineering capacity building programme

ENA, ADAMA, 25.9.05 - The Ministry of Education said engineering capacity building programme has been jointly launched by the governments of Ethiopia and Germany with an outlay of 160 million Euros. Speaking at a day-long workshop, vice-Minister of Education, Wondwossen Kiflu said the programme is aimed at producing skilled manpower needed for the industry sector.

The programme, Wondwossen said, would enable academic institutions design their curriculum in accordance with the demand of the industry sector as well as with a view to making the professionals job creators.

Half of the budget needed for the execution of the programme was allocated by the Ethiopian Government, while the German Government has offered the balance, he said.

The vice-Minister said some 90% of the budget would be spent on human resource development, adding German senior experts would be assigned to Adama, Bahir Dar and South universities.

Meanwhile, Ethiopians drawn from 15 colleges will attend training in Germany, he added.

Activities would also be carried out with a view to enabling private industries manufacture standardised products through building their capacity.

Wondwossen said quality standards have been prepared for engineering and technical training, adding, some six professional quality control certification centres would be established.

Professionals drawn from universities, technical and vocational colleges, states technical and vocational commissions and the Ministry of Education as well as the German Technical Co-operation (GTZ) attended the day-long workshop.

ADDIS ABABA/BERLIN (<http://www.german-foreign-policy.com/>) Eigener Bericht, 28.09.2005 - Deutsche Entwicklungsorganisationen beginnen mit der Rekrutierung einer außergewöhnlich großen Anzahl von Fachkräften für umfangreiche Einflussprogramme in Äthiopien. Gesucht werden mehrere hundert Bundesbürger, die in der äthiopischen Verwaltung und im Parlament von Addis Abeba zum Einsatz kommen sollen. Arbeitsziel ist u.a. die Regionalisierung des Landes zu Lasten der zentralstaatlichen Institutionen. Die Entsendung der deutschen Spezialisten firmiert als Entwicklungspolitik, in deren Rahmen die Berliner Regierung "Schlüsselpositionen in Industrie und Verwaltung" Äthiopiens besetzen will. Dies ergeben Recherchen von german-foreign-policy. Äthiopischer Kooperationspartner der deutschen Außenpolitik ist eine Regierung, der EU-Beobachter betrügerische Manipulationen bei den Parlamentswahlen vom 15. Mai anlasten. Sowohl die Bundesregierung wie auch das Gros der deutschen Medien übergehen die Vorfälle, die in missliebigen Staaten Anlass für westliche Interventionen sind. Bei anhaltendem deutschen Schweigen setzen die kollaborierenden äthiopischen Apparate ihre Gewalthandlungen fort. ...

DED verstärkt Engagement im Nahen Osten und Äthiopien

http://www.ded.de/cipp/ded/custom/pub/content_lang_1/oid.2999/ticket.g u e s t

Bonn, 11. Juli 2005 - Die äthiopische Regierung hat ihre Zusammenarbeit mit Deutschland auf ein Wirtschafts-entwicklungsprogramm konzentriert. Mehr als 500 deutsche Fachkräfte sollen in den kommenden drei Jahren daran mitwirken, den privaten Sektor und die ihn unterstützenden Institutionen in Äthiopien umfassend zu modernisieren.

33 DED-Fachkräfte werden ein bedarfsgerechtes Berufsbildungssystem aufbauen und Klein- sowie Kleinstunternehmer qualifizieren und beraten. Etwa die Hälfte der Entwicklungshelfer wird aus dem äthiopischen Staatshaushalt finanziert, die übrigen aus dem deutschen Entwicklungshaushalt.

52 additional classrooms in Woldiya readied for use

ENA, Woldiya, 3.9.05 - Some 52 additional classrooms have been constructed for nine schools in Woldiya town and its environs, North-Wollo Zone of the Amhara State, at a cost of 2 million birr, the town education office said. Office Head Birhanu Argaw said Thursday that the new

Drought, Flood, Famine and Food Aid:

The UN, Ethiopian government and aid agencies need US \$ 166m to provide emergency food, water, health care, sanitation and agricultural assistance in the country. Nearly 10 million Ethiopians will need relief aid this year to ease the impact of drought induced food and water shortages, poverty and disease that is gripping the country, the UN said this week. 2.6 million People suffer from food shortages, a UN statement said adding that another 7.2 million people also need food aid because they are too poor to feed themselves, up from 5 million Ethiopians last year. (*Reporter, January 28*).

