

GGO FOUNDING CONFERENCE APRIL 14-16, 2017 MINNEAPOLIS, MN



Aangoon keenya Oromummaa fi Gadaa keessaa madda

Our power springs from *Oromummaa* and *Gadaa*

GLOBAL GUMII OROMIA

**A NATIONAL CALL TO CONVENE AND CELEBRATE THE FOUNDING OF
GLOBAL GUMII OROMIA (GGO)**

**April 14-16, 2017
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

Oromo civic groups, political organizations, religious groups, professional organizations, women's organizations, youth associations, and prominent individuals are in the process of founding GGO. This civic and nonpartisan national entity is in the process of organizing to support Oromo activist networks and leadership and the *qeerroo/qarree*-led Oromo protest movement in Oromia. GGO will reinforce efforts to further build national organizational capacity in collaboration with other progressive communities and peoples in order to sustain the momentum of the national struggle and to expedite the journey to freedom. The *qeerroo/qarree*-led protest movement in particular, and the Oromo national movement in general, are challenging the Tigrayan-led authoritarian-terrorist regime and its violent development strategy, which promotes genocide on the Oromo and other peoples. These movements aim to promote national self-determination, the formation of an egalitarian democratic state, and an alternative form of development.

The Tigrayan-led colonial regime is using so-called anti-terrorist laws and a state of emergency to continue terrorizing by imprisoning, torturing and killing thousands of Oromo and others. To counter these inhumane and violent schemes, Oromo political organizations, civic groups, religious organizations, professional organizations, women's organizations, youth organizations, and individuals all over the world are coming together to help establish GGO in order to rally behind the *qeerroo/qarree*-led mass movement to free our country. *Oromummaa*, Oromia and its resources, Oromo fraternity (*waa'ila*), Oromo sorority (*addooyee*), love of freedom, and self-determination, and a common enemy are the common factors that bind the Oromo people together irrespective of ideology, creed, and group loyalty. Together, we all stand for liberation and our God-given freedom and liberty.

The Tigrayan-led regime has been intensifying its terrorizing and massacring of the Oromo people all over Oromia, including children, the elderly, and pregnant women. At the same time, the regime is denying medical and other services for those who have been shot, mutilated and seriously injured by the Agazi and other security forces to break the spirit of the people and crush the Oromo movement. As a result, thousands of Oromo are suffering in prisons and secret concentration camps, and hundreds of Oromo political prisoners have perished due to the lack of adequate food, clothing, healthcare and other essential needs.

In addition, thousands of Oromo youth and others are fleeing their country because of unbearable political repression by the Tigrayan-led regime and absolute poverty, and are dying or being murdered or sinking in oceans and perishing. Young Oromo girls are trafficked to serve as maids in neighboring countries and in the Middle East, some times being reduced to slaves. At this moment, the Oromo are a stateless people who are suffering in the Ethiopian Empire, Africa and in the Middle East. They are living in a war zone without access to humanitarian assistance. The Oromo are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance for shelter, food, medicine and other necessities for survival and the Tigrayan-led regime and its supporters are endangering the survival of the Oromo people and their country.

Despite the fact that governments around the world have shown concern about the victimization of the Oromo and other peoples by recognizing the crimes the regime has been committing, they have continued to provide material and diplomatic support to the regime and have not held the regime accountable. Oromo victims of brutal state violence have no one to assist except us, the Oromo in the diaspora. Hence, we, the Oromo in the diaspora, must strengthen our movement and unity, which was built by the sacrifices of selfless Oromo nationalists, and work hard to protect and support Oromo victims of Ethiopian political repression and terrorism.

Decentralized and scattered Oromo forces, civic, professional and political organizations, and religious institutions are incapable of effectively and efficiently fulfilling the Oromo people's humanitarian needs and our national responsibilities. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to create a non-profit and non-partisan national organization, ***Global Gumii Oromia (GGO)***, to develop our national organizational capacity to raise funds, to provide humanitarian support for Oromo victims of Ethiopian state terrorism, and to seek a permanent solution for the Oromo political problem by strengthening basic and national *Oromummaa* and Oromo unity. It is only through our

inclusive and unified efforts that we can achieve our goals of liberty, freedom and democracy.

PURPOSE

The first and immediate purpose of forming GGO is to financially, ideologically, politically, and diplomatically support the ongoing protest movement in particular and the Oromo national movement in general.

The second purpose of forming GGO is to critically understand and confront our ideological, leadership and organizational shortcomings and to develop central organizing ideas and strategic plans at the grassroots level for our national movement. In this endeavor, all members of GGO networks will establish and maintain the structure and cohesion of the Oromo movement by regulating tensions, dealing with adversarial conditions that destabilize our movement, and by disseminating valuable information within the movement and throughout Oromo communities.

