



ERITREAN POLITICAL FORCES (EPF)

Eritreans & the World Anticipate False Promises of Change on Eritrean Independence Day, 24th of May 2024

After a bloody three years of war against Tigray, lives of thousands of our beloved sons and daughters lost, engulfing the Amhara, Oromia, and other regions of Ethiopia, followed by the brutal civil war in the past year in the Sudan, and inviting the Russian military to the Red Sea, the authoritarian regime in Eritrea is sending messages of false promises of change to be announced on Eritrean Independence Day, May the 24th, 2024. Eritreans celebrate this day to commemorate the end of a 40-year occupation by Ethiopia through a 30-year armed struggle culminated by a referendum that resulted in 99.83% YES vote for independence allowing Eritrea to join the United Nations in April 1993.

The former Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), now the Peoples' Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) regime ruling Eritrea by decree, remained in power as a provisional government and at war with its neighboring countries for the past 33 years. The Pretoria Peace Agreement signed last year between Tigray and the Federal Government was key to the reduction of hostilities between Eritrea and Tigray, and Tigray vs Amhara. The self-proclaimed president of Eritrea Isayas Afewerki described this agreement as "abortive." His main plan in the November 2020 war against Tigray was to create death and destruction in Tigray, curve its western borders to empower the Amhara, and create a corridor connecting Omhajer of Eritrea to Bahir Dar of Ethiopia. His response to the agreement was to

hold on to the Tigrayan territory he occupied for the past three years, and even incorporate areas like Erobland to Eritrea, thereby forcing its youth to join Sawa military camp for indefinite national service.

Since January 2024, Isayas Afewerki had been sending messages of false hope to the opposition in the diaspora and his followers in Zone 4 (meaning his 2% tax-paying constituents, his supporters overseas) that change is coming. These changes, as rumored by its network of intelligence and social media news, includes the release of prisoners, conducting the PFDJ 4th Congress, electing parliament members, enacting the ratified constitution, conducting local elections, allowing foreign investments, and launching developmental projects. All he needs from the diaspora is human resources capable of administering his economic plan and investors. Such promises proven false all the time in the past three decades are meant to deceive and delay democratic changes and prolong his time in power. To the contrary, Isayas Afewerki is grooming his son to be the successor of his throne—actions manifested by bringing his family to work around the presidential palace and recruiting capable young officers to help in his administration. He is no longer interested in the old guard advisors and generals—who recently are engaged in storytelling like the Abrahaley Kifle interviews on social media to keep the public busy in the history of the past rather than focusing on future changes.

EPF's response to the anticipated phantom change is to prepare the people for the real change by uniting the various civic movements and political organizations and establishing an all-inclusive umbrella. In collaboration with the underground political activists in Eritrea, the established organization would provide transitional leadership and support to the "Blue Wave" movement of the new generation fighting for democracy and justice. EPF appeals to our neighboring countries, international organizations, European, Mid-Eastern government, the United States, Canada, and all peace-loving democratic nations to support our people, and our forthcoming national conference. We appreciate and are grateful for the support of the law enforcement agencies managing anti-government of Eritrea rallies in European cities. But we still call for the understanding of the youth from Eritrea's suffering from Post Traumatic Stress

Disorder due to abuses of long war and imprisonment in Eritrea without getting any proper medical treatment. Our diaspora young peoples' uprisings, causing damages to property and injury to some law enforcement personnel, are unfortunate and regrettable. On behalf of our organizations and the people, we thank the law enforcement agencies tackling the violent aspect of our demonstrations in cities of democratic nations. We hope Eritrea will soon be able to live in peace and harmony.

Victory to the people of Eritrea

Grace to the people and governments supporting our cause.

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