



لوحة الأرترية للتغيير الديمقراطي
Eritrean Unity for Democratic Change

Concluding Statement of the 3rd Regular Meeting of the EUDC Central Committee

The Central Committee of the Eritrean Unity for Democratic Change (EUDC) held and successfully concluded its third regular meeting on March 17 and 22-23, 2023.

As EUDC continues to strengthen its unity and build its pluralist political base, we are glad to announce a recent successful merger with the former ELF members, which is a big step in the right direction towards building a true national organization by further expanding and cementing our growing multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-regional political and social base.

During the past thirty-one years of bitter rule by the PFDJ, Eritrea's economy has been completely destroyed, the social fabric of the Eritrean people has been ripped, on the international arena, the country has turned into a pariah. The destructive nature of the regime extends beyond Eritrean borders. Over the past two years, the Isaias' regime has openly intervened in the civil war in Ethiopia and invaded the people of Tigray. As a consequence this illegitimate intervention, the international community is accusing Eritrea of egregious violation of human rights that may be prosecutable by international court. By the same token, EUDC condemns the blatant invasion of the brotherly people of Tigray by the regime in Eritrea. We express our desire and full support for the peace

process that has just begun as continuation of the Pretoria Agreement to proceed successfully towards lasting peace. We also wish to see the bloody and destructive conflicts in other parts of Ethiopia to come to an end and for peace to prevail throughout Ethiopia.

The Eritrean youth have been condemned to endless national service and forced to fight never-ending illegitimate wars since the PFDJ came to power. Despite repeated call to end this ordeal, in the past two years, the PFDJ regime has demonstrated its unforgivable cruelty by involving the Eritrean youth in the Ethiopian civil war in Northern Ethiopia, where tens of thousands of our youths lives may have perished. It is to bring a stop to such mayhem, and save the lives of our youth that we welcome the end of this war, as it will provide a relief to the Eritrean youth hoping Isaias' regime quits its usual habit of instigating wars.

Our struggle is to build an exemplary country of mutual respect and peaceful cooperation with all neighboring countries through sharing resources and reciprocal collaboration. EUDC's Central Committee meeting emphasized that as we justly expect others to respect our sovereignty, we should acknowledge our obligation to respect the sovereignty of others. Accordingly, all anti-democratic ideologies and practices that aim in violating the sovereignty of neighboring countries should be condemned.

The Eritrean United National Front (EUNF) was created in late 2021, under an extremely difficult circumstances due to the war situation in Northern Ethiopia. This nascent organization was tested by many obstacles in its infancy due to the Tigray war and accumulated many useful experiences that will be beneficial to the struggle we are conducting for justice in our country. The Central Committee pledges to do all that is needed to ensure the unhindered growth and strengthening of EUNF.

It is evident, the EUDC is not only one of the founders of the Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change (ENCDC), but also a party that has been contributing significant efforts for the growth of the council, by assigning and ensuring its members to offer their full time service in Bayto's leadership. Unfortunately, the Central Committee of EUDC observes the increasingly diverging political positions among the members of the EUNF parties have kept the Council from moving forward. Worst of all, while the fascist chief Isaias Afewerki himself is shamelessly telling us that our country is literally crumbling and increasingly deteriorating, we are saddened to hear some ENCDC parties' call for an alignment with "our government" and the ENCDC leadership staying muted and refraining from taking any action. We advise the sister parties to learn from what expired in the 1990s and desist from causing chaos within the ranks of the opposition.

The Central Committee also reaffirmed its commitment to do its utmost to invigorate the positive struggle towards the establishment of a broader umbrella organization of the Eritrean Political Forces. The two-year-old coalition in the making of Eritrean Political Forces was expected to form a broader umbrella of political parties through a constituent congress. Unfortunately it has not made significant progress due to disagreements over allocation of representation. The EUDC Central Committee believes these differences in representation should not have been a source of insurmountable controversy. For that reason, the Central Committee urges the concerned parties to renegotiate and overcome their differences and move on towards the establishment of a broader umbrella and implementation of the major goals they have already set out on paper.

The PFDJ regime has been increasingly getting isolated from the Eritrean people due to its evil practices. Despite this distancing from the regime however, large swath of the Eritrean people have not turned to be active

participants in the struggle for justice. In addition to this problem, those who are actively fighting in an organized and unorganized manner are far from achieving a broader unity. We need to evolve out of the unfortunate experiences that have weakened us for many years and remove the obstacles that prevent us from fighting in a more unified manner. The EUDC is ready to do everything required to work with all Justice seeking Eritreans towards broader unity to save our people from the predicament they are in.

Our Central Committee reaffirms that we are on the side of our energetic and determined youth force as united and organized in Yiakl and Brigade Nihamedu in their struggles against the PFDJ through all legal means of struggle as permitted by their host countries. Our Front, EUNF, which was launched with the formation of a National Army under joint command, believes its future is highly dependent on these youths who are loudly voicing their protests. We call the utmost support of our youth to EUNF where many of our gallant youth, just like you, irrespective of the natural and man-made obstacles they faced are engaged in a fight to save the people of Eritrea.

It is indisputable fact that migration did not only stop but is continuing unabated due to the relentless military enslavement and breathless political and socio-economic problems of Eritrean society created by the PFDJ regime. It is regrettable that all the violence that happened in Tigray and Ethiopia negatively affected the Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia as well. We call on the relevant IOM and the pertinent authorities of the Tigray Regional State to render assistance to the survivors of all these traumatic ordeals and help them to return to normal life, but most importantly, we call on every Eritrean to help them in an organized or individual basis.

Eritrean refugees in The Sudan are also experiencing continuous deportation and arrests. Unquestionably, the hospitable people of Sudan

have sheltered hundreds of thousands of Eritrean refugees for decades and they deserve unreserved credit. However, we call on the government and society at large to stand against the inconsiderate actions of some individuals against Eritrean refugees that do not reflect the decency and hospitality of the Sudanese people.

As Eritreans, have seen with our own eyes, over the past thirty years, young Eritrean being deprived from education or opportunity to work and make their dreams come true. There is no progress under the PFDJ regime but perpetual destruction. This is what the fascist chief Isaias Afewerki himself told us in many interviews. Because of that we need to realize that the PFDJ regime is our real enemy and we need to rise up to remove it from power once and for all.

The Eritrean Defense Forces are also victims of the cruel regime. The only reason the regime is waging war against all our neighbors and cross-neighbors is to deny our young generation in the cities and in the countryside from the opportunity to interact and discuss freely with each other and develop a change mindset. Under the PFDJ regime, the life of any member of the armed forces will be in barracks or in trenches under full military regiment surrounded by guns and bullets. We call upon the members of the armed forces to use their arms against the regime in an organized manner in defense and for the safety of the Eritrean people.

Finally we would like to use this occasion to bring to the attention of the Eritrean people at home and abroad that the PFDJ regime is rampantly trying to enter into various external deals without any evident national interest or authorization of any credible national institution. All these activities are aimed to ensure continuation of PFDJ's regime in power at any cost. Therefore, we call on all our citizens to remain vigilant and expose the regime that agreements set by pfdj do not serve the national interest of our country and must be exposed without any reservations.

Victory to the just struggle of the Eritrean people.

Eternal Commemoration, and honor to our martyrs

March 23, 2023