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هيئة التنسيق المشتركة  
الحزب الديمقراطي الارترى - حزب الشعب الارترى

JOINT CO-ORDINATION BODY

ERITREAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY- ERITREAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

## New Year 2009 Message for Our People Inside Eritrea and Abroad

01.01.2009

The Joint Coordination Body of the Eritrean Democratic Party and the Eritrean People's Party seizes this opportunity to wish the Eritrean people, who are living under very difficult conditions inside the homeland and in Diaspora, to have a Happy New Year 2009 – a year that bangs open a new era of peace and prosperity under a democratic system of governance.

The year just ended was, as the years before it, a period during which things got worse to our people who suffered of insecurity and the absolute lack of all means for basic survival. Under the dictatorial regime in Eritrea, lawlessness, gross violation of human rights, the wanton destruction of social values and institutions and the disruption of family life have reached intolerable levels.

Under these conditions, we take the liberty of urging every Eritrean worth the name to join the forces of change and exert all what he or she can do in the struggle for building an Eritrea where peace, justice, equality and prosperity shall prevail.

This call for an uphill fight for democratic change is directed primarily to two key segments of the Eritrean society:

- The generation of the liberation movement that paid dearly for national independence but could not consummate the promises it made to the people; and

- The young post-independence generation that was subjected to ignorance; forced labor and conscription; imprisonment; displacement and endless suffering and death instead of inheriting a democratic state heading towards prosperity and social justice.

Needless to say, it is our firm belief that the effective participation of these two segments of our people is a measurable guarantee for the success of the ongoing struggle for democratic transformation in Eritrea.

At this juncture, we in the People's and the Democratic parties also wish to express our deep conviction that the time consuming unity process between our two parties, which is now nearing its logical conclusion, shall prove to be a move towards putting an end to the unjustifiable multiplication of organizations in the arena that dissipated our energies and capacities. Furthermore, we strongly believe that our wishes and aspirations for unity can be accomplished primarily by merger into single parties/organizations of those with similar visions and programs, and, secondly, by accommodating all forces with genuine national objectives into a broad national umbrella. Unity attempts can be guaranteed irreversible success when the unitary processes assure the participation of all members of concerned parties/organizations, and when such unity attempts are not done in a hasty way. It is only in this manner that possible differences between parties and organizations can be seriously identified, discussed and finally resolved.

In conclusion, the Joint Coordination Body and the total membership of our two sisterly parties hereby renew their resolve to energize the struggle of the opposition camp working hand in glove with all Eritrean individuals, groups, movements and organizations inside the country and abroad. The Eritrean Democratic Party and the Eritrean People's Party also wish to declare that they are welcoming the New Year 2009 with a programme that pledges unity and victory for the cause of our entire people.

**Happy and Prosperous  
New Year 2009 to Our People!!**

*Mesfin Hagos,  
Chairman,  
Eritrean Democratic Party*



*Woldeyesus Ammar  
Chairman,  
Eritrean People's Party*

