



February 9, 2019

A CALL FOR THE UNITY OF OROMO POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

We are proud of and thankful to our people and the Oromo youth, the Qeerroo and Qeerritti who have resisted the TPLF/EPRDF tyranny persistently for many years and created a political condition that brought Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to power. As we have stated in June last year, we appreciate Prime Minister Abiy's sense of responsibility to bring the peoples of Ethiopia out of the tyrannical predatory rule they had been exposed to for over a century. We believe that lasting peace, stability and development cannot be achieved until and unless the centuries long tradition of undemocratic rule in Ethiopia is brought to an end definitely.

Therefore, accepting the call of Dr Abiy's government for peaceful settlement of conflicts in Ethiopia as an opportunity that will allow us to struggle for the goal for which the OLF was created, the leaders of our organization had returned to Finfinnee on December 29, 2018. Since then, we have been approached by Abba Gadaas, elders and many concerned individuals who demand the unity of Oromo political organizations. We share their concern. We believe that Oromo unity is a crucial factor in bringing about the end of tyranny once for all and make an era of peace and stability a reality not only in Ethiopia but also the Horn of Africa.

Above all, we believe in genuine unity that puts the Oromo right to self-determination in the centre. That is a goal that we have been struggling to achieve for many years. As mentioned above, unity between Oromo political organizations is also the earnest wish of Oromo elders and youth we have met on many occasions since our arrival in Finfinnee. Therefore, responding to our people's earnest call we are ready for a meaningful dialogue that will resolve the contentious issues, which had divided our political organizations for many years. We will, and are ready, together with compatriots and patriots, to draw a road map that and would take our people to a stage where they can choose their leaders and determine their future as a nation. Let it be known that our ultimate wish is to devise a common strategy and contribute to peace, basic human rights and fundamental freedoms not only in Oromia and Ethiopia, but also to peace and stability in the entire region of the Horn of Africa.

Therefore, we call upon all factions of the OLF to reunite, reform and forge a common political and economic strategy and promote the cause of the Oromo people at large. Thanking Team Lemma for the democratic space they have created for a peaceful transition, we call upon the Government of Oromia to support the realization of our effort to achieve the desired unity and cooperation of Oromo political organizations by facilitating meeting places and security arrangements for all the stakeholders.

Finally, we urge all concerned Oromo political organizations and OLF veterans to respond to our call latest on February 15, 2019. The date and venue of our initial meeting will be announced thereafter.

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