

ATTACK THE VIEW NOT THE PERSON BEHIND IT

Let me start by thanking the Goron group admin and Irob Rights Advocacy Association (IRAA) for the superb job they have been doing to keep the issue of the irob abductees alive as well as enabling us stay informed about the issue. My appreciation also goes to the person who posted about irobmablo.org and the statement titled “**The Abductees Cause is our Common Cause**” issued by IRAA. Although I have had the opportunity to access irobmablo.org, till this time I have not been pondering to probe the whole contents and what IRAA really stands for.

This time, the squabbles and tantrums being fomented in some quarters in Goron facebook had encouraged me to make some inquiry about the group. I went through the objectives the group claims to stand for. Contrary to the innuendo forwarded by some individuals, what I discovered is to my satisfaction. As a result I cherish the objectives set on irobmablo.org. Hence, my thanks go to the person who posted the website address for helping me take my own position on IRAA’s objectives and performance. However, it is not my intention to discuss IRAA or Irobmablo.org in this short piece. Thus, to go into detailed analysis will be postponed for now.

As we all know, when the Goron FB admin issued a timely and necessary plea to all Irobs, and recommended irob.org and irobmablo.org to do more on the abductees’ and other Irob affecting issues. IRAA, reciprocating to the plea, had issued the here above cited statement and this very statement was posted on Goron FB.

When IRAA’s statement was appeared on GORON FB, the Goron FB admin welcomed it and some others had expressed their appreciation in various ways. But, although I fail to understand the reason behind it, this statement was not welcomed by everyone in the group. The dissatisfaction created on some quarters was vividly noticeable from their posting. But ironically, those who detested the statement were unable to show us the short comings in it. They neither tried to detract nor appreciate it. Instead, they turned their focus on the messenger than to the message in the statement.

Still worse, their preference happened to be attacking the messenger with issues that have no connection to the statement. I do not get the relevance of posting personal email exchange messages on a public forum. It is neither a signal of maturity nor civility. If the person, who posted it, had thought to gain something out of it, in my opinion, he is terribly wrong. To make such personal email exchanges public is betrayal of one’s own moral responsibility.

From the content of the posted email message, it is very simple to detect that this email message was in response to some sort of a preceding event. But, that preceding event is absent. If the person who posted it was honest and credible; then, at least, he should have had posted the preceding encounter too, so that the reader can have the opportunity to filter out the true nature of the argument that was going on between him and his supposed detractor even though there is no excuse ever to post a personal email on a public forum. Therefore, the dishonesty of approach of that person puts me in much discomfort and I cannot hide the disappointment I very much felt and the detest I have to this kind of childish behavior.

But compared with the statement cited below which was made by the same individual against the compatriot who posted the IRAA statement and Irobmablo.org on Goron FB, the above detailed complaints must be considered trivial. Thus the statement which reads as follows” **“If you understand well, you might be one of those who have not seen and will not see Irob for some years and you know that is because of politics and that is a huge loss for Irobs!”** This seemingly simple statement worries me most. Although, the author of the cited statement apparently lacks the capacity to understand his own self contradicting expressions, I need not point out the contradictions for readers can easily identify it.

Anyhow, the above statement was made in breach of the rights of a person that are internationally recognized and clearly stipulated in the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. This is a breach/violation of law and total disregard for any human and individual’s rights. Hence, that individual has no right whatsoever to make such a deplorable remark. In fact this demonstrates the misunderstanding this individual has about legal and human rights concepts. Besides, the dictatorial attitude he posses is beyond any one’s comprehension and taking his statement into account, it is not hard to imagine how scrupulous he could have become if he had some authority to apply.

Fellow compatriots, this sort of imbecile approach will only jeopardize the brotherly relations among individuals and by extension the whole community. It will only create misconceptions and divisions among us. If such behaviors are not checked in time, the unity we all are aspiring for will be in jeopardy and we all will lose as individuals and as a community. Therefore, we need to put things in perspective in a way we all can profit from as individuals and as a community in large. The consequence of division must be clear to every one of us.

Let’s oppose or support ideas irrespective of their sources. Let’s use the liberty we are endowed by birth wisely. In the long run dealing with ideas without mirroring it to individuals will sharpen/enhance our individual knowledge and will help us learn from each other’s pitfalls or strength. Thus supporting or opposing ideas with supportive arguments based on power of reason will help us all debate concepts, opinions, ideas etc. coming from any corner. This is the only way that will enable us move forward and ultimately help us build a consensus towards achieving sustainable cooperation and trust. Believe it or not, no amount of offensive behavior will serve our common interest. Ideas should not be feared, but cherished. Because, it widens the scope of one’s understanding of it. But lies, false accusations and incriminating one another will help none of us.

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