With Ethiopia's major Oct. to Dec. rains having failed, an additional 1.75 million people will require food aid up to June, bringing the number of people receiving food assistance in country to 7.25 million, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said. The areas worst affected by the low "meher" or fall rains are in the east of the country, from Afar in the north to the Somali region and the Borena Zone of Oromiya Regional State in the south, OCHA indicated (*UN News Service, Jan. 16*).

The Food Early Warning System (FEWS) said that food security is improving in Ethiopia. Generally, good crop production is anticipated this year. World coffee prices have increased significantly positively affecting at least 700,000 households. Thus, the number of people in need of assistance in 2006 could be the lowest in recent years and less than the 3.8 million beneficiaries who received emergency food assistance in 2005. -The 2005/06 meher season crop production for 2006 is expected to show a marked increase over the previous year and be even higher than the average of the previous five years. Despite good production prospects and expected modest decreases in grain prices, a large segment of the rural population, especially in pastoral areas, continues to be unable to access adequate food. These areas include Afar and Somali regions, eastern zones of Oromiya, southern and south western parts of SNNPR and lowland areas both in central Oromiya and eastern, central and southern Tigray. Heavy rains and volcanic eruptions in Afar region have also caused serious damage to roads, bridges, livestock and crops. More than 10,000 people were reported to have been displaced and suffered heavy property losses.

Environment:

An endangered species of red fox found only in Ethiopia may be wiped out unless it is protected from domestic animals bringing rabies into national parks, a senior wildlife expert said. He said there are fewer than 500 red or Simien foxes Ethiopia, most of them found in Bale Mountains National Park. Over the past two months five out of a population of 200 red foxes had died in the park, suspected of being infected with rabies from dogs accompanying livestock to the area (*Reuters, Jan. 26*).

Social, Cultural and Political Aspects

Addis Ababa Government:

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has said that re-elections must be held in Addis Ababa so as to ensure that the City is administered by its own elected representatives. Opposition party candidates that had won in the elections in Addis Ababa have not yet taken over the City's administration; he said adding that the EPRDF will contest in the re-elections for the Addis Ababa City Council (*Ethio-observer, Jan. 28*).

Dr. Beyene Petros, chairman of UEDF, and Ato Bulcha Demeksa, chairman of OFDM, have expressed concern that two weeks have lapsed without the establishment of a legal administration in Addis Ababa. An illegal body is administering Addis Ababa, and the decisions of this illegal body are illegal, he said. The EPRDF could argue that Addis Ababa is accountable to the Federal government and the Prime Minister, and that there is no vacuum. But, this is not right and the elected body should administer the city, Dr. Beyene declared (*Reporter, Jan. 18*).

The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) has said that only 54 of the 138 elected people's deputies registered from Jan.12-15,

2006 as per the board's instructions. The Board's Deputy Head, Tesfaye Mengesha, said that NEBE has not been able to hand over the City Administration to newly elected people's deputies due to the low number of registered winners. The matter will be referred to the Federal Parliament for decision, Tesfaye said (*State media, Jan. 15*). - Dr. Admassu Gebeyehu, candidate-elect for Addis Ababa Council, has said their demand for the release of Dr. Berhanu Nega and other detained candidate-elect members has not yet received a reply from the government. He said the government should contribute its share to stabilize the people of Addis Ababa. He stated they had decided to take over the administration of Addis Ababa for the purpose of creating stability in the city. However, without the Mayor-elect, speaker-elect and secretary-elect and as elected members it would be difficult for them to discharge their duties and bring a solution to the city's problems (*Addis Admas, Jan. 14*).

Winners of the Addis Ababa City Council, who recently began making moves to take over the city administration, set certain preconditions to be met by the EPRDF-led government before a takeover could take place. At a press conference held at the City Hall after a three-hour closed session with 30 elected CUD members, the organizers led by Ayele Chemisso demanded the release of Dr. Berhanu Nega, the elected mayor, and 15 other members in detention. The organizers also demanded the reopening of all CUD offices, which were closed by government security forces following the Nov. crackdown on the leadership. - The CUD members denounced the pro-Lidetu group saying that they had never recognized the EDUP-Medhin organization. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi is expected to come up with an alternative to fill the existing vacuum in the city administration if the EPRDF rejects the preconditions set by the CUD members.

Post-Election Conflicts:

Talks between the ruling party EPRDF and oppositions have resumed, Prime Meles Zenawi said. The talks, according to Meles are between EPRDF, United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF), and Oromo Federalist Democratic Party (OFDM). CUD has not been included in the talks, according to Meles. The recently introduced parliamentary code of ethics, human rights issues and the reestablishment of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) were among the points laid down for negotiation by the parties (*The Daily Monitor, Jan. 28*).

