

## The Chairperson of the Sidama Liberation Front Surrenders to the Ethiopian Government

### Press Release

#### Sidama National Liberation Organization (SNLO)

The Chairperson of the Sidama Liberation Front (SLF), Galfato Feqa, surrendered to the Ethiopian government on September 1, 2009. The Sidama Liberation Front was a breakaway political organization formed in 1999 after disagreements among the executive committee members of the Sidama Liberation Movement (SLM) led by the late Woldeamanuel Dubale. The SLM was formed in early 1970s by the gallant Sidama Liberation heroes: Amare Gunsä, Roda Uttala, Fiisa Fichcho, Yetera Bole, Ashe Hujawa and others.

Galfato Feqa has been actively involved in both SLM and SLF political activities in the horn of Africa for the past two decades. In particular, since he became the chairperson of the SLF, he actively criticized the Ethiopian government for violations of the rights of the Sidama people including the Loqqee massacre in which over 70 unarmed innocent anti government demonstrators were massacred by the Ethiopian security forces on May 24, 2002.

His organization also joined various opposition coalitions in Diaspora that were formed to speed up political change in Ethiopia.

In spite of all these efforts, Mr Feqa has been unsuccessful in gathering wider Sidama support because of his authoritarian political leadership. He failed to mobilize the younger Sidama intellectuals to champion the causes he stood for. On the other hand, the Diaspora political coalitions have been weakened by the constant infighting among the major opposition parties.

Overwhelmed by these global changes and with limited stamina to turnaround the events, Mr Feqa chose to surrender to the Ethiopian government which he vehemently opposed for the past 18 years.

This is another sad chapter in the history of the Sidama liberation struggle. However, it will not deter the gallant Sidama nation from continuing its struggle for democracy, freedom, and self determination. Together with our ancient Kushitic nations of Ethiopia such as Oromo, Afar, Ogadeni Somalis, and others we will ensure that these ancient nations of Kushitic Ethiopia will regain their lost political freedom in the near future.

The Sidama National Liberation Movement (SNLO) guarantees the Sidama people once again that the liberation struggle championed by Takilu Yota, Yetera Boole, Fiisa Fichcho, Roda Uttala, Amare Gunsä, Ashe Hujawa and other fallen Sidama heroes will continue until Sidama achieves freedom and self determination. The Sidama people should not despair by the temporary setbacks we experience at present. One day the Sidama people will be able to decide on their affairs and that will not be long!!

Victory for the Sidama Nation! We shall win and see our nation free of  
Century old barbaric colonialism!!

Sidama National Liberation Organisation (SNLO)

September 11, 2009