

**Amsterdam May 25, 2006**

**Dear Members of the Executive Committee of EDA  
Khartoum, Sudan**

**Dear Sirs,**

**It has come to our attention via the email of Mr. Ahmad Mohamed Nasser that 7<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting of the Executive Committee of EDA has decided not to participate at the June 10-11<sup>th</sup> Conference despite earlier communication.**

**It is important to stress that we received the email about the decision of the EDA after we have sent to Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Nasser's booking reservation regarding his flight from Khartoum Amsterdam-Khartoum. We find the decision very disappointing and very regrettable. EDA should have been prepared to use every opportunity to galvanize support as well as face its critics in public and should be prepared to discuss on any issue. That should have been a sign of strength and confidence for EDA.**

**In our view, the EDA has lost a very historic opportunity to send its representative and to explain and articulate to the participants and the Eritrean people in Diaspora about its aims and objectives, its weaknesses and strengths as well as its plans. This should have been an effective forum to win the hearts and minds of our people.**

**But it appears that EDA as an umbrella organization has decided not to do that for reasons that we find it difficult to understand and accept. This is deeply regrettable and could have many negative consequences and ramifications on the state of the Eritrean opposition. Certainly it could have the effect of alienating your actual supporters and potential friends. Is it not possible for EDA to seat in one table with any one with whom it has differences of opinion and with individuals and groups who have been members and even leaders of EDA? Don't we need reconciliation? Who is going to reconcile whom any? Do we have to reconcile only if foreign governments and interest groups want us to reconcile? Are we not capable of reconciling with each other in the interest of our people?**

**The coordinating committee very much regrets about the decision of the EDA not to be represented at our unique and historic conference. EDA should have been very keen to even push for as many conferences as possible because we sincerely believe it is in the long-term interest of EDA. It is also in its interest to participate in such democratic forums and conferences. The only way the Eritrean opposition groups can be relevant and effective is through peace and reconciliation efforts as well as narrowing differences, if any, through civilized dialogue between the members of EDA on one hand and that between EDA and its members and the various groups outside it on the other.**

**What we have tried to do is create an independent Eritrean Dialogue forum and climate through which some leaders and groups of the Eritrean opposition, civil societies, scholars and intellectuals and the general public at large within and outside EDA can in a civilized and dignified manner try to resolve and narrow their differences and put the**

interest of our people first and not to be influenced by some of those who do not want the EDA to be strong, credible and effective alternative to the dictatorship in Asmara. It should have been much wiser and farsighted on the part of EDA to be represented.

If EDA is not represented at our conference, it can only be a serious set back for peace and reconciliation within and outside the EDA as well as for the unity of the camp of the Eritrean opposition and a victory for the dictatorship in Asmara. We do not believe that this is not what EDA wants.

We would also like to stress that we are only responsible and accountable for what we say and write rather than how others miss interpret our motive and intentions.

On our part, we guarantee about the independence, fairness and democratic process of the conference. The EDA should have given its representative an opportunity to witness the process. It should have been better if EDA had made such kinds of comments later after the conference than prior to it. Prejudging the conference in advance is neither right nor proper. In order to see one has to be physically present and participate. Only then would the comments have been right and fair.

In view of the above, we respectfully request and appeal to the Executive Committee to call an extra ordinary meeting to review our plea and let us know its final decision before Monday May 29,2006. This is because we need to re-arrange matters as soon as possible and before it is too late.

Looking for your kind but also URGENT response on the matter.

Respectfully yours,

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NB: Our apologies in forwarding you an English response to your letter. It is purely a matter of practical convenience. Moreover, since we have also hurriedly written our response, and as soon as we have received the letter, we would like to express our apology in advance for any mistakes, errors and the use of words that may not seem appropriate or unjustified, if any. Please see it in a positive and constructive light.