

AFAR FORUM

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RESOLUTION

The AFAR Forum in its meeting of September 11 - 12, 1999 in the city of Stuttgart discussed the current critical political situation and the recent developments in all fields in Afar Region.

Due to the border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea the Afar-Triangle has become a war zone. As the Afars are being recruited for the army by Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Djiboutian governments they are carrying the burnt of the on-going war which has displaced thousands of people and worsened the situation of refugees in all adjacent border areas. The draught and famine has exacerbated the situation further decimating the livestock, which are not only dwindling from day to day but are being expropriated from them by the regime to feed the army in the war front thus robbing them from the mainstay of their livelihood. The appropriation of 30% of the Afar region's budget in the name of the war effort by the government has made any economic development in the region unthinkable.

The war waged by armed Issa militias against Afars in Awash region is not only driving the Afars away from their traditional grassland but also is taking its toll in human lives every day.

It was under such fateful situation of our people that the AFAR FORUM having deliberated on the situation in the region on general and the Afar situation in particular has passed the following resolutions:

GENERAL

AFAR FORUM:

CALLS on all Afars to double their efforts stop the above-mentioned deteriorating situation in Afarland.

CALLS on all Afar political organizations to coordinate their efforts to alleviate this deplorable situation.

ETHIOPIA

DEMAND that the EPRDF regime recognize the Afars right to exercise fully and without any suzerainty of tribal Tigre minority regime their constitutional right to govern themselves by themselves.

DEMAND that the Tigre minority regime stop interfering in Afar region's internal affairs.

DEMAND that the government doubles its efforts to alleviate the misery of famine as well as the situation of the war displaced refugees.

DEMAND that the Ethiopian government return back immediately to the Afars their land taken under the guise of state farm.

DEMAND the EPRDF government release all Afar political prisoners immediately.

DJIBOUTI

DEMAND that the Djiboutian government stop the war against the Afar people and open a dialogue with the FRUD front to find a peaceful solution to the problem of democratic representation in Djibouti.

DEMAND that Djiboutian government release all the political prisoners imprisoned on the account of their political convictions.

ERITREA

DEMAND that the Eritrean government stop violating human rights of Afars in the Afar Red Sea Region.

DEMAND that the Eritrean government stop the forcefull recruitment of the Afars.

DEMAND that it release all political prisoners in Assab.

The AFAR FORUM