The Federal Police announced that 2,252 suspects who were in custody at Zway Prison Center were released. The Federal Police said that several people who participated in the violence in Addis Ababa and caused various damages were released after police conducted a series of investigations on the degree of their participation. The cases of the remaining 656 prisoners at Zway Prison are being handled by court (*Radio Ethiopia, Jan. 13*).

Ethiopia charged 131 opposition members with treason, inciting violence and planning to commit genocide during deadly clashes that followed a disputed parliamentary election. Senior political figures from the opposition CUD coalition and 13 journalists were among those charged at an Addis Ababa court, where only 43 were present when the charges were presented. The rest were out of the country or otherwise free. Under a section entitled "genocide", the charge sheet specifically accused the CUD of trying to isolate the Tigrayan people, who are largely supporters of Prime Minister Meles' EPRDF. "The accused organized under the CUD umbrella and conspired with the intent to cause physical and mental harm to the people of Tigray region and the attempt to isolate members of the EPRDF from society," the charges presented in court read. The genocide charge carries a penalty of death or life in prison upon conviction. The court denied those under arrest bail and ordered them to make a plea by Dec. 28. The opposition have rejected the charges and said they are politically motivated (*Reuters, Dec. 21*).

Police and security recently surrounded and arrested seventeen CUD members, who won elections in the regions, at CUD's office near Beklo Bet in Addis Ababa. Police later released them. CUD members had gathered in the office to discuss the current political

crisis in the country and had called for a hunger strike in solidarity with detained CUD leaders (*Tikussat*, Dec. 14).

About 3,000 people detained during violence that rocked Ethiopia last month will face trial for roles in the clashes in which at least 48 people were killed, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said. In an address to parliament, Meles said the detainees rounded up after unrest in Addis Ababa and outlying towns would be prosecuted for various offences in accordance with the degree of their participation. According to the federal police, some 14,000 people were detained during and immediately after the riots, many of them opposition political figures, suspected sympathizers and journalists. "Those who are not in custody have the choice of running their organization by denouncing street violence, abandoning politics or reorganizing themselves in accordance to the law of the land," Meles said. Most of the leadership of the main opposition party, CUD, are expected to appear in court for a fourth time on Dec. 16 to be formally charged and Meles warned that the group could be banned. "As the CUD is also accused as an organization, the fate of the CUD is up to the court to decide," he said (*News 24*, Dec. 23).

At its eighth regular meeting the House approved with majority vote the list of members of the independent inquiry commission that would investigate the riots in Addis Ababa and some other places. The Commission comprises 11 members. They are drawn from various religions and sections of the society, and were elected based on four criteria - political neutrality, professional competence and efficiency, social acceptance as well as ethical behavior, the committee said. Some MPs said that three of the people nominated to be members were inefficient and did not meet the requirements set for the selection. Other members of parliament denied this and said the committee had recruited the members based on the requirements. The house approved the recommendation with 279 votes, 99 objections and five abstentions (*State media*, Dec. 6). - Some opposition MPs strongly objected to the nomination of Sheikh Elias Redman and Dr. Gemechu Megersa. Dr. Negaso Gidada and four other MPs abstained in the vote (*Sendek*, Dec. 7).

Hundreds of Ethiopian demonstrators turned the end of a charity long-distance footrace and a prize ceremony Sunday into an anti-government protest. Some 26,000 runners took part in a 10 km race designed to support a campaign against AIDS, the finishing line being Meskel Square. As groups numbering between 200 and 300 contestants crossed the line they made the victory sign that is the symbol of the chief opposition party and shouted slogans accusing the government of theft and attacking Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. About 300 runners disrupted the prize-giving ceremony by whistling and making the victory sign with their arms. Police, equipped with batons, stood by and did not intervene (*AFP*, Nov. 27).

5,000 individuals are still detained at Dedessa and Zwai prisons. Following the unrest, about 13,000 people were arrested in the two detention centers. Police sources said 8,000 suspects were released after they were brought to roving benches. The report added that police has evidence on the remaining 5,000 people on their involvement in the riots. Four people died in the prisons because of illness they were suffering before their detention (*Iftin*, Nov. 29).

An Ethiopian court has again denied bail for a group of jailed opposition leaders but has ordered prosecutors to produce formal charges against them in 15 days. The 23 opposition members appeared in an Addis Ababa courtroom Thursday, with many looking weak and tired from a hunger strike that started Monday. Prosecutors said the group was responsible for the loss of life and tried to overthrow the government by force. Defense attorneys rejected the accusations. The accused include 19 members of Ethiopia's main opposition group CUD, three journalists, and one trade union official (*VOA News*, Dec. 1).

