



Joint Statement on the Ethiopian Regime's Decision to Cede Ethiopia's Territory to the Sudan

The Ethiopian People's Congress for United Struggle (Shengo), the Ethiopian National Transitional Council (ENTC) and the Ethiopian Youth National Movement (EYNM) collectively and in unison express their outrage at the treacherous decision by the ethnically-based and illegitimate regime of Ethiopia that is dominated and commandeered by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) to cede vast tracts of Ethiopia's lands to the government of the Sudan. We state firmly and unequivocally that we consider this decision null and void; and urge all Ethiopians around the globe to reject this secret deal as illegitimate and non-binding on future generations and patriotic governments.

The world community, and especially Ethiopians at home and abroad ought to know that this illegitimate and treasonous act was incubated and concocted by the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and his party in the 1980s. From its inception, the TPLF had insinuated in its manifesto that the Amhara nationality was enemy number one. It had vowed to marginalize and impoverish this nationality group. Further, the TPLF considered Ethiopia's long and glorious history, its national boundaries, institutions, unity and sovereignty inimical to its predominance and preponderance. The outcome of this narrative is the formation of the ethnic federal state in which an untold number of Ethiopians have been removed from their homes and lands; still others killed, jailed, forcibly evicted and compelled to seek refugee-status in neighboring countries and around the globe.

By all accounts, this ethnic federal state has begun to unravel and crumble. We are therefore deeply concerned that the country might implode and ethnic genocide might ensue under the watch of the TPLF and the ethnic coalition it dominates, namely, the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). To put it bluntly, the TPLF and its ethnic allies are destroying the country. Despite Meles Zenawi's accusation in the 1980s when he was talking with his American advisor Paul Heinz that "The Amhara who think they have a right to dominate in Addis Ababa have to change their mentality," it is the TPLF core that does not entertain democratic change. It believes that it is entitled not only to rule; but also to plunder Ethiopia and to cede lands for which our ancestors sacrificed their lives and livelihoods.

It is public knowledge that the TPLF has total monopoly over the national economy, finance and banking, the church, the military and intelligence, all social sectors, telecommunications and other infrastructure. Rent seeking, cronyism, bribery, corruption and illicit outflow are rampant. Party and government officials own multimillion birr villas, apartments and other buildings while an **estimated 16 million Ethiopians** suffer from famine. It is unconscionable to us that, at a time of the worst famine in 30 years, members of the ruling party are spending hundreds of millions of Birr entertaining their members at lavish parties.

The imminent decision to go ahead and legalize the demarcation on which the Ethiopian Borders Affairs Committee (EBAC) has expressed outrage has a long-history that successive governments before the TPLF had rejected. We therefore agree with EBAC that “Ethiopia and Sudan can and should reach an amicable settlement of the border issue in accordance with the 1902 Border Treaty signed by Emperor Menelik II of Ethiopia with the then colonial power, Great Britain. Article I of this Agreement names the major border points while Article II stipulates that the two countries would send their Border Commissioners to demarcate the border line on the ground as exactly marked on the signed map. Upon completion of the demarcation process, both parties were required to notify their respective citizens concerning the specifics of the boundary demarcated.”

History teaches us that contrary to the Treaty, Great Britain had appointed its own officer, Major Charles Gwynn, who unilaterally and arbitrarily demarcated the boundary without the knowledge, agreement and participation of Ethiopian boundary Commissioners. In 1903, Major Gwynn demarcated the boundary on behalf of Great Britain and in favor of the Sudan. Clearly, this is the unilateral and arbitrary demarcation that the TPLF wishes to implement on behalf of the Bashir government that provided it military, intelligence and financial support and served as a safe haven. It is therefore a fundamental violation of Article II; and non-binding.

We join EBAC in rejecting this treacherous act. The Bashir government ought to understand that Ethiopia has the right to preserve its territorial integrity, national sovereignty and long-term national interests. We also share EBAC’s wise statement that it is critical to preserve the historical, cultural, trade, economic, political and other strategic interests between the Ethiopian and Sudanese people. Major Gwynn demarcated the frontier line by deflecting the line towards Ethiopia, ranging from 20-60 kilometers thereby violating both Article I and II of the Agreement and therefore causing harm to Ethiopia. The land mass being ceded willingly by the TPLF affects all Ethiopians. We know of no other government on this planet that has authority or legitimacy or willing to cede its country’s lands to maintain its political grip and or to return favors to a friendly government. In this regard we commend Emperors Menelik and Haile Selassie and President Mengistu Hailemariam who never accepted Gwynn’s demarcation and preserved Ethiopia’s territorial integrity, honor and sovereignty. We go on record that the TPLF regime does not have any legitimacy and moral justification to cede Ethiopia’s land mass that spans 1,600 Kilometers in length and 20 to 60 Kilometers in depth to the Sudanese Government.

We go on record that this treacherous act by the TPLF violates Ethiopia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and, will have lasting and adverse consequences on future relations between the brotherly peoples of the two countries.

We state unequivocally that **Ethiopia’s** current regime led by Prime Minister Haile-

mariam Dessalegn has taken this unprecedented decision that we deem is detrimental to the geographical and territorial make-up of Ethiopia, without the participation and knowledge of the Ethiopian people, and, with utter disregard to the economic, social, political and cultural interests of the legitimate inhabitants of the affected Region. We demand that the Prime Minister abort the decision.

We call on all Ethiopians to close ranks and demand that Ethiopia's dictatorial regime stop further dismembering Ethiopia.

We urge Ethiopia's defense forces to side with the Ethiopian people and defend the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We urge all opposition groups within and outside the country, members of the EPRDF, civil societies, faith groups and intellectuals to let their voices and objections heard immediately if not sooner.

We urge Ethiopians around the globe to hold demonstrations against the dictatorial regime in Ethiopia and the Sudanese government.

We urge Ethiopian opposition groups around the globe to express outrage; and demand accountability by the TPLF regime.

Ethiopia's territorial integrity shall be protected!

Signatories,

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Ethiopian Youth National Movement (EYNM)

Cc:

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