

Demonstration is the Festival of the Oppressed!

Feb 27, 2010

By The International Taskforce on Eritrea

The International Taskforce on Eritrea declared its existence in early January, 2010. The ITFE was created primarily as active opposition to the unjust and illegal sanctions imposed on Eritrea by the UNSC, to demand their cancellation and to mobilise international public opinion. In other words, the ITFE's raison d'être is to pave the way for the eventual annulment of these sanctions.

Some of the working tools with which the ITFE seeks to accomplish its stated mission objectives are letter writing to societal movers and shakers, posting informative and researched articles on the Internet, arranging public demonstrations, and by organising an international conference and hearing on Eritrea, during which experts in international law, historians, political scientists and others engaged in conflict mediation and resolution shall be invited to discuss fully the UNSC sanctions against Eritrea.

It is one of the top priorities of the ITFE to bring the issue of the unlawful sanctions against Eritrea and its people to the attention of international opinion makers in the West, and in so doing create an awareness of how the UNSC is violating its own charter in order to punish countries that refuse to accept the aggressive foreign policy of the US Government.

The Call to Make Demonstrations

With the above stated objectives to achieve, as soon as the International Taskforce on Eritrea declared its existence, it called on all patriotic Eritreans throughout the western world to organise a peaceful demonstration against Resolution 1907, which is based on lies and deceit, and condemn and call for its immediate repeal.

Eritreans throughout the world responded very quickly to the call and began to make preparations to organise worldwide, simultaneous demonstrations against the US Government-instigated sanctions. Indeed, four huge demonstrations, previously unseen in

the history of demonstrations organised by Africans in Diaspora, took place in Geneva, Washington D.C. and Canberra, Australia and San Francisco.

According to one of the committee members who organised the Geneva demonstration, in Geneva alone between 9 and 10,000 Eritreans and friends of the Eritrean people actively participated in the huge demonstration. This claim was also confirmed by a correspondent of the Washington-based Tigrinya program, Voice of America (VOA).

Similarly, the gathering in Washington D.C. was also reported from the spot by another VOA correspondent, who highlighted that he had never seen such a huge and superbly organised demonstration by Eritreans, all of whom had come of their own free will from various cities in the US. The said correspondent also pointed out that the demonstration was so vast that while standing at the starting point, he could not see its endpoint.

In each of these rallies, demands and petitions bearing the names of hundreds of thousands



of signatures in each case were handed over to the United Nations representative in Geneva, US Government officials in Washington and San



Francisco as well as to government officials in the Australian city of Canberra. In all three continents, the demonstrations were very successful and ended very peacefully.



Monday, February 22, 2010 will thus be remembered in the history of independent Eritrea as the day on which thousands of cheerful and determined Eritreans in Diaspora throughout the world came together with their comrades from Ethiopia, the Sudan, Djibouti and Somalia to condemn in unison these sanctions.

Indeed, Monday was a shining day and will be remembered in the history books as a great festival of the oppressed people of the Horn of Africa. Monday was indeed the day on which the friends of the people of the Horn of Africa in general – and Eritrea and its people in particular – rejoiced and danced in the streets of four major cities of the world at the festival of the oppressed, while the enemies of the people of the Horn trembled at the sight of a huge gathering of demonstrators chanting and waving banners against the US Government-concocted sanctions.



Without a doubt, this great day, Monday, will inaugurate the highway for the fraternal and inevitably historical solidarity of the people of the Horn of Africa, allowing them to live and lead political lives in support of each other, which shall fulfil their yet unfulfilled aspirations to live in peace and dignity and set in motion the long denied historical growth of the peoples of the Horn of Africa.

Glory to Monday, February 22, 2010!

Long Live the Active Solidarity of the Peoples of the Horn of Africa!

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