



TIBIBIR
Consortium Of Ethiopian Civic Society Organizations (TIBIBIR)

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Urgent Call for Action on the alarming and Overwhelming Crisis in Ethiopia!

TO: The Ethiopian People
Opposition Political Parties
Civil Society Organizations
Faith Based Institutions
The Ethiopian Youth
Tigrrian Ethiopians
TPLF Leaders
Non-TPLF Members of EPDRF
Patriotic Intellectuals, and
The International Community

From: **The Consortium of Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations (TIBIBIR)**

We are the Consortium of Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations (TIBIBIR) recently established with the purpose of mobilizing the immense potential resources of more than 25 Ethiopian Civic groups throughout the world; empowering them to defend human rights to help accelerate the democratization process in Ethiopia; as well as encouraging others to join and contribute. In addition, TIBIBIR has the utmost objective of bringing together fragmented and disparate political parties within and outside Ethiopia with a view of offering the Ethiopian people a credible alternative in democratic governance. TIBIBIR wishes to go on the record that history will judge each and every one of us harshly if we do not respond to the plight of the Ethiopian people At this most critical moment in our history.

TIBIBIR would like to bring to the attention of the Ethiopian people in general and to opposition political parties, civic and religious organizations, the youth, Diaspora Ethiopians, the TPLF/EPDRF regime, heroic intellectuals and the international community in particular to the extremely alarming and grave situation currently unfolding all over Ethiopia. The situation is fast turning from one of state-led crime against humanity to one of genocide. Following over two years of defiant protests in several parts of the Oromia, Amhara, Southwestern and Southeastern regions of Ethiopia as well as in the areas surrounding the capital city of Addis Ababa itself,

and exemplar nationwide public protests against government interference in the religious affairs of Ethiopian Muslims earlier, the civil disobedience campaign against a tyrannical minority regime is engulfing almost the whole country. In some localities, the resistance is rapidly assuming the form of popular insurrection by ordinary citizens who have overcome their fear of state sponsored terror in the hands of a murderous tribal militia, called Agazi. As of late, the resistance in and around universities throughout the country is escalating and students are getting killed daily. The situation has turned very serious particularly in the past three months following the border conflict between Oromia and Ethiopian-Somali regions that degenerated to internecine killings, forced mass displacements, imprisonment and expulsions, affecting thousands of peaceful citizens. The conflict has resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives on both sides and loss of public and private properties. The root cause for this conflict is the experimental “ethnic” policy, religiously followed by the TPLF/EPDRF regime for more than a quarter of a century. TIBIBIR unreservedly asserts ethnic politics is extremely toxic that paves the way to societal disintegration and pandemonium. That is why it is banned in all countries of the world, except in Ethiopia since 1991.

Following the Woldia incident and killings of non-Tigrayan students at Adigrat University some retaliatory actions are being taken in other campuses. This demands urgent calls for immediate actions by all stakeholders to divert this anger and energy to united action to change the regime. We raise our voice now to express our deepest concern at the prospects of a bloody civil war that will create extreme havoc and chaos in Ethiopia and in the region.

To the People of Ethiopia: The TPLF continues the same failed formula of ethnic-based “divide and rule” and implements a well-planned and executed strategy of extrajudicial killings, especially in the Oromia and Amhara regions. The intent is clear and simple. It is to prolong TPLF political, financial and economic monopoly regardless of the enormous sacrifices the Ethiopian people, especially its youth population are making. Over the period starting at the end of 2015 to present, Ethiopians have shown fierce determination to realize freedom, respect for human rights and to establish a truly inclusive and representative form of government. In the process, more than 1,000 innocent Oromo and Amhara protestors, most of them youth were murdered by Agazi, special units, federal police and other security forces. More than 11,000 Ethiopian opposition leaders, human rights activists and journalists and university students have been jailed and tortured. Over 100,000 citizens were expelled from their homes and became refugees in their own country.

If the prevailing situation is allowed to continue and not managed responsibly by peaceful means with utmost civility and national responsibility, there is no guarantee it won't morph itself to mass ethnic cleansings. More than ever, all need to tap the wisdom of our forefathers for mutual understanding and tolerance. We should continue to struggle for justice but not at the expense of the life and wellbeing of another Ethiopians. Hopefully, incidents of the past few days remain isolated cases. Your heroic history of struggle for justice shouldn't have any dent. We appeal to you to keep frustrating forces of division and focus only on the struggle for peace, justice and equality, even if it costs you in the short term.

