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سفارة دولة اريتريا
الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية

EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Council on Foreign Relations Recycles a Blatant Lie

25 July 2022

In an article entitled “stranded Somali Soldiers Raise Question About Horn Alliances” published on Council on Foreign, on 20 July 2022, Michelle Gavin oddly accuses Eritrea for “taking advantage of the 2018 Tripartite agreement signed among Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia”. The author further depicts Eritrea’s role in the region as “alarming” and insinuates that Eritrea has “malign desires” in offering military training to members of the Somali National Army.

In the first place, regional and/or bilateral frameworks of defense and security cooperation are within the sole prerogatives and decisions of the sovereign States concerned. Outside powers do not have veto power to endorse or determine the regional/defense architectures entered between sovereign States out of their own volition and in accordance with normative agreements entered between them.

Secondly, the Somali military has received, both at present and in the recent past, various forms of military support and training from a wide range of parties due to the threats from terrorism that it has been facing for the past decades. For instance, recently, the US Africa Command trained Somalia’s Special Forces. Similarly, Istanbul provided basic commando training to Somali soldiers in Turkey in 2021. Other regional States have provided military support and training to the SNM in various forms.

In the event, Michelle Gavin’s ludicrous arguments to ostracize Eritrea from making modest contribution in its own region and as a corollary of bilateral/regional cooperation agreements that it has signed with Somalia can only be interpreted as outdated hubris and arrogance.

It is to be recalled that the TPLF, with the political and financial backing of the EU and US, was a central figure in destabilizing Somalia and the region as a whole. As the country goes through the process of rebuilding, its primary goal is to maintain a viable and strong defense force. The training of these soldiers was done as part and parcel of the two countries' cooperation agreements as well as by desire and request of Somalian Government.

The UN Special Rapporteur had falsely alleged – in his report to the UNHRC Sessions in the past two years - that the Somali trainees were deployed in the conflict in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia. This outrageous allegation, which stemmed from innuendos without any modicum of verification, was proven wrong by President Hassen Sheik Mohamed’s official visit to Eritrea and his presence at the commencement ceremony of the trainees. Yet the author chose to willfully recycle the same baseless narrative.

Moreover, during President Hassen Sheik Mohamed’s official visit to Eritrea, the Somali people expressed their overwhelming support and appreciation of Eritrea’s contribution in training members of the Somali National Army. Their sincere expression of gratitude indeed went viral in different social media outlets under the hashtag #ThankYouEritrea.

Despite the sinister misgivings and motives of the author, the “Horn Alliances” is essential to the peace and stability of the region and Eritrea’s role in it is genuine, constructive, and vital.

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