



Union of Tigreans in North America (UTNA)

Press Release

Whereas, The Union of Tigreans in North America commemorated its 33rd anniversary from August 7-12 in Oakland, California; and

Whereas, The 11th "Tigray Festival" was celebrated in tandem with UTNA's anniversary in the presence of thousands of Ethiopians that came from many cities of the United States of America and Canada; and

Whereas, The Tigreans in the Bay Area (San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose) hosted the six-day long festival; and

Whereas, Ambassador Tewelde Gebru, Chairman of Tigray Development Association, read a letter of felicitation from Ato Tsegay Berhe, President of the Tigray state administration, where he underscored the sacrifice that was endured by UTNA members during the armed struggle; and

Whereas, Members of UTNA discussed UTNA's past, present, and future activities where they delved into important issues such as revising the by-laws, member recruitment efforts, and assisting the association of the war veterans in Tigray; and

Whereas, The need for concerted effort of all Tigreans, regards of political opinions, is crucial for the development of Tigray; and

Whereas, UTNA is committed to the enhancement of democracy, peace, and development in Ethiopia; and

Whereas, The recent conference of UNTA Members was democratically and successfully conducted; and

Now, therefore, UTNA hereby has passed unanimously the following resolution.

1. We, the members of UTNA, shall work relentlessly to embrace any Tigrean who shows the willingness to contribute-regardless of political opinion- to the development of Tigray, provided that everyone respects and abides by the rules and regulations of UTNA.
2. UTNA firmly believes that attracting and retaining the youth is of paramount importance to the continued existence of the organization, therefore, efforts in attracting the younger generations to the organization shall be given utmost consideration by all members.
3. We will make sure that UTNA members participate in the investment endeavors in their country, and that they see the benefits of being a member of UTNA.
4. UTNA will continue maintaining its existing branches throughout North America and will open others in certain cities as needed.
5. UTNA highly appreciates the lofty dedication and valuable contribution of our brothers and sisters who became disabled during the armed struggle; hence, we commit ourselves to helping them in anyway we can.
6. We shall continue supporting the efforts of TDA and other similar organizations.
7. UTNA once again reaffirms its commitment to securing peace, justice, democracy, and development in Ethiopia, and will make maximum effort to work with all Ethiopians in North America to this end.
8. While we are thankful for the satisfactory response from the Tigray State administration that was given to the numerous questions and comments from members pertaining to conditions in Tigray State, we renew our commitment to contribute our knowledge, and other resources for the speedy development of the state.

Unity is strength!
Union of Tigreans in North America
Saturday, August 11/2007
Oakland, California