With admiration and respect, we support your gallant and peaceful struggle for a united country under the rule of law and an accountable government; we wish to note the exemplary way protestors in Gonder and Gojam expressed their empathy with those in Oromia, Gambella and vice versa, and elsewhere in the country thereby defeating the divide-and-rule strategy of the tribalist regime and its odious apartheid policy; we urge you to intensify your exemplary and historic struggle for freedom by employing a multitude of tactics (such as boycotting regime-owned businesses) which would minimize the risk to human life while upholding the core values of Ethiopiawinnet, individual rights and rule of law and finally we need to save our beloved country by rejecting ethnic politics and forging consensus toward national unity.

To the Youth: The bravery and determination you have shown over the past few years brings back the memories of your fathers and fore fathers. Your persistence in struggle has brought the dictatorial regime in disarray and to its knees. Our call to you is to continue the struggle to its final destination, victory. Downgrading your struggle to targeting ethnic groups is undoing of your exemplary and courageous struggle and its achievements. Reducing the struggle to ethnic levels is falling prey to the ethicist TPLF. Resist the temptations to retaliate against ethnic aggressions and maintain your firm stands for unity of the Ethiopian people.

To Democratic Opposition Political Parties: By all measurements, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) dominated regime has lost legitimacy to govern, to prevent civil conflicts and external intrusions, to mediate inter-ethnic skirmishes, to create a national consensus in order to avert the Balkanization of the country and to mitigate genocide. By all accounts, there is no central government in Ethiopia today. In short, the TPLF has now become the primary and core problem for Ethiopia. It must go. It is high time for Ethiopian political opposition groups within and outside of Ethiopia to set aside non-strategic differences, and move from fragmentation to solidarity and unity; and to respond to Ethiopia's 105 million people and offer them a credible alternative. There is no time left to procrastinate and to split hair. More specifically, TIBIBIR calls on all opposition parties to come together now; sit around a conference table and respond to the demands of the Ethiopian people for a change in government. It is also time for opposition political parties to place the interests of the country and its people ahead of partisanship. TIBIBIR believes that only Ethiopians coming together can and will save Ethiopia from genocide and Balkanization. It is therefore urgent that Ethiopian opposition parties within and outside the country respond to the call of TIBIBIR to convene an all-inclusive Stakeholders Convention immediately.

To Tigrian Ethiopians: TIBIBIR wishes to state unequivocally that the people of Tigray are themselves victims of TPLF rule. There is a plethora of evidence that, today, Ethiopia is more polarized, more unstable, more conflict ridden and more susceptible to ethnic-conflict including possible genocide and Balkanization than ever before. The recent selective and targeted killing of Amhara, Oromo and other non-Tigrian college and university students in Adigrat showed vividly that TPLF

authorities are either wedded to targeting of non-Tigrian students or wish to deliberately implant in the minds of the Tigrian population that they will be targets in the rest of Ethiopia or plan to create suspicion and division within the ranks of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Democratic Front or consider secession. These are very harmful options and must be rejected. The backdrop to this latest selective and targeted killing of non-Tigrian students in Tigray is the increasing solidarity and unity among the Oromo and Amhara people and most notably among youth in colleges, universities and urban areas. Because of the ongoing onslaught, many colleges and universities in the Oromo and Amhara regions are closed. Students are cordoned off, harassed, tortured and jailed by federal and special police and by the notorious Agazi. All these divisive and lethal activities are being conducted in YOUR NAME. TIBIBIR appeals to you to reject TPLF's menacing ideology of ethnic politics and to stop once for all being the cannon fodder of its divisive ideology by joining the struggle of your Ethiopian brothers and sisters without further delay.

To the TPLF- led Regime: TIBIBIR demands that the TPLF-led government stop adding fuel to an already dangerous fire. We would like to remind you that things come to pass; no power is permanent and you have to realize the government you captured by force will definitely be taken away from you soon. Your desire to continue by forcibly imposing yourself on a proud people is visibly wilting as millions overcome their fear of a mirage—your tiresomely choreographed propaganda of invincibility. Having taken to heart that you are unequivocally rejected by every sector of society, you will do well to minimize the damage to the country, not to mention to learn from the Derg and ensure your future as ordinary citizens, by standing aside as a transitional government is formed. Humvees and mercenary sharpshooters aiming at unarmed citizens will not save you from the wrath of an enraged citizenry, and must instead prepare to submit to the merciful judgment of a Peace, Truth, and Reconciliation process under an inclusive transitional government of national unity or under a politically-neutral caretaker government run by technocrats.

To Non-TPLF members of EPDRF: It is time that non-TPLF members of the ethnic coalition within the EPDRF have the courage, to be vigilant against the sinister, underhanded, corrupt and divisive strategy of the TPLF and side with the Ethiopian people and follow the example of Oromo regional President Lemma Megersa. The current composition of the EPDRF does not represent the will of the vast majority of the population and must be changed dramatically. History will judge you harshly if you don't stand for truth, justice and national unity by joining the peoples struggle at this critical moment when people have completely rejected the TPLF tyranny.

