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DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

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التحالف الديمقراطي الأرتري

ERITREAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

Memorandum on peace and stability in East African

To: Embassies and diplomats in Addis-Ababa.

With due respect to your excellencies, the Eritrean Democratic Alliance, the opposition political umbrella which embraces sixteen sisterly political organizations believes it is worthy, meaningful and applicable on bringing to your attention of its deep concern as regards the war that has recently taken place in Somalia.

For understandable reasons the war in Somalia is not founded on religion but is a result of lack of resolving internal feuds and conflicts by means of democratic dialogue. It has become clear and evident that the dictatorial regime in Eritrea is one of perpetrators, supplier of arms and training in the internal conflicts in the Sudan and Ethiopia, Somalia being the last victim of the anti-democratic and anti-justice system.

The regime in Eritrea is rogue and as such an impotent government devoid of democratic legitimacy at home. As a consequence it has been and remains to be at odds with international humanitarian and human rights organizations; the United Nations; the European Union, the African Union and the United States. Isolating itself from the family of neighboring states, it has become the breeding ground and training camp for terrorists targeted at fomenting chaos and destruction, internal conflicts and destabilizing sovereign nations. Because of the oppressive atrocities being committed by the dictatorial system the Eritrea of today is not only inhospitable but also inhabitable to its very citizens. In brief Eritreans have become prisoners in their own country suffering from the scourge of injustice and instability.

The conflict in Somalia is directly linked with the dictatorial regime in Eritrea, an evil and ruinous event that has aroused deep concern of regional and international communities, which was immediately reported by the UN and at latter stages extensively substantiated by its statements that the Eritrean government was then bent on destabilizing Ethiopia by agitating the Somali people against Ethiopia, a politically-motivated indulgence targeted at destabilizing East Africa.

The war in Somalia was therefore, instigated by Essayas himself and it is he who has misled the United Islamic courts to start war that erupted in December 2006. At this juncture, we believe it is appropriate and genuine to urge embassies in Addis Ababa to advise their respective governments that the one-man dictatorial regime in Eritrea is the facilitator, sponsor and improviser of the conflict in Somalia and hence the major cause of destabilization in the region.

The Eritrean Democratic Alliance (EDA) conveys its wish that the Somali conflict be resolved in light of the AU and UN resolutions through mutual respect and equal opportunity of those concerned.

**Eritrean Democratic Alliance (EDA),
Head Office
19 January 2007,
Addis Ababa**

Amnesty International urges dictatorial regime to set free imprisoned parents

Amnesty International has urged the PFDJ regime to set free parents who had been imprisoned on account of their children who have evaded military conscription or military training. Apart from condemning the atrocities being committed by the regime in violation of the rule of law, Amnesty International has requested the predatory system either to set free the parents or give them the chance of fair trial.

Amnesty International also disclosed that parents of the youth who breach military regimentation or who escape military service are forced to pay 50,000 Nakfa which is practically far beyond the reach of an ordinary citizen in today's Eritrea. Using this horrendous device the impoverishing regime exhorts as much money as it could from the parents and for understandable reasons, when they are unable to pay as a consequence of poverty they are driven to jail for a period of not less than six months.

College education interrupted for fear of violent students unrest

According to Asmarino, students of Mai Nefhi College have been forced to discontinue education. Upon interrupting their education, they had been arbitrarily and violently instructed by school authorities to assume the role of teachers, for which they never had been trained.

The head master of the college, Colonel Izra and his accomplices, have according to the same source, told the students to discontinue education and hold teaching positions fearing that the students could at any time revolt against the obnoxious system if as usual they stay together in the college.

It is not only dismaying but also deplorable to note that the anti-development and anti-social progress regime is pushing the youth of the country into military camps or into redundant and unproductive employment driving the society to square one -- backwardness and underdevelopment.

German Embassy cautions its citizens to avoid Eritrea

Western Embassies resident in Eritrea have begun cautioning their nationals not to travel to Eritrea. Apprehensive of the ever-escalating tension and instability prevailing in the country, some Embassies are forced to take such measures so as to enable their nationals avoid possible risks.

One of the Embassies that has embarked on cautioning its citizens is the German Embassy in Asmara. Monitoring closely the heinous atrocities being committed by the dictatorial system in violation of human rights against its nationals, diplomats and foreigners, the majority of whom are executives and managers of donor and human rights organizations, the Embassy has advised its national via e-mail to pay full attention to the current deteriorating political, social and economic conditions in Eritrea prior to visiting the country. In the message to its citizens, it declared "there is no peace in Eritrea".

The oppressive regime, after receiving the unexpected and surprising news of the measure the German Embassy has taken, tried its very best by deploying practically every means in the media that such a measure was erroneous and that the situation in Eritrea is as peaceful as usual.

The Eritrean Democratic Alliance (EDA) welcomes the genuine and appropriate step the

German Embassy has taken against the atrocious system and hopes that the Embassy will set itself an example for other Embassies to follow suit.

Air force pilots defect the regime

A pilot of the air force and his assistant escaped the dictatorial regime and requested political asylum in Saudi-Arabia. The military helicopter which they have flown to cross to Saudi Arabia is a Soviet made one. They landed on Jizan and according to various Eritrean news sources, both men immediately gave themselves to Saudi police and had soon been transferred to the authorities of the ministry of defence of that country.

