



1. Are the co-founders of Zara Selam Media taking a defeatist position?

 Before addressing the question directly, it is essential to examine its underlying merit and spirit. Tracing back to the inception of the Eritrean struggle for independence and freedom, the foundational goal was to live peacefully in a democratic nation where justice, equality, freedom, and peace are core necessities rather than luxuries. This prompts a question of our own: why should any call for peace be perceived as a defeatist stance?

 The core issue within the Eritrean political and cultural environment hindering peace is the pervasive zero-sum mindset—the belief that one side must win and the other must lose. Genuine peace cannot take root or prevail in an environment governed by a win-or-lose mentality. It requires a culture of mutual active listening where the best ideas are allowed to prevail for the ultimate benefit of the Eritrean nation and its people. Progress and a stable quality of life are unattainable without peace, and all political and interest groups must accept that true success requires compromising to give peace a chance.

 We remain unconcerned about labels that may be directed at us for advocating peace. Our primary concern is that a confrontational mindset will deprive the Eritrean people of the peaceful future they deserve after the immense sacrifices they have made and the suffering, they have endured. Our position remains steadfast: the only viable path to national success is through peace, achieved by listening to one another and abandoning the zero-sum approach.

2. Can supporters or members of the PFDJ genuinely accept a peace-centered approach?

 Analyzing the tone and underlying premise of this question through the lens of the general Eritrean population reveals a common perception: that PFDJ supporters lack a genuine interest in peace, making meaningful peacebuilding with them impossible. This warrants deeper examination, as it highlights the central fracture in Eritrean political and social reality. The opposition deeply mistrusts government supporters, while PFDJ supporters vehemently maintain that no meaningful dialogue can take place with opposition groups or non-supporters.

 Understanding these dynamics requires examining the historical context behind this deep-rooted suspicion within politically divided Eritrean communities. During the struggle for independence, internal differences were frequently settled by force rather than through result-oriented, honest negotiations and compromises. Consequently, the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF)—a primary rival to the EPLF—was forcibly pushed out of the field, and several smaller factions were liquidated. These historical wounds were never properly addressed, leaving a lasting legacy of mistrust in the opposition camp, where many feel that the immense sacrifices and heroic contributions of their fallen fighters have been marginalized.

 This dynamic extends beyond ELF-affiliated groups. Similar grievances exist among factions that split from the PFDJ itself. Numerous EPLF-era leaders and former cabinet members remain imprisoned and a number of them not know whether they are alive, while others became prominent opposition figures. Their supporters harbor deep-seated grievances that continue to fuel mistrust toward the PFDJ regarding peaceful dialogue. Conversely, PFDJ supporters often view opposition groups as anti-country and anti-government, dismissing the notion that peace can be achieved through negotiation with them.

🌸 Zara Selam Media is fully cognizant of this deeply divided landscape. Our core mission is not to act as a political broker negotiating peace deals between political factions or parties. Instead, we aim to foster public awareness that no national challenge can be permanently resolved until we build an Eritrea where its youth no longer feel compelled to flee their homeland. Zara Selam Media operates like a stream nourishing one plant at a time—persuading Eritreans to commit to listening to one another, one individual at a time. Cultivating this mutual listening is the foundational step toward constructive dialogue and a peaceful future for our youth.

🌿 3. Are opposition groups capable of engaging in a peace process?

🌱 This question also merits thorough examination. It stems from the observation that opposition groups have historically struggled to maintain constructive internal dialogue or present a unified stand on national policies. Skeptics argue that opposition groups unable to foster peace among themselves cannot be expected to engage in peaceful dialogue with the government or its supporters. Given the current fragmentation within the opposition, this is an important objective observation.

🌻 The mistrust referenced earlier is not confined strictly to the divide between government supporters and opposition factions; it has permeated the broader Eritrean public. The Eritrean people observe these ongoing divisions, leading to widespread cynicism that presents a worrisome outlook for the nation's future and its youth.

🌿 Zara Selam Media recognizes the scale of this challenge and acknowledges that advocating for peace is a long-term commitment. Our objective is not to compel political entities to negotiate, but to inspire all Eritreans—regardless of their political affiliations—to recognize mutual

listening as the necessary prerequisite for meaningful dialogue. Constructive dialogue remains the only viable mechanism to resolve our national challenges and restore hope for the future of Eritrea's youth.

4. If opposition groups struggle to maintain peace among themselves, how can they participate in peaceful dialogue with others?

 This query directly expands upon the core premise of Question 3. Just as opposition groups and government supporters refuse to engage constructively, opposition factions frequently fail to listen to, understand, or unite with one another around central national goals. Instead, political programs remain fragmented by internal mistrust.

 To break this cycle, all political actors must commit to open dialogue as a means to address overarching national challenges—chief among them the continuous exodus of young people fleeing their homeland. The primary objective moving forward must be a shared dedication to ensuring that the next generation does not inherit the same divisions that hamper the current political landscape.