

**UNITED LIBERATION  
FORCES OF OROMIYAA**



القوات المتحدة لتحرير اورميا

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**Challenges facing the Oromo Liberation Struggle: *Fragmentation, Vacillation, Distortion, and Vilification***

### **The Way to Overcome Them**

We have been following the recent development in the Oromo liberation camp with great concern. For ULFO, witnessing a continued fragmentation of forces within this camp has been quite agonizing. So much so closely observing the Oromo public with a state of stunning bewilderment about the growing disintegration of the Oromo political forces has profoundly troubled our organization. What we find even more appalling is to see a complete desertion of factionalized Oromo political entity of a sort to the Abyssinian political camp espousing to resurrect the very same Ethiopian political establishment bent on destroying the Oromo nationhood by reversing any political gains secured through the ultimate sacrifice of the dearest sons and daughters of Oromiyaa.

While the cooperation of our forces and coordination of our efforts are defining factors that challenge and ultimately defeat our enemies and help achieve the liberation of the Oromo nation, fragmentation and infighting would demoralize our people, paralyze our struggle, and embolden our foes. It is therefore imperative to discourage forces of polarization and division and promote the spirit of unity among the Oromo liberation forces. To defeat the enemy, re-establish a sovereign and independent state of Oromiyaa, and bring about a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous Oromiyaa, the unity of the liberation forces of Oromiyaa is indispensable. This is the vision and mission on which ULFO has been founded.

ULFO has passed through different phases in its development. The initial phase was to reconcile prior conflicts and bring about understanding among Oromo political forces. The second stage was the formation of ULFO as an umbrella organization. The third and final phase was promoting ULFO to a full-fledged united force with one political program, one organizational structure, and a single leadership.

The culmination of ULFO as a political entity has not crystallized so easily. In its relatively long and trying journey, ULFO has faced various difficulties at various times. For instance, few organizations reneged on solemn oath of commitment to unity, violated the core principles on which ULFO has been framed, and abandoned it leaving a considerable void in the unity of Oromo forces in the liberation camp. However, despite a monumental challenge it encountered in its effort of unification of the Oromo liberation forces, ULFO has not been derailed of its course.

ULFO acknowledges that it has not delivered on what is expected of it due to various constraints and the challenges it has been confronted with, both from within and without.

Nonetheless, it has succeeded in certain aspects very fundamental for the liberation struggle of the people of Oromiyaa:

- Despite various attempts to do away with it, ULFO has persevered.
- ULFO has remained the staunch guard of the objective of the liberation struggle, which is the re-establishment of a Sovereign and Independent State of Oromiyaa.
- ULFO has practically demonstrated that Oromo forces can get their acts together and work for the good of the nation.

Lately, however, we were surprised to see that ULFO couldn't be immune to the epidemics of fragmentation so rampant in Oromo organizations. It required merely two or three individuals barefaced enough to claim ULFO - an organization founded and sustained for years by so many well-meaning, hardworking Oromos, committed to advancing the cause of national liberation.

We find this act of disowning the vast majority of ULFO members and their organization through release of statements with counterfeit logo of ULFO despicable. Pretending as if it was a legitimate body of the organization; only three individuals have launched a statement of defamation or smear campaign against our members with good standing. We are not going to engage ourselves with such a campaign meant to derail us from the track. As the rightful master of their business, the Oromo people are expected to scrutinize, differentiate, evaluate and pass judgment on matters germane to their national interest. Hence, we choose to leave this matter to the Oromo public.

Name-calling, defamation, vilification and malicious propaganda have been a proven tool to silence Oromo nationalists in the past. Our members whose names have been mentioned in one of the bogus statements released are Oromo nationalists with proven track record. They have been serving ULFO from its very inception in various capacities. These are individuals committed to the cause of our people and are determined to do everything in their capacity to enhance the cause; nothing would destruct them much less a defamation engrossed piece of paper.

Finally, we would like the Oromo public to know that ULFO is intact. It remains on course in its struggle to realize its cardinal objective of liberating Oromiyaa. ULFO also continues to be the crystallization point of all Oromo liberation organizations and the hub of Oromo nationalists that bring about a formidable force that can defeat the enemy and attain victory.

Hence, we call upon all Oromo liberation organizations and Oromo nationalists of all walks of life to come together and engage in a constructive discourse that soul searches on how to address the prevailing myriad of internal challenges of fragmentation, guard against embedded pseudo-nationalists, forge understanding, build unity, and solidify a national liberation organization and leadership that warrant the liberation of Oromiyaa.

**Unity is Strength!**

**Oromiyaa Shall Be Free!**