



PRESS RELEASE

October 2, 2016

Joint OLF and ULFO Statement on the Ethiopian Regime's Mass Murder at the Irreechaa Festival on October 2, 2016

We strongly condemn the brutal acts of state terrorism by the fascist TPLF regime on the Oromo people who were peacefully celebrating the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognised Thanksgiving religious festival known as Irreechaa, at the holy site of Lake Arsadi, Bishoftu, Oromia, on October 2, 2016.

The fascist TPLF regime has unleashed yet again unprovoked deadly all-out attack on Oromo civilians, as the result of which, so far, over 500 people are confirmed dead and at least 400 sustained life threatening injuries and fighting for their lives and close to a thousand people are seriously injured.

The regime's notorious special force known as the Agazi killing squad used live ammunitions and teargas indiscriminately against defenceless and innocent civilians. With the ground force supported by helicopter gunship and armoured vehicles mounted with machine guns, the Agazi mercilessly massacred the Oromo people on their Holy site. Such a heinous crime was committed in front of local and world media.

The regime has targeted the Oromo youth in its attempt to silence the ongoing peaceful protest in Oromia for a very long time. We call up on the Oromo youth to switch this method of the struggle against the regime. As the TPLF-led regime has long declared a genocidal war against the Oromo nation and, in effect, it has been overly and covertly conducting this war on the nation, it is high time that you organise yourselves according to the Oromo Gada tradition and defend yourselves and your nation by fighting fire with fire, the only language this backward regime understands.

We call up on Oromo legal experts to draft a case to be filed at the International Criminal Court (ICC) charging the regime's officials, including the head of the regime Hailemariam Desalegn, who publically ordered the "brutal crackdown", Abay Tshaye, who openly declared war on the Oromo people, Getachew Reda who demonised the entire Oromo nation by publically calling them "demons", therefore justifying mass murder in Oromia, and Samora Yunis, who is the Chief of Staff of the Ethiopian armed forces, Mohammed Esha, commander of the Agazi Special Force, for war crime and crime against humanity.

We also call up on the United Nations Security Council to pass a weighed resolution on the barbaric regime in Ethiopia and take practical steps to avert the looming epic catastrophe in Oromia and the Horn of Africa at large.

Finally, we call up on the great Oromo nation to never waiver from your goal of liberation but redouble your efforts in supporting the resistance in order to assure the survival of Oromia by any means necessary. We reaffirm our commitment to stand by our people and pay the necessary sacrifice and intensify the national struggle for the liberation of Oromia.

**Unity is strength!
Oromia shall be free!**

