



OPUCC



NYMFD

Freedom, Sovereignty and Democracy shall prevail

A Call from the Oromo People's Uprising Coordinating Council (OPUCC) and the National Youth Movement for Freedom and Democracy (NYMFD) aka QEERROO

The uprising which is about to launch in Oromia is a culmination of the long year *Resistance Against Subjugation (Fincila Diddaa Gabrummaa (FDG))* which has been going on over the last long years. It is the highest form of popular movement to bring an end to the killings, campaign of imprisonment, kidnappings and disappearances, harsh economic and resource exploitation, nonstop eviction from ancestral land and overall to stop all forms of subjugation and slavery the Oromo people are subjected to over the last several decades by the dictatorial Ethiopian regimes. The revolution is a just movement launched to bring an end to the humiliation of the Oromo people and other oppressed nations and nationalities in Ethiopia for the last 130 years; it deserves sympathy and support from all who has respect for human dignity and an end to tyranny in any form. The blood of innocent Oromos spilled so far, the continuous flow of tears caused by loss of loved ones by illegal killings, torture, arrests, abductions and disappearances, should come end. The system of massive economic exploitation targeting particularly the Oromo people causing poverty and starvation should stop here by this final peaceful uprising of the Oromo people. Similar movements which have been successful in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and other countries in the Middle-east (aka Arab Spring) all started after the Oromian youth movement known by the name ***Resistance Against Subjugation (or FDG)***. The general resistance against subjugation in Oromia, the glorious movement by Qeerroo, and the struggle of the Oromo people for justice and democracy in particular deserves the same outcome as the Arab Spring. We are in an era where the voices of oppressed peoples against dictators are getting the upper hand. Therefore, in order to bring to an end to arbitrary arrest, killing, torture, abduction and disappearance, illegal massive school dismissals, economic exploitation leading to abject poverty and starvation, massive eviction from land and in general to free the Oromo people from a slavery which lasted 130 years, the *Oromo People's Uprising Coordinating Council (OPUCC)* and the *National Youth Movement for Freedom and Democracy (NYMFD) aka QEERROO* calls upon the entire Oromo people in general and the Oromo youth in particular to stand up and participate in this planned peaceful uprising.

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We Oromian citizens organized from various sectors of the Oromo society and Oromo youth hereby openly declare to all oppressed nations and nationalities that have gone through the same subjugation as the Oromo, to the entire peoples of Ethiopia, and to the international community at large, that we are prepared to carry a peaceful revolution. Recognizing the history of sacrifices made for several years by various sectors of the society for the realization of freedom and democracy in Ethiopia at large and in Oromia in particular, we decided to pay any sacrifice considered necessary for freedom, justice, and democracy. No doubt we will emerge with a glaring victory. We call upon all sectors of the Oromo people and other peoples of Ethiopia to light the torch of freedom and democracy at all places to live in their country with peace and dignity.

In Summary Whereas:

1. eviction of thousands of Oromo farmers from rural areas, exploitation of land in Oromian towns in general and around Finfinne (Addis Ababa) in particular in the name of investment, and exploitation and destruction of Oromian natural resources continued unabated over the last 20 years;
2. the response given by the current Ethiopian government to the legitimate demands of the Oromo people in general and to those of Oromo students in different universities and secondary schools in particular have been massive and unlawful arrests, widespread killings and torture, massive school dismissals, extensive abductions and disappearances by the regime's armed personnel over the last 20 years;
3. the rightful and legal questions recently asked by Oromo students of Finfinne University, by the farmers evicted from Galan Guddo and Qaallittii Waajituu villages around Finfinne, by the Oromo students in Adama University, Wollega University and Haro-maya University to the Ethiopian authorities have been denied proper response, and recognizing that getting appropriate response to these legitimate questions of the Oromo people need the full engagement of the Oromo masses;
4. tens of thousands of the Oromo civilians were locked in jail in mass throughout Oromia over the last 20 years than any time in memorable history; and the imprisonment campaign on the Oromo people is exacerbated by the recently adopted so called "anti-terrorism law";
5. Oromo students graduated from different universities and colleges have been denied job opportunity due to the discriminatory policy of the government to those students who refuse to become members of the ruling EPRDF party and who do not openly advocate for the ill-advised policies of the regime;
6. the recent declaration to give away people's land through lease is done without the consent of the people of the country and thereby denying the right that the people have over their land and natural resources;
7. the government currently adopted a slogan which says "all incomes to the Abai [Blue Nile] dam" and with this slogan forcing citizens to pay an unbearable sum of money

and requiring them to buy “bond” for the said “Abai project” subjecting citizens to economic hardship in the middle of the already tough economic time and rising inflation in the country;

