



## Statement on the situation of Eritrean prisoners of war (POWs) in the hands of the Tigray Defense Forces.

As we commend the peace agreement concluded between the two parties to the conflict in the neighboring country of Ethiopia, we reaffirm our initial position of condemning the use of force to resolve internal conflicts. The Eritrean National Democratic Coalition is deeply concerned about the fate and future of the Eritrean prisoners of war who are victims of this accursed war. The subject of the Eritrean Prisoners of War (POWs), throughout the peace negotiations, did not get enough attention it deserves.

As we appreciate the commendable spirit of understanding between the conflicting parties, we reject the exposure of the Eritrean POWs in the media of Tigray. This kind exposure is considered to be for not in harmony with the spirit of peace first, as well as not being in line with the International and Humanitarian law and the Geneva Convention that Protects the legal rights of prisoners of war. The Conventions do not allow for any reason to interview a prisoner and force him/her to speak against his will. It is likely that the vast majority of the prisoners were forcibly conscripted and thrown into the pyre of war by the regime to temper its arrogant and tyrannical power. In light of these events, the forcible and forcible return of these prisoners constitutes a crime against humanity as well as their universal human rights.

A warm appeal to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Federal Government of Ethiopia to respect their choices and not hand them over to a regime whose record of abuses the whole world knows.

We also call on the Eritrean National forces, on the top of it the Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change, to play their role in defending the rights of the Eritrean POWs, and we call on all international and regional forums to ensure their safety and protect their lives from all looming dangers.

Supreme leadership of the Eritrean National Democratic Coalition

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