



HARARI ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE & EQUALITY

(H.A.J.E)

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H.A.J.E Press release:

The Passing of Elias Taha Sherif

Harari Alliance for Justice and Equality (HAJE)

March 10, 2021

Brief Bio of Elias Taha Sherif...

Elias Taha Sherif, the General Secretary of the Harari opposition political party, Harari Democratic Organization (HDO) also known as HADDID, translated from the Amharic name ሐዲድ (ሐረሪ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ድርጅት) passed away in Addis Ababa on February 28th, 2021, at the age of 59 due to an illness.

Elias Taha was born in Addis Ababa on July 7th, 1961. He was the child of Taha Abdullahi Sherif and Amina Mohamed Mogno.

Elias started his formal modern education at Cathedral School and went to Teferi Makonnen High school in Addis Ababa. After completion of high school, he joined commercial College in Addis Ababa where he graduated with diploma. He later went to the USA to study and attended the Baltimore College. Later, he enrolled at Morgan State University and graduated with Bachelor of Arts degree.

Friends describe Elias as outgoing, social, truthful, athletic and a person who connects with everyone regardless of their social status and political affiliations. He was a friend one can count on. During his youth, he was a passionate basketball player and even coached the youth in the USA and Harar, Ethiopia. His basketball talents led him to play for the Ethiopian National Basketball Team.

In 1990, Elias returned to Ethiopia and joined his family's business. His father was engaged in import and export business. After the EPRDF took power, Elias took off from his family business to help in the formation of the Harari Regional State along other members of HNL (Harari National League). He was one of the founding members of HNL who worked so hard to help establish the regional government. He moved to Harar from Addis Ababa and relentlessly worked to shape the Harari regional government, which was led by Harari National League (HNL). Elias moved to Harar from his comfortable life because of his calling to help the Harari State. The establishment of the Harari government during the initial period was not an easy task. The political environment was volatile and unpredictable. It was a period where the old political arrangement was dismantled and replaced by a new form of government and state formation. It is during this period that Elisa took the risk and scarified his time to serve the people of Harar.



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During his time in Harar, alongside serving as the founding members of Harari National League (HNL), he was also the head of the youth organization of HNL. Because of his personality and ability to connect with people, he was very instrumental to educate and organize the youth to support the new government led by HNL.

As time progressed, Elias noticed the inner circle of some high-level Harari National League (HNL) members conduct and activities as unacceptable; he started to be vocal and openly voice his concern. These individuals did not see him as a person who “fits” within the inner circle of Harari National League (HNL). They started calling him names. Despite name-calling, he remained committed to his work and tried to convince the leaders to serve the people they said they are representing. When all his effort failed to convince the inner circle, Elias abandoned Harari National League (HNL) and returned to Addis Ababa and continued to assume more responsibility in his family business.

Elias always cared for his people. He wanted to contribute towards improving the living condition of the Hararis and build strong institutions that would help to further the Harari state. Despite his disappointment with HNL, due to his commitment and concern for Hararis and Harar, he joined Harari Democratic Organization in 2009. He was later selected to the position of the General Secretary which he held until his passing. Within HADDID, he continued to contribute and work alongside the late Abdi Mohammed Sabri, who was the Chairperson of HADDID, the late Redwan Bedri, a Banker, Dr. Towfik Idris Zeydi M.D and Adil Abdella, Addis Ababa University graduate and businessman and with many other members and supporters of HADDID.

Elias and his colleagues believed the Hararis deserved an organization that would fulfill their aspirations of state, which is free of corruption, injustices, and fair treatment of its citizens. Elias and the leadership of HADDID did not need the job of the leadership for any kind of personal gain. They were very successful professionals who aspired to fulfill the duty of serving Hararis. Despite all political harassment and intrigues to undermine their political party by their opponents, they remained committed towards creating and realizing a just political system and government for people who live in Harar.

While Elias was bedridden, he encouraged his leadership team to continue to fight for the cause until his very last moments. Elias was instrumental in registering HADDID with the newly created election board to participate in the June 2021 Ethiopian national election. His insistence and can-do attitude helped HADDID to present several candidates for this year’s election on the regional and federal level.

Elias Taha was a dedicated public servant who spent his most adult age working to bring about a change dearly needed to the Hararis and the people of Harar.



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Elias is survived by his three children: Omnia, Asia and Dania from his former wife Amura (Kamer) Redwan. He will be sorely missed by all who he has touched and has known him.

May Allah put his mercy upon him and grant him Jental Ferdous.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his children and the rest of his family members, HADDID members, and his friends.

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