Experiences of Tesfa's children during the war period



Tesfa's children

Written for Sululta by SebleWengell Abay

February 2, 2022.

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Muluwerg Debash / 14 years old / Grade 6

War is a very bad and dangerous thing for me but in my opinion sometimes it have a good way. if you ask *why* because it keep us from doing bad things and it will help us to think only good things. I think the cause of this war is by our mistakes. For example here have many young generation who smokes, eating chat and most of young generation haven't respect for their older I think this is the cause of this war.

When I out from Lalibela, I hadn't any idea because me and my sisters & brothers were very shocked as we hear many bad things about T.P.L.F that if T.P.L.F control Lalibela will kill all of us also will do sexual harassment, in this case all we were very shocked. We wanted to move to our countryside with our brothers but at that time one of our sister who call Muluwerq Destaw was sick, in this case we didn't want to leave her alone but on Saturday our two brothers was ready to move to urban. At this time I was thinking too much about them as there hadn't any transport. After two days our Sister get well then we stand to hike to our countryside on Monday. It was "Nakuteleab" day. We out from Lalibela early morning at12:00 Ethiopian ime. When we reach in the place which call "Cimeno" we got the milliliters of T.P.L.F at that time we all feel very sad and we were very shocked because all we were girls. I thought they are going to kill us but they said nothing when we far from them our mind feel a little good then we continued our walk we get a clean water then we drink it also the country man gave us his meal. We were scared when we move alone. After few hours we reached a place which call "Sarzna". All we get wet because there was raining but that didn't give us too much wet. When we reach in our urban area I gone to my uncle's home the time was 10:30 Ethiopian time. I was very happy.

Because of this war I got many problems. For example, I couldn't continue my learning, it parted me from my sisters and brothers. Peace is happiness, It is a very good thing and we all need it. I hadn't thoughts to back to Lalibela because I thought this war may take two years, in this case I stopped thinking about my education. I thought that, all we are going to die but still we are alive. Thanks for God! Because now I back to Lalibela and got my sisters and brothers also I start my education. It is amazing because we all are still alive. This war teaches me to be kind person and to show my respect for others also it teaches me to don't think any bad things for others. My message for others who haven't been in this situation is that war is a very difficult and bad thing. If you need to live a peaceful life, don't do any bad things and be helpful to each other. This is my message.



Fasica Fentie / 17 years old / Grade 10

War means a very bad thing which can change our peace life to a very bad and sad life. I think the cause of this war is racism, sin and lack of country love. In short they need to parting and to destroy our country Ethiopia.

I moved to urban area but it wasn't because of the bandit T.P.L.F. I moved to countryside before the T.P.L.F controlled Lalibela .when I was in my family's home (urban area) I heard that the terrorist T.P.L.F control Lalibela. At that time I was very shocked. I was heard many bad news about, they say Lalibela is destroyed. I thought it would be true but when our military force control Lalibela I back to Lalibela from countryside. Then I got all the news which I heard when I was in countryside was false. I got my parents safe also my brothers and sisters. I feel very happy and now I am ready to continue my learning as soon as possible. Because of this war I got many problems. For example, I couldn't continue my learning and it changed my normal life style.

It is very difficult to migrate to urban area because live in countryside is difficult as I was work very hard to help my farmer Family there. It is very difficult because they haven't plane to change their lifestyle and they think all about marriage. living in rural area and living in urban area have very different because when you live in rural area you will have big dreams and your mind will think only about your education and feature life, in this case I got living in countryside is very difficult.

Peace is the civilization of one country because if one country haven't peace that country can't be developed country. I saw this war have the power to destroy one country's nature, wealth also people's life. If here have peace I can get everything and I can live everywhere also we can work and study. In short peace means love so everyone need to love each other.



Kidst Destaw / 14 years old / Grade 8

For me war means a very scary and dangerous which can limit a country. I think the cause of this war is human beings. For example, smokers and persons who haven't respect for each other.

Because of this war I got many problems, first of all I couldn't learn and study, it killed my time and it parted me from my sisters and brothers.

I out from Lalibela because I was very worry as I hear bad news about T.P.L.F's action. On August 11 earlier morning at 12:00 Ethiopian time I stand to move to urban with my other sisters. When we reached in a place which call Cimeno we get the military of T.P.L.F. I was very worry but the said nothing and we continued our walk after few hours we got the country men and they gave us their own lunch. We were hungry. When we reached in a place which call Sarzna there were a little raining then I run to church and get shelter. When the rain stop raining I continued walk to my countryside. At evening 10:00 Ethiopian time I reached to my grandparent's home and I passed my night there. In the next morning at 12:00 Ethiopian time I moved to my parent's home and I reached there at 2:30 Ethiopian time. I got my parents and they asked me why I come alone but they were happy to get us with them. We all were worrying about our family who lives in Lalibela. I stayed with my family for 5 months and I was happy with them and I wasn't work there in a difficult way also on Saturday and Sunday I was learn in Christianity church.

Peace is the beautiful gift from God and a happy life. Our God forgive us this is why we backed to our normal life and school. When I back to Lalibela on January 11 I saw many changes. For example I saw many persons with physical changes.

From this war I learn to have respect for others also to pray always. This is the good side of this war but the war was very difficult and scary. What I need to advise for others is have respect for each other and please have good thoughts. This is my message and advice for others.



Askal Abebe / 19 years old / Grade :- 10

War is a very difficult thing. In my opinion the cause of this war is God's wrath. I also think it is because of discrimination. This war has caused me a lot of problems. For example, it separated me from my siblings and it made me drop out of school.

