



## **For Immediate Release**

### **Oromo Democratic Front (ODF) Applauds the Release of Dr. Mararaa Guddinaa**

The Leadership and Members of the Oromo Democratic Front (ODF) applaud the decision to release Dr. Mararaa Guddinaa, Chairman of Oromo Federalist Congress (OFC), and the few other political prisoners from prison.

We are cognizant that tens of thousands are still in detention—including notable voices of dissent and prisoners of conscience such as Bekele Garbaa, Dejene Tafa, Addisuu Bulaalaa, Olbaana Leellisaa, Ahmedin Jabal Muhammad Andualem Arage, and Eskinder Naga. We therefore urge the ruling party, in the spirit of promoting national reconciliation and creating a conducive political space for democracy to thrive, to keep its promises and release all the remaining political detainees immediately and without any preconditions.

Once again Ethiopia is at crossroad and nothing short of the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and meaningful dialogue that will encompass all stakeholders can save the country from the impending disaster. It is time the TPLF/EPRDF abandon its policies and practices of state violence against its purported citizens; repeal the repressive laws and pave ways for a national reconciliation and peace conference that will lead to a peaceful transition to democratic order. Without such confidence building measures, we are afraid the country could not turn the corner and forestall an impending calamity—which the decision was meant to avert.

We are delighted for Dr. Mararaa and for those 115 or so political prisoners released so far, we would like to remind the regime that they must fulfill their promise of releasing all political prisoners and close down the torch chamber and the gallows of Maekelawi. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind the international community to hold the TPLF/EPRDF government of Ethiopia to their promises of releasing all political prisoners, convene an all-inclusive national reconciliation and peace conference and the close of the torch chamber.

*Freedom and Justice for All!*

Oromo Democratic Front (ODF)

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