

Announcing the Afar People's Gadile in Ethiopia

Press Release, March 10, 2010.

The *Afar People's Gadile in Ethiopia* would like to draw your attention to the worsening situation of the Afar people in Ethiopia and their suffering under the *Woyane* tyranny. It is a well known fact that the relations between the ruling TPLF and the Afars have never been harmonious. The reason to this has been that the TPLF constantly desired to occupy the Afar region to subjugate the people and control its resources.

When the TPLF started to fight the regime in Addis Ababa in 1970s, it used the Afar region as a hide out and protection. In early 1980s the *Woyane* leaders agreed to take harsh actions on the Afar population, partly to crash local appraisal movements against unjust treatment of TPLF, and partly to demonstrate their strong position in the area by intimidating the local population. Since then, TPLF continued to harass, capture, threaten and imprison innocent civilians to force them to submission.

After the seizure of power in Addis Ababa 1991, the TPLF invaded the Afar region of Dat Bahari, Dubtie, Elwaha, Gawane and Amihbara areas already in September 11, 1991 and killed many civilians. Since then the TPLF deployed huge army in every corner of the Afar region to monitor the daily life of the Afar people. Consequently, the Afar region is ransacked by TPLF forces beyond law and order. Apart from the subjugation and harassment the Afar region is suffering from mismanagement of its resources and corruption, while poverty and social injustice is prevailing in all corner of the community. In contrary the appointed few agents accumulate wealth as majority of the Afar people is starving. The wide spread corruption is not only limited to the *Woyane* agents but also the corruption money lubricates the bureaucratic chain up to highly ranked officials of the *Woyane* Elite. Those elites are using the regional budget to buy villa houses in Addis Ababa. Their irresponsible act and misuse of power is not limited to the regional budget but also stretches to selling out of the food aid and medications to commercial dealers before these reach the needy.

Against this background we started our struggle to fight those who benefit from the misery of the majority of Afar people and our source of inspiration is based on the general discontent of the Afar people. Our main objective is to bring about a democratic and accountable system in the Afar region and further be part of the positive change in the entire country.

After many years of uncoordinated struggles against the *Woyane*, Afar fighting forces are now united to challenge the enemy for good. The decision and determination were cemented in our two consecutive conferences held in November and February respectively. Our forces revised our vision, restructured leadership and operational procedure for better. Hence, we have now endorsed and became known as the **Afar People's Gadile in Ethiopia**.

We call up on all Ethiopians and other democratic forces to support our struggle and remove the *Woyane* tyranny from power in our country!

For further information and support contact us via e-mail: afargadile@yahoo.com