

Spat between Tanzania and Kenya: The Malignant Disease of Capitalism and its thought of Nationalism

News:

In May 2025, Tanzanian authorities detained Kenyan activist Boniface Mwangi and Ugandan lawyer Agather Atuhairi as they attempted to attend the treason trial of opposition leader Tundu Lissu in Dar es Salaam. Amnesty International appealed Tanzanian authorities to investigate the arbitrary arrest, torture, incommunicado detention, and forcible deportation of human rights defenders.

Comment:

The incident sparked widespread outrage in Kenya and Uganda, with human rights organizations within the region and abroad calling for investigations into the alleged mistreatment of the activists. The US Bureau of African Affairs said on X it was "deeply concerned by reports of the mistreatment" of Atuhairi and Mwangi while in Tanzania. "We call for an immediate and full investigation into the allegations of human rights abuses," it said, urging "all countries in the region to hold to account those responsible for violating human rights, including torture. Social media platforms became arenas for heated exchanges between Kenyan and Tanzanian citizens, with some Tanzanian MPs accusing Kenyans of cyberbullying and interfering in domestic affair.

It is crystal clear that neo-colonialism is a modern form that exists and persists through various mechanisms including the humanitarian **intervention, aid conditionality, NGO operations, and soft power diplomacy**. The West under the guise of defending human rights have solidified the **reengineering of African societies** to mirror corrupt liberal Western models such as LGBTQ. Notably, Kenya hosts a quite number of the human rights organization that promote Western models. Politically, foreign powers continue to exert influence on Africa under the **guise of human rights**. Additionally the Western rhetoric of defending human rights shows its double standards of the Western regimes including US 'defender of human rights'. In Gaza, the West has not only remained silent but supports the genocidal Jewish entity which carries out horrific massacres.

With regards to the online war between Kenya and Tanzania with each boasting herself being more civilized and developed than the other, this is one of the malignant diseases of Nationalism. There are two types of Nationalism which are corrupt bonds: Territorial Nationalism which means the feeling of pride and superiority associated with the sense of belonging to a specific territory by birth or citizenship. The other is Cultural Nationalism; the association of an additional component i.e. a specific culture to the territory and the feeling of pride that comes with this association. The mere fact that a superficial concept of nationalism has gained significant traction speaks volume of the ideological weakness of capitalism and its inability to truly manage and solve human and societal problems.

The colonial strategy "Divide and rule" (or *divide et impera*) has been used extensively by capitalists to maintain control over African territories—and its effects are still visible today. The principle is simple: foster divisions among local groups to prevent unified resistance, thereby securing foreign dominance. The local capitalist mindset of politicians in both countries serve as agents of the West in plundering the vast resources hence their citizens into abject poverty. In Muslim countries it is the Sykes-Picot scheme that has led political and economic stagnation of the Muslim Ummah.

The task ahead to the east African people is to free their minds from the shackles and measles of nationalism and bankruptcy of politicians (ruling and opposition) as both read from the same script of corrupt capitalism. Similarly, the concept of Muslim Ummah (nation) emanating from Islam is pan-Islamic in nature and transcends the barriers of national boundaries into an ideological bonding. The Islamic ideological bond is only one that can unify people into a solid and unified society.

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