



## **PFDJ festivals are robbing our people**

Normally, a festival is where people freely celebrate their culture and traditions and assess/evaluate the situation of their community and country. People strive to preserve their traditions and at the same time try to acquaint it with the host community. Festivals strengthen social relationships and the future of the community including the welfare of children is charted. Renewal of social and economic life is attempted through the social interactions in the festival.

By contrast, PFDJ organised festivals have the sole aim of money accumulation and creating a subtle discord among our people by employing backward feeling of exclusion, region, religion, ethnicity, social class and other factors. PFDJ uses the festival to further its aim of dictatorial rule.

Unfortunately many of our people don't seem to differentiate between Eritreanism and PFDJ. People think that boycotting PFDJ festivals and other functions will somehow put them in the camp of anti-Eritreanism and they feel uncomfortable when they miss PFDJ festivals. However, this is not true.

We should try to find answers to very critical questions regarding the dire situation in Eritrea. We should ask why the country's economy is deteriorating, why the living standard of our people is worsening by the day, why our youth are fleeing the country and are victims of inhospitable and dangerous places like the Sahara Desert, why aren't prisoners brought to justice, why doesn't Eritrea have press freedom, freedom of worship and freedom of movement. Why? Why? Why..... Many more questions need answers and we think that it is time we realise independence without justice and respect for human rights is plain slavery.

The above questions have to be asked consistently by every Eritrean and reject the border issue excuse given by the PFDJ regime for not democratising the country. The issue in Eritrea now is the issue of dictatorial rule and one way we can fight it is by drying the financial resources of the regime. That is why we appeal to all Eritreans to boycott all PFDJ festivals otherwise we will be party to the suffering of our people.

Join us in a protest rally outside the festival venue. The Coronet July 1 & 2, 2005, Elephant & Castle from 9pm till late.

Board,  
Eritreans for Human and Democratic Rights-UK (EHDR-UK)  
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