

April 22, 2006

**TO The General Secretary and Executive Committee of EDA/KIDAN**

Dear Sir,

This is to kindly inform you and through you to EDA/KIDAN that Development Services International (DSI) and Hadish-Tesfa Network in cooperation with some other partners are organizing a series of conferences on **EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, RULE OF LAW, DEMOCRACY AND PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA: WITH SPECIAL FOCUS ON ERITREA** to be held in Amsterdam on **June 10-11, 2006.**

The June 10 2006, themes and main Agendas include the following:

- 1 Empowering Civil Societies and Diasporas in the Horn of Africa (i.e. the role of Civil Society in promoting democracy, respect for human rights and rule of law as well as peace and Reconciliation)
- 2 The relations between Civil Societies and Political Organizations and the mass media in realizing there commonly shared objectives
- 3 Questions of lasting peace, security and stability in the Ethio-Eritrean conflict: A Regional Approach to Peace and Stability in The Horn

Day two will focus on ways and means of consolidating the camp of the Eritrean democratic opposition. The medium of communication for Day one will be English but Day two will be in Tigrigna.

As one of the main Umbrella political organizations, we believe that there is a need to invite one key speaker that represent EDA/KIDAN for our first conference.

In view of the above, we kindly and urgently invite the leadership of EDA/KIDAN to nominate/designate one speaker who can competently answer on all issues that relate to EDA/KIDAN in our conference.

In addition to the Representative of EDA/KIDAN and other speakers from outside EDA/KIDAN, we intend to invite and assemble from the following Eritrean groups:

- a) Representatives of Eritrean Civil Society Groups in The Netherlands
- b) Representative of European Civil society organizations in the rest of Europe
- c) Representatives of Eritrean human rights groups and activists
- d) Representatives of Eritrean journalists and independent media in exile
- e) Representatives of Eritrean women organizations
- f) Some Eritrean scholars and intellectuals who have written on Eritrea and Ethio-Eritrean conflict
- g) Representative of some Ethiopians committed for peace and reconciliation efforts
- h) Some experts in the area of conflict studies on the Horn of Africa
- i) Some representatives of Eritrean 50 Plus elders

- j) Some representatives of Eritrean religious and cultural groups
- k) Other concerned Eritreans and experts in the Ethio-Eritrean conflict

One of the principal aims and objectives of the series of Conferences is, among others, to find ways and means of strengthening and consolidating the forces of democratic change that include Eritrean Opposition groups (within and outside EDA/KIDAN), civil societies, the media outlets and Eritreans in Diaspora. A detailed program will be forwarded very soon.

In the mean time, however, we are writing this urgent email to Eritrean Democratic Alliance/KIDAN via one member of ELF-NC that is also one member of EDA/KIDAN to ensure that the content of this invitation reaches the right Officials of the EDA/KIDAN as soon as possible.

We like also to assure all concerned that the organizers of the Conference will take care the minimum expenses for round trip ticket from EDA/KIDAN's Office to Amsterdam and vice versa as well as to take care for his accommodation for the duration of the conference. Unless otherwise agreed in writing or by email to buy the air ticket by us from this side of the world, the speaker representing EDA/KIDAN will be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts on arrival at the Conference.

Once we get the name of the specific person authorized to represent EDA/KIDAN at our June 10-11, conference, we are more than happy to also write an official letter of Invitation that would help the speaker to get a VISA from the Royal Netherlands Embassy or other competent authorities, if need be.

To do this, however, we need to get as soon as possible the name of the authorized and designated Official of EDA/KIDAN and all other personal information as shown in his Passport.

Looking forward for your kind and prompt response.

With kind regards

Fisseha-Tsion Menghistu (LL.B LL.M Ph.D.)  
Chief Co-coordinator, Organizing Committee

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