

ERITREAN NATIONAL ALLIANCE

POLITICAL CHARTER

Introduction

Today the peoples and the State of Eritrea find themselves exposed to danger under the oppressive and destructive policies of the rule of the dictatorial system.

The dictatorial system to prolong its grip on power, is bent on utilizing all forms of illegal means at its hand. To that end it is fully engaged in machinations tantamount to divide-and- rule strategies. These irresponsible designs obviously, are targeted at obliterating the diversified component upon which the strong bond of our society is based. To meet that objective it is implementing policies geared towards escalating oppressive measures of enslaving the mass. As a consequence of these policies it is dispensing vicious elements of mistrust and suspicion among the subjects, a risky venture eroding centuries-old peaceful co-existence of our society and as such dragging them into oblivion and disintegration. To stimulate its lust for power, the tyranny system is reinforcing its coercive manipulations to the extent of scraping off the traditional and cultural heritages which has kept our people together in peace and harmony.

The one-man dictatorial system is consistently spreading and enacting its harsh policies throughout the land in order to suppress the rightful claims of human rights and democracy of our peoples. Flagrantly refuting genuine and progressive opinions of the public in general and the opposing forces in particular the system has resorted to unprecedented institutional form of terror --- abduction --- killings --- so that the whole society would shiver and tremble under the appalling reign of PFDJ. As a consequence of the disgraceful conditions the country drastically is changing to the extent of being inhabitable to the indigenous peoples and the rest. Citizens are migrating in greater numbers to other countries to save their lives. No choice is left over; other than exposing themselves to a risky condition.

The first and foremost agenda of the dictatorial system's being exclusively targeted was the attainment absolute power through illegal political mass. It doesn't give any heed to economic programs worthy of alleviating the backwardness of the country. It presides over its own impoverishing regime whose ultimate desire is to mastermind and execute all vile and vices of underdevelopment.

Apart from its policies of backwardness and underdevelopment, the system deploys its reckless institutions to exploit, embezzle and disrupt the already decaying economic activities of the unprivileged peoples. In addition, the system, by means of its irresponsible and endless impoverishing policies is forcibly conscripting youth for military service and driving them to war, denying the country the very productive force that could have otherwise significantly contributed to poverty alleviation and hence to economic progress.

The awful policies of the regime have vast economic degeneration and extensive deterioration in human terms --- poverty, migration, social disintegration and terror to prevail in our country.

The system's belligerence is not confined to the above mentioned anti-democratic and anti-human atrocities. It is fomenting instability and conflict in the region as well. Because of its provocative and indulgent nature, the fraternal relations of our peoples and that of neighboring countries have dwindled to the lowest ebb. And has thus disfigured the good image Eritrea. These rouge stance of the system has brought about the isolation of our peoples from the region and has also ensued an impact of a negative legacy of the scare of war in the social-psychology of our peoples. The devastating developments and their trends for certain deserve unparalleled concern and relentless effort to resolve. The system's institutions of tyranny setup to serve as instruments of destruction and disintegration in Eritrea have resulted in chaos and ruin to the extent of risking the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of our country. The ill-conceived sinister designs of the system are endangering the security and stability of the country. They call upon a compelling prime national agenda to reckon with.

During these turbulent crisis in which Eritrea and its peoples are made to endure, the national forces and in the opposition in general are confronted with serious challenges to terminally avert the situation. In order to redeem the peoples and the country from further devastation and in light of the high demand of Tran grassing into a new democratic life: and in view of strengthening the historical duty of salvaging the country, the cardinal issue to ought be geared towards getting rid of the destructive institution of the regime is the. It is therefore, highly necessary that congruent and profound strategies are in to need be adopted. Such strategies should include improvement of the competence of the opposition forces in order to pave the way for their ultimate convergence into a united national opposition force. Organizing a united national force would understandably require implementing all-embracing democratic principles and a resolute commitment so as to bolster the on-going struggle being waged by the opposition forces and by so doing for them to be able to accelerate the downfall of the system.

Therefore:

- Considering our responsibility of safeguarding peace and stability of our country;
- Taking into account of the vast and credible experience our people have undergone throughout the years has to bear fruit;
- Keeping in mind the historic armed struggle commenced under the leadership of the valiant Hamd Idris Awate for independence has to be enhanced at any coast;
- Committed to accomplish our pledge to effect that lofty vision for the sake of ameliorating the livelihood of our destitute peoples;
- Consistently aware of the high significance of laying down the ground where justice and equality could strive and thrive in our country and to heal the wounded dignity of our peoples;

- And with the ultimate objective of establishing a democratic political system, the detrimental need to direct the struggle in order for the system to vanish for good becomes unquestionably unavoidable.

We representatives of political organizations, cooperatives and individuals of the free opposition camp have thus approved the amendments made in this Charter of the Eritrean National Alliance.

The amendments so made are specific to sub-articles three and four of Article one.

