activism in the social media era: Critical reflections on emerging trends in Sub-Saharan Africa


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See the English posting on Jawar's Facebook site explaining the event, at https://www.sida.se/en/publications/the-culture-of-power-in-contemporary-ethiopian-political-life

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EPRDF's ideology anchored in Marxist and Maoist doctrines, touted 'revolutionary democracy' as superior to liberal visions (Vaughan and Tronvoll, 2003).

House of Representatives in the 2015 elections (Arriola and Lyons, 2016).

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Freedom House's country report on Ethiopia claims that "telecommunications infrastructure is almost entirely absent from rural areas" where

"millions of Ethiopians en masse"

The Internet and the Ethiopian government...to the outside world. Land-locked Ethiopia cannot directly tie into international submarine cables, despite the backbone cables connecting East Asia to Europe that

was increasingly criticized by both national and international observers, as it prevented the dissemination of life-saving information to the population

...of Ethiopia's government maintains a staggeringly high capacity for monitoring and controlling the Internet. The electronic intelligence agency, Information Technology and Networks Security Agency (INSAT or

Figure 5: is a density plot depicting the percent Internet penetration (ECADF, 2014). In June 2021, Facebook announced the removal of an extensive network of accounts and pages engaged in coordinated

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Figure 4. One can

the initial phase of Prime Minister Abiy's tenure, a far-reaching reconciliation of political forces was facilitated by measures such as inviting exile-based political

On this metric, Ethiopia outperforms nearly every sub-Saharan African country, and ranks high with

Figure 3's shows the

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