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التحالف الديمقراطي الأرتري

## ERITREAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

Our ref.No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your ref.No. \_\_\_\_\_

### CONCLUDING STATEMENT

#### Leadership Meeting of 11 Eritrean Opposition Organisations

We, the chairmen and representatives of chairmen, of the 11 Eritrean Opposition Organisations, herald the successful conclusion of the leadership meeting convened in Addis Abeba on 15-19 January 2008.

Organisations that participated in this leadership meeting were:

1. Democratic Movement for the Liberation of the Eritrean Kunama
2. Red Sea Afar Democratic Organization
3. Eritrean Democratic Party
4. Eritrean Federalist Democratic Movement
5. Eritrean Islamic Party for Justice and Development.
6. Eritrean Liberation Front
7. Eritrean Liberation Front-Revolutionary Council
8. Eritrean Nahda Party
9. Eritrean National Salvation Front
10. Eritrean Popular Congress
11. Eritrean Peoples Democratic Front

The leadership meeting of the 11 organisations took place at a time when the PFDJ regime has been engulfed with all types of internal crisis and attempting to divert the attention of our people to external issues by disseminating war propaganda with the lame excuse of defending the Eritrean sovereignty. In addition, the regime is facing growing popular opposition both within and outside the country and is isolated from the international community because of its terrorist and destabilizing activities in the Horn of Africa.

The meeting has assessed that the PFDG has closed down all peaceful and democratic opportunities within the country, exposing the people and sovereignty of Eritrea to the likelihood of disintegration, and that the regime has become the main source of turmoil in the region.

The meeting expressed its deep concern regarding the mass exodus of Eritrean youth due to the oppression imposed on them by the PFDJ regime and fear from the devastating consequences of wars that the regime fuels. The meeting took this situation as a sign of the destruction of Eritrean society through disintegration of Eritrean families.

The meeting has noted that public resistance is growing, and that Eritrean civil associations who fight for human rights and civil liberties are flourishing as allies of the Eritrean national political forces. It has also evaluated the split that occurred in the aftermath of the second congress of EDA last February as a dangerous and negative political phenomenon totally unexpected by EDA organizations, the Eritrean people and our friends. The split has created a crisis of mistrust among Eritrean national forces, damaging morale of our people, our grass roots and saddened our friends. The incident was an obstacle to our democratic struggle and was exploited by the dictatorial regime in Eritrea.

The leadership meeting of the 11 Eritrean political opposition organizations has asserted that coordinating all the resources of our people and that of the political and civil associations against the current regime is indispensable, and a duty to which top priority must be given. To forge the fragmented Eritrean opposition into a stronger, unified organization on the one hand, and to create a conducive political opportunities for a national conference for democratic change on the other hand, it has been decided a congress of political organizations that have been both within and outside EDA be convened on March 30, 2008. To facilitate this, a preparatory committee from all political organizations that will participate in the congress has been formed. It has also been decided that civil associations and individuals who are anti PFDJ and who have played a significant role to enhance the democratic struggle and has no affiliation with any of the political organizations can participate as observers. In addition to this, the secretariat of the meeting has been vested with the responsibility of facilitating and supervising the activities of the preparatory committee, identifying financial resources for the congress and acting as contact body between the political organizations and friendly governments up to the time of the congress.

In order to expedite victory, leaderships of the 11 political organizations have affirmed their commitment and readiness to coordinate their activities in all spheres of the struggle with all political and civil organizations and individuals.

The meeting called upon the international community to intensify its pressure on the PFDJ regime to release all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience and accelerate its efforts for peace and democracy to prevail in Eritrea. It has also urged the international community to make a concerted effort to resolve the border impasse between Eritrean and Ethiopia through dialogue and peaceful means based on the verdict Ethio-Eritrea Border Commission as the current no war no peace situation can exacerbate tensions and ignite war at any time.

The meeting has expressed its earnest appreciation to member states of Sana'a Forum in general, and to the Ethiopian people and government in particular for standing on the side of the Eritrean opposition organizations and their multifaceted support.

Victory to the democratic struggle of the Eritrean people!

Leaderships' meeting of 11 Eritrean opposition organizations  
19 January 2008.