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التحالف الديمقراطي الأرتري

## ERITREAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

Our ref.No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Your ref.No. \_\_\_\_\_

### ERITREAN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE POLITICAL CHARTER

#### Introduction

In their earnest wish of realizing their independence and dignity and to acquire development by marching forward in various pursuits the people of Eritrea waged non-violent and later armed struggle for decades. With the intent of meeting these objectives they made heavy sacrifices and, achieving national independence got a historic victory be recorded. The struggle for independence also took account of creating a free nation and a free society. It was a fact that relying on their national unity reinforced through out their struggle for independence and on the basis of peace, democracy, liberty and social stability the people of Eritrea were prepared to engage themselves in nation building endeavors.

However a dictatorial regime was formed and thus the long journey to freedom, the intensive sacrifices made and the burning ambitions of our people were halted.

This phenomena was sudden and inconceivable revelation to our gallant people because, it was in direct contravention of their aspirations of independence and of their dignity as well. The regime utterly deprived our people of the rights they should benefit from in their independent country .The first disregarded right was the political right of the people to decide peacefully their present and future destiny. Besides, although there is a great need for Eritrea to have peaceful coexistence with its neighbors and with the international community so that it builds itself at present and in the future, our people are under arrest of the dictatorial regime.

In order to monopolize the benefits of the national struggle, the PFDJ regime holding control of political power started banning political forces which, in the struggle to free Eritrea made historic contributions. And violating all human and democratic rights of our people, an absolute dictatorial regime under the supremacy of a dictator was established. When its domestic and foreign policies seemed to endanger the people and the country, questions of rectification and amendment raised even within the ruling regime were thwarted by violent force.

Now, when we look at the image of Eritrea seventeen years after the political independence the following painful facts can clearly be noticed:

- The decline of the sense of national unity.
- Extreme human rights violations for the reason that constitutional institutes and the rule of law are non-existent.
- The economy of the country being squandered in building forces of oppression that safeguard the regime.
- Continuous provocative wars jeopardizing the regional stability and security.
- The people of Eritrea being exposed to migration abandoning the land they shed their blood and died for.
- The noble religious and social heritages being eroded and replaced by corrupt behaviors due to the atrocities and corruption introduced by the dictatorial regime. These and other acts of tyranny are sufficient examples to illustrate the behaviors of this regime.

It is obvious that our people are willing to struggle in order to realize their liberty and dignity, to introduce democratic changes and to implement their ambitions. With the intention to change the cruel circumstances the people endure it is necessary for all the political forces in opposition to the dictatorial regime to join forces under a wide ranging national front. Such comprehensive front, inclusive of all opposition forces, can create a conducive atmosphere to marshal and involve our people in the struggle to shorten the days of dictatorship and thus establish a multi-political parties' democratic system. When, in this manner a democratic Eritrea is instituted, the relations with neighbor countries and with the international community being strong, the foundations for peaceful and reciprocally beneficial neighborly relations can be laid down.

As a result of the efforts put into bringing the Eritrean opposition forces together under one umbrella, the Eritrean Democratic Alliance Unifying Congress, in the witness of various Eritrean civic societies and religions groups represented from all over the world hereby endorse the following political charter:

## **CHAPTRE ONE GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

1. Preserve the national sovereignty, the integrity of the people and the internationally recognized boundaries of Eritrea.
2. Preserve and promote the nationalistic unity cultivated by the heroic national struggle.
3. Believe in equitable sharing of power and resources based upon the principles of democracy, peace and human rights in order to bring about justice and equality among the various sectors of the Eritrean society.
4. Citizenship is the basis for rights and duties. Citizens are equal informant of law.
5. Accept religious, ethnic and cultural diversities. Conform to the universal conventions and declarations in order to implement the basic rights, to respect and realize the diversities.

6. Respect freedoms of faith, thought, speech, mobility, possession of property and all other public and personal freedoms recognized by the universal conventions and declarations, enshrining these rights in the constitution of Eritrea.
7. Observe the religious, political and social rights of all Eritrean communities because religion, culture and nationality are the basic factors on which the identity of the people of Eritrea is built upon and through which they express their common feelings.
8. Eritrean political organizations and parties shall have constitutional protection and liberties to possess political programs they deem fit for Eritrea and bid to agitate and earn the support of the people of Eritrea.
9. Accept that the people are the source of power.
10. Tigrinya and Arabic are the official languages of Eritrea, all languages of Eritrea are equal. The Eritrean nationalities have the right to use and develop their languages.
11. Without any discrimination strive for and abide by a multi-political party democratic system.
12. Accept the principles of peaceful transition of power, freedom of the court and separate the three powers of the legislative, executive and judiciary.
13. Establish constitutionally guaranteed decentralized government.
14. Hand back unlawfully appropriated properties and lands legally and fairly to their owners.
15. Eliminate religious, cultural or ethnic discriminations and all sorts of unfair treatments against women.
16. Adopt a constructive foreign policy based on international and regional peace, cooperation, mutual respect and benefits, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries; conform to international agreements and conventions.

## **CHAPTER TWO OBJECTIVES**

1. Struggle to depose the existing dictatorial regime and establish a multi-poetical parties democratic system in its place.
2. Endeavour to consolidate and guard the unity of the people of Eritrea and to create a mutually peaceful way of life and healthy atmosphere.
3. Introduce the comprehensive concept of EDA, democratic culture, peaceful coexistence and constructive discussions.

## **CHAPTER THREE METHODS OF STRUGGLE**

1. Pursue all viable methods of struggle in ousting the dictatorial EFDJ regime.
2. Launch a campaign and coordinate the sources and energies of the people to make them more successful.
3. Employ principles of dialogue in resolving the differences and conflicts among political organizations

## **CHAPTER FOUR TRANSITIONAL FORUM**

1. Transitional Forum is the period in between deposing or changing the dictatorial PFDJ regime and inaugurating democratically elected government.
2. The Transitional Forum shall call and organize a Congress of National Harmony that forms a transitional parliament and a transitional government

## **CHAPTER FIVE MISCELLANEOUS**

- a. The EDA central leadership shall carry out studies on the transitional forum.
- b. Amending this charter is the sole authority of the EDA National Congress.

**11<sup>th</sup> of May, 2008**

### **Signatory Political Organizations and Parities**

1. The Red Sea Afar Democratic Organizations
2. Eritrean National Salvation Front
3. Eritrean Liberation Front
4. Eritrean Liberation Front -Revolutionary Council
5. Eritrean Popular Democratic Front
6. Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Eritrean Kunama
7. Eritrean People's Movement
8. Eritrean Federal Democratic Movement
9. Islamic Party for Development and Justice
10. Eritrean Democracy Party
11. Eritrean Nahda Party
12. Eritrean Islamic Congress
13. Eritrean Popular Council