

Merging of the Three Forces

Written by Winta Woldeyesus

The leader of "Amana Ama", Osman Saleh Sabe, was working under the name of the People's Liberation Forces in Diaspora without the consent of the movement. The new leadership committee elected in Emba-Hara sent two of its members, Romodan MohammedNur and Ali Seid Adballa, to Beirut to establish a relationship with the former movement's leadership in the Diaspora. Meanwhile, since the relationship between "The People's Liberation Forces" and "Eritrean Liberation Party" stagnated and there was no alternative for the latter movement but to get weaponry and other materials it needed by strengthening relationship with the movement in Diaspora, "Amana Ama". Isaias Afeworki and Mesfun Hagos were sent to Beirut to ask for assistance and members of Obel also sent their representatives to Beirut for the same purpose.

All the forces that were working against "Qeyada Al-Ama" were establishing relationship with "Amana Al-Ama", since it was the only movement that could provide them with the required ammunitions.

The difference among the forces separated from "Qeyada Al-Ama" created an opportunity for Osman Saleh to implement the ideology of the leadership of ELF, to divide the forces and have the upper hand. He used the money and other materials accumulated in the name of the Eritrean People in accomplishing his objectives, which widened the differences among the "People's Liberation Forces" and "Eritrean Liberation Party". Once the two forces realized the ploys of Osman Saleh, they held a meeting before holding discussions with "Amna Ama", and ratified the following resolutions:

- To put aside the differences among the two forces and solve arising problems in other follow-up meetings in the field
- Divide all weaponry and other resources equally through a mutual committee
- Establish a mutual leadership to direct and coordinate mutual operations
- Unite the two forces once all the differences are addressed
- In the discussions with "Amana Ama" the two forces should participate as one force called the Eritrean People Liberation Forces.

After this meeting, the forces in Denkalia began to be known as People's Forces 1 and "Eritrean Liberation Party" People's Forces 2. This meeting had an historic importance for it helped the forces separate from "Qeyada Al-Ama" and from the dominance and control of "Amana Ama". It also proved the dominance of the forces that worked to abolish all religious and ethnic differences and struggle for the liberation of the country and the people where all the nationals participate equally. These achievements did not happen overnight rather, they were an outcome of the long struggle of individuals like Isaias and Ramadan: they had worked to reform the leadership of ELF starting from the times of the regions and later separated from ELF. After separation, they reinforced their efforts to achieving their firm stance about unity and struggling for the benefit of the public, and the Beirut agreement was the first outcome of this long process.

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Following their internal agreement, the two forces met "Amana Ama" for a discussion for the first time in February 1972. In this meeting, as previously agreed among the forces of the "People's Liberation forces" it was decided to change the name of the movement officially once the unification process concluded and the parties agreed to have an authentication meeting within a year. Regarding "Amana Ama" an agreement was reached to change its name to "Foreign Affairs Envoy" and pass all the financial and military support to the leadership in the fields, while commanding limited power. The meeting in Beirut ended in February 12, 1972, and the representatives of the forces returned to the field.