Ethiopia's main opposition leaders who are being held in jail for suspected treason have said they will go on hunger strike starting on Monday to protest their innocence. In their first interview with foreign journalists since they were seized on 2 Nov., four top leaders of the CUD said they were being held for their political beliefs. Speaking from prison, CUD leader Hailu Shawel insisted

that his party had not been behind any of the bloody post-election protests that erupted in June and November. Hailu, his deputy Birtukan Mideksa, mayor-elect of Addis Ababa Berhanu Nega and human rights activist Mesfin Wolde Mariam all insisted the charges against them were trumped up (*IRIN*, Nov. 28).

On Nov. 26, CUD Council members, Ato Andualem Aragie and Ato Yeneneh Mulatu, have been arrested. CUD Council member, Ato Zeleke Alemu, CUD coordinator in Jimma, Ato Ayichew Siraw, was also arrested on Sunday (*Ethiopian Review*, Nov. 27).

About 23 CUD leaders and journalists who were put under police custody after being accused of treason appeared before the Federal High Court for the second time. In its session the Second Criminal Bench of the Federal High Court gave police ten days to finalize its investigation. The court ordered the police to give defendants access to health care and make arrangements for them to see their lawyers frequently (*ETV*, Nov. 21).

Police have arrested, on Nov. 23, Ato Abayneh Berhanu and Ato Mamushet both CUD leaders, who were in the police wanted list, sources said. Police also detained the people who had given cover to the two wanted men. Police said, now that it has apprehended the two fugitives, the hunt for those in its wanted list have been completed (*Iftin*, Nov. 25).

Ethiopia's parliament voted to appoint an independent commission to investigate whether security forces used excessive force to quell anti-government protests that killed at least 42 people. In 334 votes for, one against and 72 abstentions parliament empowered its judiciary committee to come up with names proposed to be members of the commission. Human rights activists accused government forces of using excessive force in the crackdown. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi had promised an inquiry into the violence (*Reuters*, Nov. 14).

The Federal Police said it has released some 2,417 of the detainees who were arrested for alleged involvement in the riot and violence that recently erupted in Addis Ababa. The Federal Police said the detainees were set free as they were not found to be direct actors in the violence. The Federal Police said it has been exerting all efforts to swiftly finalize its investigations and bring the remaining suspects to justice and urged the public to continue with its collaboration with Police in supplying evidences (*State Media*, Nov. 10).

The leaders of the United Ethiopian Democratic Forces (UEDF) who joined parliament as well as Dr. Negasso Gidada, former President and the only independent MP, have issued a 10-point statement on the current situation in the country. The statement was read out by UEDF foreign relations secretary, Ato Gebru Gebre Mariam. It demanded that the detention of opposition political leaders and their incarceration in undisclosed localities must stop immediately. It called for the unconditional and immediate release of detained opposition leaders, and the setting up of an independent committee to investigate the killings of innocent citizens in Addis last June and in the past week. It also demanded that the Government stop harassing civil servants who remained indoors during last week's violence. It was noted that the Government has been penalizing civil servants who did not show up for work for fear of violence, accusing them of supporting the CUD. The statement also demanded that state media carry balanced news and information instead of the usual anti-CUD propaganda. It demanded that the government stop harassing free press journalists, release those detained and allow the private press to continue to operate. - The statement requested that foreign governments exert pressure on the Ethiopian Government to stop the offences against citizens and political leaders (*VOA* (Nov. 11).

CUD has on Wednesday called off the stay at home strike to give the people some break. The leadership is considering further stronger actions, which will be announced soon. Meanwhile, travel ban and economic boycott remain in effect. CUD, in collaboration with UEDF, urges every Ethiopian and friend of Ethiopia to participate in the travel ban. Ethiopian Airlines and other airliners are now flying almost empty. The ban needs to be tightened even further until all CUD leaders and members are released (*Ethiopian Review*, Nov. 9).

denuded hillside to RUP for protection and enrichment plantation. We developed the mentioned project so that the received hillside could be restored in the coming 5 years.

We have made discussion with the community on how the land will be recovered and all agreed to divide it on the basis of land ownership status. Hence the 10 ha that will be enriched first is allocated to landless and physically able poor. That land is already fenced using local materials. We organised an event in the past rainy season in which local students and RUP's members participated to plant about 2000 tree seedlings purchased and delivered by our own fund. We are still engaged in fund raising locally as well as from international donors for the remaining major activities presented in our project.

