

# FSS Update




የሚገኝበት ጥናት መድረክ

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to facilitate networking and information exchange among CSOs and researchers

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**Forthcoming Publication**

*The Status of Governance, Academic Freedom, and Teaching Personnel in Ethiopian Higher Education Institutions*

*Compiled by  
Tefaye Semela*

**FSS Research Report  
No. 2**

*(A Synthesis of Institutional Case Studies)*

## Pisa Conference on Armed Conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia

At a time when the Ethio-Eritrean boundary dispute seems to be entering yet another critical phase, an international conference on the theme “**Armed Conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia in International Legal Perspective**” was held in the Italian town of Pisa on 19-20 October. It was organized by Professor Gabriella Venturini of the Department of International Studies of Milan University in collaboration with the Sant’ Anna School of Advanced Studies based in Pisa. As its designation indicates, the Conference was largely concerned with the legal issues arising from the conduct of the two parties before, during and after the 1998-2000 border war (or in legal lexicon, “jus ad bellum”, “jus in bellum” and “jus post bellum”). As such, a good proportion of the papers presented dealt with an assessment of the awards of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Claims Commission (EECC), which had adjudicated on such issues as responsibility for the outbreak of the war and compensations for damages.

However, the strictly legal papers were preceded by background papers on the historical context of the conflict, the June and December 2000 Algiers agreements on the cessation of hostilities and the attempt to establish comprehensive peace, and a legal analysis of the ruling of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission (EEBC). There was also towards the end of the Conference a survey of the genesis and trajectory of the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE).

The Conference featured presentations by an impressive array of European international law experts (from England, France,

Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Switzerland). Professors Uoldelul Chelati (originally from Eritrea, now teaching in Italy) and Gian Paolo Calchi Novati and Dr. Federica Guazzini of Italy made presentations in the introductory session, while Professors John Abink of the Netherlands, Bahru Zewde of Ethiopia and Christopher Clapham of Cambridge University were drawn upon to serve as discussants. The social scientists who attended the Conference could not fail to note a discordance between the learned expositions of the scholars and the reality on the ground, a feeling that was expressed with characteristic eloquence by Professor Christopher Clapham towards the end of the Conference. The international law experts countered by pointing to the fact that such studies would help deter future recourses to aggression. There was also a passionate appeal from an Eritrean participant for urgent diplomatic action to avert yet another round of fighting, which appears so imminent.

## FSS-HBF Public Lecture on Decentralization

The second public lecture in the series on “Good governance and democracy in Africa” was held at the Ghion Hotel on 17th October 2007.





The lecture series was jointly organized by Forum for Social Studies (FSS) and Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF). The Guest Speaker for this occasion was Prof. Dr Siegmar Schmidt of University of Koblenz-Landau.

Under the provocative title, “Decentralization and Democratization: A Happy Couple or Strange Bedfellows?” Prof. Schmidt started by providing a conceptual framework of decentralization by differentiating it from deconcentration wherein power is shared “between members of the same ruling group having authority respectively in different areas of the state”. He defined decentralization as “distributing authority and power horizontally rather than hierarchically”, or “transfer of power from the national to sub-national levels (regions, districts, local administration)”.



He said that there are great expectations from decentralisation as a key component of development, good governance and representative. He said there are people, especially donors, who argue that decentralization will enhance participation and administrative transparency and serve as an instrument for poverty reduction and empowerment. There are also sceptics who doubt that there is a close relationship between decentralization, democracy and poverty reduction. He cautioned against the dangers of regional-level decentralization encouraging separatist tendencies, creation of opportunity for patronage and nepotism. He said that the record for

decentralization is mixed and that the evidence points in both directions.

Prof. Schmidt based his lecture on a recent case study on decentralization, poverty reduction and participation in Malawi. At the time of the study, Malawi was characterised as a poor country with a fragile democracy, a tightly controlled media, weak civil society, widespread patronage and corruption, weak institutions, authoritarian political culture, but a relatively independent judiciary and churches that play an important watch-dog role.

Some of the main findings of the study show that:

- The Centre does not provide sufficient resources to District Assemblies (DAs): inadequate for day-to-day affairs & provision of grants was unpredictable;
- Lack of capacity & professionalism to deliver ;
- De-motivated staff;
- Implementation hampered by competition between modern institutions and traditional leaders;
- Grassroots ignorant about the reforms and the DAs, have no voice in the process;
- Political legacy of old regime: people do not dare to speak openly, history of intimidation;
- Grassroots pessimistic about own role: opportunities for participation not realized;
- On the positive side, decentralization created space for the society – the perception of poverty changed in Malawian society, thereby enhancing the chances for poverty-focussed programs in the future; it also attracted additional donor funding, and received higher priority in national debate.

What are the lessons to be drawn from the case of Malawi?

