



What Should the Stand of Eritreans Be in the Current Political Environment of the Horn of Africa?

Editorial Note by Zara Selam Media

Zara Selam Media maintains a strictly non-partisan stance regarding internal political divisions and domestic disputes. However, on matters of **national sovereignty, Eritrean independence, and the honor of Eritrean martyrs**, it takes a clear and principled stand. *The political environment of the region around Eritrea which has developed into a war environment is a national, sovereignty and national independence matter.* Thus, we take an uncompromising stand when it comes to national sovereignty, Eritrean independence, and the honor of our martyrs.

Given the rapidly evolving and increasingly volatile situation in the Horn of Africa, it has become imperative for Zara Selam Media to articulate its position and help Eritreans understand the gravity of the moment.

Because the volatile political and war environment developing across the Horn of Africa directly threatens these core principles, it is imperative that we articulate our position clearly to our readers and all Eritreans.

1. Overview of the Regional Conflict Environment

A historical review of the Horn of Africa-focusing on Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan - reveals a region long shaped by internal conflicts and external wars. To determine the appropriate Eritrean stance, one must first understand the historical and contemporary dynamics shaping the region.

The Horn of Africa has long been characterized by internal strife, shifting alliances, and external interventions. *If someone looks through a historical politically magnifying glass, they will find out that area has almost always been dealing with internal conflicts and battles.*

Eritrea, Ethiopia, and the Sudan have each experienced cycles of war, political fragmentation, and foreign interference. These patterns continue today, but with new alignments and heightened stakes.

- **Eritrea:** Historically colonized by Egyptians, Turks, Italians, British, and Ethiopians, Eritrea waged a bitter 30-year struggle for independence. Post-independence conflicts included clashes over the Hanish Islands with Yemen, disputes with Djibouti, and a devastating war with the Ethiopian federal government under the TPLF. More recently, Eritrean forces participated in the conflict between Tigray and the federal government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, a move that was never formally announced or widely accepted by the Eritrean public.
- **Ethiopia:** Following Italian occupation and a bitter war with Somalia, Ethiopia has continuously battled internal insurgencies, including the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), ongoing skirmishes in Oromia, and armed opposition in the Amhara region led by Fano forces—not to mention the catastrophic human toll of the war in Tigray.
- **Sudan:** Sudan has endured decades of internal conflict, leading to the secession of South Sudan, ongoing rebellions in northern regions, active civil war within Khartoum and other areas especially in the north of the country, and persistent border disputes with Ethiopia.

Today, this instability is widening across the entire region. Tigray forces continue battling the federal government, Oromo opposition groups remain active, and Amhara's Fano militia is actively capturing territory from federal forces. Meanwhile, reports indicate strategic alliances forming between Tigray, Amhara Fano, Eritrea, and others, while Sudan's ruling government leans toward alignment against Ethiopia due to ongoing territorial disputes.

2. The Nature of the Threat to Eritrea

Unlike past conflicts, the current environment presents an existential threat to our sovereignty and independence:

- **The Unresolved Border Issue:** The Hague border ruling regarding Badme was never fully demarcated or implemented by Ethiopia.
- **Shifting Political Rhetoric:** Aside from the TPLF, no major Ethiopian political organization has ever fully embraced Eritrean statehood. Although Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed initially claimed he would accept the border resolution in 2019, his rhetoric has dramatically shifted. He frequently asserts that Ethiopia's vast size and population of 130 million justify sovereign sea access. Prominent political figures, military advisors, and regime cronies openly call for reclaiming Assab or condemn the 1993 referendum as a mistake orchestrated by Meles Zenawi's government, with some even calling for the recolonization of Eritrea.
- **Military Posture:** Abiy Ahmed has openly vowed to secure Red Sea access "by hook or by crook" and has begun developing naval capabilities. Meanwhile, high-ranking military and political advisors boast of how quickly they could recapture Eritrea. Figures like Tsadqan (currently aligned with the Ethiopian federal government) have openly maintained that Ethiopia should have re-assimilated Eritrea during the Badme war. In a historical political view, No Ethiopian group or political organization other than TPLF has accepted the independence of Eritrea.

While the founders of Zara Selam Media previously questioned the rationale and necessity of Eritrean military intervention in Ethiopia's internal Tigray conflict, the current threat is fundamentally different. This is no longer a localized border dispute; it is a direct assault on our national sovereignty and independence.

3. What Should the Stand of Eritreans Be?

Given this urgent and high-stakes geo-political climate, all Eritreans must unite behind a single defensive posture:

A. Formalized and Transparent Alliances by the PFDJ

Zara Selam Media supports the defensive diplomatic and strategic steps initiated by the PFDJ, but these alliances must be pursued with transparency. Action taken without clear communication divides the public. While loyal supporters follow blindly, independent citizens and non-members are left questioning the motives. The government must clearly explain the nature of these threats and the strategic necessity of current alliances to rally the entire nation under the singular banner of defending the motherland.

B. Honoring Our Martyrs Through Unity

The ultimate tribute to those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom is defending the independence they secured. Remaining divided over domestic political grievances while our sovereignty is threatened disrespects the memory of our martyrs. Whether citizens agree or disagree with past government policies, all Eritreans must recognize that domestic political debate is only possible because an independent Eritrea exists.

Furthermore, dismissing the service and sacrifice of soldiers who fought in recent conflicts is unacceptable. These soldiers deployed believing they were defending their homeland. While one can legitimately question the wisdom of leadership decisions, we must honor the sacrifice of those who fell in the line of duty.

4. Strategic Assessment of Regional Alliances

- **With Tigray:** While built on current geopolitical expediency, a lasting strategic alliance with Tigray offers mutual benefits. It prevents Tigray from being completely surrounded by hostile forces while providing Eritrea with a valuable buffer and regional partner against Ethiopian ambitions and threats.
- **With Amhara Fano:** Alliances with forces that fundamentally reject the legitimacy of the 1993 referendum and Eritrean independence are inherently fragile and difficult to maintain long-term. The alliance needs to be pursued with care and caution understanding it is very useful tactical temporary alliance.
- **With Sudan and Egypt:** Sudan has historically supported Eritrean freedom fighters and refugees, though policies fluctuate with leadership changes. Egypt's alignment with

Eritrea is driven primarily by its own dispute with Ethiopia over the Nile and could shift if those disputes are resolved.

Despite these underlying fragilities, forming pragmatic alliances at this juncture is a necessary defensive maneuver to deter aggression. However, the ultimate, unbreakable guarantee of our sovereignty is- and always will be-the unwavering unity of the Eritrean people.

Conclusion

Zara Selam Media's core message is rooted in peace, which begins with mutual respect and listening to one another. While we may validly disagree on domestic governance, administration, and policy, we desperately need one another in times of existential crisis.

We must move past viewing fellow Eritreans as enemies and begin treating one another as compatriots with diverse political perspectives. By maintaining respectful and ongoing communication, we pave the way for true national unity when our sovereignty and independence are on the line.

If we fail to stand united, who will bear the blame if we lose the very country we cherish and disrespect our fallen heroes because of our differences of our political views.