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National Council of Eritrean Americans East

Fellow Eritrean participants
Dear Ethiopian participants
Dear Friends of Eritrea and Ethiopia,

This is a historic day. For the first time, and in these numbers, we Eritreans and Ethiopians together are raising our voices, in defense of our countries and in assertion of our peace and friendship, which is an integral part of a cooperative Horn of Africa, with Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Djibouti.

We are gathered today to express our deep dismay at the injustice that's being perpetrated by the Biden Administration on the Eritrean and Ethiopian peoples, at the lies and fabrications they are spreading, at the ill-considered measures they are pursuing.

The TPLF plunged Tigray into war with the aim of overthrowing the government of Ethiopia as well as the Eritrean government. Ethiopia has the right and duty to defend its territory and legal order. Yet, the US refuses to unequivocally acknowledge the TPLF's culpability and deliberately sweeps its crimes under the rug. Inexplicably, the US government blames Ethiopia, scapegoats Eritrea and seeks to pressure and intimidate both countries. And Ethiopia is supposed to be America's strongest regional ally. We deplore this harmful travesty.

Our message to the US administration is short and simple. Please, hands off. We are capable of running our own affairs. You cannot be more concerned about ourselves than us. Truth be told, the measures you are taking are not intended to help us. Remember, we, Eritrea and Ethiopia, made peace ourselves. Why are you trying to drive a wedge between us? Why are you fanning conflict between Ethiopia and Sudan? Why are you so opposed to Horn of Africa Cooperation? Wouldn't it better serve your interests to work with peaceful and friendly-with-each-other Ethiopia and Eritreans well as a peaceful, stable, cooperative Horn of Africa? Apparently not. Your preference for control and domination trump the benefits of advancing mutual, long-term interests. No wonder the US is losing ground in Africa.

A final reminder is in order. Successive US administrations supported the TPLF, turned a blind eye to its wars and crimes, at the expense of the people of Tigray, of the whole of Ethiopia, at the expense of Eritrea and Somalia. If that was a grave mistake even then, what can we make of current US efforts to save and bring back the defunct TPLF, unless the intention is to prolong the conflict and suffering?

Finally a word to us- Eritreans, Ethiopians, Horn of Africans, in the US, many of us citizens.

Our numbers are significant. Our political, organizational, economic, social and cultural capabilities multiply our numbers manifold. Let's unleash our potential. We will make valuable contribution to our nations, our region. Our voices and interests will be difficult to ignore in the United States.

Eritrea Prevails!
Ethiopia Prevails!
The Horn Prevails!

The National Council of Eritrean Americans -East (NCEA-East)
DMV (Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia)
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