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المجلس الوطني الإريتري للتغيير الديمقراطي
المكتب الإقليمي لأمريكا الشمالية

Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change
Regional Office of North America

Update on ENCDC NA Regional Congress & Ethio-Eritean Border Relations

It was a month ago that the ENCDC Baito constituents convened in Denver Colorado and successfully conducted a regional Congress-by reviewing its three documents-the **Political Charter**, the **Road Map**, and the **Bylaws** as well as electing their representative for the 2nd Congress to be held in the very near future. There has been a shortcoming in planning the 2nd Congress to be held at the end of December 2018 which severely affected turnouts of all global constituents. Therefore the regional Congress decided to extend the deadline to form the city committees, and elect their representatives until January 12, 2019. The Executive/Preparatory team was also generous enough to further grant another month of extension to mid of February 2019. Between Civic, independent and political organizations there are about 20 Baito members in North America elected in the Awassa Congress in November 2011. In Addition to the previous members, the ones elected in Denver more elected members from civic communities, and independents will follow until February 15, 2019.

In its New Year report, the Executive/Preparatory team of ENCDC has indicated that it will conclude its dateline, and site/location selection of the 2nd Congress in a few weeks. Until then all Baito constituents have to do their part in holding town meetings, and reaching out to the diverse political and civic communities of the diaspora and inviting them to join the second congress of ENCDC. These steps will enable us to celebrate the 28th Eritrean Independence day with a fresh air of

National unity ready to end the authoritarian rule in our homeland. These news will also inspire the youth, the people and the Eritrean Defense forces to rise up against the dictatorship. Besides it will also provide an opportunity for Prime Minister Abiye Ahmed and other neighboring leaders to see an alternative leadership for their strategic mission of mutual peace and stability in the region. It is unfortunate, and seemingly regrettable to befriend a leader of destabilization, and invite him only to incite hate, meddle in domestic conflict by taking side with one ethnic group against another ethnic group. It was a wise political decision for Dr. Abiye to allow the Ethiopian opposition including social media operatives to return home from overseas, but unwise to not pressure the Eritrean government to reciprocate such action, and demand democratic change in Eritrea as foundation for long lasting relations as well.

The result is clear; what we have witnessed so far is endless conflicts for both countries. As said in Tigrigna “ከትድቅስ ጎረቤትካ ‘ደቅስ” meaning “*for you to sleep, your neighbor need asleep!*” This cannot go without admitting our own imperfections of harmony as a primary cause of our setbacks. But in the absence of representative or constitutional government, basic human rights, and private media and incarcerated journalists and prisoners’ of conscience in Eritrea, the peace accord and diplomatic relationship will have an adverse effect on the Eritrean masses. The results are evidenced by the sudden unilateral closure of the Zalambesa boarder without any explanation from both sides. Besides; leaving the Assab Burie border open reveals one fact that the agreement was not designed to benefit all people. Hence failure is imminent unless immediate measures are taken to rectify the unfolding events.

Wishing all a Happy New year; we will return back with more good news in a biweekly fashion.

Victory to the oppressed people of Eritrea!

Peace, and Stability in the Horn!

ENCDC-NA Regional Committee

January 3, 2019