

A Plague of Bad Leadership

Two poignant items in the July 2 Post — Stephanie McCrummen's news story, "Africa's Hungry Horn," and the editorial "An African Failure" — effectively depicted a continent's man-made perils. Both pointed to a crucial element that is severely lacking in today's Africa: accountable leadership.

At national, regional and continental levels, Africa seems to suffer from the irresponsible actions and debilitating inaction of leaders who are concerned only with consolidating their own power. Be it leaders suppressing their opposition or subjecting their nation's populations to mass starvation, what Africa is enduring is a direct consequence of incompetent and repressive leadership that does not care about the people whom it is supposed to serve.

It is heartbreaking to see Africa going through vicious cycles of famine and political turmoil while



BY RADU SIGHETI — REUTERS

A boy collects maize that fell during food distribution by the International Federation of the Red Cross last month in southern Ethiopia.

so-called leaders protect their own and each other's selfish interests. Indeed, the most tragic aspect of Africa's reality is that the continent is losing its children to human-caused famines and political violence.

I wish that African leaders would think of the children who are starving today but who otherwise could become visionary leaders of tomorrow.

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