

THE FIRST RED SEA AFAR DIASPORA CONFERENCE

PRESS RELEASE

The first Red Sea Afar Diaspora Conference under the theme, 'Towards Political, Social & Economic Emancipation of the Red Sea Afar People', held from 29th to 30th December 2012 in Uppsala, Sweden has been concluded successfully. The two days Conference, organized by the Afar Friends in Sweden (Swedish Afar NGO) and ABF (Swedish Workers' Educational Association) in collaboration with Can Go Afar (Canadian Afar humanitarian organization) was attended by Afar and non-Afar scholars including distinguished scholars, Afar elders, representatives of Eritrean opposition organizations, *RSADO* leadership including Chairman Ibrahim Harun, and Red Sea Afar diaspora representatives from all over the world. Those organization representatives who could not attend the conference send their solidarity messages. Many Afars both at home and in Diaspora followed the conference live through Justin TV and Pal talk communication.

Among Honor guests and key speakers were Prof. Joseph E. Magnet, one of Canada's most respected constitutional lawyer, Mr. Warren Creates specialist in Citizenship and Immigration law and Mr. Arhe Hamednaca, Member of Swedish Parliament, originally from Eritrea.

The conference participants after having heard presentations and reports followed by discussions on the worsening situation in Eritrean in general and particularly the Red sea Afar refugee crisis and the Afars' Right to Self-Determination within a democratic Eritrean federal framework passed the following resolution:

We condemn the genocidal policy of PFDJ against the Afar people in Eritrea.

We fully support the armed struggle of *RSADO* because it is the only option left to liberate their people from the yoke of PFDJ.

We fully endorse the Samara declaration which is the will of the Red Sea Afar mass.

We are very grateful to Professor Magnet for his strong commitment to the Afar case in general and the case of the Red Sea Afar people in particular, and we fully support his unforgettable hard work to bring to international court those who committed crimes against our people.

We urge the Eritrean government to immediately stop its ethnic cleansing policy against the Red sea Afar people.

We call on all Eritrean opposition forces and organizations as well as Eritrean people at home and aboard to jointly intensify the struggle to end the rule of dictatorial regime in Asmara.

We appeal to the UN to give the Afar refugees in Djibouti and Yemen, the protection they have right to under Geneva Convention.

We appeal to the UN to put pressure on the Eritrean government to respect the basic human rights of the Afar people.

We want to show our appreciation for the Ethiopian government's support to desperate Afar refugees and for scholarships to young students so far but we urge the Ethiopian authorities to strengthen these supports.

We urge the Red Sea Afar communities in the diaspora to form a red Sea Afar human rights organization as soon as possible.

We urge Afar NGO's to support the Red Sea Afar refugees with both relief and finding a way out from the long and cruel conditions in refugees camps.

Finally, delegates and participants of the conference agreed on:

- 1 forming a Red Sea Afar Diaspora Civic organization in Sweden
- 2 putting together an ad hoc committee that will prepare the next conference

Uppsala, December 31, 2012