Future planned activities:

We plan to complete all other activities included in the proposal of the first phase [recovering the 10ha] and scale up the environmental project to cover all the 40 ha in the coming 5 years. For that purpose a wide range of fund raising effort is put in place. The US embassy has shown interest to finance the establishment of nursery around the plantation site and provision of some hand tools. We hope other donors in Germany who read this article will consider to contact and help us.

Contact Address:

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E-mail: rupingo@yahoo.com

Zukunft für Straßenkinder in Addis Abeba: Edens Kampf gegen Armut

Burgwedel / Addis Abeba - Eden Melke Beka berichtet am 2. November 2005 in der Rossmann-Zentrale von ihrem Hilfsprojekt "Dynamic Youth Enterprise", mit dem sie Straßenkindern in Addis Abeba eine Zukunftsperspektive bietet.

Äthiopien ist einer der ärmsten Staaten der Welt: 21 Millionen der 67 Millionen Einwohner sind permanent vom Hunger bedroht, 81 Prozent verfügen nicht über Sanitäreinrichtungen, und die Einschulungsraten sind die niedrigsten der Welt. Die Ärmsten der Armen aber sind die etwa 80.000 Straßenkinder der Hauptstadt Addis Abeba: Ihre Familien können sie nicht ernähren und schicken sie oft schon im Vorschulalter fort. Sie müssen betteln, ernähren sich aus Mülltonnen und sind Gewalt und sexuellen Übergriffen schutzlos ausgeliefert.

Eine junge Frau aus den etwas besseren Verhältnissen Addis Abebas konnte sich mit all der Armut und dem Unrecht nicht abfinden: Eden Melke Beka (30).

Gemeinsam mit Habte Woldemariam Abebe stellte sie 1998 in Eigeninitiative ein Hilfsprojekt auf die Beine, mit dem sie zwei schier unlösbare Probleme der ostafrikanischen Millionenstadt mutig und tatkräftig angeht:

Die erbärmliche Lage der obdachlosen Jugendlichen und die katastrophale öffentliche Abfallentsorgung. Aus einer selbst organisierten Müllabfuhr mit zweirädrigen Handkarren entwickelte sie in den folgenden Jahren weitestgehend ohne fremde Hilfe eine Erwerbsquelle, die mittlerweile über 80 Kindern und Jugendlichen ein kleines Einkommen, ein Dach über dem Kopf und damit eine (Über) Lebensperspektive bietet.

Auf Einladung von Dirk Roßmann waren Eden und Habte im November 2005 eine Woche in Burgwedel zu Gast, um in der Roßmann-Zentrale vor Führungskräften und Journalisten von ihrer Arbeit zu berichten, für ihr Hilfsprojekt zu werben und sich über Müllentsorgung und -Recycling in Deutschland zu informieren.

Dirk Roßmann hatte die einfallsreiche junge Frau bereits vor zwei Jahren bei einer Äthiopien-Reise mit der Deutschen Stiftung Weltbevölkerung kennengelernt und war beeindruckt von ihrer zupackenden Art, "die seiner eigenen durchaus ähnlich ist", wie die Hannoverische Allgemeine Zeitung feststellte. Unbeirrbar und unbeeindruckt von staatlicher Willkür hatte Eden ihre Vision realisiert, Müllkarren und Müllautos gekauft, eine Sammelstelle eingerichtet, Gebühren und Entlohnungssysteme entwickelt und damit Kinder von der Straße geholt, für die auch Alphabetisierungs- und Aufklärungsunterricht angeboten werden. Für die weiteren Vorhaben von Eden und Habte, Kompostierflächen und Biogasanlagen, mit denen sich im unterentwickelten Äthiopien Müll in wertvolle Düngemittel und Energie umwandeln lässt, versprach Dirk Roßmann finanzielle Mittel in Höhe von 25.000 EUR bereitzustellen, die über einen Rossmann-Hilfsfonds nach Äthiopien geleitet werden. Im nächsten Jahr wird eine Rossmann-Delegation nach Addis aufbrechen, um sich vor Ort über die Fortschritte des Straßenkinder-Müll-Projektes von Eden und Habte zu informieren.

German and Ethiopian Contributions to Conflict Management and Resolution

Angesichts der sich seit den Wahlen im Sommer verschärfenden Konflikte fand im neu errichteten Goethe-Institut in Addis Abeba vom 11.11.05 bis zum 12.11.05 ein Seminar mit dem Titel "German and Ethiopian Contributions to Conflict Management and Resolution" statt. Aufgrund der akuten Konflikte gerade an diesem Wochenende konnten einige erwartete Referenten nicht erscheinen und das ursprüngliche Programm musste erheblich reduziert werden.