AMENDMENTS MADE ON SUB-ARTICLES
3 AND 4 OF ARTICLE 1
OF THE POLITICAL CHARTER

Article 1: Fundamental Principles

1. We shall preserve the unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of our nation that has been achieved by decades of heroic struggle.
2. We shall strive to establish respect for justice and equality at all levels of the Eritrean society.
3. We shall strive to establish the principles of respect for religious freedom, cultural beliefs and universal freedoms pursuant to cultural and national diversities. We shall ensure that Eritrean national and nationalities have the right to self determination founded on the principles of equality and mutual respect.
4. We shall make certain that Moslems have the right to apply Sharia' Law that restricted to their day to day activities. Christians too will have the right to apply their religious beliefs and the right to practice their religious rules regulating their relations.
5. Among the national languages, Tigrinya and Arabic shall be the official languages of Eritrea. The nationalities of Eritrea retain the inalienable right to use and develop their languages.
6. The rules that govern the transfer of power shall be based on the democratic principles of political plurality and majority rule.
7. We shall uphold the principle of decentralization in the formation of the Eritrean state structure.
8. We shall respect and safeguard human rights in Eritrea.
9. We shall endeavor to establish good relations with all the countries of the world in general, and our immediate neighbors in particular, on the basis of peaceful co-existence, mutual respect, and shared interest. We shall, likewise, be governed by respect for international treaties, agreements, and conventions.

Article 2: Our Platform of Struggle Against the Dictatorship of the PFDJ

1. The Eritrean National Alliance is composed of political organizations, political parties, and independent personalities.
2. The Eritrean National Alliance respects the autonomy of member political organizations, and political parties.
3. The Eritrean National Alliance is open to all political organizations, parties, and independent personalities that fulfill its conditions of membership, respect the National Charter, abide by its rules, and uphold its decisions.
4. The Eritrean National Alliance shall dismantle the dictatorship of the PFDJ that is founded on the personality cult of the dictator, and replace it by democratic pluralism, and majority rule.

5. The Eritrean National Alliance shall resort to all established methods of struggle in order to dismantle the dictatorial system of the PFDJ.
6. The Eritrean National Alliance shall elect a leadership organ capable of formulating, and implementing, a plan of action on the basis of the principles delineated in the National Charter.
7. In principle, if not in fact, the Eritrean National Alliance regards the army presently under the control of the dictatorship as, potentially, part of the Eritrean armed forces.

Article 3: Provisional Government

Immediately after the downfall of PFDJ's dictatorial system, the opposition forces of Eritrea shall form a Provisional government that is capable of filling the leadership gap during the interim period.

The tasks of the provisional government shall be:

1. To maintain stability in the country, and ensure that peace prevails everywhere.
2. To set political prisoners free.
3. To write off laws that curtails civil liberties.
4. To mobilize international support on behalf of the victims of the dictatorial system.
5. To intensify our efforts in the international arena, as a complement to our strategy of laying the ground for lasting democratic change.
6. To nationalize the properties of the ruling party and transfer them to the government on behalf of the people.
7. To organize a national conference as a step towards the establishment of a transitional government.

Article 4: The Transitional Stage

The transitional stage has three distinct levels:

a. The Structure of the National Conference

The National Dialogue Conference (NDC) shall be composed of political organizations, parties, civil societies, prominent citizens, independent personalities, spiritual leaders, and regional and community leaders. The aim of the NDC shall be to unify the ideas and actions of the opposition forces against the Eritrean dictatorship.

b. The Tasks of the National Assembly

The National Assembly shall:

1. Develop and ratify the National Charter.
2. Decide the period of the transitional phase.
3. Form a national transitional government composed of representatives of political organizations, parties, civil societies, independent personalities, and spiritual leaders.
4. Establish guidelines for the preparation of a constitution.

c. Tasks of Transitional Government

The Transitional Government shall:

1. Administer the nation on the basis of the rules and regulations formulated by the national assembly.
2. Formulate party and electoral laws.
3. Establish a national electoral organ that shall determine the period of elections.
4. Conduct a national population census.
5. Undertake the task of repatriating Eritrean refugees to their country, and embark upon a program of resettling, rehabilitating, and improving the quality of their lives.
6. Struggle to eradicate the legacy of widespread corrupt practices of the ruling party.

The Fifth Regular Meeting of the Supreme Leadership of the Eritrean National Alliance adopted this improved version of the National Charter.

The National Charter was formalized by the signatures of the heads of the political organizations, parties, and independent individual listed below:

1. Eritrean Liberation Front
2. Eritrean People's Congress
3. Eritrean Islamic Salvation Movement
4. Eritrean Liberation Front-Revolutionary Council
5. People's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Eritrea (SAGEM)
6. Eritrean Revolutionary Democratic Front
7. Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Eritrean Kunama (DMLEK)
8. Eritrean Democratic Opposition Movement (Gash Setit)
9. Eritrean Initiative Association (Jema't Almubadera Al Eritrea)
10. Eritrean National Democratic Front
11. Eritrean Cooperative Party
12. Red sea Afar Democratic Organization
13. Eritrean Liberation Front- National Unity Organization
14. Ato Eyob Ma'asho (Individual)

This document was signed on 22 October 2002

