

June 15, 2022.

H.E Mr. Isaias Afeworki

President of the State of Eritrea,

Asmara.

Subject: Mr. President, “time is running out for you”!

Dear President Isaias Afeworki, at the outset please accept my warmest congratulations to you and the people for the 31st anniversary of independence of Eritrea, a Country gained by the blood and sweat of its people.

Allow me also to introduce and tell you about myself. I was born and raised in Digsä. After finishing my high school education in 1968, I went to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia for further education. I then worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia for 26 years until I permanently relocated to the U.S.A in May 1999.

As we reflect on the 31-year anniversary of Eritrea, we must remember that the 30 year war of independence was led by number of liberation fronts (ELM, ELF & EPLF) but ultimately achieved with the EPLF at the helm. During such a difficult war the world has witnessed and recognized the strong leadership of the organization. However, there were also credible reports of human rights abuses behind the scenes including the killing of

fighters which happened to have a different line of thinking about the future Eritrea like for example, the **“MENKAES”**.

Dear Mr. President; since 1991, while living in Ethiopia, I was following your Government and Administration very closely and I believe can provide some insight about the nature of your Government notably with respect to the public view towards your leadership. To start with the bright side, during the first 7- years following the independence of Eritrea the whole population have generally embraced your leadership and your Government was making tremendous efforts to achieve all round economic and social development in the Country. To say the least a road map was laid out in the right direction.

When you decided, however, to engage in the border war with Ethiopia all such endeavors were disrupted. I strongly believe that your motivation for starting such a border war was to get rid of the **TPLF** “the de-facto ruler in the Tigray State”. The worst part of this situation is that effectively you put all the aspirations and rights of the Eritrean people on hold for years to come under the guise that **“the Country is under threat of WEYANE.”**

I am not saying that “TPLF” has never been a threat to your leadership and even to the Country, especially looking now through the spectrum of what has happened in the region after a new Government was installed in Ethiopia.

After the Algiers Agreement on Cessation of Hostility was signed, however, your Government was supposed to go back to the pre-war situation and start implementing the laid out developmental policy and

empower the adopted constitution of the State; and subsequently to go for free and fair elections where you would have had a good chance to legitimize your presidency by people's vote. Unfortunately, you embarked on "one man rule" for years to come.

Among other things, I can mention two policy decisions with which I fully agree. One is the strengthening of the **EDF** (though it should have been done on voluntary basis) and secondly, the peace accord you signed with Ethiopia to put the war behind the Eritrean people and to initiate the idea that the two sovereign countries could prosper with mutual cooperation as you call it through "Synergism" and more than that, these two similar people could continue to embrace each other in peace and prosperity.

On the other hand, I become furious regarding your system of Government when I think of the death of my father **Ato Teklegiorgis Measho** killed in July, 1977 by the EPLF fighters at a place called **Ala** after taken as a prisoner of war from his home village **Digsa**, caught in the crossfire when the liberation fighters attacked an army garrison stationed on the hill behind our house; and likewise the death of my beloved cousin veteran "**TEGADALAY**" **Haile Mebrahtu Measho** killed in March, 2008, at the hands of the Government in broad daylight. He was at the time of his death, Head of Education of Keren Region. These are just two examples of many needless deaths. I am not bringing them to your attention to seek redress but to express my feeling to the highest possible authority of the Government before it's too late, given my age and fragile health.

The issue at hand now is what must be done next in order to save the nation from further damage and self-inflicted destruction. To that effect, I am hereby honorably requesting you to establish a

commission of your choice and step down from the Presidency with full immunity granted to you and your family. In order for the commission to lead the transition afresh, you must transfer the authority to this body with a mandate to conduct an election. To build confidence, you are expected to live in the country to give a chance to any interested citizen to build a case and bring you to the rule of the law. God bless the nation.

Sincerely,

Berhane Teklegiorgis

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