Der einführende Vortrag wurde von dem Leiter des mitorganisierenden „Institute for Peace and Development“, Prof. Kinfe Abraham gehalten, weiterhin folgten Referate über die philosophischen Hintergründe von Konflikten mit starkem Bezug auf Heidegger und Kant, die positive Rolle traditioneller Konfliktschlichtung am Beispiel des Nuer-Anuak Konfliktes sowie die Rolle von Privatarmeen, von denen mittlerweile ca. 11 000 vorhanden sind – 50 % davon allein im Irak tätig – und die auch mehr und mehr von der UN „geleast“ werden, auch wohl künftig für den Äthiopien-Eritrea-Konflikt. Der Botschafter von UNMEE, Azouz Ennifar, fasste den zum Zeitpunkt des Seminars aktuellen Stand der Verhältnisse zwischen Äthiopien und Eritrea zusammen und berichtete, dass auf beiden Seiten Truppenbewegungen an der Grenze stattfänden und dass Eritrea über 40 % seiner Gebiete keine Beobachtungen durch die UN mehr zulasse.

Zentral diskutiert wurde eine von Wolbert Smidt in seinem Vortrag geäußerte Hypothese, basierend auf einer von Georg Elwert entwickelten Theorie, dass die derzeitigen sozialen Konflikte in Äthiopien paradoxerweise auf eine Ethik der „Konfliktvermeidung“ innerhalb der äthiopischen Gesellschaft zurückzuführen seien. Er sagte, die äthiopische Gesellschaft, insbesondere die tigrinische, sei durch das Prinzip „Haunet“ - Freundschaft, Brüderlichkeit - geprägt, die die Gesellschaft festige und ihr eine starke Einheit verleihe. Auch Kon-

flikte, die durch Übergriffe von z. B. mächtigeren Personen auf den Besitz von weniger mächtigeren geschehen würden, würden nicht thematisiert, um dieses Prinzip nicht zu gefährden und offene Konflikte würden nur mit Gruppen außerhalb der eigenen Gesellschaft ausgetragen. Mit diesem Ansatz sei es vielleicht möglich zu erklären, schlug Smidt vor, warum es für Äthiopien und gesellschaftlich ähnlich strukturierte Länder so schwierig sei, eine echte Opposition zu dulden und warum Konflikte so eskalieren würden.

Äthiopische Handwerker auf Messe in Frankfurt

Mit sechs Handwerkern wird Äthiopien auf der "Ambiente 2006" in Frankfurt/Main vertreten sein, Halle 5.0 Stand A 71. Es ist vermutlich die erste Präsentation des Landes in dieser Art und Breite auf einer internationalen Messe. Weberei, Töpferei, Leder, Holzschnitzerei, Steinarbeiten und Korbflechterei werden auf dem 30 qm großen Stand gezeigt. Neben bereits etablierten Designern werden auch gemeinnützige NGOs und Kooperativen anwesend sein. Ein taubstummer Handwerker des Misdrach-Centers, das vom Christoffel Blindenwerk und der Mission am Nil unterstützt wird, wird Motivkarten aus buntem Sand erstellen und seine Fertigkeiten vorführen.

Eine Übersetzerin wird seine Zeichen aus der äthiopischen Taubstummensprache ins Deutsche übertragen. Mehrere Ausbilder/innen arbeiten seit Herbst 2005 in Werkstätten und Ausbildungszentren, um kurzfristige Muster für die Messe erstellen zu lassen, um aber mittel- und langfristig die Kreativität in jungen Handwerkern zu wecken, die durch jahrzehntelange absolut schlechte äußere Bedingungen sozialer und politischer Art reduziert, wenn nicht erstickt war.

Die Frankfurter Messe ist der Auftakt zu weiteren Teilnahmen an Messen in Paris und New York. Am Jahresende wird man wissen, ob das äthiopische Handwerk eine Chance hat, sich auf dem Weltmarkt oder wenigstens in Marktnischen zu behaupten.

