



HARARI ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE & EQUALITY

(H.A.J.E)

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From Harari Alliance for Justice and Equality (H.A.J.E)

H.A.J.E's Press Release: **Peaceful negotiation is the solution**

July 23rd, 2021

Ethiopia is at a crossroads once again. The nine months old war that is going in the Tigray region has continued without a peaceful solution in sight. The crisis had added another layer of misery for the people in the region because political problems are never solved through the barrel of a gun. One sure thing that comes as a result of this war is the destitution of the Ethiopian people and the devastating and ugly impact it will have on the economy of the country. There are already real signs of economic stagnation and an increase in the cost of living in Ethiopia which will worsen as the crisis deepens.

Ethiopia is made up of more than eighty nations and nationalities that have lived side by side for more than a century. Even though the relationships among some of the nationalities had their ups and downs during this period, relative calm and mutual understanding was the norm among all other ethnic groups. We are afraid that social balance is going through a period of serious crisis as a result of the war in Tigray. It is imperative that this balance needs to be restored before the wounds the nations have suffered becomes any worse. Cessation of hostilities should be implemented as soon as possible to stop this war in its tracks and a semblance of normality should be restored and nerves have to be calmed down.

Political activists who are fanning this war should think very hard before this crisis gets out of hand. If serious consideration is not given to stop the war, the nation might not heal itself as a result of the war, Ethiopians should come together and speak in one voice that this war needs to stop. The Ethiopian government should put a stop to the mobilization of the people of other regional states to go to war and implement the cease-fire that it has declared a few weeks ago. Mobilizing one ethnic group against another is a sure way of guaranteeing a deep divide and mutual destruction of all and the loss will be catastrophic for everyone. Drubbing the drums of war when emotions run very high and rationality takes a back seat is a sure way to destroy the fabric of the nation.

The second phase of the conflict in Tigray is centered mainly around land disputes between Tigray and Amhara Regional States. Northern territories that were once part of Tigray during the last government of Ethiopia and disputed by the neighboring state of Amhara were forcefully taken by the latter during the beginning of the recent war. There is a clearly written article to resolve such land disputes among states in the Ethiopian Constitution. Article 48 stipulates that “ ... all state border disputes shall be settled by agreement of the concerned States. Where the concerned States fail to reach an agreement, the House of the Federation shall decide such disputes on the basis of settlement patterns and the wishes of the peoples concerned.” And that “ ... the House of Federation shall, within a period of two years, render a final decision on a dispute submitted to it pursuant to sub-Article 1.” So far, it is evident that no such procedures have been followed by the Amhara Regional State which forcefully confiscated its neighbor’s territory.



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info@hararialliance.com



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Hararis working together towards a common goal!



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The Ethiopian government should play a constructive role in this conflict to end the war and bring the matter to the House of Federation to resolve the issue between the two states. Even though the federal government has other issues with the regional government in Tigray to start a full-scale war that has been a concern to the horn of Africa and the international community, there are certainly other alternatives to waging war and being responsible for the resulting loss of lives and property. Ethiopia should have learned an unforgettable lesson from the manner in which the Eritrean crisis was handled during the military rule of Mengistu Haile Mariam. Careful consideration should be given to all matters in resolving the Tigray crisis before events get out of control and alternatives become non-existent.

The Harari Alliance for Justice Equality (HAJE) strongly encourages the Ethiopian government to stop this war of choice and find a peaceful and just solution before time runs out. Trying to resolve the crisis by conducting war and squandering life and wealth is not the right course of action for a county that is struggling to make life better for its population. It is our hope that the federal government will have the wisdom to see what is in the best interest of the nation and resolve this crisis for the mutual satisfaction of all. We wish peace for all the people of Ethiopia.

The Harari Alliance for Justice and Equality (H.A.J.E)



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