

Concluding Statement of the Executive Committee's 5th Regular Session Eritrean National Salvation Front 7 October 2007

The Executive Committee of the Eritrean National Salvation Front (ENSF) convened its 5th regular session from 5 until 7 October 2007 against the background of an extremely deteriorating situation in our country as consequence of the destructive policies and practices long pursued by the dictatorial PFDJ regime, which many now fear may be fast approaching towards its critical irreversible point; and a president who has become so much of a loner and a pariah in the eyes of the region and the international community because of his unending adventures and blunders that he couldn't even master the courage to show his face and attend at the recent African leaders meeting; and, as face-saving for his shameful absence, had been orchestrating make-believe sessions of Cabinet Ministers and touring show-pieces of the so-called "developments" in the provinces to hoodwink the Eritrean public and the international community into believing that he was very much occupied with the affairs of the country to have time for an African meeting.

The EC stressed the fact that the PFDJ regime had long been anti-democratic and equally bent on the road of destruction since it came to power. Since it came to power, it had consistently denied and brutally suppressed all fundamental human and political freedoms and the civil liberties of the people. In the course of its brutal rule, arbitrary imprisonments, assassinations, disappearances and the disbanding of innocent Eritrean nationals had not only become the order of the day, but the trademark of the ugly regime.

In the midst of an already hopeless situation, the meeting took the belated assessments reached and steps planned to be taken by the US Government against the regime both as blessing in disguise and in agreement with the views and evaluations long held by our organization about the regime. Accordingly, it called on the US government not only to continue putting pressure to bear upon the regime, but should also proceed to undertake all possible punishments and sanctions with aim of bringing it down to its knees and its final removal.

The EC thoroughly reviewed developments covering the last 3 months following the split up of the Eritrean Democratic Alliance. Based on resolutions and deliberations already made by the Central Committee of the ENSF, it decided to give utmost priority to the restoration of the opposition umbrella and expressed its determination to make all possible efforts at realizing this objective. Given the right approach, and based on explorative contacts it undertook on leadership level during the past months with some members of the 7 organizations, it is convinced that there is still some ray of hope to remedy the situation, even though it could no be said to be conclusive with some showing encouraging signals while a few others were not for the revival of the opposition.

Thoroughly convinced of its correct approach to the problem, and as best alternative and way out of the crisis, the EC strongly recommended for an emergency meeting of all leaders of the defunct EDA to be convened as soon as possible. Their primary task would be to point out the lowest minimum principles of agreements on which the reorganization of the opposition umbrella should be founded. After having done that, it would then proceed to invite those opposition organisations that stayed on the margins of the umbrella to join its fold. As a follow up of this initiative, the door should be left open for civic societies that are known to have been active on the ground to join its ranks, finally leading towards the creation of an all encompassing opposition camp.

In regard to the EDA wing constituting of 3 organizations – the ENSF, ELF-RC and EDP - known with the acronym EDA1, the EC noted that the meeting held during the beginning of September in Khartoum

faced some difficulties and fell short of finalizing the basis of their future relations. With the understanding that this objective has taken longer than necessary, it accepted with approval reports about the meeting of the 3 organization held from the end of September until 4 August 2007, in which it was decided to carry out the long awaited meeting during the first week of November at the latest. And, despite differences of opinion that may have risen within the alliance of the 3 organisations on how to go about reorganizing the upcoming opposition umbrella on the ground, the EC expressed its determination to do all it can by way of narrowing the gap.

Finally, after having evaluated that the internal unity of the organization was steadily improving, it gave instructions for administering some minor organizational issues that were outstanding.

On conclusion, it called upon the Eritrean people to shoulder their maximum of responsibility in the struggle of saving their country by removing the dictatorial regime which has not only become the single main reason for the ills and suffering they had been enduring and course the country had been taking towards an irreversible devastation, but has also consistently been the main haven and center of deployment for terrorist activities destabilizing our region. It equally called on the international community to support the Eritrean people and their opposition organisations in their struggle for peace and democracy.

Down with the dictatorial PFDJ regime!
Victory for Peace and Democracy!
Eternal Memory to our Heroic martyrs!

The Executive Committee
Eritrean National Salvation Front
7 October 2007