Manfred Winkler, GLOBO Fair Trade Partner, tel. ++ 49-5725-5052 fax: ++ 49-5725-5054

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Bücher - Filme

Ecology and Management of *Boswellia papyrifera* (Del.) Hochst. Dry Forests in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia

by Kindeya Gebrehiwot

198 p. - Cuvillier, E., Nov. 2003, paperback
ISBN: 3898739023

"Menschen in Äthiopien. Eine Porträtsammlung aus Addis Abeba"

108 S., zahlreiche farbige. Abb., M-G-Schmitz-Verlag
www.buchhandel.de, 1. Aufl. 11.2005, 19,80 Eur[D]
ISBN: 3-938098-22-8

The Five Dimensions of the Eritrean Conflict: Deciphering the Geo-Political Puzzle

by Dr. Daniel Kendie

442 p., 2005, paperback, ISBN: 1-932433-47-3

To order, contact the author at ddkendie@pvamu.edu or phone at (936)857-5791 or (202)439-7426

"Professor Daniel Kendie has written an informative and well-researched study of the Eritrean-Ethiopian conflict. His book presents ideas that probably will be new to many readers. The chapters on the people of Eritrea and on Eritrea as a colony are especially enlightening. He reviews the literature on the subject and boldly exposes works that he believes lack rigor in research and writing. Dr. Daniel's analysis of the root cause of the Eritrean-Ethiopian conflict is persuasive and logical. The history of Ethiopia's involvement with Islam and the Middle East fills a void in the literature in a timely way. There also are noteworthy chapters that deal with Ethiopia's relations with Israel and Egypt, including the hydro-politics of the Blue Nile. Daniel's solution for the border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia is realistic and practical. In his powerful conclusion, Daniel suggests federation between the two countries as a way out of the impasse, arguing that a federation could serve as a nucleus around which to build economic cooperation and integration of the countries of the Horn of Africa. I recommend this book highly."

Dr. Theodore Vestal, Professor of Political Science, Oklahoma State University, the first American honored with the Hiob Ludolf Endowed Professorship for studies on current Ethiopian issues at Hamburg University.

Ethiopia: Democratization and Unity. The Role of the Tigray People's Liberation Front.

von Kaysay Berhe

Verlagshaus Monsenstein und Vannerdat, Münster 2005, ; 17,50 €, ISBN 3-86582-137-5

Kaysay Berhe zählt zur Gründergeneration der Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), die gemeinsam mit der eritreischen Befreiungsbewegung 1991 den äthiopischen Diktator Mengistu vertrieb. Nachdem aber auch die neue äthiopische Regierung antidemokratisch agierte, blieb Kaysay Berhe als prominenter Dissident sehr bald nur noch die Flucht ins Ausland. Die Summe seiner Erkenntnisse und Erfahrungen hat er jetzt in einem lesenswerten Buch vorgelegt.

Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker - Regionalgruppe Münster

The Nile Question: Hydropolitics, Legal Wrangling, Modus Vivendi and Perspectives

by Tesfaye Tafesse

176 S., lit@lit-verlag.de, Bd. 11, 2001, br., 20.90 €, ISBN 3-8258-5630-5

Catalogue "One hundred years German-Ethiopian relations"

Editor: Goethe-Institut Addis Abeba, Gebrekristos Desta Center, P.O. Box 1193, Addis Ababa

<mailto:info@addis.goethe.org>

Author and compiler: Wolbert Smidt, Hans-Lange-Str. 2, 22587 Hamburg wolbertsmidt@yahoo.de

Veranstaltungen

100 Jahre diplomatische Beziehungen zwischen Deutschland und Äthiopien

Veranstaltung der Internationalen Vereinigung für Rechtsvergleichung (IVR) in der Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München.

Ursula Scheubel, München

Am 30. Juni 2005 trafen sich die Mitglieder der IVR Untersektion Bayern, Wissenschaftsassistenten, Doktoranden und Studenten sowie zahlreiche interessierte Gäste zum sog. „Donnerstag-Seminars“ in der Bibliothek des Instituts für Rechtsphilosophie und Rechtsinformatik der Ludwig Maximilians - Universität München.

Prof. Dr. Hermann Amborn und Prof. Dr. Heinrich Scholler referierten zu dem Thema "Hundert Jahre diplomatische Beziehungen zwischen Deutschland und Äthiopien". Herrmann Amborn ist Professor für Ethnologie und am Institut für Afrikanistik der L.M.U. München tätig. Er beschäftigt sich den Problemen, die sich aus den unterschiedlichen gesellschaftlichen Strukturen der Bevölkerungsgruppen im Norden und Süden des heutigen Äthopiens ergeben.

