

ADDA BILISUMMAA OROMOO



OROMO LIBERATION FRONT

جبهة تحرير اورومو

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DECLARATION OF CONCLUSION OF THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENT OF THE OROMO LIBERATION FRONT (OLF) AND ELECTION OF NEW NATIONAL COUNCIL

The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) conducted a meeting from the 20th - 23rd January 2006 to assess the current state of the Oromo struggle. Participants of the meeting included members of the Executive Committee, Central Committee, senior OLF members, and representatives of regional OLF branches.

Among the issues which were discussed at the meeting was the interim arrangement of the Oromo Liberation Front-Transitional Authority (OLF-TA) which has been in place since 2001. The OLF-TA was formed to lead the OLF until the internal crisis created by the actions of a splinter faction of the Executive Committee (EC/Shanee) of the National Council was amicably settled. Violating the constitution of OLF, the splinter group led by Daud Ibsaa has illegally re-written the OLF political programme, revoking Article VI and, thereby discarding the fundamental objective of the Oromo national struggle, the establishment of an independent Republic of Oromia.

Led by Dhugaasaa Bakakkoo since its inception, the OLF-TA has done all in its power to resolve the conflict while defending the principles of the OLF as well as waging the struggle against the oppressors of the Oromo people. The splinter EC/Shanee group has, however, never considered the proposals made by the OLF-TA for a peaceful resolution of the impending political problem within the organization. OLF-TA's efforts to resolve the differences between itself and the splinter faction through the organizational framework of the OLF as well as efforts of reconciliation made by Oromo elders were all subverted by the members of the said faction. The activities of the splinter EC/Shanee group during the last four years, including the recent tours of North America by its leaders calling on the Oromo diaspora to join them to return and enter the Ethiopian political process as an opposition party constitutes a clear violation of the objectives of the OLF.

In view of the above facts, OLF-TA is left with no other choice but to conclude that further pursuits of resolving its political differences with the splinter group will be a waste of time. Furthermore, given the current intensification of political repression and wanton killings being perpetrated against the Oromo people by Meles Zenawi's minority regime, extending the interim arrangement of the OLF period would only hinder the revival of the organization and expose the Oromo national struggle for liberation to irreparable damage.

Therefore, having fully considered all available options, OLF-TA hereby declares the phasing out of the interim arrangement and confirms that a new National Council of the OLF has been duly established, filling the vacant positions left by the former members of the OLF Executive Committee who formed the splinter group. The new leadership is elected in accordance with the constitutional process of the OLF. The OLF National Council also declares that the splinter EC/Shanee group and its leaders cannot anymore be considered genuine members of the OLF, since the faction and its leaders have abandoned the objective of the OLF as stated in its political programme.

The new National Council of the OLF will not be surprised if the members of the splinter group will keep on using their disastrous propaganda, as usual, of dividing the Oromo people by religion and region to weaken unity among the Oromo people. The Council would like to call upon Oromo community and religious leaders to guide our people not to fall prey to the malicious propaganda of the anti-Oromo unity faction. It is common knowledge that the splinter group is funded and advised by foreign powers to preserve the Ethiopian empire state, keeping our people under alien domination. To put it simply; it is not only the OLF, but also the survival of our nation that is at stake.

To this end, the OLF National Council calls on all its members and the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) to strengthen their resolve and solidarity with the sole objective of liberating our country from the Abyssinian colonial rule. The Council also calls upon Oromo nationalists, intellectuals, youth, business men and women, farmers, and students to stand shoulder to shoulder to combat the confusion created by the splinter group and support the national liberation from Abyssinian colonial operation. Our immediate objectives are to redouble our efforts to guard the gains of our struggle and work unreservedly to score victory against the enemy that is engaged in the repression and wanton destructions of our people. This cardinal goal cannot be accomplished without total resolve and commitment of all Oromos and those who value freedom and social justice.

The OLF National Council would like to reassure all concerned and the international community that OLF stands for democracy, peace, and development and continues to uphold its tradition of respect for human right and dignity enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights. While defending our inalienable natural rights by all means available to us, we stand for freedom, the inviolability of human dignity, and political stability in the Horn of Africa at large.

Once more, we would like to reiterate that the objective of the struggle led by the OLF is the realization of Oromo national self-determination and the establishment of an independent Republic of Oromia as enshrined in its political programme. The OLF National Council will work wholeheartedly towards this goal with pride, honour, and readiness to pay the sacrifices needed to make it a reality. We are confident that the OLF will prevail and the Oromo people will attain the freedom for which thousands of their sons and daughters have sacrificed their lives during the past several decades.

Oromia shall be free!

The OLF National Council