

## **Résumé of the master thesis: Contemporary Terrorism in Ethiopia: its Origins and Motivation.**

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This paper focuses on the factor of terrorism in Ethiopia. There is suspicion, repeatedly declared by the Ethiopian government, that there are groups operating on its territory, that are using terrorism as a method of combat. Some of those groups are suspected to be affiliated to the global jihadist network that is active in the neighbouring Somalia. Ethiopia takes an active part in the US-led war on terror, and is the most important ally of the US in the region. This has resulted in a flow of humanitarian aid to Ethiopia, and the US is also providing military training, building their counter-terrorism capacities and providing Ethiopia with analytical support and other military aid.

However, there is suspicion that Ethiopia is abusing its participation in the war on terrorism in order to oppress the legitimate opposition, by describing some of the rebel groups as terrorist, and even as affiliated to the global jihadist network in Somalia. This is despite the possibility that these ethnic based groups might be legitimately fighting to gain the right of self-determination, something that is granted to all people living in Ethiopia by the constitution. The government however, systematically attacks the right of self-determination for some ethnics by violating their political and human rights. The participation on the war on terrorism is giving to the government a powerful instrument, which they are using to justify these oppressions.

Therefore, the main purpose of this paper is the analysis of the armed rebel groups that are active in Ethiopia. The study first focuses on the armed struggle of the groups and looks at whether they do indeed use terrorism as a method of combat. For this purpose, the study uses indicators of terrorism as an analytical instrument, which were set after analysing the international conventions on terrorism and the academic discussion on the topic of relation between terrorism and the fight for freedom.

After deciding what rebel groups do use terrorism as a method of combat, the paper is analysing their motivation to use terrorism, using the typology of Contemporary Conflict Resolution approach. Resulting from this analysis, we can judge whether the groups are really affiliated to radical religious groups, or even global terrorism – or whether the groups are

motivated differently and therefore the Ethiopian government is abusing their participation on the war on terrorism by describing them as terrorist affiliated to radical Islam and global jihad.

Based on the results of the analysis, this paper can state, that there really is a threat from the radical Islam and global terrorism in Ethiopia – although the threat is minor. To a larger degree, the Ethiopian government is abusing its fight on terrorism by suppressing its opposition. This can be proven best on the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), which is not even using terrorism, though they are often accused of affiliation to radical Islamists from Somalia and of committing bombings, especially in Addis Ababa. It is likely that the government itself, enabling it to accuse the OLF, committed some of those bombings. Ethiopian government has also passed a counter-terrorism law, which is effectively oppressing also the legal opposition.