8. due to the establishment of a market that is completely controlled by few individuals in the government, a regulatory system of buying and selling of goods and services which is monopolized by few individuals and groups related to the government in power, the **cost of living** has risen to an unbearable level subjecting the ordinary citizens to abject poverty and hopelessness;
9. the closing of the Macha-Tulama Self-help Association which is the pioneer of the struggle of the Oromo people for freedom, justice and democracy and the arrest of its leaders is part of an overall campaign of the current Ethiopian government declared on the Oromo people in an attempt to keep them in slavery;
10. the peaceful movement that started last year by National Youth Movement for Freedom and Democracy (*Qeeroo*) and their legitimate demands were responded by brutal killings, imprisonment, dismissal from universities, colleges and high schools;
11. currently most development projects of the Oromia state have been closed under the pretext of cleaning corruption; thousands of employees of Oromia regional state are engaged in endless meetings and civil service “training” to “avert terrorism and corruption” and are not engaged in administration and development activities of the region; because the central government lost confidence and loyalty of the Oromo People’s Democratic Organization (OPDO), Oromian government duty and responsibility is fully controlled by intelligence agents taking direct orders from Meles Zenawi and TPLF leaders, tightening their grip of power and strengthening dictatorship leading to totalitarianism;
12. overall the continued harassment, arrest, torture, killing, abduction and disappearances, dismissal of students from schools, expulsion of civil massive workers from their jobs and eviction of tens of thousands of farmers from their land and other criminal and tyrannical activities perpetrated by the current regime in Finfinne should be stopped;

Therefore:

1. We demand that the Ethiopian government stop suppressing the just demand of the people of Oromia and other regions by military campaign in an attempt to keep oppressed peoples of the country under slavery and respect the right of people to self-determination.
2. We demand that all political prisoners of the country in general and tens of thousands of **Oromo Political Prisoners** in particular be released immediately and without any precondition; the notorious so called *Maikelawi (Central) investigation center (prison)* where human being is kept in dungeon and other forms inhuman torture take place be closed and dismantled immediately.
3. We demand that the current economic and market policy that has led to extreme poverty of ordinary citizens and a rise in cost of living leading to economic exploitation of the

masses by few individuals and groups related to the government be changed and corrected immediately.

4. We demand the policy of evicting Oromos and other peoples from their land and selling and leasing to investors be stopped and all contracts made with these international investors so far be annulled.
5. Under the leadership of the current regime Ethiopia is under deep political, economic, and social crisis over the last 20 years; thus we demand that Prime Minister Meles Zenawi immediately leave his office and relinquish his state power.
6. The so called 'election' repeatedly conducted in the country since 1994 were in reality sham and shameful in which the government was both a candidate and a referee; thus we demand that both of the two chambers of the Ethiopian parliament, which are the direct products of this fake election, be dismantled.
7. In order to bring about justice, rule of law, and true democracy in the country, we demand that a transitional government be formed from all political parties and liberation fronts that promise to respect the rights of peoples to self determination and stand genuinely for democracy and from those that operate in and outside of the country.

A Call to all Oromo Political Organizations:

Because all of the above questions and demands are collective questions of the inalienable right of the Oromo people irrespective of their political differences, we call upon Oromos and all political forces who are organized under Oromo name, including members of the OPDO, to rise up and stand in unison, support and participate in this planned uprising.

A Call to all Political forces opposing the regime and all peoples living in that country

As it has been the habit and practice of the Meles Zenawi ruling clique over the last 20 years, that whenever the Oromo people rise up for their rights, the regime portrays the objective of this just struggle as if it stands against the rights and benefits of other nations and nationalities in the country and managed to stay in power using a policy of divide and rule. The truth is the struggle of the Oromo people for freedom, justice and democracy also benefits all peoples, including the Tigrean people, who are also suffering under the same dictatorial regime. Therefore, we call upon all opposition political organizations to:

1. explain to all their constituencies that the reason behind the Oromo people's struggle is in quest of solution to more than a century old oppression and subjugation and is legitimate question internationally. It is an issue between the Ethiopian State and the Oromo people and not for any perceived problem between the Oromo people and other peoples. The struggle is focused on the general problems perpetrated by the regime on all peoples, and we urge that all tell their constituencies to simultaneously rise up against the regime, and

2. explain to their respective constituencies that a success of the struggle of the Oromo people for freedom, justice and democracy is a success for all peoples of Ethiopia, and therefore, call them to support, and, wherever possible, participate in the planned revolution of the Oromo people.

In conclusion, the root cause of all the problems of the peoples in the country is the dictatorial political system imposed upon all of us 20 years ago; and the solution to these problems is to stand up and remove the tyrannical government led by Meles Zenawi and his ruling clique through a popular uprising similar to the so called Arab Spring. Therefore, we call upon the entire Oromo people and other nations and nationalities to stand up and say **ENOUGH!** to oppression and slavery that is for more than a century. **WE SAY ENOUGH TO TYRANNY** through a **peaceful revolution that is beginning on January 22, 2012.**

Freedom to the Oromo and other Peoples!
Justice will Prevail by Peaceful Revolution!

January, 2012

OPUCC and NYMFD (QEERROO)