

FOUNDING STATEMENT OF THE ERITREAN SOLIDRITY FRONT

Examining the progression of events in Eritrea, land and people, since the consecutive epochs of colonialism, would find out that it had been hauled by various forces and volitions. These forces and volitions caused numerous internal discords and damaged the fundamental principles ingrained in the Conscience of the Eritrea people. The Eritrean people who not only had had believed on political pluralism, religious and cultural diversification but rather practiced them as a inevitability for its existence as a people and nation.

In spite of the above fact, some Eritreans had fallen into a narrow mode of “esprit de corps” and opted to contest the project of Eritrean national independence, during the epoch of self determination (1942- 62) and since then Eritrean national unity has suffered a malignant shattering fracture.

After the eruption of the Eritrean revolution, led by ELF, who commenced a national project transcending the divide and mobilizing the Eritrean people and its social icons for the cause of national liberation, however, the journey of the revolution could not evade the discords and the consequences of the conflicts witnessed in the “self determination period”, the situation where the EPLF exploited to build its exclusionist project.

Despite the painful course of the revolution Eritrean national independence was realized. National sovereignty was won by the sacrifices of precious human and material resources paid by the Eritrean people. Thus, the people alone own this achievement. Yet the PFDJ ruined the triumph for an Eritrea the people fought and sacrificed for. It obstinately aborted the dreams of Eritrean people for better living. The PFDJ engaged into policies of disparities, marginalization and exclusion among the Eritrean people. Not only had these, but it also imposed a weird mode of governance that does not represent the aspirations and hopes of the Eritrean people, let alone to be analogous to the noble sacrifices paid for this nation. It has applied a policy of systematic demographic change portraying Eritrea with a hideous image that does not bear a resemblance to the valiant sacrifices of our nation. The PFDJ policies were out-and-out defiance of the political entitlement for the Eritrean people and the natural development of the political processes. The shorn of natural course of political entitlement that would have room for all

the capabilities and faculties of Eritrean citizens. It would have also provided security and social peace among the basic components of the Eritrean society. Eritrea would have picked up the pace for development and advancement. Eritrea would have lined up to compensate what it had lost, and climbs up the echelon of civilized nations where citizens enjoy security, dignity and stateliness. The malice of Afwerki's regime has spilled over to Eritrea's neighbours, daunting and jeopardizing security and stability in the whole region of Africa's Horn, indulging Eritrea into absurd hostilities and wars that has nothing to do with the interests of the Eritrean people. All these endless suffering as well as random imprisonments and detentions forced the Eritrean youth to flee or made to flee their motherlands and seek refuge to unknown distinctions.

In the presence of the aforementioned course of events in Eritrea the undersigned concerned organizations, have carried out a sequence of considerate in-depth discourses for the purpose of reaching a common vision on fundamental issues. Departing from their profound concern in the state of affairs prevailing in Eritrean and in compliance to the motivation and aspirations of the Eritrean masses who time and again called for the amalgamation of efforts and capabilities of opposition organizations who share similar strategic visions and programs: decided to come together under the name of "The Eritrean Solidarity Front" as a primary step towards the formation of a broader front that can rally and embrace all the capabilities of our nation and endeavours to contest injustices and struggle for the redemption of due rights of aggrieved.

Thus, The Eritrean Solidarity Front has set up a number of principles and objectives, some of which are:

1. Put together a plan of action that could mobilize the potential of our nation to play its role in regaining, the stripped of, due rights of the Moslems, all the marginalized and oppressed people of Eritrea. Standing together in contesting all the cultural, social and demographic violations and profanations in which the Afaweki's Regime has embroiled.
2. Work to build a social, cultural and educational system to remedy the present dissensions and combat ignorance, backwardness and elevate consciousness and knowledge to the required level to wrestle the standing challenges.

3. Believe in the unity of Eritrean national soil and concur on and protect national fundamental principles.
4. Preserve and consolidate The Eritrean Democratic Alliance for the attainment of democratic change and build a nation of constitutional institutions.
5. Believe that religion provides moral protection and faith values. It also constitutes, together with culture and heritage, one of the major components of Eritrean identity. Exclusion of religion from the life of our people is disfiguring national identity and bullying the values of moral virtues.
6. Adopting decentralized system of governance that grantee positive justice and provides balance between the requirements of unity and the specifics of the Eritrean people's components.

Finally, The Eritrean Solidarity Front shares the enormous suffering, agonies and intimidation inflicted upon our people in Eritrea; on the same ground it commends our people in Diaspora for the fortitude of enduring economic hardships and obscurities of life away from their homeland.

In the occasion of declaring the birth of The Eritrean Solidarity Front we call upon all the Eritrean people, especially the elites, social and religious leaders to support this national project and participate in preparing for the comprehensive congress from where a united entity front will emerge, to pave the road to the objectives of our people and lead to an Eritrea, a nation that embraces all its citizens in peace, stability, solidarity and love.

Endorsed in the 1st of May 2009

Organization

Eritrean liberation Front
Eritrean Islamic Rectification Movement
Eritrean Islamic Party for Justice
and Development
Eritrean Federal Democratic Movement

Signatory

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Note: the original text is the Arabic version