

STATEMENT OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND  
RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE ON ETHIOPIA (CCPRCE)

ON

THE EXPULSION OF FIVE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE TPLF/EPRDF  
DOMINATED COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR SUPPORTING THE  
CONVENING OF A PEACE AND RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE ON ETHIOPIA

As it is well known, a very important political meeting was held in Paris from March 11 to 13, 1993 consisting of forces committed to genuine peace and democracy in Ethiopia in order to review and assess the dangerous political and military developments in the country and to find ways and means of promoting dialogue as well as to bringing about a lasting peace and reconciliation.

The meeting, was hosted by the French Catholic Committee Against Hunger and for Development (CCFD) and the Foundation for the Progress of Mankind (FHP).

The TPLF/EPRDF leaders were themselves invited to take part. Unfortunately, they not only refused to attend but also prevented the ALL Amhara People's Organization (AAPO) from participating by denying them exit visas.

After three days of deliberations and discussion and reviewing the extreme danger of civil, ethnic and communal strife towards which Ethiopia is sliding fast, and to avert the human tragedy of Somalia and Bosnia from being repeated in Ethiopia, the Participants of the Paris Conference came out with a Declaration.

The Declaration, among other things, not only reiterated the violations of human rights and the failed democratization processes but also reaffirmed the right of peoples to self determination in accordance with the Universal UN Declarations of Human Rights of 1948.

The Paris Declaration also called for the convening of a NATIONAL CONFERENCE in which all political forces (the EPRDF/TPLF included) would participate to pave the way for political dialogue which will bring about a lasting solution to the complex problems of Ethiopia.

Much to our regret, and in attempt to frustrate our noble objective of bringing about a lasting Peace and Reconciliation, Mr. Meles Zenawi, called a press conference in Addis Ababa on March 29 to inform Ethiopians and the world of his rejection and condemnation of the Paris Conference. (See Press release of the Co-ordinating Committee of March 31, 1993).

To make matters worse, the EPRDF/TPLF-lead Government also expelled five member organizations from the TPLF/EPRDF dominated "Council of Representatives". Two Vice Ministers at the Ministry of Information and Ministry of Education who belong to the expelled organizations have also been dismissed.

The expelled organizations are the Sidama National Movement (SNM), the Omotic Peoples Democratic Front (OPDF), the Hadya People's Democratic Organization (HDPO), the Gedeo People's Democratic Organization (GPDO) and the Yem People's Democratic



Movement (YPDM).

The five expelled organizations are some of the 14 members of the umbrella organization called Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Democratic Coalition (SEPDC) - one of the seven opposition forces that participated in the Paris meeting and supported the Declaration.

The above mentioned organizations are accused of committing a cardinal sin of supporting the convening of a Peace and Reconciliation Conference declared during the meeting held in Paris.

These expulsions and dismissals has left the TPLF/EPRDF as the only major force which can freely exercise a monopoly of power of all branches of government and in total disregard to the fundamental division of powers needed for democracy as well as to advance the cause of a lasting peace in Ethiopia.

The Co-ordinating Committee for Peace and Reconciliation Conference on Ethiopia (CCPRCE) condemns the undemocratic and illegal expulsion of these organizations from the Transitional Council and the government.

The sad political machinations of TPLF/EPRDF which is little known to the outside world is that while there is neither peace nor democracy in the country, the EPRDF/TPLF claims that there is tranquility and democracy. While it is a partner to the Charter and is bound by it, it continues to unilaterally violate it on a day-by-day basis.

We appeal to the international Community, particularly, the Government of the United States; all European Governments; international and regional financial institutions and NGOs that are providing political, diplomatic and other forms of support to TPLF/EPRDF to:

- 1 Condemn the above mentioned illegal and undemocratic violations of the Charter;
- 2 Demand for the reinstatement of those expelled and dismissed members of the Transitional Council and Vice Ministers;
- 3 Put effective and concrete pressure to bear on EPRDF/TPLF to stop its dangerous ethnic politics; to accept the convening of a National Peace and Reconciliation Conference; to refrain from taking actions and measures which would lead the country down the dangerous road to tyranny and to heed the CCPRCE's call to join forces of peace to avert the looming catastrophe on our war and famine weary country.

April 12, 1993