

## Condolence Message

We, the Afar people, are deeply saddened by the tragic loss of Sultan Hanfare Alimirah. He died on September 20, 2020 in Addis Ababa after battling a brief illness. His passing came at a time where the Afar people are faced with an uncertain future. It is indeed a great loss to our community and his beloved family and friends. He assumed the role of a Sultan after the passing of his father in 2011. At an early age, Hanfare displayed great leadership qualities; he was defiant to authoritarianism systems and was brave and courageous.

When the Emperor Haile Selassie was overthrown and the military regime took power, Hanfare had played the leading role to create the Afar Liberation Front to fight against tyranny during the Liberation War. After the overthrow of the military regime, Sultan Hanfare returned to Ethiopia to be a part of the transitional government and had played crucial role in stabilizing the country. He was instrumental in creating and briefly leading the Afar regional state which the Afar people call home and live by governing themselves today. He later became an ambassador of Ethiopia in Kuwait. After a disagreement with EPRDF, he lived in exile and continued to advocate for Afar rights.

After the downfall of EPRDF two years ago, Sultan Hanfare returned to Ethiopia to take part in the transition towards hoped freedom and justice for Afars and Ethiopia as a whole. He continued to serve his country by becoming a member of the reconciliation committee until his passing.

The Afar Forum urges the Afar people to continue his legacy of courage to fight injustice and domination by uniting beyond regional and tribal differences. We extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends and the Afar people. He will always be remembered as a legend who did not bow to tyranny and injustice. May he rest in peace.

Inna Lillah Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un.

Afar Forum  
Executive Committee Members  
September 20, 2020