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الوحدة الإرتريه للتغير
الديموقراطي

ERITREAN UNITY FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

EUDC Central Committee Fifth Regular Session

Concluding Statement

October 16-17, 2021

To our people inside Eritrea who are suffering from the brutal enslavement perpetrated by PFDJ's authoritarian regime,

To our compatriots in the diaspora agonizing due to the ongoing unsettling situation back home, and the never-ending sufferings the Eritrean people are going through,

Honourable Compatriot members of political and Civic organizations,

Honourable Ladies and Gentlemen,

Exploiting the turbulent war situation in the Horn of Africa in general and Ethiopia's bloody internal conflicts in particular, Eritrea's Fascist regime of PFDJ has intervened in Ethiopian internal affairs for sole purpose of settling scores against the TPLF. This adventure is being conducted by involving tenth of thousands of our citizens and making them casualties in a war that our country has no national interest to fight for. Under a situation where our sons and daughters are being slaughtered and exposed to mayhem on one hand and the abysmal failure of the leaders of the Eritrean Opposition to develop common understanding and establish unified stand towards this war on the other hand, EUDC's Central Committee 5th Regular Meeting was held on October 16-17, 2021. During this session, the Committee was able to evaluate activities lapsed since the fourth regular Central Committee Meeting and conducted deliberation and made decisions on a number of issues.

1. Our organization, EUDC, had been working with many Eritrean opposition organizations on unilateral or multilateral basis. As we go forward, EUDC affirms that it will continue these joint struggles even harder. The Central Committee Meeting had decided to increase our efforts to work in cooperation at various levels, be it on short or long-term working arrangements.
2. Despite the troubling times that we are going through, the leadership of the Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change, is not only drifting far from the public's expectation, but also is suffering from divergence on critical current and

strategic issues. Unless these emerging differences in the leadership and common understanding on crucial matters is promptly addressed, EUDC's Central Committee notices the seriousness of the peril that this 10 years old institution is exposed to and decided to participate in all efforts towards reversing and healing this dangerous trend.

3. While we are seriously dismayed by the Eritrean political organizations that are exhibiting neutrality and disengagement stance towards the conflict in Ethiopia, EUDC is of the opinion that it should be of serious and utmost concern. One of the main reasons that calls for this concern is the fact that it is our brothers and sisters and even our children that are being put into harm's way as consequence of the jingoist adventures of PFDJ's involvement in the Ethiopian conflict. In addition to that we understand the dire consequences of the heinous crimes (as confirmed by captured or surrendered Eritrean soldiers) being committed by Eritrean forces inside Tigray region. We are deeply alarmed regarding the effects of this ugly experience on the future relationship of the two peoples. Taking a neutral stand under such situation is tantamount to tacit approval and even support of these atrocities to persist unchecked. Let alone towards a closely related people of Tigray, condemning, and taking stand against any atrocities committed against anyone, in any corner of the world, is essential part of EUDC basic human rights struggle, as it is supposed to be of all Eritrean opposition entities.
4. As long as PFDJ regime remains in power, peace cannot be prevail inside Eritrea or in our neighbourhood. Consequently, EUDC Central Committee ascertains to remain committed to cooperating with all anti-PFDJ forces, and resorting to all available alternative methods of struggle to shorten the life of the despotic regime.

Our views on the situation in our neighbourhood in general and that in Ethiopia in particular:

1. The Central Committee confirmed EUDC's unwavering stand regarding establishing lasting peaceful and mutual cooperative relationship with our neighbouring countries and acknowledged the commitment of the organization to do everything within its capacity towards realization of this goal.
2. While acknowledging that conflict in Ethiopia was supposed to be settled through peaceful negotiation, we also would like to announce our deepest regret regarding the loss and destruction of enormous human life and material resources. We have already been condemning all the genocidal campaigns against the people of Tigray. As a continuation of that we express our unqualified support, and our unrestricted readiness to help in the efforts to bring to justice all those that are responsible for those horrible crimes.

3. This war that is devoid of any benefits and full of destruction, will eventually end either through the determination of the victor and the vanquished or through negotiated settlement. The most important question that is ahead of us is though, will the future generations have the opportunity for peaceful and mutual cooperation for progress, or they will be condemned to continue the current state of war and endless conflict? Our option, regardless how small will be our contribution, we would like to put our efforts towards the earlier one. As the Tigrigna saying goes "As long as there is one who disturbs the waters, it hard to obtain clean potable water" (ዘራጊ ማይ እንከሎስ ጽፋይ ማይ ነይሱት ከምዘበሃል) as long as PFDJ is in power, there will not be any peace. Consequently, removing the war-mongering system of PFDJ from the face of Eritrean landscape should be the current urgent task for all justice and peace-loving Eritreans.
4. The crimes that are being committed by Eritrean forces under the guidance and coercive manipulation of PFDJ, in Tigray and other regions of Ethiopia, are the sole responsibility of the regime in Eritrea. Those crimes are by no means reflection of intrinsic characteristics or social values of the Eritrea citizen, a section of the Eritrean people, or Eritrean population at large. For that reason, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all concerned that directing the responsibility or blame towards any particular section of society or a particular religious group of the Eritrean people is not appropriate.

Addressing Some Organizational Matters:

1. The Central Committee ensured that various vacancies in the organizational hierarchies were filled with temporary assignments until the soon expected organizational congress.
2. The Central Committee expressed its commitment to ensure the success of a media project that is initiated on research level by involving some experienced and well-educated partners.
3. The fifth regular meeting of the Central Committee established a committee that will research a convenient way of conducting Third Organizational Congress with the expectation of a report within two months.

Eternal Memory and Honour to Our Martyrs
Victory to the Struggle of the Oppressed!
Death to PFDJ and Its Oppressive System!

EUDC Central Committee
October 17, 2021