

The Oromo and Sidama Peoples' Historical and Neighbourly Relation Cannot Be Dented by the TPLF Plots

OLF and SLF Joint Statement

The Tigrian Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) regime has relentlessly pursued the 'divide and rule' policy to prolong its grip on power. The regime has initiated conflict between different nations, nationalities and peoples at different times and places, since it came to power, causing destruction of thousands of lives and millions of dollars worth properties.

This anti peace and brutal regime, pursuant to its standing policy, has been engaged in overtly and covertly instigating conflict between the Oromo and the Sidama peoples. Accordingly it has managed to instigate conflict in the district of *Riimaa Dhaadessaa* between the Oromo people in *Ajje* sub-zone of *Arsi* Zone and the Sidama people in Hawasa subzone of Sidama Zone. Loss of lives and property has been reported due to this conflict initiated by the agents of the regime on both sides

The motive of the regime in initiating this conflict is consistent with its hitherto policy elsewhere. Spreading such misunderstanding and mutual suspicion between and among the peoples is to deny them the strength they would harness by cooperation in the struggle to get rid of their common oppressor, the TPLF regime.

The current conflict is specially connected to the Sidama peoples escalated demand for their right on Awasa, the regional capital city. It is to be recalled that a decade ago the regime has committed crime on the peacefully demonstrating people to present the same demand at *Looqee*, near Awasa massacring more than 100 people by day light.

The regime renewed the controversy around the city to instigate further conflict with the southern peoples on the one hand and relentlessly work to instigate another conflict between the historically related and intermarried neighbourly peoples of Oromo and Sidama on the other. We believe that the currently stirred conflict between the Oromo and the Sidama at *Riimaa Dhadessa* is part of the scheme to subdue the Oromo and Sidama people's resistance through multifaceted attacks. In short it can be concluded that this is the continuation of the policy that has been applied against the Oromo people, which is instigating conflict with different neighbouring peoples, against the Sidama as well.

The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and the Sidama Liberation Front (SLF) strongly condemn the TPLF policy of instigating conflict between peoples and the damages caused thereby in general and that between the Oromo and Sidama in particular. The Oromo and Sidama peoples have long historical and neighbourly relation and have experienced similar history of subjugation. Besides being conquered at the same time both have lived the subsequent consecutive Ethiopian regimes' subjugation similarly. They both have the same fate. Hence they need to be aware of and defuse the plot to put them against each other in order to prevent them from cooperating in getting rid of their common subjugator.

We call upon all the subjugated peoples in general and the Oromo and Sidama peoples in particular to refrain from giving any attention to the evil plot by the TPLF regime and instead form their historically

effective common elders committee and resolve their conflicts in the established traditional way. We call upon them avoiding dependence on the subjugating regime to find a solution for any arising social problems and go instead for the common elders and resolve their conflicts, promote reconciliation and mutual compassion and get rid of the common enemy. We would like to assert the necessity of cooperation of the peoples with the same experience to get rid of the common tormentor, the TPLF regime.

The Oppressed Peoples' Struggle Will Prevail!!

Oromo Liberation Front

Sidama Liberation Front

June 29, 2012