January 13-14 2017 all inclusive consultative conference successfully completed

Crisis period task force has been created – agreement was reached on beginning the process of forming an alternative opposition force

The three organizations, SHENGO, ENTC and EYNM, continuing the multilateral and bi-lateral communications for the past 7 months, had officially called all stake holders for a consultative conference. Out of the 10 organizations that have officially confirmed to participate, 9 of them convened in Washington DC on January 13 and 14 and conducted a successful conference.

The conference was opened with a prayer by Abune Samuel, the representative of the Holy Synod in Exile and Archbishop the Washington DC area. His Holiness expressed his heartfelt wishes for a fruitful conference.

The 9 organizations that participated on the first day had presented their visions on forming a unified opposition force for the struggle. Prof Getachew Metaferia and Dr. Tedla Wolde Yohannes, political science scholars, also presented their academic studies and opinions. Thousands of Ethiopians watched the entire first day conference which was being broadcast live via different media outlets.

On the second day, the representative of Oromo Democratic Front came to the meeting and expressed his wishes for a successful completion of the event. He noted that ODF will work together on issues that are common to all. On the day, a closed door debate was held amongst the participants and agreement was reached on the below noted points. After concluding the conference, a press release was issued and the leaders addressed the questions from journalists all over the world. The conference video was later released for the public (https://youtu.be/XfRyfq0vx6g)

The main agreement points of the conference:

1. The Ethiopian opposition forces that convened on January 13-14 have discussed the country situation in detail and reached a common understanding. We condemn the killings, oppression, forced evictions and terror campaign on the Ethiopian people and we urge Ethiopians to continue the civil disobedience movement. We are determined to do all we can for the cause.

2. We reached on the agreement that the problems of our country can only be solved by Ethiopians and as such:

   - An unwavering belief in the sovereignty of Ethiopia and the power belongs to the people
   - Respect the individual democratic rights of every Ethiopian
   - Implement fully democratic procedures in the unified forum we are forming
   - We strive to struggle for the rule of Law in Ethiopia
   - We believe and struggle for all Ethiopian peoples to be equal under the law. No one should be above the law.
   - We believe that the TPLF/EPRDF regime is a racist and brutal dictatorship and has to be replaced with a democratic government
   - We believe and work with stake holders to prepare for an orderly and all inclusive transition process which is a bed-rock of a democratic system.

3. we have reached an agreement on unified responses that can be presented as solutions

4. Based on the understanding of the above items, two action oriented bodies were formed.

   a. In order to participate and contribute meaningfully in struggle for freedom, we have formed a Crisis time rescue task force that will take the responsibility.

   b. It is agreed upon that the current vacuum of a viable national alternative force to lead the opposition struggle should be filled so that we can shift the balance of power to the people. A committee has been formed to facilitate the process.

The participants of the 2-day conference were:

1. Ethiopian People's Congress for United Struggle (SHENGO)
2. Ethiopian National Transitional Council (ENTC)
3. Ethiopian Youth National Movement (EYNM)
4. Moresh Wegene Amhara Organization (Moresh)
5. Ethiopian Democratic Hibre-hizb Unity Movement (EDHUM)
6. Dagmawi Arbegnoch Movement
7. Solidarity Movement for New Ethiopia (SMNE)
8. Tussa Ethiopian Salvation Democratic Organization (Tussa)
9. United Ethiopian Muslims Peaceful Movement Support Group

Victory to the Ethiopian People!