To Diaspora Ethiopians: The Diaspora community in North America, Europe, Middle-East, Australia and South Africa has been supportive of the struggle of the Ethiopian people against the TPLF-led regime, providing material and other assistance to opposition groups, advocating on Ethiopia's behalf against rampant human right abuses perpetrated by the regime, organizing educational conferences on issues of strategic importance and trying to bring together opposition groups for

democratic change. While we urge you to intensify your actions in support of struggling Ethiopians, it is high time now to pay immediate attention to the efforts TIBIBIR is making to encourage political parties to form coalitions and wage a united struggle to change this totalitarian regime.

We urge you to continue exercising your advocacy rights and obligations in your adopted countries to galvanize support for the struggle and to demand that your political representatives raise the plight of the Ethiopian people with the foreign policy establishment as well as with the international donor agencies by supporting HR 128 and SR 168 bills that have unanimously passed by Foreign Relations Committees of both houses in the United States Congress. We also appeal to you to strongly support various initiatives being taken by TIBIBIR to bring together major stakeholders including civic organizations, political organizations, and notable compatriots to facilitate the creation of national consensus and craft a national agenda for a post-TPLF democratic order.

To Civic Organizations: Building sustainable and stable democratic governance goes hand in hand with growth and development of civic institutions. Civil societies are backbones of democratization, good governance, socio-economic development and advocacy for human rights. They are generally characterized as the “third force” coming between the state/market and the individual/family and protect Citizens from the paramount power of the state. Our role at the minimum includes educating people about public affairs, political issues, civil rights and duties; increasing citizens’ participation; advocating and lobbying governments; preventing conflicts as well as resolving conflicts through facilitation, negotiation and mediation; scrutinizing and challenging the power of the state; developing democratic culture of tolerance, moderation and willingness to compromise. Civil society has been a magic bullet for development and democracy. The strength and active participation of civic organizations is a pre-requisite for democracy to work and for democratic institutions to flourish. Now, 25 Civic organizations have come together globally to promote justice, build democratic institutions, rule of law and national unity. We call upon other civic organizations to join TIBIBIR and intensify our civic mission in unison.

To Religious Organizations: We believe preaching peace and reconciliation, teaching peaceful co-existence is one of the primary responsibilities of religious leaders and organizations. We urge religious fathers to work hard on bringing peace, justice and reconciliation to the Ethiopian people that have been denied their rights for decades. The initiative taken by religious fathers to work on Peace and Reconciliation with TIBIBIR is encouraging. We urge you to continue your holy efforts determinedly with the sense of urgency.

To Patriotic Intellectuals: Intellectuals are important assets in providing constructive framework, strategic guidance and articulating the needs, issues and problems of our people. Engaging and participating in the struggle is highly expected of you. Your thoughtful contributions in correcting misinformation, bringing out the truth and educating the young and old the true history of Ethiopia

is of paramount importance. Now is the time more than ever before to put your intellectual Powers into the service of the struggling Ethiopian people.

To the International Community--- Allies and Neighboring Governments:

Ethiopia is undeniably the anchor state of a region of unstable states, and has historically played a responsible role in stabilizing the turbulent region. No one will benefit from its fragility by destabilizing Ethiopia. The currently imploding TPLF regime has been acting with impunity knowing full well that its foreign backers, which have provided ample support in the form of lethal aid and development assistance, will continue to shamelessly look away in the vainglorious hope of stamping international terrorism in the Horn of Africa. But the escalating ethnic-based selective and targeted killings and other crimes being perpetrated by the TPLF have generated deep concerns among foreign embassies in Addis Ababa. Some diplomats have begun to pull out their children from schools. The former Under-secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr. Herman Cohn, who knows Ethiopia's political system well, has called upon the government of Ethiopia to convene an "all-inclusive party conference" at the earliest opportunity. The European Parliament held a special session on the deteriorating human rights situation in Ethiopia. The government of the United States sent a special delegation to Ethiopia with the intent of averting a catastrophe.

As an expression of your displeasure with the disastrous performance of this client regime, TIBIBIR appeals to you to suspend all lethal aid and all non-emergency financial assistance--as was temporarily done after the 2005 electoral debacle. The regime must be told, in no uncertain terms, that it has to stop criminalizing legitimate dissent, release all political prisoners, and consent to a transitional arrangement. The Security Council of the United Nations must take decisive and timely action, including enforcing the demand of the U.N. Commissioner for Human Rights to allow international observers to investigate the killings which have now exceeded 1,000 and widely expected to rise dramatically as things escalate. The TPLF regime should in fact be suspended from being a member of the UN Security Council in view of its gross abuse of human rights and its impending genocide on the Ethiopian people.

LET US ALL STRIVE FOR A UNITED AND DEMOCRATIC ETHIOPIA!