

ADDA BILISUMMAA OROMOO



OROMO LIBERATION FRONT

جبهة تحرير اورومو

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Declarations of the Extra-ordinary Congress of the OLF

The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) has successfully concluded its extra-ordinary congress conducted from the 20th - 23rd January 2006. The congress participants assessed the existing state of affairs of the Oromo struggle with particular emphasis on the dreadful political and human rights situation in our country Oromia, and the conclusion of the interim arrangement of the OLF.

In attendance were members of the OLF Transitional Authority (OLF-TA), members of the Central Committee, senior members of the OLF, members of Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) and representatives of regional OLF branches.

Deeply disturbed by the worsening situation of our people, the cause of which is the colonial domination by the Ethiopian Empire, the congress noted with grave concern the violence and intimidation exacted against our people by the Ethiopian regime. While the world is watching silently, the Ethiopian regime is busy terrorizing, murdering, torturing and imprisoning our people for no other reason than demanding the respect of their rights as a nation of people.

The peaceful effort by the Oromo people to resolve the conflict between Oromia and Ethiopia has been frustrated time and again by successive Ethiopian regimes since Oromia fell under the yoke of Ethiopian colonization. Hence, the restoration and reconstitution of sovereign state of Oromia based on the right of self-determination inherent to every nation by all available means is the only guarantee to safeguard the very existence of the Oromo Nation. The congress renewed its resolve to redouble its effort in pursuit of this ideal.

The congress also noted the efforts by some Ethiopian political parties to roll back all achievements made by oppressed nations and nationalities in that empire. The congress saw no difference between these parties and Meles Zenawi's regime, regarding their stand on the Oromo quest for independence.

The congress also recalled that the OLF-TA was formed in 2001 to lead the OLF until the internal crisis precipitated by the actions of a faction of the Executive Committee (EC/Shanee) of the National Council, who departed from the original objectives of the organization, was amicably settled. OLF-TA was formed to work towards finding a solution for the turmoil created by this faction within the organization and bring them back to the original objectives of the Oromo national struggle. Led by Dhugassa Bakakoo, 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, refused the proposals made by the OLF-TA for a peaceful resolution of the crisis through the organization framework and persisted in its intransigence.

Violating the constitution of the OLF, the splinter EC/Shanee group led by Daud Ibsa proceeded to illegally re-write the OLF political programme, revoking Article VI and thereby discarding the fundamental objective of the Oromo national struggle; namely the establishment of an independent state of Oromia.

The congress examined (a) the fact that OLF-TA's efforts to resolve the ideological differences between itself and the splinter faction of the former OLF Executive Committee through the organizational framework as well as the fact that the efforts of Oromo elders were all subverted by the members of the said faction; (b) the trend for the past four years and the grave situation in which we find the Oromo national struggle for liberation today, and (c) the recent behaviour of the splinter group, including their recent tour of North America calling on the Oromo diaspora to join them to return to Ethiopia and enter the Ethiopian political process as an opposition party instead of continuing the Oromo liberation struggle.

Having fully considered all options available to us, we hereby declare the completion of the interim arrangement of the OLF and confirm that a new National Council of the OLF has been duly established, filling the vacant positions left by the former members of the Executive Committee who formed the splinter EC/Shanee group. The new leadership is elected in accordance with the constitutional process of the OLF.

We will not be surprised if the members of the splinter group will keep on using their usual unsuccessful propaganda, to divide the Oromo people by religion and region to weaken our unity. We would like to call on all Oromo community and religious leaders to guide our people not to fall prey to the malicious propaganda of the anti-Oromo unity faction.

To this end, we call on all members of the OLF, and the OLA to strengthen their resolve and solidarity with the sole objective of liberating our country from Ethiopian colonization. We also call on all Oromo political organizations working for formation of independent state of Oromia to put their minor differences aside and come together in defence of our people and objective.

We remind all Oromo nationalists, intellectuals, businessmen and women, farmers and students of their obligation to stand shoulder to shoulder to combat the confusion created by the splinter EC/Shanee group and support the national liberation and total emancipation. Our immediate objectives are to redouble our efforts to guard the gains of our struggle and work unreservedly to score more victory against the enemy that is engaged in the oppression and wanton destruction of our people.

We 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 with all means available to us, we stand for freedom, the inviolability of human dignity and political stability in our region.

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 independent Republic of Oromia as enshrined in its political programme. We 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 our organization 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 many decades.

Oromia shall be free!

The OLF National Council