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المجلس الوطني الإرتري للتغيير الديمقراطي
مكتب الإعلام والثقافة

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Press Statement

Regarding the Twenty-three Years of the Algiers Agreement

The twelfth of this December marks the twenty-third anniversary of the signing of the Algiers Agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia to stop the ongoing border war between the two countries. In this border war, which was known in the media by the “Badme War,” thousands of young people were killed from both sides of the conflict.

The most important clause of the Algiers Agreement, in addition to the immediate cessation of hostilities, was that the two parties should settle their border conflict by resorting to the International Court, whose decision would become binding. The court issued a decision to demarcate the borders between the two countries, according to the maps attached to the decision. Although both parties accepted the decision, in principle, it was not implemented on the ground. To create circumstances for delay of implementation of the border demarcation decision, various arguments and pretexts were formulated, especially from the Ethiopian side. The matter remained open until the period when Dr. Abiy Ahmed assumed leadership as the prime minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia in 2018 and announced his readiness to implement the decisions of the International Court regarding the borders between the two countries. There is no doubt that this position was a favorable opportunity to demarcate the borders between the two countries in accordance with the decision of the International Court leading the normalization of relations between the two countries. But, instead, we saw the alliance between the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and the dictatorial regime in Eritrea, and the shuttle visits of both Isaias and Abiy Ahmed, which culminated in the creation of a military alliance between them. Consequently, leading to the brutal war that took place in northern Ethiopia, in which our Eritrean people lost thousands of their people in a war in which they had no choice. Today, that alliance between the two regimes has been broken, and we are following statements by Ethiopians demanding a seaport on the Red Sea, considering this to be their natural right. We firmly believe that such statements are putting the entire region on the brink of a new devastating war.

Meanwhile, a statement was issued by the official spokesman for the US State Department, Mr. Matthew Miller, yesterday, on the occasion of the anniversary of the Algiers Agreement between Eritrea and Ethiopia, in which he called for the necessity of respecting the sovereignty of the countries in accordance with the Agreement. The statement emphasized that respect for the sovereignty the states is the basis for stability in the region, and further stressing America’s support for the Algiers Agreement and the demarcation of borders in accordance with the decisions of the International Court. Statement was also issued by the European Union with same message as the US State Department statement.

We, the Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change, highly value the American and European position that affirms their commitments to the decision of the International Court regarding the demarcation of the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia, as well as their appeal to all parties to respect the sovereignty of the respective states as a guarantee of the stability of the region. We direct this message to the two regimes in Eritrea and Ethiopia. We call on the international community to exert pressure on the two parties to comply with international law, and to accelerate the border demarcation process. This is an important step to defuse any potential conflict between the two countries and to ensure that the national sovereignty of each country is respected.

Office of Information and Culture
Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change
December 13, 2023