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THE HORN BRIEF

NEWSLETTER



TOP BRIEF OF THE WEEK

PM ABIY'S PROVOCATIVE ACTION EXPEDITES IN A BLOODY CONFLICT IN THE REGION

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ABOUT THE HORN BRIEF

The Horn Brief is a weekly publication curated by the East African Institute for Peace and Governance, a leading research-based think tank in the East African region. With its rigorous research and strategic perspectives, the Brief offers valuable insights on peace, governance, and current affairs in the region. Its high-quality content is an attractive resource for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders seeking to stay informed about developments in East Africa. The Horn Daily Brief is a testament to the East African Institute for Peace and Governance's commitment to advancing peace and stability in the region through evidence-based solutions.

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PM ABIY'S PROVOCATIVE ACTION EXPEDITES IN A BLOODY CONFLICT IN THE REGION

After taking office as Ethiopia's prime minister in April 2018, Abiy Ahmed made history by mending his differences with Eritrea and bringing in the opposition parties OLF, ONLF, and others. Because of these actions, which mislead the world by portraying Abiy as a reformist, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019. Since then, Abiy has taken aggressive measures to seek access, making divisive remarks about the surrounding nations, accusing the West of being hateful of them, and extending an invitation to China and Russia to visit the Horn of Africa. These actions have reduced the funding for assistance and financial help and increased Western apathy in Addis. These inappropriate acts have been manifested and capitalized on by Abiy.

Following president Afwerki's reconciliation with Abiy and Farmajo in 2017, the three leaders launched a clandestine and little-known integration effort under the guise of uniting the Horn of Africa. There are more questions than answers regarding the three leaders' covert arrangements. President Farmajo attempted to serve longer than his term, which sparked a popular outcry and resulted in a military conflict between him and opposition troops. The Tripartite alliance has disintegrated since President Farmajo was defeated in the May 2022 election.

Surprisingly, Abiy's relationship with Afwerki has also soured, and made repeated, "isolated" statements on obtaining a sea gateway for Ethiopia during the past two years.



With over 100 million people, Addis is a "Landlocked" nation. PM Abiy expressed his concerns about this. His Excellency Hassan Sheikh visited Cairo, Egypt instead of Addis after winning the presidency of Somalia. This was during the ongoing "Nile" dispute between Cairo and Addis. Furthermore, this was seen as a lesser "status" diplomatic approach toward Ethiopia. In an effort to improve relations, Somalia and Ethiopia reaffirmed their defense agreement in early December of last year.

This action was seen as a positive development between the two countries. Since Somaliland unilaterally declared its independence from Somalia, Ethiopia has been using that anger as a whip and a weapon to punish Mogadishu for failing to further Addis's interests. Due to this fact, Mogadishu and Hargeisa have been holding fruitless talks in an attempt to restore the "Unity"; four days later of the

latest talks under the host of president Ismail Omer Guelleh's host, presidents Hassan Sheikh and Muse Bihi of Somalia, met in Djibouti and signed a rhapsodized agreement. The public has shown great interest in this accord, with some calling it "Breathtaking".

Two days later, as Mogadishu was experiencing delight and celebration, PM Abiy invited Muse Bihi to Addis, where they had an amazing meeting. Surprisingly, the two parties signed the century's greatest treachery, in which Hargeisa promised Addis 20 kilometers of maritime territory in exchange for Ethiopia being the first nation to recognize Somaliland as a sovereign state. Intellectuals are left wondering if President Hassan Sheikh was complicit in this incident because he met Muse Bihi only a few days prior, or if he was simply naive and criminal in the face of ignorance.



One possible third assumption is that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) plays a significant role as a regional broker. Since Abiy's premiership, Abu-Dhabi has consistently backed Abiy's government. UAE frequently provided him with financial and military support, particularly during the conflict with the Tigray region. This suggests that the UAE is the main cause of the recent escalation in diplomatic hostilities in the Horn of Africa. and the explanation might be that Abu-Dhabi is dissatisfied with Somalia's prime minister, Hamza Abdi Barre, who is a member of the Islah Movement, which is a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. Ethiopia has become the UAE's top priority in the region if this hypothetical scenario turns out to be true. Even though Abu-Dhabi has been given considerable wiggle room by the current Somali leadership, Ethiopia is still of more importance to it. Given the Houthis' imminent threat in the Red Sea, Abiy's provocative actions against

Somalia's territorial integrity and sovereignty run the risk of sparking a military conflict between the two countries and destabilizing the entire Horn of Africa. Following Abiy's most recent action, Somalia's Cabinet and Parliament convened in extraordinary session, the MOU was revoked, and the country's ambassador to Ethiopia was called in for advice. The morality of the Somali people has been vindicated by this momentous and timely bold decision.



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East African Institute for Peace and Governance



THE HORN BRIEF: YOUR WINDOW TO EAST AFRICA'S DYNAMICS

The East African Institute for Peace and Governance is a leading think tank shaping discourse and policy in East Africa. At its core is "The Horn Daily Brief," a weekly publication renowned for its rigorous research and strategic insights on peace, governance, and regional affairs. A go-to resource for policymakers and researchers, The Brief reflects the institute's commitment to advancing evidence-based solutions for a stable East Africa.

Published weekly by the East African Institute for Peace and Governance, the Horn Brief is a premier source of insights on peace, governance, and current affairs in the region. Known for its rigorous research and strategic perspectives, this publication is a go-to resource for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders, offering a concise yet comprehensive understanding of East Africa's complex landscape. Stay informed with the Horn Daily Brief, your trusted guide to the latest developments in the region.

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