

To: Dr. Abiy Ahamed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

From: Eskinder Nega, Journalist, Human Rights and Democracy Activist  
Mesfin Mekonen, Ethiopian/Americans Community

Subject: Ethiopia Declaration of Principle

Date: July 27, 20018

Dear Prime Minister Abiy Ahamed,

We are writing to thank you for your commitment for human rights and economic development in Ethiopia.

We would like to bring to your attention, and to the attention of the Ethiopian Parliament, a Declaration of Principles that could provide a path toward democracy and peaceful prosperity for Ethiopia. The Declaration is based on the South African peace and reconciliation model. It has been adapted to the Ethiopian situation. We hope you will embrace it, and use it as an opportunity to bring human rights, dignity, peace and economic development to our people. This is a noble cause that can unite men and women of good will to create a brighter future for Ethiopia.

A copy of the Declaration is attached.

Your attention to this urgent matter is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Eskinder Nega  
Mesfin Mekonen

## **Ethiopia Declaration of Principles**

It is past time for Ethiopian society to come together, to tighten the natural bonds that unite in peace, discard the chains that divide, to affirm universal principles of peace and reject calls to divide and hate. It is time for remembrance and reconciliation.

We are calling for Ethiopia to move forward with a truth and reconciliation project animated by the spirit that propelled change in South Africa. The goals are clear: peace, justice, respect for human rights, democracy, and prosperity. Achieving these basic goals will require a process of

truth telling, particularly about human rights abuses, achieved through testimony from both victims and perpetrators, coupled to a pledge of reconciliation.

To embark on this path, we, the undersigned, respectfully urge and pledge ourselves to:

1. Bringing change to Ethiopia through peaceful means
2. A peaceful transition to democracy, starting by parliament's call for a national dialogue between all major political parties, including civic groups and EPRDF
3. National dialogue between all political parties and civic groups, conducted with the South African Multiparty Negotiating Forum (MPNF) as a model.
4. Pursue national reconciliation and unity in accordance with the model set by the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mesfin Mekonen  
Eskinder Nega  
Professor Getachew Haile  
Dr. Kassa Kebede  
Wzro Tsigereda Mulugeta  
Ato Peter Gebere  
Professor Mammo Muchie  
Professor Seid Hassan  
Dr. Zergabachew Asfew  
Ambassador Imru Zeleke  
Wzro Elizabeth Wossen  
Ato Kifle Mulat

ኢትዮጵያውያን በመካከላቸው ተከስቶ የቆየውን መከፋፈል መጠራጠርና ቅራኔ አራግፈው፣ በምትኩ ፍቅር፣ ሰላም፣ ወንድማማችነትና አንድነትን ገዢ ሃሳባቸው የሚያደርጉበት የለውጥና የተስፋ ጊዜ ላይ ደርሰዋል።

ይህን የተስፋና የለውጥ ብልጭታ በተግባር ከግብ ለማድረስም፣ በሀገረ ደቡብ አፍሪቃ ሰላምና ዲሞክራሲ እውን ያደረገውን ቀመር ተቀብለው ወደፊት መጓዝ ይገባቸዋል።

ይህ ቀመር በአንድ በኩል ሁሉን አቀፍ የሆነ የሽግግር ሂደት የሚያስጀምር፣ በሌላ በኩል እያንዳንዱን ተባብሮና በዳይግ የሚያካትት መልኩ ብሔራዊ እርቅና ይቅርታ የሚያወርድ መንገድ ነው።

ሀገራችንን በዚህ ሂደት ውስጥ በተግባር ለማስገባትም፣ እኛ ስማችን ከዚህ በታች የተዘረዘረው ኢትዮጵያውያን፣ ገዢው ፓርቲና ዋና ዋና የፖለቲካ ድርጅቶች የሚከተሉትን መርሆዎች እንዲቀበሉ እንጠይቃለን፡-

1. የፖለቲካ እንቅስቃሴዎች ሁሉ በሰላማዊ መንገድ እንዲደረጉ፣

2. ሀገራችንን ወደ ሰላማዊ የዲሞክራሲ ሽግግር ለማስገባት፣ ኢህአዴግን ጨምሮ ዋና ዋና የፖለቲካ ድርጅቶችና የሲቪክ ማህበረሰብን ያካተተ ብሔራዊ የድርድር ጉባኤ (National Dialogue) እንዲደረግ በፓርላማው በኩል ውሳኔና ጥሪ እንዲተላለፍ፣
3. በፓርላማው ውሳኔ መሠረትም፣ በኢህአዴግና ዋና ዋና የፖለቲካ ድርጅቶች መካከል የደቡብ አፍሪካዊያን «የፖለቲካ ድርጅቶች የድርድር መድረክ» (South Africa Multi-party Negotiating Forum (MPNF) ሞዴል መሠረት ያደረገ ብሔራዊ የድርድር ጉባኤ (National Dialogue) እንዲደረግ፣
4. የደቡብ አፍሪካ የእውነትና የእርቅ ኮሚሽን (South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission) ተመክሮ መሠረት የሚያደርግ የኢትዮጵያውያን ብሔራዊ እርቅና ይቅርታ እንዲወርድ ተግባራዊ እንቅስቃሴ እንዲደረግ እንጠይቃለን።