Heinrich Scholler ist Politologe und Professor am Institut für öffentliches Recht der L.M.U. München. Er war von 1972 - 1975 als Staatsrechtslehrer an der Universität von Addis Abeba tätig und ab 1991 als Berater der verfassensgebenden Versammlung und hat Demokratisierungskurse in den Regionen abgehalten. Die Diskussionsleitung übernahm der Rechtsphilosoph und Professor für Strafrecht Lothar Philipps. Die Bibliothek war fast zu klein für die vielen Teilnehmer. Anschließend spendierte Prof. Dr. Heinrich Scholler in einem Restaurant zum Semesterabschluss traditionsgemäß Freigetranke für diejenigen, die weiter diskutieren wollten. Auch hier musste zusammengedrückt werden.

Ausgehend von dem 100-jährigen Jubiläum wurden die Rosen Mission und die Littmannausgrabungen thematisiert und Bilder herumgereicht, die Prof. Amborn ethnologisch erläuterte. Herausgestellt wurde dabei insbesondere, dass die Mitglieder der Rosen Mission den Äthiopiern erstmals nicht als Kolonialherren der wilhelminischen Zeit, sondern als Wissenschaftler und europäische Partner auf Augenhöhe gegenübertraten und damit den Anfang einer neuen Ära der Diplomatie begründeten. Die begleitenden Wissenschaftler sollten die Verhältnisse im Land erforschen und dabei in Kontakt mit der dortigen Bevölkerung und Kultur treten. So wurde die Grundlage für den Ausbau der besonderen politischen und wissenschaftlichen Beziehungen beider Länder gelegt und nicht zuletzt auch für die zahlreichen bilateralen Verträge. In Bezug auf die Littmannausgrabungen in Axum betonte Prof. Amborn, der auch über Grabungserfahrung verfügt, verwies auf den hohen Standard dieser Ausgrabungen und die Tatsache, dass auch die heutigen Ausgrabungen an diesem Ort nach diesen bewährten Methoden durchgeführt werden.

Durch gemeinsamen Ausführungen eines Juristen und eines Ethnologen wurde sowohl die politische Bedeutung als auch das kulturelle Erlebnis der Rosen Mission sehr anschaulich dargestellt wurden. Die Begegnung der deutschen Expeditionsgruppe mit dem äthiopischen

Königshaus wurde mit zahlreichen Bildern der damaligen Rosen Mission ausgeschmückt. Auf diese Weise ist es den Referenten gelungen, die Zuhörer an den Beginn der diplomatischen Beziehungen zurückzusetzen und im Verlauf der überaus informativen wie auch pitoresken Vorträge mit vielen Bildern von den äthiopischen Staatsoberhäuptern und führenden deutschen Politikern die wesentlichen Stationen der diplomatischen Beziehungen beider Länder nachzuzeichnen.

Zahlreiche Äthiopierinnen und Äthiopier waren der Einladung zu dem Seminar gefolgt und der Versuch die heutigen Verhältnisse des Landes zu thematisieren entfaltete die befürchtete Wirkung. Auf das Stichwort Amharen im Zusammenhang mit den jetzigen Turbulenzen nach den Wahlen in Äthiopien erhob sich deutlicher Widerspruch von einigen der anwesenden Äthiopiern und Äthiopierinnen mit dem Hinweis, dass die Opposition von allen Volksgruppen unterstützt wird. Besonders diplomatisch ging es dann nicht mehr zu, was der Veranstaltung jedoch durchaus ihren besonderen Reiz verlieh.

Das Bedürfnis einander die Situation zu erklären zeigte sich von allen Seiten und zu später Stunde ging man beschwingt grüppchenweise nach Hause in dem befriedigenden Gefühl sich bald wieder zu treffen und dem unerschöpflichen Thema der hundertjährigen deutsch äthiopischen Freundschaft mit seinen vielfältigen und teils auch zwiespältigen Aspekten zu widmen.

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Die sinnliche Entdeckung Afrikas

Fast zwei Jahre lang sind André Hellers Mitarbeiter in Afrika unterwegs gewesen. Zwischen Mali und Marokko, zwischen Ägypten und Südafrika, an allen Küsten und im Landesinneren sowie in der afrikanischen Diaspora haben sie faszinierende Künstler gefunden; Tänzer, Artisten, Musiker, Exzentriker und Akrobaten, die ihre Zuschauer mit Tempo, Energie und dem Ausdruck überschäumender Lebensfreude verführen. Ihr Zirkustheater will ein „sinnliches Vergnügen für Kinder und Erwachsene, für Arbeiter und Intellektuelle“ bieten.

Bisher kannte man den Zirkus europäischer Herkunft mit Tiernummern, Hochseilakten, Zauberern und Clowns. Auch die russische Zirkuskunst ist uns unterdessen vertraut. Und André Heller selbst eröffnete dem westlichen Publikum 1986 die Welt des Chinesischen