



We have a historic responsibility to support the current civil disobedience and save our country and people from the looming crisis



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Our country Ethiopia and its people have suffered for 24 long years from the racist and apartheid TPLF regime that is ruling Ethiopia without a popular mandate. EPRDF/TPLF's record of a lack of good governance, failed policies and mischievous deeds has currently plunged Ethiopia into a deep crisis. By absolutely denying Ethiopians' natural human and democratic rights, EPRDF/TPLF has become an absolute dictatorial regime that has made Ethiopians lose hope and hate their existence. The regime has been spreading racist politics in vain in order to destroy the long lasting Ethiopian national identity even though it has not been successful as Ethiopians have been vigilant. EPRDF/TPLF used language based ethnic-federalism in order to divide the Ethiopian people to extend its rule. It has implemented the repressive one-to-five organizational and control mechanism to force the population to become EPRDF members. However these devious schemes have backfired and the regime is now facing a huge challenge on how to keep on controlling Ethiopians.

The new 'Addis Ababa Expansion Master Plan' that has been hatched out and attempted to be implemented without the participation and consultation of the population, would have resulted in displacing millions of our Oromo people had it not been for the peaceful protest of students and other community members. Sadly but predictably, TPLF's response to these protests has been to rain down bullets on protesters. However, protests have spread to other parts of the country as could be evidenced from reports by several media organizations. Protests in the north of the country about the identity of the Wolkait people have also resulted in the expansion of the popular struggle against the repressive regime.

The reason behind this peaceful and popular anger may appear to be questions of identity or the ill-conceived Addis Ababa master plan. However, it is the regime's blindness that subjugating the Ethiopian people for nearly a quarter century of brutal administration and just recently claiming that it has won 100% of the seats in the so called parliamentary elections, fuels Ethiopians deep seated resentment against it. Instead of trying to solve problems peacefully by consulting with Ethiopians, TPLF's usual propensity to use force has resulted in the killing of a 10 year old child, an 8 month pregnant woman, a mother and child, a total of more than 80 people getting brutally gunned down, more 500 people getting injured and thousands of people being put in mass incarcerations. 17 prisoners at a Gonder prison that were trying to escape a fire were also brutally shot. We strongly condemn these fascist acts and are deeply saddened by the loss of the lives of our fellow citizens. We offer our deepest sympathy and express our condolences to the families of those that lost their lives.

The regime and its supporters land grab in the name of investment and development without the knowledge and will of our people has been ongoing for a long time and has resulted in the displacement of a large number of people. Not stopping at this, the regime has shamefully completed the agreement to cede a large part of the country to Sudan. (The joint press release about this issue can be found at the following link <http://goo.gl/Fp3ckt>). We call on all parties to stand together with the Ethiopian Border Committee's and help in any way the international efforts to bring this issue to the forefront as it is a major concern to all Ethiopians. It is crucial to understand that the main cause of the numerous and dangerous problems listed above is the racist and apartheid TPLF regime. Therefore, we should not say that the popular anger and uprising that has started in several parts of the country are Oromo, Amara or others' issues. We should express our support and make their demands the demands of all Ethiopians and struggle together.

Ethiopians' patience is at a low with the racist and apartheid brutal administration and lack of good governance. Ethiopians are expressing their deep resentment and anger peacefully all over the country. At this juncture of the struggle, the regime's use of military forces to brutally suppress the protests has resulted in huge sacrifices by brave Ethiopians. Since the regime is unwilling to peacefully resolve these issues and continue using brutal force, there is a grave danger that more bloodshed and chaos and a national crisis. Therefore, all Ethiopian opposition forces inside the country and abroad concerned about this issue need to immediately start working together to minimize our differences and prepare to create an all-inclusive task force (such as an Exile Government) that can offer guidance and leadership.

The Ethiopian National Transition Council, Ethiopian Youth National Movement, Intellectuals and Activists have together formed the Government of Ethiopian in Exile Organizing Committee recognizing the grave danger that our country and people are currently facing. The Committee has held public forums to explain the need for and the timeliness of a Government in Exile.

At this point, our country Ethiopia and its people are at a critical stage where all of us need to fulfill our duty as Ethiopians. Otherwise the sacrifices being paid by brave Ethiopians would be fruitless. Therefore, what got started by local protestors should be embraced by all Ethiopians and get a national profile and continue as such. Beyond issuing statements expressing support, condemning brutal acts and calling for a united struggle, we should immediately start a holistic consultation process whereby an all-inclusive alternative like a government in exile be formed and make the unified struggle effective. All should realize that only then would the TPLF led regime be removed or forced to become willing to come to the negotiating table towards the formation of an all-inclusive popular transitional government and move our country to a true democratic future. Since there were no previous preparations to effectively lead the opposition, several opportunities for change have not been able to result in removing the repressive regime. The current popular uprisings will face the same fate and fizzle out unless we create the mechanism and structure that offers effective leadership and an alternative vision.

The Ethiopian National Transition Council, Ethiopian Youth National Movement and Government of Ethiopian in Exile Organizing Committee (GEEOC), together with other willing democratic forces have taken into account the above facts to ensure that we do not repeat the same historical mistakes and trying to come up with a last minute and haphazard plan whenever a national crisis occurs. We have all worked together to bring all democratic opposition forces that have a stake in Ethiopia's political future and started bilateral discussion with these forces. We will announce to organizations and the public the progress of our discussions and our efforts. We respectfully request all democratic opposition forces, patriotic Ethiopians and mass media to show us your cooperation by supporting our efforts and disseminating information about our efforts.

Let's all come together to support the civil disobedience and make it a national movement!

The Ethiopian National Transition Council (ENTC)
Ethiopian Youth National Movement (EYNM)
Government of Ethiopian in Exile Organizing Committee (GEEOC)