

**Press Statement**  
**On Outcome of Meeting of**  
**Eritrean Opposition Organizations**

17.0709

*Deeply concerned about the danger looming over Eritrea and its people because of the abuses of the regime; fully aware of the need of putting an end to this situation and in its place establishing a system that can realize justice, security and stability; and confirming that the responsibility of guaranteeing the well being of the people and averting internecine conflicts and further fragmentation squarely falls on the shoulder of each member of the Eritrean opposition camp, five Eritrean parties met in Addis Ababa on 17 July 2009 and underlined the urgency of bringing together national capacities and unifying visions within a common programme.*

*Taking part in the meeting were representatives of the following organizations:*

- 1. The Eritrean People's Party (EPP)*
- 2. The Eritrean Democratic Party (EDP)*
- 3. The Eritrean Islamic Congress (EIC)*
- 4. The Eritrean People's Movement (EPM)*
- 5. The Eritrean Nahda Party (ENP).*

*The meeting deliberated upon vital and timely issues that were considered to be helpful in creating a conducive common vision and common ground to rally national capacities in a successful and correct manner. The following are some of the issues upon which common understanding was reached:*

***I. The Current Situation in Eritrea***

*Under this heading, the meeting participants discussed in great depth the agony suffered by the Eritrean people in political, confessional, cultural and social spheres as meted out by the hated PFDJ regime which has flagrantly violates basic human values, the rule of law and justice. Likewise, the participant organizations denounced the resettlement schemes and unveiled demographic changes the regime is conducting for sharpen conflicts and grudges among the communities in Eritrea.*

*Being aware of the responsibility awaiting them in order to help put an end to these dangerous acts of the regime, the meeting participants saw the legitimacy of using all possible and acceptable means of struggle to salvage our nation from the abysmal situation it is in. The five organizations also expressed their resolve to strive in defense of the unity of the people and its political*

*organizations by openly confronting all tendencies and schemes that damage national unity. They reached common understanding on all the above and on the need of redoubling their efforts towards creating an atmosphere of mutual trust under a culture of close cooperation and peaceful co-existence*

## **II. Need of Strengthening the Opposition Camp**

*The plight of our people inside the homeland and abroad is so distressing that there is little time for the entire opposition force to spend in petty squabbles and delay the creation of an organized and solid force. At this time when the plight of our people is not appropriately addressed by the international community, the fragmentation of the limited capacities of the opposition camp will not be able to deliver much. Therefore, it is vitally important now to close the ranks of the entire opposition to strengthen the Eritrean Democratic Alliance as a national umbrella; to upgrade and make clarion clear EDA's political message; to build its institutions, and to renew its ways of conducting the struggle [in order to be more effective].*

*This meeting of representatives of EDP, EIC, ENF, EPM and EPP agreed on the utmost importance of redoubling common efforts to create a situation that would give hope for victory to our people that would rally the support of foreign parties and governments on the side of our cause for democratic change. Likewise, the meeting parties agreed that the steps being taken towards holding a nation conference would help in the endeavour of joining hands against the dictatorial regime in Asmara.*

## **III. Bilateral Relations of Meeting Parties**

*The meeting was held with the objective of creating mutual understanding and closer cooperation among the participants who were deeply concerned with the current situation of our people and their wishes and expectations [in a better Eritrea]. Our people are expecting us to rise to the level of the political, social and moral challenges facing the nation today.*

*Springing from this understanding, the participant parties have agreed to continue dialoguing for further cooperation and understanding and to make efforts to narrow down existing differences among them with the overall eventual aim of adopting a common work plan that addresses our diversity and guarantees the equitable political participation of the diverse social segments of the nation in promoting peace, liberty and justice for all citizens.*

*Finally, the meeting parties confirmed the necessity of inclusiveness in the relations and contacts among the political parties so that a solid and capable*

*force can be created to cope with the huge task of realizing the process for democratic change.*

*Meeting participants representing their respective organizations were:*

- 1. Abdurahman Taha Nur (Eritrean Nahda Party)*
- 2. Adhanom Ghebremariam (Eritrean People's Movement)*
- 3. Hassen Salman (Eritrean Islamic Congress)*
- 4. Mesfin Hagos (Eritrean Democratic Party)*
- 5. Woldeyesus Ammar (Eritrean People's Party).*