

TOKKUMMAA HUMNOOTA BILISUMMAA OROMIYAA (THBO)

UNITED LIBERATION
FORCES OF OROMIYAA



القوات المتحدة لتحرير اورميا

Resolution

August 7, 2016

A two-day meeting of the Central Committee (CC) of the United Liberation Forces of Oromiyaa (ULFO) was held on August 5-6, 2016. The CC deliberated on a whole range of issues related to the Oromo national liberation struggle. More importantly, it has conducted an all-round deliberation on the current Oromo Protest and its ramifications on shaping the political landscape of the 'Ethiopian state' and the Horn of Africa region at large. Subsequently, the meeting has adopted the following resolution:

A. On the TPLF-led regime of Ethiopia and the impact of its rule on the political, economic, and social conditions of the Oromo nation

Assessing the political and socio-economic conditions facing the Oromo nation under the colonial rule of the TPLF-led regime,

Realizing the fact that the TPLF-led regime has come to power through sheer force and remained in power for the last 25 years through suppressing dissent by overtly and covertly massacring Oromo activists with differing political persuasions, by perpetrating what amounts to genocidal campaign on ethnic groups like the Oromo who collectively rejects its legitimacy, by imprisoning, torturing, generally creating a state of fear and intimidation in the minds of all people it perceives as adversaries, and by running bogus parliamentary elections intended to legitimize its regime and perpetually maintain its rule over the peoples of Ethiopia.

Knowing well that the once much talked about double digit growth of the economy is now in shamble as the draconian economic policy of the regime has been progressively leaving the vast majority of the population under abject poverty, exposing millions to recurrent famine and dependency on food aids from western countries, evicting farming communities from their ancestral land and leaving them with no choice but to flock to cities where they are virtually reduced to beggary, making the survival of the working class with meager pay utterly difficult in an

economy embroiled with staggering inflation, and denying entrepreneurs a level plain field for competition and stifling their growth; on the other hand, by design, the TPLF and its cronies have positioned themselves well in all economic fronts and amassed the wealth of the country through embezzlement and corruption – the hallmark that epitomizes the TPLF-led regime,

Noting the reckless land use policy of the regime which has caused unprecedented environmental degradation with dire consequences on the health and well-being of the Oromo people – for instance, one that has polluted lakes and rivers of Oromiyaa and thereby exposed our people to communicable diseases like cholera, as widely reported just recently,

The Central Committee,

1. *Condemns* in the strongest term possible the TPLF-led regime for (a) invading Oromiyaa and violating the inalienable human rights, democratic rights, and freedom of the Oromo people, (b) systematically robbing the resource of Oromiyaa while depriving the Oromo nation the right to use its own resources, and (c) flagrantly abusing the natural environment of Oromiyaa to a menacing degree, the long-term implication of which would be far more catastrophic for the livelihood of the future generation of the people of Oromiyaa and that of the Horn of Africa at large;

2. *Urges* the learned sector of the Oromo society to critically examine and understand the extent of the Oromo nation's predicament and collectively soul search for ways and means that could emancipate the nation from the yoke the TPLF rule; this critical mass ought to assume a hefty responsibility of salvaging the Oromo nation when the nation is in desperate need of the best and the brightest of its own for a direction and means to end its misery at this critical juncture of the history of the Oromo national liberation struggle;

3. *Appeals* to the international community not to remain acquiescent in the face of progressively growing political, economic, social, and environmental crisis that the TPLF-led regime has been engendering over the last 25 years of its rule; TPLF has proved itself beyond any doubt that it is not an asset but a liability for its political supports of the western nations as the crisis of its own making is on the verge of getting out of hand and worsening the already fragile state the security, peace, and development in Ethiopia and the entire region of the Horn of Africa.

