20 January 2015
Mr Araga Hailu Tefera
Ambassador, Ethiopian Embassy
Canberra

Dear Ambassador,
This is in reference to telephone conversation and written request made by Ethiopian Embassy in Canberra, Australia to meet with Oromo diaspora by high level of delegate from Oromia Regional State led by Vice President. Thank you for your invitation. As Oromo Community in Western Australia, we held a series of meeting and discussion about your request and made the following official statement to your request. We would like to inform you that we are not only unable to participate in any formal or informal discussion or dialog with the current Ethiopian Government body or it's representative, but also we strongly and firmly oppose such gathering in its any form due to the following reasons:

1. The current Ethiopia Government is the regime that dehumanized the Oromo public: marginalized the Oromo people politically, economically, and socially. The 40+ millions of Oromo people in the empire have little or no meaningful voice or genuine political role in the current Tigre dominated Ethiopian Government. Oromo people are rather subjected to systematic and constitutionalized political, social, economic, and cultural injustices.

2. Ethiopia is ruled by self-appointed authoritarian regime known as repressive, famous jailor, torturer that shattered the live of millions of Oromo people. It violates the basic human rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly.

3. The current Tigre dominated Government has huge human right violation in its file and ranks. Its authorities are corrupted criminals by the standard and should be brought to justice for heinous crimes they perpetuated against Oromo, Ogadenians and other southern nation and nationalities.

Oromo Community INC Western Australia
4. At the present time this Government is holding 10th of thousands of Oromo political prisoners in its notorious Maikelawi and many other Government detention centers without due legal process.

5. The Ethiopian Government has been displacing millions of Oromo farmers from their land in the name of master plan and development; threatening to displace millions more from their ancestral land. Violence, threat, torture, intimidation, and forced relocation is the hallmark of this Government

6. We have not even observed one-year anniversary of 2014 bloody crackdown on Oromo university student’s peaceful rallies. The images of those perished innocent kids whose lives and dreams cut short are still in our memory. The tears of those who lost their kids have not dry yet. We have not morn and cried enough the loss of our brilliant Oromo generation. We still observe and notice the ongoing arbitrary mafia style killing, arrest, torture, beating, and other form of mistreatment of Oromo citizen including politicians, elders, students, professionals, journalists, teachers, farmers, and business owners at the hand of Ethiopian security forces. The violent and brutal policies this Government is pursuing left many of us with deep and painful memories. Simply there is genocide in the making in Oromia today.

7. This Government has lack of interest in the peace and stability of the region. In many occasions, it instigated conflict among the people who lived side by side for many generations, especially targeting the Oromos. The recent conflicts between the Oromo and Ogaden people in Eastern Hararghe and Bale regions are classic examples of such criminal acts of this government. We believe that the Government is intentionally stirring up conflicts in order to prolong its political life by divert attention from its criminal activities.

8. This Government violated its own constitution that stipulated to give the nation and nationalities of the empire freedom to exercise of their right to self-determination. Please find the following phrases taken out of article 39 of the Ethiopian constitutions.
"Determined to build by the exercise of our right to self-determination, for ourselves and of our own free will, a single political community which is based on our common consent and the rule of law so as to ensure lasting peace, an irreversible and thriving democracy and an accelerated economic and social development for our country Ethiopia;

Strongly convinced of the necessity of respect for the fundamental rights of individuals and of the nations and nationalities as well as the even development of the various cultures and religions for the attainment of these objectives;

Convinced that we, the nations, nationalities and people, with our own individual and admirable culture, territories and modes of life have, by virtue of the fact that our country Ethiopia has been and still is our common home in which we have formed a common bond of relationships in various fields and in varying degrees, developed a common interest and outlook;

Recognising that our common destiny needs to be based upon the rectification of historically distorted relationships and promoting common interests;"

9. Many of us that reside and live in this and many other foreign countries are torture survivals of this regime. We fled our beloved country because of the action of this regime including some members of the current delegates dispatched from Finfinne. The physical and psychological pain and agony inflicted on us is not just a memory of the past but is long lasting deep pain that we wouldn’t forget forever. A great deal of Oromo people is still fleeing the country. Some of them are still chased by Ethiopian security agent even in the foreign countries.

10. As long as there are injustices there are also resistances. Our resistance will continue in many forms until we attain and regain those rights taken away from us by force. This Government defies any peaceful resolution to the ongoing political crises in empire Ethiopia. It decided to rule this fragile country with iron fist for the last two decades; it doesn’t look like it is willing to relinquish the power with peaceful means. Therefore, we hold this Government and its authorities responsible for any large-scale conflict, death, property destruction, and political instability that may sweep the horn of Africa.
We the Oromo community in Western Australia demands that the current Ethiopian regime immediate cessation of hostility against Oromo people. We demand that Government stops its lip service campaign in the election year; release all political prisoners without any precondition, respect the basic human right of freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and expression. We also demand that the Government stop displacing Oromo people from its ancestral lands. We speak loud and clear that the Government cease the power immediately and allow opposition political parties to operate in the country freely. We also demand that the Government respect its article 39 constitution and allow the nation and nationalities in the empire of self-determination including cessation or union at will. Then only we believe that the door of dialog and discussion with this Government be open. Finally, we would like to point out that any individual or/and group of individuals who may take part in such meeting do not represent the Oromo Community in Western Australia, what so ever.

Sincerely,

Oromo Community in Western Australia

cc
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Australia
WA Police Commissioner
Oromo Communities in Australia
Oromo Communities around the world