I out from Lalibela on Monday August 11. I planned to move to countryside because I hear many bad things about them. When I was walking on the road to urban area, I got the T.P.L.F's military I was shocked and I was very worry but they said nothing to us after that we got wet because of rain but it didn't gave us too much wet. After few hours I reached on my family's home, they were very happy also I was happy but I was thinking about the rest of our family in Lalibela.

My return to the country side didn't affect me in any way. Although I was disgusted by the war when I want to the countryside I was very happy. And in my spare time I was studying in Christianity church.

Pease is joy to me. If there is peace, you can go to everywhere and you can study and work in the country of your choice but without peace on this earth, it is impossible to move or to work.



Desale Zewdie / 16 years old / Grade 11

War is a very difficult thing. In my opinion the cause of this war is by God's wrath, I mean because of stop praying and being out of God's law. This war caused me a lot of problems. The first one is it take my learning time because I was without school for five months. In this case teachers teach us very quickly to recover our time which we stayed without education. It is bad because when they teach us quickly there will not have the quality of education. The second problem is it parting me from my brothers and sisters then it been the reason for me to move to countryside.

On Saturday August 4 at 12:00 Ethiopian time me and my brother Msgan out from Lalibela. We couldn't walk by the main road because other persons told us that if we walk by the main road they will get us and then they will kill us. In this case we move to urban by hiking but we didn't know the direction as it were forest. After few hours we got someone and we asked him if he know the direction to move to our countryside he was agree and he showed us then when we continue our hike we got lake and we tried to cross that river but it had a lot of water in this case we move to find bridge after few minutes we got bridge then we cross the lake by that bridge but as soon as we get very wet as there had raining. We couldn't get any shelter so we choose to continue our walk with the rain. After two hours we reached in our family's home. We were tired also got wet. My family were shocked when they see me with wet clothes. They asked me why we come alone and why we get very wet. They were happy to get me with them but we were thinking and worrying about others who have been in Lalibela .when I stand to back to Lalibela on Saturday, January 10 I hadn't any idea to back to Lalibela and to continue my learning because my thoughts were that they will kill all of us. But thanks for God, my thoughts were wrong.

When I was there I got many beautiful memories with my farmer parents. I was play with them and I meet many family members and I saw the value of family love also I got my friends there. Peace means happy because if here have peace I can learn, I can live and I can change my feature life. my message for others is that The bad side of this war is it will part you from your family and it will kill your feature but this war also teach me good things. For example, to have respect for each other and to be helpful.



Muluwerg Destaw / 18 years old / Grade 12

For me the meaning of war is loose of peace. If human beings loose peace they can't think about feature life. In my point of view the cause of this war is drop out of Gods law, corruption and racism.

Because of this war I got many problems. For example, I couldn't study and learn. I am grade 12th in this case I have national exam but because of this war I couldn't ready myself for national exam. I thought that I will not back again to school in this case I was stop thinking about the exam.

When the T.P.L.F control Lalibela on August 7 we were hear many bad news about them. These news were that they will kill men and they will do sexual harassment on girls. At that time I was sick in this case I couldn't move to urban. I was very worry about my sisters, I didn't need to be the reason if anything happen on my sisters because they didn't need to leave me alone but thanks for God we got no any bad things. When T.P.L.F control Lalibela after five days I got well then on Monday August 11 at 12:00 early morning Ethiopian time we stand to move to country side by hike. when we were walking we got a few military of T.P.L.F at that time I was very shocked but they said nothing and they allow us to move after few hours of hiking we got a country man and he gave u his meal. We were hungry in this case we accept his lunch and we eat it together. Also it was raining and they gave us shelter. We thanks them very much because we were hungry also we were get wet because of the rain. After few hours we reached in countryside but my family home is a little far from other children family's home, in this case I went to my grandparent's home and I get rest there. On Tuesday, August 12 I moved to my parent's home. They were very happy to see me but I was very worrying about my other family who live in Lalibel. When I was in countryside it was difficult for me because I hadn't time to study I was very sad by the situation but I got many beautiful any happy times with my farmer parents. When Lalibela get free after 19 days on Thursday January 13 I backed to lalibela.

I feel very happy when I back to Lalibela. I get my friends and now I am getting my exam. Peace is joy. This war teach me many lessons. It teach me to keep praying, to have respect for my older also to don't do any bad things. My message for others who haven't been on this situation is, please have respect for each other. Peace have a big value



Msgan DebashAge / 15 years old / Grade 8

War is a bad thing. I think the cause of this war is racism. Because of this war I got many problems. For example it drop me out from school, it parting me from my sisters and brothers also at this time I am not getting the quality of education. All of these happen because of the war.

When they control Lalibela we hear many bad news about them then on Saturday August 4 me and my brother wanted to go to urban area. At 12:00 Ethiopian time we out from home and start our hike after few hours of walk we got river. We couldn't cross as the river were high then we leave it and we walk to see if it have bridge. After few hours we found bridge then we cross by that bridge in the middle of our walk we get very wet as the rain was raining for long hours. We didn't get any kind of shelter in this case we got very wet. Then we reached in countryside. I was very happy to see them but my parents shocked in case I were very wet. We were happy to see each other but we were very worrying about the rest of my family in Lalibela. I was help them by keeping cows and goats also I helped them by farm work but I got one bad thing, as the country dog beat me it was a little painful. I back to Lalibela on January 10. I am ultra happy because I got my sisters in Tesfa's children also I continue my learning. It was amazing to me as I thought that Lalibela will stay under control of T.P.L.F for one or two years but my thoughts were wrong, thanks for God

Peace is happiness .if here have peace I can learn, I can think about feature and I can go to everywhere.