

## **Urgent Message from United Sidama Parties for Justice and Freedom (USPJF) to all Sidamas living in Sidama-land as Well as in the Diaspora**

We, the Sidama people, have never gone beyond our boundaries to cause trouble to anyone. We have lived with our neighbors peacefully and harmoniously for centuries. However, others have arrived at our door-step time and time again and tried to subdue the will of our people. Starting from Minelik II, who invaded Sidama-land with help of aid weapons acquired from Europe and forcefully annexed into the larger empire of Ethiopia, to TPLF's decayed and fading regime, our people have endured socio-cultural, economic and political repressions. However, there was no time that Sidama people bowed and accepted injustices on its own soil. Among the repressors, Sidama people found that the TPLF/EPRDF regime is by far worse off its predecessors.

The regime appoints "yes-men" that are intellectually and morally incompetent to govern, but good enough to serve the will of the regime. Many Sidamas who were unable to lead normal life in the environment which increasingly turned hostile to them opted to leave overseas. The regime has also been driving a wedge to destroy the very fabric of our nation and accomplish their divide and rule motto. They have wiped out every legitimate institution in Sidama-land and diverted resources to localities of their own. They have been orchestrating conflicts between Sidamas and neighboring people hoping such hysteria and death of innocents might help them hold onto power indefinitely. They committed worst crime ever in the history of Sidama by carrying out genocide with heart breaking cruelty. The magnitude of their brutality is beyond imagination.

Today, situations in sidama have gotten worse. The regime has intensified human rights violations by conducting mass arrest and abduction of innocent sidama civilians. This move by TPLF regime is meant to crackdown nationwide demand that Sidama people have been persistently requesting for several years i.e. the constitutional right of self administration that nominally granted to others. However, the magnitude of regime's evil deeds in response to peaceful constitutional request of the people has reached beyond endurance of Sidama people.

Moreover, some irresponsible individuals and groups are trying to dishonor and deflect noble cause that our people have been paying huge sacrifices. They must be ashamed of their deceitfulness and seeking short cut to power to start another episode of oppressive regime.

Thus, at this critical juncture, no one can stand idly by while the regime and its collaborators conspire to destroy our land and subjugate our people indefinitely. No one expects huge favor from corrupt criminals to give up their positions freely

overnight either. But we must press hard until our legitimate democratic rights are restored and our people enjoy freedom they deserve. Bellow are actions that all Sidama people living in Sidama-land as well as in the Diaspora must put into place immediately:

1. The regime has advantage of controlling and using main media outlets to mislead our people about their motives and actions. However, we recall the power of social media during past few years that obliterated the foundations of oppressive regimes. Therefore, we must intensify the use of social media like Facebook, YouTube, Pal talk forums, Blog sites, Email messages, Skype and telephone communications. Where those technologies are not available, especially in rural areas of Sidama, it is our obligation to use word of mouth to disseminate and share information.
2. Expose and report any human rights abuses you might find, share this with others using available social Medias, contact international communities and human rights organizations you find closer to your location.
3. It is our moral and historic mandate to stand by the people who are shouldering more burdens. So, pay a visit to imprisoned and support their family, report their status, offer moral and financial support to underprivileged ones by the regime merely for speaking up against injustice.
4. Wicked people and mercenaries are actively operating in our streets trying to legitimize motives of the regime. We should bring them to the attention of public so that they get justice they deserve.
5. We cannot afford to ignore external elements that distract and misinform the central message of our struggle using various Medias. So, we should fight them where ever they appear. Only we determine our own destiny.
6. Finally, we urge individuals who collaborate with criminals to harm our people, to change allegiance urgently and join noble cause that our people have been fighting for, knowing that the time for justice is at hand.

**Victory to our people!!**  
**USPFJ, August 2012**