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Inexcusable Blunders!

Foreign policy is often a reflection of domestic policy. The indelible link between a country's domestic and foreign policy is starkly demonstrated by the current Eritrean regime's recent votes at the UN General Assembly in New York and the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Like what several Russia friendly states did, abstention would have been a better option that serves the interest of Eritrea.

The Eritrean people fought two wars (1961-1991 and 1998-2000) against the aggression of a bigger neighbour. They are also reeling under the brutal oppression of an authoritarian personalist regime. In the first case, it is incomprehensible that the regime would implicitly endorse a situation similar to that the Eritrean people resisted so valiantly. In the second case, it is understandable that it would endorse another country's human rights violations that it itself routinely perpetrates on the Eritrean people.

The two 'No' votes are irrational, inexplicable, and self-isolationist. Probably cast to spite those who have, only recently, unjustly imposed unilateral sanctions on Eritrea, the two 'No' votes do not serve the vital national interests of Eritrea and the Eritrean people. They alienate Eritrea's principal development partners. In the international system of intertwining interests, vital national interest rather than personal spite should determine foreign policy.