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FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION NO 26-3927590

Open Letter # 2 to the Eritrean Democratic Alliance

July 19, 2010

To Mr. Tewelde Ghebresselae,
Chairman of Eritrean Democratic Alliance,

Dear Chairman Tewelde,

Eritrean Global Solidarity takes the opportunity of the convening of the Central Leadership of Eritrean Democratic Council to convey through an open letter its good wishes for your highly anticipated meeting and deeply felt concerns- on issues that are common to all of us struggling, in various capacity, to bring an end to the absence of the Rule of law, Justice, Democracy and Human Rights in Eritrea- in an open and transparent manner.

It is our hope and wish this letter will be shared with all member organizations of EDA and the public at large.

It will be an understatement to say that we have been anxiously observing the overall acrimonious political ambiance that seems to be swirling around the EDA umbrella due to the disunity around the issue of the National Conference for Democratic Change (NCDC). We did make an honest effort by posting our first Open letter on June 10, 2010. Once again we are sending another letter as part of our civic duty.

The full weight of our first open letter is the very foundation of our second letter. We still abide by our first letter's fundamental message: How possible can it be for EDA to conduct a very successful NCDC when the all organizations under its umbrella are not even participating? This vexing question has become more pronounced and central as the designated day of the convening of the NCDC gets closer.

We feel EDA still has time to address few serious concerns to mitigate the possibility of an unnecessary misstep and avert a historic failure that will have far reaching consequences: Appreciate and take into serious account the honest effort, by various Eritrean civic minded individual activists as well as organizations, to positively facilitate a better understanding and resolution of the public division within EDA. An ounce of positive input by concerned Eritreans will always outweigh the well-meaning generosity of non-Eritreans. It is a matter of being a stakeholder. Any positive effort by stakeholders must be encouraged and welcomed by EDA leadership.

The decision by NCDC to go ahead with the conference in spite of the open differences within EDA on the process of the NCDC only deepen and sharpen the difference within EDA. It will also scale down the positive contribution and impact of EDA when compared with its

full potential. We were hoping for the leadership of EDA to take our concern serious enough to find ways to delay the meeting so that a much positive environment and a strong unity could be forged inside EDA and outside of EDA on this subject. For the public record we are obligated to re-express and underline our deeply felt concern on this subject.

The conference will still be basically a conference of those organized under a political and a civil agenda. The participation of the Diaspora Eritrean community at large is way below what it should be. It is almost negligible. With a better way and means, with reasonable time, it would have been possible to inform and mobilize the vast community to directly participate and choose its grass root representatives for the conference. This was not done. A two years project was first delayed and then expedited and accelerated without due consideration to the hard work that will be needed to market the NCDC to the Diaspora. In North America to the best of our record the individuals who attended the NCDC organizing committee meetings in various cities (5 cities) were primarily activists - civil and political. More importantly the total number was never more than 250. The vast majority is not affiliated with this process. This data does not support an overflow of support for the conference. It merely underscores that much more work was left undone.

We feel the regional venues could have been utilized as a consensus building forums where by differences could have been sorted out with the direct participation of the Diaspora community and the summation and suggestions of the discussions properly channeled to the NCDC. We do not believe this was done.

We do not have a clear and transparent definition of the role of the sponsoring nations in the NCDC process. While the generosity and help of the neighboring countries is appreciated the level of influence they exert on the process has to be kept to the bare minimum. The NCDC in content and form, first and foremost, is and has to be an Eritrean ventures. Fail or succeed we must shoulder the responsibility. There is still a need for a detail explanation as to the exact role of the sponsoring nations.

We forward these concerns to your attention as an extension of our civil duty: nothing less nothing more. We hope your leadership conference will produce positive decision that will reverse the differences within your organization and create a better climate whereby future activities will be managed in a unified way.

Looking forward to hear from you,
Sincerely,
Seyoum Tesfaye
Chairman of Eritrean Global Solidarity