

ADDA BILISUMMAA OROMOO

OROMO LIBERATION FRONT



جبهة تحرير اورومو

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The Confusion by Illegal Use of the Name and Logos of OLF Should Be Stopped.

Statement by the OLF

It has recently been customary for splinter groups to stick the OLF name badge as if it is a proper name of individuals that anybody can assign to one's own child at will. We have to outgrow this since it can only help either to fool oneself or to confuse the other people.

OLF is not an individual name that anybody can assign to a child which is distinguished from the rest of the children by adding the father and/or family name. Even in that case no two children of the same father have the same name unless accompanied with qualifiers like first second and so on. This is a corporate name that stands by itself without family name or country name attached to it. No two organizations with exactly the same name can operate in a given country or among a given nation or people.

If it is to claim the popularity of the name among the Oromo and other freedom-loving peoples it is not because of the words but because of the deeds that the name is popular. It is its accomplishment within the last three plus decades that made it qualify. If the intention is to accomplish such achievements that made the OLF popular one should strive to earn it through one's activity under one's own name. This of course requires commitment and confidence. Nobody who is self-confident will undertake a venture under a name that does not belong to him. Only if someone is sure of one's failure does one acquire a false identity.

It should also be recognized that there is a legal ground for any group to claim the name, leadership or membership of the organization. The Congress (general assembly) of representatives of every member of the organization which is held periodically revises the program and constitution of the organization and elects the leadership. The constitution defines the *modus operandi* of the organization. According to this constitution, which the founding members of these splinter groups that usurp the name of the organization were a party to its adoption, they are outlaws. They are a minority that had neither different positive goal nor a means to achieve one. Hence they have no legal ground to claim the name.

Neither do they have moral ground to do that since they failed to score anything towards the achievement of the goals of the organization, let alone proving the remaining majority wrong by outperforming them. Had that been the case they could have justified their

illegal divisive acts by the end achievement.

All that they have achieved so far is spread confusion as to the identity of OLF, whenever someone sees a publication and mislead some innocent Oromo abroad for a short time until they find out the truth. People have been forced to think twice before taking position on a piece of published information. They need to verify because these groups use the same logo and name of the OLF. On the aggregate their act has only damaged the reputation of the organization and saddened our people who are eager to see speedy progress towards the liberation. These groups have neither legal nor moral ground to use either the name or the logos of this organisation. It is also clear that their act has only damaged the struggle instead of providing any alternative to the Oromo people that will bring the liberation any closer. On the contrary their act has served the enemy very well. We earnestly call upon these factions to desist from using the name and logos of this organization to avoid the confusion so that our readers can concentrate on actions rather than identifying who is who. We call upon readers of OLF publications to identify the authors before reacting to any publication by OLF. In the mean time, we will do all we can to resolve this confusion .

Victory to the Oromo People!
Oromo Liberation Front
December 28, 2011