



April 15, 2019

Commemoration of Oromo Martyrs Day 2019

April 15 is Oromo Memorial Day, also known as Guyyaa Gootota Oromo, a day when the Oromo community worldwide remembers its Martyrs.

It is to be remembered that April 15 was chosen to commemorate Martyrs Day after ten members of top OLF leadership, headed by the front's chairperson Magarsa Bari, from the Eastern Front on route to Somalia for diplomatic mission, were massacred by enemy force at a place called Shinniga, in Ogaden dessert on April, 15 1980.

The momentous day on April 15, 1980 was also noteworthy because of its exemplary significance for Oromo unity. The enemy force that overpowered these Oromo comrades ordered the Christians and Muslims to segregate before their execution nevertheless the comrades refused to be divided and identified themselves simply as Oromos and eventually all ten were executed and buried in a single grave.

Though inspired by the Shinniga massacre, April 15 has become a day to remember all Oromo Martyrs of the past 130 years.

We must never forget the service and sacrifice of the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) and the role they played in securing the continuity of struggle for the emancipation of the Oromo people for well over four decades.

Equally, in this year of relative calmness and change, it is important to pay tribute to the more than 5,000 Oromo Youth, also known as Qeerroo, who gallantly stood up to the Ethiopian security forces and subsequently paid the ultimate sacrifice for liberation of their country since 2014.

We also recognise the many men and women who are currently defending their ancestral land from aggressors who repeatedly attack Oromo communities, and acknowledge the impact this has on them and their family and the Oromo nation as a whole.

We owe our Martyrs an immeasurable amount of thanks. We must unite more than ever before and renew our commitments to fulfil the ideals and objective of emancipation of the Oromo people for which our heroes and heroines paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Internal glory to our Martyrs!
Oromia shall be free!

OLF – TA
Finfinnee, Oromia