According to these news sources the pilots are so far well treated and are in good health conditions. It is not unusual for thousands of Eritreans to escape the country which is being demolished and impoverished by the reckless system. Members of the PFDJ, some high executives and high officials of the ground forces, air and naval, have since several years been and still are abandoning the country and seeking political asylum in various countries. The number of escapees and asylum seekers is increasing at an alarming rate.

Musicians request political asylum

Four members of the "Hallow Wossen" musical band of PFDJ have defected the system and requested the Australian government for political asylum. AWATE quoting its news agents inside Melbourne, confirmed that the four members of the band are namely: Muktar Salih chief guitarist, composer and leader of the band; Arif Hassen, base guitarist and Kamal and Abdella Hakim both keyboard specialists. The mission of the band was meant to add more

highlights to a musical festival of PFDJ that was scheduled to take place 5-7 January 2007.

The "Hallow Wossen" band used to be the most favored group among the various bands of the hard-core system. Its four members mentioned above, who had been under the watchful eyes of the security even in Australia, had the chance of defecting because the regime's embassy there had allowed them to visit the beaches of Melbourne for a short period of time.

In connection with that incidence, the regime has summoned Asmerom Maasho and its Council General Beshir Idris together with the rest of the musical band to immediately report to the foreign office of the dictatorial establishment in Asmara.

PFDJ Minister unable to respond to pertinent national issues

Ato Salih Meki, minister of health represented his regime at the festival in Melbourne, Australia 7 Jan. 2007 that was organized by the dictatorial system.

In the festival that attracted only a few, the Ambassador of the oppressive system, Ato Asmerom Maasho was not present. To the amazement of many observers, the reason behind his absence from the festival is not clear. PFDJ attaches great importance to annual festivals in order to propagate its sinister missions of misleading and appeasing the impoverished people of Eritrea both inside the country and the Diaspora. And as such its ambassadors are instructed to organize, conduct and improvise events of that sort with meticulous scrutiny. Against that background, Asmerom Maasho's absence from the festival remains a mystery, at least for the immediate future.

The "guest of honor" Ato Salih Meki who presided over the podium during the festival was asked many pertinent questions of national interest by Eritreans living in Australia. Questions raised included the stalemate of the Eritrea-Ethiopia border, and other questions related to the ever-deteriorating political, economic and social conditions in Eritrea. His responses to those questions were controversial and often at times contradictory. As regards the unresolved problem of the border, his response to question diametrically contradicted to that of President Issayas. Since recently Issayas has been saying that the border issue is not priority number one to the PFDJ; while Ato Salih Meki stressed that in as long as the border question is not resolved, PFDJ's highest priority is to resolve that problem.

Fate of 5 Eritrean youths at stake

According to Gulf News, five Eritrean youths, residents of Kessela had not been seen in the locality or its surroundings since Dec. 16, 2006. The same news source also reported that the absence of the youths from the locality they have lived on for long during that particular day, coincided with the visit to Kessela by PFDJ's strongman and chief of Border Territories, Brig. General Tekle Manjus.

The names of the youths whose whereabouts has so far not been traced are:

- Al- Amin Adem from the village of Girmayka
- Medrek H/Michael from the village of Girmayka
- Hassen Tesfay from Tesenei
- Anur H/Michael from Tesenei, and
- H/ Michael from Tesenei

UN Security Council to decrease number of UNMEE peace keepers

Reuters has reported that the UN Security Council is bound to minimize the number of UNMEE peace keepers who have been deployed on the Eritrea Ethio border since 2007. Quoting diplomats, Reuters has come to confirm that the Security

Council will decrease the current number of 2300 peace keepers to 1700. The initial number of the peace keeping force at the time was 4200 spread over a 25 km buffer zone. But since the belligerent PFDJ regime began embarking on provoking and intimidating the peace-keepers to the extent of preventing them from monitoring border conditions; and has minimized their mandated scope of operations; the UN Security Council had no option except to cut down that number to that effect.

The diminishing in the number of peace-keeping forces has been progressive; eg. The original number which was 4200 was scaled down to 3300; last year this has been diminished to 2,300. This current number is to be further decreased to 1,700. Many African diplomats contend that such a sweeping decrease of a large number of peace-keeping troops from the buffer zone could ensue dangerous consequences.

Indulgence in Somalia conflict puts PFDJ in a precarious situation

Apart from the UN, the international media has been reporting and for a sustainable period of time, on the rogue regime's involvement in training and arming fundamentalist elements of Somalia that has been the major cause for the flaring up of conflict in that country.

Though a member and signatory of IGAD, PFDJ was only giving that regional organization a sugar-coated lip-service while from the bottom of its heart it kept on sabotaging and de-railing its true intentions. While the AU; IGAD and the UN have recommended and endorsed the formation of the Provisional Federal Government, PFDJ was intent on its downfall by recruiting, training and arming destructive elements which at latter stage was witnessed after the culmination of the war. Captured foreign mercenaries including PFDJ troops had no chance to deny their indulgence in the war. As usual, the scandalous Eritrean regime has repeated indulging itself in a similar bloody meddling like it did in the Sudan conflict between government and the opposition forces in Darfur.