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**BEATING THE DRUMS OF WAR WILL DAMAGE ETHIOPIA**

The regime in Addis Ababa, which has always acted against the interests of Ethiopia and her people, is now feverishly beating the drum of war against Egypt on the issue of the Nile and the so called Renaissance Dam which it wants to call the Meles Dam to honor the late tyrant detested by most Ethiopians.

At issue is not the right on the use of the Nile by all the Riparian States and Ethiopia as the source of the Blue Nile. It is also clear that Egypt has to negotiate with all the concerned States and cannot be stubbornly pushing its own interest above every other country. For the record Ethiopia has enough dams for its own needs and even for export and is not obliged at this time to build a huge dam that impoverished Ethiopians cannot afford. School children, prisoners in the various dungeons including the notorious Kaliti, civil servants and even exiles are being forced in one way or another to contribute to the dam's US\$ 4.7 billion cost. To put it bluntly, the dam is a burden on the people of Ethiopia who are suffering from lack electricity and power outages as things stand at present. The regime in Addis Ababa has already misappropriated the so called bond fund and is trying to bleed and fleece the people further. There is always the path of negotiation and peaceful resolution of potential conflicts. Propagating jingoistic propaganda and boasting of one's nonexistent military prowess is courting disaster. The regime in Addis Ababa is truly irresponsible.

The people of Ethiopia and Egypt are not enemies and they do not need war. The Nile should be used by all the source and riparian states and should not be used as a political pretext to achieve shady political objectives that has, at least, nothing to do with the interest of the Ethiopian people.

**STOP BEATING THE DRUMS OF WAR!**

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