

# TOKKUMMAA HUMNOOTA BILISUMMAA OROMIYAA (THBO)

UNITED LIBERATION  
FORCES OF OROMIYAA



القوات المتحدة لتحرير اورميا

## Statement on the Escalating TPLF War against the Oromo People of Eastern and Southern Oromiyaa

September 10, 2017

It has been over 26 years since the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) forcibly seized political power and begun ruling over the peoples of the Ethiopian empire. Over the years, it has made every effort to legitimize itself either through political machinations or through crackdown against dissenting people or organized political forces who have unequivocally rejected its legitimacy from the outset.

Ever since this illegitimate entity usurped the state apparatus, it has been wrecking havoc in the life of the people of Oromiyaa and that of other nations and nationalities in Ethiopia at large. The rag-tag gorilla army of the TPLF that invaded Oromiyaa in 1991, no sooner had it grabbed the state power than it embarked on launching colonial policies meant to entrench its rule indefinitely. With the wealth amassed largely from Oromiyaa, it has transformed its gorilla force into a 'state army' with hardly any semblance to one but with a unique mission – a mission of perpetrating a blatant aggression against free nations and nationalities to entrench its colonial rule.

It is through this military establishment that the TPLF has committed unprecedented crimes against citizens of Oromiyaa over the years. It perpetrated extrajudicial mass killings, it incarcerated hundreds of thousands, it exposed millions to recurrent man-made famines, it uprooted millions from their ancestral lands, it caused a mass exodus of youth to often harsh and unfriendly destinations, and it evicted the once thriving farming communities around Finfinee and other major urban centres and reduced them to abject poverty. All in all, by all measures, the TPLF has perpetrated what amounts to genocidal acts against the people of Oromiyaa.

The brunt of the TPLF political marginalization, economic exploitation, social oppression, and outright military aggression has now reached unbearable stage. More so, with the mounting Oromo resistance, its gross human rights violations have escalated to the extent that threatens the very existence of the Oromo people as a nation. The TPLF has now declared a war of annihilation against the Oromo – a war that should be a matter of the utmost concern to every Oromo.

The TPLF declaration of war against the Oromo people is not a new phenomenon. As the TPLF sees the Oromo people as its arc enemies, merely because they stand against its grand political ambition of indefinitely ruling the Ethiopian empire, it has declared war against the people at the outset of its ascendance to power. Hence, all along it has been fighting the Oromo at the place and time of its choosing. The war that is lately ravaging the eastern and south-eastern Oromia, although it is in essence the extension of the same TPLF-Oromo War, it is concocted to appear a border skirmish between the eastern and south-eastern Oromians on one hand and the neighbouring peoples of Afar and Ogadenia on the other.

This is not a clash between neighbouring community of nations. It is a war instigated through a well thought out plan. The instigator behind the war is TPLF. Also, both covertly and overtly, it is TPLF that is waging the war. The likes of notorious *Liyu* Police are simply its mercenary lackeys. Ironically, the very warmonger TPLF is presenting itself as a mediator and a peace maker. However, no amount of its usual cover ups or Machiavellian political moves could hide the fact that TPLF is the sole culprit behind the war.

The consequence of this TPLF orchestrated war is enormous. It is reported that thousands have lost their lives. Many communities have been uprooted from their ancestor land. With herds and other properties taken as booty by TPLF backed *Liyu* Police, communities in the war-ravaged areas are now in dire need of food and shelter. As the war is escalating by the day, a much deeper crisis is imminent.

We condemn the TPLF for (1) masterminding and carrying out a blatant aggression against our people in eastern Oromiyaa, Bborana, Baale, Gujii, and Wallo; (2) all crimes it has continued committing against our people across Oromiyaa.

We condemn all so-called Peoples Democratic Organizations (OPDOs) who work hand and glove with TPLF. The survival of TPLF hinges on your unfettered compliance of the TPLF order to kill and maim your respective people. It is high time that you come to your senses and stand by your own people and renounce your allegiance to the fascist TPLF whose time has run out.

We call upon the Oromo people to stand in unison against the TPLF aggression.

- (1) To the Oromo youth: We salute you for forging the unity of our people and galvanizing the nation to stand against the naked TPLF aggression. You are leading an exemplary movement the type of which is rarely known in the annals of national liberation struggles. Your arsenal against TPLF is your firm unity. Maintain your extraordinary unity. Be vigilant against external and internal enemies who work to erode your unity. Keep up your struggle with ingenuity, tact, and prudence. Above all, elevate the struggle through refining your organizational network and through promoting a potent national leadership that Oromiyaa has been desperately looking for.
- (2) To all independent Oromo political, social, religious, community, academic organizations: We chanted so much about unity for so long. There is no better time to forge unity of purpose than this very moment when our nation is at the most precarious state. We call upon you to find a common ground and work together, stand together against TPLF aggression, and practically help our people who are victims of TPLF war.

We call upon the brotherly peoples of Afar and Ogadenia to remain vigilant against the grant agenda of TPLF- one set out to prolong its rule through pitting one ethnonational group against one another. To undercut the evil motives of TPLF and prevent a further deterioration of the current clashes into an all-out war between our fraternal peoples, it is critically important that the people of Afar and Ogadenian closely work with the Oromo to seek a lasting people-to-people solution to the current TPLF instigated so-called border problem.

We appeal to the international community and governments of nations rendering political and economic supports to TPLF (1) to weigh the unfolding crisis in Oromiyaa and take a measurable stance against the TPLF-led regime in Ethiopia who are perpetrating war crime against the Oromo people; (2) to help prevent the TPLF from further destabilizing the entire region of the Horn of Africa; (3) to hold the TPLF accountable for its crimes against humanity; and (4) to support the struggle of the Oromo people for freedom and justice.

Unity is strength!

Oromiyaa shall be free!

United Liberation Forces Of Oromiyaa(ULFO)