B. On the on-going Oromo Protest

Assessing the Oromo Protest - one which has been triggered by the TPLF crafted so-called 'Addis Ababa Master Plan',

Studying expert reports on the impact of the Master Plan whose implementation would have meant the expansion of Addis Ababa by 20-fold of its current size at the expense of evicting hundreds of thousands farmers from towns and villages surrounding the capital; and understanding the political, economic, and cultural cost to the communities slated for eviction would have been incalculable,

Noting, during the first wave (May 2014) of demonstrations against the Plan, over 140 peaceful protesters were reportedly killed and a staggering number were injured and thousands imprisoned from across Oromiyaa,

Knowing well that the Oromo Protest that relapsed in November 2015 in Giincii has since spread like a wild fire all across Oromiyaa and now elevated to a national movement against the rule of the TPLF-led regime,

Noting, during the last ten-month of the Oromo Protest, well over 600 Oromos were killed and many of them injured by the Agazi, Federal Police, and the army deployed throughout Oromiyaa

Taking note that over 30 thousand have been imprisoned and, for fear of persecution, tens of thousands of Oromos have fled their country to unfriendly and at times dangerous destinations,

Realizing that many prominent Oromo political activists are languishing in prisons and facing unbearable physical and physiological torture on a daily basis,

Considering the killing of over 50 peaceful Oromo demonstrators in just one day, yesterday, on August 6, 2016, during the Grand Oromo Protest conducted throughout various cities and towns of Oromiyaa,

Cognizant of the fact that the Oromo Protest has immensely contributed toward unifying the Oromo people all across Oromiyaa and the world-wide Oromo communities in the Diaspora behind one collective national interest – the decolonization of Oromiyaa,

Understanding that the Oromo Protest has brought to light the Oromo as a political community on the international arena in order for the world, particularly the western world, to heed to the pain and suffering of the Oromo nation and to support the wish and aspirations of the nation;

Underscoring the gains that the Oromo Protest registered in the diplomatic front is considerable,

Realizing that every gain of the Oromo national liberation struggle has dearly cost the life of iconic sons and daughters of Oromiyaa,

The Central Committee,

1. ***Hails*** the heroes and heroines of the *Qubee Generation*, the forerunners of the Oromo Protest, who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to end the decaying TPLF-led colonial rule;

2. ***Salutes*** the revolutionary Oromo youth and the Oromo people at large who rose up in unison against the TPLF-led fascist regime;

3. ***Condemns*** the naked fascist regime and its Trajan Horse who have been unrelentingly killing, torturing, and incarcerating mainly the emerging young generation of the Oromo society;

4. Reminds leaders of the Oromo Protest and the Oromo youth as a whole, who aspire to end the barbaric TPLF-led Abyssinian colonial order, to be mindful of solidifying the organizational arm of the movement without which the protest will lose its steam and cost the life of our young generation dearly and yet may remain with much minuscule gains;

5. Urges time and again all stakeholders to seriously reflect on the current state of the national liberation struggle and work in unison to bring about timely and concrete measures that help overcome hurdles that our national struggle faces at present;

6. Calls upon all independent Oromo political organizations to give the unity of purpose a chance, a serious chance, now when the stakes are high for the Oromo liberation struggle and when it needs a unified voice, a strategic direction, and an all-out manpower and resources to expeditiously attain its goal;

7. Encourages Oromo community organizations, religious institutions, and generally civil societies in the Diaspora to collaboratively organize a National Forum where the Oromo public is actively engaged in political discourse that can assess the state of the Oromo national struggle and contribute ideas that can shape the course of our struggle; Appeals to all Oromo nationals not to be on the sideline and watch the hastily unfolding political events in our country but actively take part in the discourse that generate ideas as to how the national struggle expeditiously reaches its ultimate goal and participate in moulding a national campaign geared to mobilizing the human and material capital required for the struggle;

8. Appeals to western governments to (a) understand the plight of the Oromo people and support their cause for freedom, (b) put incessant pressure on the TPLF-led regime to stop killing peaceful demonstrators, arresting and incarcerating Oromos en masse for crimes they have not committed, and evicting Oromo farmers, and (c) cease the bilateral financial support given to the regime tainted with crimes against humanity and corruption – one notoriously known to use the donors money to bolster its security and military apparatus meant for a crackdown on oppositions and to sustain the regime in power.

Oromiya shall be free!

The Central Committee of the United Liberation Forces of Oromiyaa (ULFO)