

ARDUF

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Afar Regional State, Ethiopia

Freedom, Justice, Democracy

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THE OLD DREAM OF GREATER SOMALIA PROJECT REVIVED AGAIN BY SOMALI REGIONAL STATE

The December 25, 2018, attacks were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks by Somali Regional State (SRS) and Issa-Somali dominated Djibouti regime forces, Issa/Somali terrorist and Al Shabab terrorist group against Afar National Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity is the boldest and most brazen act in recent history. The Issa/Somali terrorist groups organised a violent demonstration to claim Afar localities (Adaydtu, Qundafou and Gadamaytu, as Somali territories. Upon the order of Somali Regional State Issa/Somali terrorists burn Afar State flag and raised SRS flag instead. They have burned down homes, mosques, schools, clinics, hospitals in different areas of Afar Region. Since then, Issa/Somali terrorist groups, including Al Shabab and Djibouti mercenaries known as (**Haite 2**) have established their presence in Afar Region to attack Afar civilians, destabilise Afar Region and undermine Dr. Abiy's government.

Since 25 December 2018, thousands of Afar civilians have been internally displaced in country sides of Afar Region by Somali Regional State, Djibouti, ONLF and Al- Shabab Terrorist Group rented out by Ismail Omar Guelleh in the name of Somali.

ARDUF condemns in the strongest possible terms the declaration of war on Afar people by the Somali Regional State. **ARDUF** strongly condemns the on-going wrongful war declared on Afar People by the Somali Regional State and Djibouti forces and Issa/Somali armed terrorist groups financed and trained by the Issa/Somali dominated regime of Djibouti.

Somali Regional State's direct involvement in Afar and Issa/Somali conflict was not new but it has now officially confirmed once again by SRS. In order to reaffirm its involvement in Afar and Issa/Somali conflict, on Friday, 03/05/2019, SRS Cabinet officially declared war on Afar People. SRS's invasion of Afar Territory is illegal and unacceptable. It is in violation of Ethiopian Constitution and International law. Declaring war of aggression on Afar people is a crime under the customary international. Above all, it is a war on PM Dr. Abiy Ahmed's government to destabilise Ethiopia and to jeopardise peace and security in Ethiopia.

SRS Cabinet's action and behaviour is similar to Adolf Hitler action and behaviour. Our reply to the SRS and their Rent Seeker Al Shabab Terrorist group is Sir Winston Churchill response to Neville Chamberlain (UK), Eduard Daladier (France), Adolf Hitler (Germany) and Benito Mussolini (Italy). "You were given the choice between war and dishonour. You chose dishonour, and you will have a war". Welcome to the hell. Afar will choose war to dishonour. We will get the Issa/Somali invaders out of Afarland. It could be better for SRS not to test our ability and tolerance. We are ready to defend our land. The Afar and Issa/Somali conflict has definitely entered into new era.

There is no more war between the Afar People and Issa tribe of Somali to control water holes and grassland, but a war between two Ethiopian Federal States with modern arms, as we can see from SRS. The conflict has changed its reality, content and reasons from the episodic clashes to control over natural resources, water holes and grasslands for livestock to systematic deadliest armed political conflict. The real objectives of Afar and Issa/Somali war are exactly based on the Republic of Somalia Irredentist Idea of Greater Somalia Expansionism Project that claimed sovereignty not only over the Ogaden Region of Ethiopia, but also beyond the Awash River as the new boundary of the Greater Somalia.

- To occupy Afar land by force illegally.
- To claim Afarland as Somali's traditional land boarding the Awash River.
- To establish Somalia (Mogadishu) and Ethiopian (Addis Ababa) New Border 2019 at the Awash River, through Somali settlements Project expansion and to hold Population and Housing Censes 2019 or 2020 in these Afar localities;
- To control the most significant strategic Highway linking Assab- Addis Ababa and Djibouti to influence policy and decision making organs of federal Government.
- To develop and control the illicit Contraband trades.

In the last 27, until now, years, Issa/Somali terrorist groups have expanded their control into the heart of Afar land reaching to the banks of the Awash River and the strategic highway linking Addis Ababa to the port cities of Assab and Djibouti. Taking control of these important areas, as we have stressed several times, has remained one of the major objectives of the Republic of Somalia since its birth in 1960. Regarding to Somali expansionist idea, **John H. Spencer** says that "the Afar lands had been considered by Somali intellectuals and Somali State "as the lost territories of the 'western parts of Great Somalia".¹ **Abdullahi Hassan Mohammed**, Secretary General and Military Commander of the Western Somali Liberation Front, in 1977 declared that "the Awash, that's where we are going to stop" to achieve Somali National objective as well as "to control Ethiopia".² **Michaelson** says that "some Issa tribes acknowledge the continuous westward expansion of the Issa/Somali into Afar territories, which pushed the latter to the other side of the Awash River."³

Moreover, at Northampton Issa Forum Conference held on Sunday, 22 Jan 2012, Mr. **Houssein BOUH** spokesman of Issa/Somali tribe acknowledged himself that Issa and Gurgura Liberation Front with an estimated 100, 000 fighters had invaded Afar territories and Oromo lands and occupied many villages and localities from them by war. A documentary confession of Houssein BOUH can be found on the following YouTube link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpM1ruwHe-A&t=2815s> or <https://www.facebook.com/hamad.aljunaibi.56/videos/1936974149721908/>

It is a well-documented fact both at the internal and external levels the Afar people have lived in Erer, Afdem, Miesso, Beki, Asboli, Aydora, Garani and other Afar localities since time immemorial. The Afars were forcibly driven out of these localities by the aggression of Republic of Somalia, Issa dominated partied regime of Djibouti, IGLF

¹ Spencer (1979: 25). Spencer, John. H. 1979. A Reassessment of Ethiopian-Somali Conflict Horn of Africa

² (New York Times (September 25, 1977).

