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PRESS RELEASE

The Atrocities of the TPLF Regime cannot Stop the Struggle of the Oromo Nation for Freedom

The people of Oromia have been battling against the vicious Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) ever since it illegally entered their country in 1991. The TPLF, controlling the ailing Ethiopian empire by the barrel of gun, has been conducting acts of genocide against the Oromo people as a means to thwart their demand for national self-determination.

Since 1991, tens of thousands of innocent Oromos have been killed, raped, imprisoned, tortured, displaced, impoverished and exiled by the TPLF. Nevertheless, all this has never deterred the Oromo people from continuously demanding their rights to exercise national self-determination to set themselves free.

Regrettably, Oromia, a nation of more than 40 million people, has been plagued by instability and a renewed war of attrition since October 2015. Thousands of Oromos have been killed and more than a million are displaced in the most severe outbreak of violence in eastern Oromia this year alone. The brutal paramilitary force from Ogaden known as Liyu Police aided and abetted by the Ethiopian standing army is perpetrating ethnic cleansing and genocidal acts over the past one year.

On December 13, 2017, the regime's army shot dead 20 innocent civilians in Chalanqoo town, including women and children. This incident is particularly disturbing as it resonates with the Chalanqoo massacre nearly 150 years ago perpetrated by invaders led by the Abyssinian emperor Menelik II, at the time of the conquest of Oromia.

More than 600,000 displaced Oromos have been sheltered under a catastrophic humanitarian situation in refugee camps in the Haraghe region of our country alone. So far, no international, regional governmental or non-governmental organisation has offered them any kind of assistance. The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) is immensely proud of the great Oromo people for standing with the displaced and providing them the much-needed tents, food, water medicine and above all moral support while the rest of the world has forgotten them.

The US, EU and UK have all expressed their concerns regarding the growing instability but at the same time support the TPLF led Ethiopian regime with financial aid and technical assistance including training the regime's military and security agents. The OLF is disappointed that the world powers continue to legitimise and sustain a murderous regime in spite of its refusal to cooperate with their demand to investigate its war crimes and gross human rights abuses in Oromia.

There should be no doubt about the Oromo people's resolve to free themselves from colonial shackles. The peaceful resistance the entire Oromo nation has been engaged in the past 3 years bears witness to this. They demand to be free. They demand to have their own independent homeland. No matter how much sacrifice is required the struggle will continue until an independent republic of Oromia is born.

The OLF calls upon all governments and international organisations to show their solidarity with the Oromo people and to support their struggle for freedom, human rights and life worthy of human beings.

The OLF would like to take this opportunity to salute our heroine and hero martyrs who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the liberation of Oromia. We send our condolences to families who have lost their dear ones in the Chalanqoo massacre, and in other cities, towns and villages all across Oromia, committed by the TPLF against innocent men, women and children.

Finally, we would also like to restate our unwavering commitment to do all that is necessary to quicken the pace of the struggle and ultimately bring the total liberation of Oromia.

Oromia shall be free!

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