

Oromo Advocacy and Human Rights Groups Statement on Announced Peace Negotiations between the Ethiopian Government and the Oromo Liberation Army

We, a coalition of Oromo advocacy and human rights organizations based in the United States, Canada and Europe with knowledge, lived experiences, and expertise in Ethiopian affairs, have called for inclusive ceasefire negotiations and substantive inclusive dialogue in the presence of international neutral observers since [August 18, 2021](#). We welcome the [public announcement](#) – made by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on Sunday April 23, confirmed later the same day in a [Press Release](#) issued by the Oromo Liberation Army – that both parties have agreed to meet in the presence of a mutually agreed neutral observer in the country of Tanzania to conduct “peace negotiations.”

We call upon all countries, international organizations, faith-based, humanitarian and justice groups and other stakeholders with an interest in peace and stability in the Horn of Africa to support the following:

- Inclusion of representatives of Oromo from all corners of Ethiopia into these initial negotiations;
- Release of all Oromo political prisoners without delay or precondition;
- An immediate ceasefire and end to all hostilities throughout Oromia and Oromo Special Zone.

We recommend that the negotiations lead to:

- Arrangements for an inclusive country-wide dialogue to implement a transition to democracy. It should include:
 - civil society actors representing broad sectors of society, involving youth, women, producers, etc;
 - representatives from all the affected areas: Tigray, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Afar, Oromia, Sidama, Somali, SNNPR, SWEPR and Gambella;
- A return of all foreign and regional armed forces to their respective bases, either regional state or sovereign state;
- An end to military command posts and martial law throughout the country.

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