³ (Michaelson, 2000: 12. Afar-Issa Conflict Management, ICWA Letters, Washington, DC)

and ONLF. SRS declaration of WAR and invasion of Afar Region is follow- up ideology of the Old Dream of Greater Somalia territorial expansionism Project. The unlawful territorial expansion of the Somali Regional State into Afar land is unacceptable and condemnable. **ARDUF never allow you the establishment of Somalia (Mogadishu) New Border at the Awash River. UGUUGUMO is committed to safeguarding and protecting the national unity, security and interests of Afar Region and Ethiopia.**

These three localities or Kebeles you mentioned in your outlawed Statement issued on 3/05/2019 are inseparable parts of Afar Region. The Issa/Somali must leave Afar Region immediately. They are illegal settlers and invaders. SRS force must get out of Afar Region immediately and unconditionally. Otherwise they will face severe consequences.

ARDUF DEMANDS the Government of Ethiopia to recognize the inherent and inalienable ownership rights of Afar lands and territories including Erer, Afdem. Mullu, Asboli, Meisso, Beki and other localities inhabited by Issa/Somali illegally; in accordance to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007.

ARDUF URGES the Government of Ethiopia to immediately demarcate boundaries between Afar Regional and Somali Regional States at the Erer River Line defined and demarcated as a dividing line between the Afar and Somali territory by Emperor Haile Selassie government in 1946 in line to the following instruction written on 6/2/1946 with **Ref No. 1317/6 by Lt. Colonel Abebe DEGEFU, Governor of Kereyu, Adal and Issa Woredas** addressed to the Minister of Interior in Addis Ababa and to Harar Governorate General stated that “in order to mitigate the frequent conflict between Adal and Issa people, the following provisional solution is given from our office. [From now on] Issas are restricted from crossing Bulga, Aydora, Erer, Fa’o while Adals (Afar) are prohibited to traverse from Ayroli, Asbuli, Biya’ad, Merihan and Andido”. The Erer River must serve as a permanent geographical frontier between the Afar and the Issa/Somali people in Ethiopia. To maintain this boundary, Haile Selassie government deployed hundreds of troops until 1963. The troop pull-out in 1963 precipitated the outbreak of violence, leading to further Issa expansion into Afar territories.”⁴

ARDUF DEMANDS the Government of Ethiopian to dismantle all illegal Issa/Somali settlements existing in the Afar region. In 2014, the TPLF/ANDP created Special Kebeles Status for the Issa/Somali settlers without any legal ground and without the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the Afar People. The Issa/Somali have occupied these localities by inadmissible use of force. There is no law legalises Issa/Somali’s settlement on the Afar Territory. It is in contradiction of Ethiopian Constitution and international law. It is also utterly controversial to the **UN Resolution 96 (I) 11/12/ 1946**, European Convention on Human Rights **1950**, UDHR**1948** and **UN DRIP 2007**. The Law of Treaties has made it clear that the acquisition of territory by war is illegal and invalid. A well-established Principles of International law known as Application of the **Principle EX INJORIA JUS/NON ONITUR**, reaffirms " **that from an illegal act no legal result can arise]** to the illegal act of the use of force.

⁴ Seyoum et al. 1999: 15-16).

UGUUGUMO has never accepted and will never ever accept the so called Special Kebeles Status for the Issa/Somali in the Afar region. UGUUGUMO urges the government of Ethiopia to send these illegal settlers back where they came from originally.

- **ARDUF URGES** Afar Regional State to station Afar Police at all adjustment districts to Somali Region, such as Beki, Afdam, Asboli, Miesso and Erer to defend Afarland, protect Afar civilians and their properties, and to maintain law and order, peace and security in the Afar Regional State in accordance with the Article 52 Paragraph 2 (7) of the Ethiopian Constitution.
- **ARDUF URGES** the Somali/Issa illegal settlers and their terrorist groups to instantly withdraw from all occupied Afar localities immediately and unconditionally. UGUUGUMO advice Somali Regional State to stop claiming our land unlawfully and to stop war agitations and a call for mobilization against the Afar people, a campaign communicated through different Medias in Somali language.
- **ARDUF URGES** the Issa dominated barbaric regime of Djibouti to stop war against Afar people in Ethiopia immediately. Otherwise, UGUUGUMO will take all possible action against dictatorial regime of Djibouti.
- **ARDUF CALLS** upon all those who are concerned about the national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ethiopia to stand with Afar People and condemn Somali Regional State's illegal declaration of WAR on Afar People.

Long life to Ethiopia,
Victory to the freedom fighter (**UGUUGUMO**)



Military Command Centre (MCC)
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