The third purpose is to implement the objectives of our national movement at the grassroots level by establishing short and long-term goals. The fourth purpose is to help identify and channel the talents and energies of our network members effectively and efficiently. The fifth purpose is to expand membership and mobilize members' support for further building our national movement at the grassroots level and intensifying the struggle by appealing to the collective interests of the Oromo people. The sixth purpose is to further deepen *Oromummaa* and unity of purpose and to create a new understanding of contemporary conditions and a new vision for the future.

MISSION

GGO's primary mission is to establish a platform for attaining an Oromo national consensus through dialogue and democratic means on what will be the end goal of the ongoing Oromo protest movement in relation to the long protracted national struggle for statehood, sovereignty, and egalitarian multinational democracy. The Oromo are the largest national group in the Ethiopian Empire and the Horn of Africa, and their capital city, Finfinnee, which colonialists and their supporters call Addis Ababa, is the heart of Oromia and the seat of the Ethiopian colonial state, the African Union, and many international organizations.

Oromia is located in the heart of the empire, and the Oromo people have already created a cultural corridor with the different peoples of the region. The foundation of this corridor is the Oromo democratic tradition, which with other indigenous democratic traditions can be a starting point for building a genuine multinational democracy based on the principle of national self-determination. GGO will strive to advance the fundamental human rights principles of self-determination, freedom, and democracy for all colonized and oppressed peoples within the Ethiopian Empire and beyond. To achieve this political objective, the Oromo people are currently playing a leading role by rebelling to dismantle the Tigrayan-led regime and supporting all peoples that are presently suffering under Tigrayan colonial dictatorship.

VISION

GGO envisions to:

- (1) Mobilize the resources of the diaspora Oromo for building a strong Oromo national organizational capacity;
- (2) Support and empower the Oromo people in order to liberate their nation and country;
- (3) Rebuild the *gadaa/siiqqee* system and practice it in our organizations;
- (4) Create a democratic society in which all human, political and economic rights are respected and justice prevails under the law; and
- (5) Form an alliance with regional and international forces that respect and accept the principle of national self-determination, and are interested in promoting mutual interests, reciprocity, security, democracy, human rights, and peace.

VALUE

Basic and national *Oromummaa*, which emerged from the *gadaa/siiqqee* democratic tradition, serve as the main pillars of our cultural values. National *Oromummaa* is an overarching principle, an ideological representation of who the Oromo are irrespective of region, religion or political perspective—a creed of African persona who lives by the *gadaa/siiqqee* institutions of democratic governance. GGO strives to restore our democratic cultural traditions and values that have been suppressed by colonialism through the following steps:

1. Learning about our democratic tradition and heritage and other democratic values and principles that are congruent with ours;
2. Practicing openness, transparency, honesty, and truthfulness;
3. Respecting diversity and promoting the Oromo culture of inclusion, tolerance, unity, and basic and national *Oromummaa*;
4. Developing the ideology of basic and national *Oromummaa* to maintain our vision, identity, culture, multicultural knowledge, and equality;
5. Engaging regionally and globally with forces of democracy and global security; and
6. Promoting social justice, equality, and democracy for all sectors of our society and other societies.

MOBILIZATION, EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

GGO objectives will be accomplished by the following mechanisms:

1. Pooling and effectively mobilizing Oromo human, financial, cultural, and ideological resources in the diaspora in support of the struggle for liberation, democracy, liberty, and peace;
2. Engaging and involving all civic, religious, professional, and political organizations without exclusion to build fraternity and raise national consciousness;

3. Utilizing the *gadaa/siiqqee* system as a framework for the promotion of Oromo political, social and cultural agendas, and using national *Oromummaa* as a core ideology;
4. Building consensus among the Oromo people through open and honest dialogues by using the principles of the *gadaa/siiqqee* system to prevent and resolve conflicts at all levels;
5. Organizing seminars, conferences, and workshops around a common agenda for our national liberation and for strengthening fraternity among the Oromo people;
6. Formulating research-based strategies for struggle and developing policies for liberating and developing our country;
7. Overcoming the low and uneven development of basic and national *Oromummaa* in the diaspora;
8. Learning how to solve the problem of blind attachment to borrowed political cultures and ideologies by further building national *Oromummaa* from diverse Oromo experiences;
9. Fostering Oromo unity by establishing broadly based inclusive democratic leadership and developing strategies for developing coherent and organic leadership by focusing on common core values;
10. Reducing the problem of the lack of accountability of leaders and followers in the diaspora;
11. Strengthening the unity of formal (political) and informal (social) leadership;
12. Developing a national principle of engagement with other peoples diplomatically and politically; and
13. Promoting the political aspiration of the Oromo nation to live in peace with its neighbors and the global community.

The Organizing Committee of Global *Gumii Oromia*