- Decentralization does not take place in a political vacuum - political stakeholders have vested interests;
- Traditional leaders play an important role and should be included in the process;





- Awareness creation is important for grassroots to support and own the reform; information and civic education absolutely necessary;
- Political commitment of the central government (and the elites) for decentralization essential;

Prof. Schmidt concluded that decentralization remains a valuable instrument for political reform and development. Decentralization and Democratization can become a happy couple, but both sides have to contribute to this. He cited the case of Senegal as an example of a promising decentralization process.

Participants made a number of comments on the initiation of the decentralization process, political commitment of ruling parties to democratic decentralization, whether failures were due to implementation or the substance and approach in decentralization, to which Prof. Schmidt responded.

**በኢትዮጵያ ቴሌኮሚኒኬሽን ምስረታና እድገት ላይ ውይይት**

በኢትዮጵያ የቴሌኮሚኒኬሽን አገልግሎት ከተጀመረበት ከ1886 ዓ.ም እስከ 1966 ዓ.ም ባሉት ጊዜያት ድርጅቱ ሙሉ በሙሉ በወጣት ኢትዮጵያውያን ኃላፊዎች ይመሰረቡት በነበረበት ወቅት ከፍተኛ ውጤት ለማስመዘገብ መቻሉን የድርጅቱ የመጀመሪያው ኢትዮጵያዊ ሥራ አስኪያጅ አስታወቁ።



አቶ በትሩ አድማሴ በማኅበራዊ ጥናት መድረክ (ማጥመ) በየሁለት ወሩ “እውቀትን ለትውልድ ማስተላለፍ” በሚል መርህ ስር በሚዘጋጀው የውይይት መድረክ “የኢትዮጵያ ቴሌኮሚኒኬሽን ባለሥልጣን ምስረታና እድገት እስከ 1996 ዓ.ም. ድረስ” በሚል ርዕስ ስር መስከረም 10 ቀን 2000 ዓ. ም. እንደተናገሩት በኢትዮጵያ ቴሌኮሚኒኬሽን ቅድመ-አብዮት ታሪክ ድርጅቱ በወጣት ኢትዮጵያውያን በሃላፊነት በተመራባቸው ከ1954 እስከ 1966 ባሉት የ13 ዓመት ጊዜያት የድርጅቱ አማካይ ዓመታዊ እድገት 13.44 ደርሶ ነበር። ይህ እድገት በቀጣይነት ተጠብቆ ቢጓዝ ኖሮ በአሁኑ ወቅት የቴሌኮሚኒኬሽን አገልግሎት ደምብኛ ቁጥር ሦስት

**ሚሊዮን መድረስ ይችል እንደነበር አቶ በትሩ አስረድተዋል።**



የቴሌኮሚኒኬሽን አመጣጥና በኢትዮጵያም ያለውን ታሪካዊ እድገት በተለያዩ ዘመናት (በምንጊዜ ዘመን፣ በፋሽሽት ይዞታ፣ ከነጻነት በኋላና በውጭ ዜጎችና በኢትዮጵያውያን ሲመራ) ከፋፍለው ለታዳሚው ያቀረቡት አቶ በትሩ በአገሪቱ የስልክ አገልግሎት የተጀመረው በአውሮፓና አሜሪካ በጥቅም ላይ በዋለ በ16ኛው ዓመት በ1886 ዓ.ም እንደነበረና በ1928 ዓ.ም 170 ከተሞችና መንደሮች የስልክና የቴሌግራፍ ተጠቃሚ ለመሆን ችለዋል ሲሉ ተናግረዋል። ከዚህ ጊዜም ሁለት አመት ቀደም ብሎ አገሪቱ ከተለያዩ አገሮች ጋር ቀጥታ የሬዲዮ ቴሌግራፍ ግንኙነት መጀመሯን አስረድተዋል።

ይህ አመርቂ ጅምርና የ40 ዓመት ድካም ግን በፋሽሽት ጦርነት ወቅት እንደወደመና በኋላ ግን ጣሊያኖች ለራሳቸው ጥቅም ሲሉ እንደ ቀደምው ብዙ ከተሞችን ባይሸፍንም ታላላቅ ከተሞችን የሚያገኛኑ የመንገድና የስልክ መስመሮች

በዘመኑ በተሸለ ደረጃ መዘርጋታቸውን አቶ በትሩ አድማሴ አስገንዝበዋል። ከነጻነት በኋላ የቴሌኮሚኒኬሽን አገልግሎት ምን ይመስል እንደነበረ አቶ በትሩ አድማሴ ሲገልጹ በአጼ ኃይለሥላሴ መንግስት በጥቂት የውጭ ዜጎች እየታዘዘ ለማቋቋም ቢሞክርም በሰው ኃይልና በገንዘብ እጥረት በ1945 ዓ.ም ከሞላ ጎደል የአገልግሎቱ ተጠቃሚ ለመሆን የቻሉት 65 ከተሞች ብቻ ነበሩ ብለዋል።

