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جبهة التحرير الإرتريّة
المجلس الثوري
مكتب الرئيس

ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT/ ELF-RC
CHAIRMAN OFFICE

October 30, 2002

Important Statement


The Eritrean National Alliance has during the last few days undergone a dangerous crisis, a situation that has engulfed our people with profound sorrow and widespread disappointment; The origin and far-reaching implications of this rather painful and increasingly deteriorating situation has been made clear to the people through messages and announcements both sides have been exchanging. We need not go into detail about the ELF-RC's principled position at this juncture; this has already been well covered and clarified to our people and the allied organisations. Despite all the problems it had to face, our organisation has time and again made it clear that it upholds the National Charter and maintains its membership in the Eritrean National Alliance.

However, despite the problems it has faced, and the damage inflicted on the Alliance which it had brought into being, the ELF-RC is not about to shy away from the burden of its long-standing national responsibilities it has always shouldered. True to our principles, we take it as our national duty to give high priority to the correct handling and diffusion of the crisis. While adhering to the sense of national responsibility which has been characteristic of our organisation's stance, we shall not refrain from seeking ways and means of sorting out internal Eritrean differences and finding a way out of the crisis. We have made it amply clear that we are more than ever ready to salvage what could be salvaged, repair what could be repaired and, at least, pick up the broken pieces which the crisis has brought about.

Basing on this, we are convinced that the series of false accusations and futile decisions that the rest of the allied organisations have been heaping up (against us) would not bring any solution to the crisis in which the ENA finds itself. In our opinion, a solution to the problem could only be found through dialogue. For this reason, we no longer find it in the opposition's interest to waste crucial time by continuing with disastrous and damaging accusations and counter-accusations. While it may not be that easy to bring the situation back to where it stood, we still see the need to recognise the necessity of using our time to arrive at the minimum understanding we can possibly work out under the circumstances. Otherwise, it would be a great cause of disappointment to the wishes and aspirations of our people should the national opposition camp sustain more damage than it has already, thus stultifying the rising call for change and democracy and dashing our people's hopes and aspirations for a better future.

In the light of the developments, we have come to note mediation initiatives by concerned Eritrean circles who have no doubt the best interest of their people and country at heart. So far, though, no proposals have as yet been brought to our attention. While commending their worthy initiative and good intentions, we would like to note that the best way of dealing with such a situation is through direct dialogue. Not only are the the rest of the allied organisations required to drop all the arsenal of suspension and isolation they have adopted, but are also expected to rectify their approach and show readiness that would be conducive to serious and responsible talks. With this in view, we have kept our doors wide open and shown goodwill to keep chances intact in the way of exploring possible common ground of understanding.

With best regards,


Seyoum O. Michael
Chairman of ELF-RC