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**Oromo Liberation Front
Position statement on the current situation and the
so-called Transitional Arrangement for Ethiopia**

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Today, the Oromo people openly call for total emancipation and liberation from alien occupation and rule. This Oromia wide popular uprising is now in its fourth year, without an end in sight. Along with this, the unity of the Oromo people is striking fear in the hearts of the enemy that is reacting increasingly violently. The Oromo people demand freedom. However, quite for some time, we have been hearing distorted stories about the goal of the Oromo liberation struggle. Contrary to what the Oromo people demand on the ground, there are some who are calling for a transitional government that will include the regime in power.

Needless to say, Oromia was conquered by force and is today ruled by force. It was out of this reality that the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) was formed and united the Oromo people to struggle for the liberation of Oromia. Four decades after the formation of the OLF, the same reality also created the current revolution in Oromia.

In short, the TPLF has been killing, imprisoning and torturing Oromos since 1991. According to human rights organisations, its security forces have murdered over 4,000 Oromo civilians during the last three years alone. It was while implementing its routine criminal duty that on February 10, 2018 the TPLF army murdered 11 and wounded many Oromos sheltered in the Hammaressa camp. Two months earlier, on December 10, 2017 units of the same army massacred 15 Oromo civilians in the nearby Chelenko town. In addition, seven people were murdered at the annual epiphany festival of the Orthodox Church in Waldiya in the Amhara State on January 20, 2018 in the same manner.

The massacre committed in Hammaressa was part of the ethnic cleansing campaign that has uprooted approximately one million Oromos from their homes since October 2017. The campaign is conducted in eastern and south-eastern Oromia bordering with the Somali region of Ethiopia and the Somali regional state. Masterminded by the TPLF, the campaign is carried out against the Oromo by the so-called Somali Liyu Police. The Liyu Police, is a para-military force trained and led by TPLF army officers. The victims took shelter in the camp together with their 4,800 displaced compatriots in the Hammaressa refugee camp on which the TPLF military opened machinegun fire and deprive them the last thing they saved - their lives - when they fled from their homes.

The crimes committed by the TPLF regime against humanity far too long to list here. Suffice to note here that it is a merciless regime that had, among others, shot and killed a nine-year-old child just for crossing his two hands in defiance for freedom and justice. It is a regime that killed a mother who raised her two hands to protect her son, and forced a mother to sit on the dead body of her murdered son and tortured her in a total disregard for humanity. The regime is morally and politically corrupt; it cannot be reformed. Oromia should be free from the regime and its murderous army. To make a call for a transitional government that includes the TPLF as the reformists, including foreign powers and some Oromo political actors suggest, is tantamount to sabotaging the Oromo struggle that has brought the regime to its knees.

Those who propose reforming the regime forget that the TPLF regime has monopoly over the economy and state apparatus - judiciary, the executive and legislative branches. It has a total control over government institutions - defence, security, intelligence, police force and foreign affairs to maintain the vast national imbalance by which power and wealth are appropriated. Not only these, it also has the monopoly over Mass Media including Internet services.

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The regime may allow some opposition figures to join its government but that will not satisfy the quest of our people for freedom. Such an arrangement will only enable the fascist regime to stay in power, keep killing our people, and holding onto the properties it illegally and forcibly took from the Oromo people and keeping the billions of dollars it stole from the Ethiopian people and stashed in overseas banks.

At the same time, such politics will absolve the TPLF and its collaborators from the genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing they have been committing over the last 27 years against Oromo and other peoples in Ethiopia. What the political reality on the ground demands is not such a shenanigan, but that the TPLF regime and its institutions be totally dismantled. To allow the existing properties and economic resources to be retained by the TPLF regime, its supporters, and its collaborators is to sustain its domination. Rushing to Finfinnee to share power with a regime that has so much blood on its hands contradicts the meanings of freedom and justice.

The TPLF and its collaborators will not give up their political, economic and military control and dominance without decisive actions that can remove them from power and Finfinnee. To avert that, with its so-called “deep reform” propaganda, the regime is enticing collaborators, and supporters from inside and outside Ethiopia to come to its aid. Regrettably, even some organisations that stand for the liberation of Oromia are entertaining the deceptive propaganda as a way to true freedom and democracy. Democracy cannot come to Ethiopia short of the complete removal of the TPLF regime. In absence of this, the greatest harm would be done to the cause of national liberation struggle, freedom, justice, equality, liberty and human dignity through this so-called transitional government to accommodate the TPLF fascist regime. Therefore, we reject the call for establishing a transitional government that includes the TPLF regime.

The path to which the Oromo national liberation struggle is committed is not one which the OLF has chosen from a group of viable alternatives. There is no other path to victory over the enemies of our people for the simple reason that all other routes have already been exhausted in the past. Today, led by millions of courageous young men and women, the Oromo struggle is an Oromia wide movement. It is a winning struggle. That is what we are witnessing now; it is what we should strengthen with all individual and collective capacities we possess.

We call for a genuine transitional arrangement for Oromia first and foremost. Such an arrangement must be based on a minimum programme that can unite the majority of the Oromo political and civic organizations. We must have our own Oromia Consensus. Such a consensus is needed to adopt a common agenda and position that can be presented to the stakeholders and the wider international community interested in averting the looming catastrophe that is gathering momentum in Ethiopia.

The struggle of our people is to secure their inalienable right to national self-determination. As a national liberation organisation, the primary objective of our struggle is to end the occupation, oppression, and exploitation of our people and resources. Our goal is to liberate Oromia from this occupying force. Having accomplished this primary goal, the second task is, for the Oromo people establish their own legitimate independent government.

Oromia shall be free!

Oromo Liberation Front