የኢትዮጵያ ቴሌኮሚኒኬሽን ማከናወኛዎችን መልሶ ለማቋቋም፣ ለማስፋፋት፣ ለማደስና ለመጠገን «የኢትዮጵያ ንጉሥ ነገሥት የቴሌኮሚኒኬሽን ቦርድ» በሚል ስያሜ በ1945 ዓ.ም የተቋቋመው ቦርድ በአጭር ጊዜ ውስጥ በአህያና በበቅሎ ትራንስፖርት እየታዘዘ ብዛት ያላቸው አገልግሎት መስጠት ያቋረጡና የተዘጉ ጣቢያዎችን ብዙ ሺህ ኪሎሜትር መስመሮችን በመጠገን ሥራ ለማስጀመር በቅቷል ያሉት አቶ በትሩ በወቅቱ የነበረውን ንቁና ከፍተኛ የሥራ መንፈስ አድንቀዋል።

እንደላቸው ገለጻ በድርጅቱ ታሪክ ከ1953 እስከ 1966 ዓ.ም. ያሉት ጊዜያት ኢትዮጵያዊያኖች በየዘርፉ ከፍተኛ ኃላፊነት የተቀበሉበትና እውነተኛ ሥልጣን የጨበጡበት እንደዚሁም ከፍተኛ ውጤት ለማስመዘገብ የተቻለበት ወቅት ነበር።

ከታሕሳስ 1959 አስከ ሰኔ 1966 ዋና ሥራ አስኪያጅ የነበሩት አቶ በትሩ በወቅቱ የተካሄደውን ለውጥ አስመልክተው ሲናገሩ ቀደም ሲል የነበረው መዋቅር ማዕከላዊነትን ያጠናክረና ለቀልጣፋ ሥራ ምቹ ባለመሆኑ በጊዜው የተቀረጸው አዲሱ መዋቅር ኃላፊነትና ሥልጣንን በማያሻማ ሁኔታ በየደረጃው ዝርዝር ከፋፍሎ የሠራተኛ አቀጣጠር፣ መብት፣ ዕድገትና የሥራ ክትትል በዘመናዊ መልክ ማቋቋሙ ድርጅቱ ቀልጣፋና ኤኮኖሚያዊ አሠራር ለመዘርጋት አስችሎታል ብለዋል። ለባለሙያዎች በትርፍ ጊዜያቸው የትምህርት እድል እንዲያገኙ የተደረገ እንደነበረና ሠራተኛውም በጊዜው የነበረው የሥራ ፍቅርና መንፈስ ወደር እንደሚገኝለት አቶ በትሩ በአድናቆት ገልጸዋል።



አቶ በትሩ አያይዘውም ሲናገሩ ቴሌ በኢትዮጵያ ታሪክ ለመጀመሪያ ጊዜ ለሴቶች በሰፊው የስራ ዕድልን ለመክፈት የቻለ ድርጅት ከመሆኑም በላይ በአለም ባንክ ታሪክ የቴሌኮሚኒኬሽን ብድር ለአገር ሲሰጥ ኢትዮጵያ የመጀመሪያዋ አገር እንድትሆን ያስቻለና በኋላም ብድሩ ያመጣው ውጤት እየታየ ለሌሎች በመልማት ላሉ አገሮች ለማበደር የኢትዮጵያ ቴሌ እንደመለኪያ አገልግሏል።

በውይይቱ የመንግስታዊና መንግስታዊ ያልሆኑ ድርጅቶች ተወካዮች እንደዚሁም ከተለያዩ የሕብረተሰቡ ክፍል የተጋበዙ እንግዶች ተሳትፈዋል። ከተሰብሰቡዎች የተለያዩ ጥያቄዎች ቀርበው በአቶ በትሩ ላቀው ምላሽ አግኝተዋል።

አቶ በትሩ አድማሴ ከ1966 አብዮት በኋላ በደርግ መንግሥት ለ7 ዓመታት ያለአግባብ የታሰሩና ከዚያም በኋላ በምስራቃዊና ደቡባዊ አፍሪካ የጋራ ገብያ ቀጠና (ኮሜሳ) ዋና መ/ቤት ሉሳካ ከተማ ተመድበው ለ8 ዓመታት በሙያቸው ያገለገሉ ሲሆን በአሁኑ ወቅት በጡረታ ላይ ይገኛሉ።

የማኅበራዊ ጥናት መድረክ ድኅነትን ለመግታትና ዘላቂ ልማትን ለመፍጠር በተካሄዱ ጥረቶች ውስጥ በአመራር ወይንም በባለመያነት ግንባር ቀደም ሚና የተጫወቱ አንጋፋ ኢትዮጵያውንን በመጋበዝ ልምዳቸውን ለአዲሱ ትውልድ እንዲያስተላልፉ ይህ አይነቱን መድረክ በየጊዜው ያዘጋጃል።

**New Acquisitions of FSS Documentation Center**

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  - 'Teaching Staff Profile in Ethiopian Public Universities: Expansion Challenges and Quality Assurance' (Yohannes Woldetensae)
  - 'The Threats of Massification to Educators: The Case of Haramaya University' (Kedir Assefa)
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