

## **Press Release of the Union of Tigrayans in Edmonton (Canada) and its environs**

October 2016

- ◆ We the Tigrayan Ethiopians in Edmonton and surroundings have been carefully observing the current political unrest in Ethiopia. Among others, we were shocked that thousands of Tigrayans were mob- lynched and massacred; their properties were ransacked and torched. We condemn in strongest terms the mob-lynching crimes of the extremists in Amhara region against our compatriots in their own country. We demand those criminals to come to justice.
- ◆ We learnt that more than 8,000 of families, including mothers and their children, were forced to escape to neighboring North Sudan and then to the Tigray Regional State. We resent that the Amhara and Tigrayan regional governments were very callous to find out proactive solution for the ominous signs in the Mettema area and its environs as early as November 2015 or at the latest by April 2016. A prompt political decision and swift action could have prevented its escalation into Gonder and Gojjam tragedies that precipitated gross toll of lives and insecurity to drag the country's development.
- ◆ In contrast to the vacillations of their respective governments, we admire the people of Tigray and Amhara for their patience, farsightedness, and perseverance to manage the unfortunate crisis with sensitivity and compassion by comforting the internally displaced compatriots from the begging of their desperate journey until their destination. We urge the two regional governments to redress outstanding issues and act urgently to prevent any future crisis thereby facilitating the post conflict reconciliation/ healing process.
- ◆ We commend the Benishangul Regional government and the North Sudanese Government and the generous people of that country (North Sudan) for facilitating the escapees' transit to Tigray by providing transportation.
- ◆ We are proud of the symbolic gestures of the peoples and governments of the Somali, Afar, Diredawa, and Harrari Regional States for their generous financial donations in support of the internally displaced Tigrayans; and for their unwavering stand with the people of Tigray.
- ◆ We deplore the latest tragic losses of Ethiopians attending the Pan-Oromo Errecha cultural ceremony at Bishftu and urge the government to bring perpetrators to justice.
- ◆ We urge all Ethiopian regional governments to learn from the current crises, firmly uphold the constitution and empower Ethiopians to enjoy all their social, economic, and political freedoms in their respective administrative territories without any act of marginalization.
- ◆ We call upon the Ethiopian Federal government to immediately restore peace and stability by engaging the public, hastening reforms and responding to urgent public demands.

- ◆ We will never compromise with Ethiopia's national integrity and sovereignty. Thus, we strongly condemn the wishes of all Ethiopia's historical enemies and their stooges working to incite ethnic violence, undermine national security and hasten its eventual disintegration.
- ◆ Ethiopians are watching! We cannot afford to see another Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen and Somalia in Ethiopia. Thus, we renew our unwavering commitments to work in unison with all peace loving Ethiopians to preserve our country's integrity and image as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century beacon of peace and development in the Horn of Africa.

*Never again is our message!  
Long Live Ethiopia!*

*Union of the Tigrayans in Edmonton and its environs*