



**ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL**

**Final Statement of
The 4th Regular Session of the RC**

The Revolutionary Council is pleased to announce to all members of the ELF-RC, the entire Eritrean people as well as to its friends that its 4th regular meeting was successfully held in Khartoum between 17 and 19 July 2004.

This 4th regular RC Meeting, shouldering high responsibilities, has been momentous because it was held at a crucial time of popular call for addressing issues of paramount national importance. Factors adding to its significance included the following: a) it was the first regular meeting of the RC after the senseless split led by two Executive Committee members; b) it is held at a time when our people are deeply concerned about the reported fears of renewal of hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia; c) when the elements of the regime's collapse have accumulated; d) when our people increased their demand for effective unity and action by the opposition in order to address the problems of the hour, and e) when the still fragmented opposition camp started coming up with new initiatives and commitments towards forging a more meaningful national coalition.

After reviewing and endorsing reports of the Executive Committee, the meeting studied the ever worsening situation in Eritrea under the brutal dictatorship and noted with sadness the danger of the country's descent to the status of "a failed state" after gaining national sovereignty through a 30-year costly struggle. The RC saw the urgent need for forging solid unity for national salvation by the forces determined to remove the dictatorship and work out a transition plan that ushers in a united, democratic and prosperous nation in which the citizens reclaim their right to justice, equality and decent life.

Regarding the current situation of the opposition camp, the RC noted with interest the positive intent of forging mergers and/or closer coalitions by forces with similar political outlook so that the cycle of fragmentation and polarization could be checked. However, the meeting reviewed the proliferation of groups that represent narrow interests and that cannot survive beyond the life span of the promoters of those tendencies. The RC expressed concern that such tendencies could no doubt cause damage to the hard-won national awareness in Eritrea and at the same time lend more life to the dictatorship of Isayas Afeworki, while hampering the opposition in its efforts to effect change. In this regard, the RC called on all patriots, irrespective of their cultural and political background, to close their ranks and engage on effective work to foil the narrow projects that can lead to disunity and national disruption.

The RC endorsed the ELF-RC proposal for unity issued on 3 January 2004 after reviewing and updating it to facilitate the merger of organisations with similar programmes and encourage the formation of a genuine national coalition that can encompass forces with national objectives.

Our Struggling People

The RC registered its concern about the possibility of renewal of hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia under the pretext of the border issue while the Eritrean opposition camp is fragmented and the country is at the brink of becoming a failed state.

Reiterating its position on the settlement of the border conflict through peaceful and legal channels for the sake of regional stability and peace, the RC once again voiced its firm support to the decision of Border Commission as final and binding and that would have to be implemented without delay. Likewise, the RC registered its deep concern about the changed language of Ethiopian authorities implying that no one could suggest where the Ethiopian army would stop in the event of renewal of hostilities. The RC saw that such intent would not be just targeting Isayas' regime but constitute as well flagrant violation of national sovereignty and would no doubt be dangerous and have dire consequences. The RC regretted the surfacing of this inclination and called for all to stick to the option of wisdom and peace, in the meantime expressing support for the initiatives being taken by the United Nations to resolve the conflict.

The RC expressed its gratitude to neighbouring countries providing shelter and protection to the new wave of young Eritrean asylum seekers who are living under abject conditions after fleeing the country from the oppressive regime. The meeting recommitted the organization to continue exerting all what it can in defense of the human rights of Eritrean youth in serious situations outside home and called on the government of Libya to review its position on the deportation of Eritrean asylum seekers who may, upon their forced deportation, face the fate of our nationals who were returned to the clutches of the regime from Malta.

Members of the ELF-RC

The RC saluted the steadfast position and efforts made by its members inside Eritrea, in the units of the army as well as by all members in all branches in the world (the Sudan, Ethiopia, the Middle East, Europe, North America and Australia) in foiling the disruptive activities of the faction that last year split from the organisation.

The RC adopted new work plans, re-elected the RC Secretariat and Executive Committee and mandated the EC to form a preparatory committee and take all necessary measures to ensure the holding on time of the 6th National Congress of ELF-RC. The RC stood in solemn silence in memory of Yemane Ghebresellasia, the Auditor General of the ELF-RC whose death was a big loss to the organization. The session paid tribute to its latest martyr and appointed a new auditor.

The meeting saluted also the brotherly people and government of the Sudan and expressed its gratitude for hosting the 4th Regular RC Meeting in Khartoum and for the continued support extended to the organization. The RC also wished success to the ongoing peace and reconciliation efforts between the Government and the opposition parties of the Sudan.

Regarding peace in the Middle East, the RC reiterated its support to the call for a just solution to the Palestinian problem and regional peace and stability through the creation of an independent state of Palestine.

May the Unity of the Eritrean Patriotic Forces Prevail!
Eternal Memory to Our Martyrs!

The Revolutionary Council
19 July 2004
Khartoum, Sudan