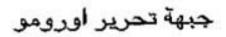
ADDA BILISUMMAA OROMOO

OROMO LIBERATION FRONT





Press Release

The TPLF Government Continues to Rob Food Aid

It is a public secret that more than 10 million people are starving in Ethiopia. This is mainly the result of TPLF's failed economic policies and lack of personal freedom. On the other hand, the government is using starvation as a weapon to silence the poor people and making them to focus on their daily bread than on the larger problem that the country is facing. Western governments and NGOs are responding to the incidence of starvation by providing food aid. Although this is the generosity by donors, our people are not making use of this support. It is the government who is using the aid as a political tool.

The Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) has repeatedly recounted that the government of Ethiopia is diverting the aid to feed its own army or sell the food items provided as aid. We have also informed the international community that the government is using food aid to gain political support. They have been distributing food aid only to those who accepted their political program and denying those who question any of their failed policy. This is contrary to what the aid program is meant for.

What is currently going on at food aid stations in Shashemenne, Wolayita and Finfinne (Addis Ababa) run by Oxfam and Alula Care is a good example. The aid was ear marked for the starved people in the southern Oromia and Somali region. However, with a direct order from the federal government office the aid are being loaded and sold somewhere else. Even though this is not a new phenomenon, the government is claiming that the owners and drivers of the trucks carrying the aid are stealing the aid food. Actually the government agents have been organizing and misdirecting the food aid by paying the drivers a lump sum of money corresponding to the volume of food they are transporting.

The following table summarizes the drama.

| No · | Plate No. of the truck | Driver name | Owner of truck | Amou nt loaded /quinta l/ | Dispat ch No. | Exit no. | Date of dispatch | Money paid to driver |
|------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 3-04879 | Sisaay Yilmaa | Riyad Ahmad | 100 | 23884 | | 08/06/2006 | 5,000.00 |
| 2 | 3-21792/05501 | Indashow Fallaqaa | Birhaanee W/ Sillasee | 250 | 23879 | | 12/06/2006 | 13,000.00 |
| 3 | 3-12947 or 3- 29471 | Nasir Aman | Jamal Shikur | 120 | 23900 | 32377 | 13/06/2006 | 6,000.00 |
| 4 | 3-11256 | Kamal Umar | Tariku Ijiguu | 120 | 23934 | 32424 | 17/06/2006 | 6,600.00 |
| 5 | 3-27594/07740 | Samu'el katamaa | Tasfaye dastaa | 380 | 23935 | 32413 | 19/06/2006 | 11,800.00 |
| 6 | 3-13303 | Kifle Boggale | Dani'el G/Tatiwos | 182.59 | 24262 | 35035 | 06/07/2006 | 10,000.00 |
| 7 | 3-13393 | Damise | Li'ul Marqos | 300 | 23936 | 32408 | 19/06/2006 | 16,000.00 |

| | | Wariye | | | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------|-------|-------|------------|-----------|
| 8 | 3-22190 or 3- 08912 | Yared Tasfaye | Balay Balachow | 250 | 24305 | 32475 | 19/06/2006 | 11,500.00 |
| 9 | 3-16019 | Alam Ara'ayaa | Firew Girma | 150 | 24307 | 32462 | 19/06/2006 | 7,000.00 |
| 10 | 3-02601 or 3-07175 | Sintayohu Axnafu | Shifaa Sharif | 286.36 | 24347 | | 26/06/2006 | 10,000.00 |
| 11 | 3-11757 | Alabachow Kabbade | Dani'el G/tatiwos | 257.93 | 24319 | 32494 | 27/06/2006 | 10,000.00 |
| 12 | 3-27699 | Indale Idiris | Dawit Nigus | 182.53 | 24325 | 35021 | 27/06/2006 | 6,000.00 |
| 13 | 3-19456 | Addis Habte | Lamma Habte | 125 | 24351 | | 17/06/2006 | 6,000.00 |
| 14 | 3-15299 | Shamsu Samman | Ahmad Indiris | 100 | 24371 | 32439 | 21/06/2006 | 11,600.00 |
| 15 | 3-02940 or 3- 06414 | Nardos Gizow | KidaneG/mari yam | 250 | 24376 | 32447 | 21/06/2006 | 10,000.00 |
| 16 | 3-21161 | FasilTasfaye | Nuradin Ahmad | 200 | 24386 | 32476 | 24/06/2006 | 6,200.00 |

The above table shows that more than 3250 quintals of aid have been stolen by the government during the month of June alone. With the current market value of Birr 250 per quintal, the total amount of money stolen from the food aid depot sums up to more than Birr 815, 000 (more than USD 100,000).

We, therefore, request all donors to transport the food aid they provide and devise a mechanism that ensures their food aid reaches the needy people. We also ask the international community, US government, EU and AU to put necessary pressure on Ethiopian government to allow aid agencies to deliver food aid to the victims. It is our conviction that unless the government's sinister activity is curbed soon the already debilitating conditions of the population in Ethiopia will continue to worsen.

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