

ተጋድሎ ሓርነት ኤርትራ  
ሰው-ራዊ ባይቶ  
ዜ.ጽ. ኣቦ መንበር



جبهة التحرير الاثريية  
المجلس الشورى  
مكتب الرئيس

Eritrean Liberation Front – RC  
Chairman's Office

**Mr. Kofi Annan:**  
**300 Eritreans Detained in Libya**  
**Await Your Urgent Action for Support**

United Nations Headquarters,  
New York ([Annan@un.org](mailto:Annan@un.org), [Annank@un.org](mailto:Annank@un.org))  
UNOG, Palais des Nations,  
Geneva ([webmaster@UNOG.ch](mailto:webmaster@UNOG.ch))

26 August 2006

Your Excellency UN Secretary General Kofi A. Annan,

This is yet another letter addressed to you, Sir, about Eritreans in trouble. I am writing this modest, yet urgent, appeal on behalf of a large number of members and supporters of the ELF-RC, a major Eritrean opposition organization struggling to bring about change and democratization in our distressed small Eritrea and its people.

Again today, we are asking your attention to save lives that are likely to perish. Our own sources, corroborated by reliable agencies that include major human rights organizations, have confirmed that approximately 300 Eritreans are currently detained at **Almerge Prison** near Benghazi in northern Libya and that they are about to be deported to Dictator Isaias Afworki's dungeons, where the fate is inevitable severe maltreatment, including torture, endless years of imprisonment without trial, and eventual death to many.

Eritreans were asked by Amnesty International on 24 August 2006 to write letters of appeal to the Libyan president, Mu'ammarr al-Gaddafi, and his justice and foreign ministers. Many are doing so, Sir, and this message is being copied to them.

Yet, our feeling is that drawing your attention to this matter and your early intervention to help stop this planned deportation to death would work in favour of our endangered 300 young compatriots at Almerge Prison, 80 of them women,

some with children below the age of seven. (We are also learning the sad news that some of those Eritrean asylum seekers who were not apprehended by Libyan security forces reportedly took a desperate act a week ago and 30 of them have drowned in the Mediterranean Sea while trying to cross “to safety” in small speed boats.)

Our fears of the planned deportation are compounded by our memories of what happened in Eritrea to those 110 young compatriots deported from Libya on 21 July 2004, and before them 232 souls deported from Malta in 2002. We also recall the incident of 27 August 2004 in a plane carrying 76 Eritrean youth being forced back to Eritrea but, fortunately, could save themselves by forcing the plane to land in Khartoum. In particular, we in the ELF-RC vividly recall the latter incident because most of those 76 were sheltered in our offices in the Sudan for three months before they could obtain other accommodations.

In its 24 August 2006 appeal, Amnesty International reminds that Libya is a signatory of the 1969 African Convention on the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in the continent and that that Convention’s provisions oblige Libya “**not to return [asylum seekers to Eritrea] where they would be at risk of serious human rights violations, including torture**”. The UNHCR recommended not long ago that “**even rejected Eritrean asylum-seekers should not be returned to Eritrea**”.

Mr. Annan,

The human rights situation in Eritrea is, we believe, well known to you, to your High Commissioners for refugees human rights and we felt we need not take your time by writing the long litany in abuse of human rights violations in Eritrea under the oppressive regime of that small, yet cruel, new brand dictator, Isaias Afworki.

We therefore appeal to your most urgent and direct action to avert the deportation of yet another batch of hundreds of Eritreans to the dungeons of cruelty and death in Eritrea.

Respectfully yours,



Woldeyesus Ammar,  
Chairman, ELF-RC

Copies to:

CC: UN Deputy Secretary-General Mark M. Brown, [Brown@un.org](mailto:Brown@un.org),

CC: UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric ([Dujarric@un.org](mailto:Dujarric@un.org))

UNOG, Geneva, [webmaster@UNOG.ch](mailto:webmaster@UNOG.ch)

CC: Mr. Antonio GUTERRES, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNCHR), Geneva ([GUTERRES@unhcr.org](mailto:GUTERRES@unhcr.org))

CC: Ms. Louise ARBOUR, High Commissione

r for Human Rights (UNHCHR), Geneva ([ARBOUR@unhchr.org](mailto:ARBOUR@unhchr.org);  
[webadmin.hchr@unog.ch](mailto:webadmin.hchr@unog.ch))

CC: President Mu'Ammar al-Gaddafi, and Libyan Minister of Justice, Mr.  
Ali Omar Abubakr al-Hasnawi ([secretary@aladel.gov.ly](mailto:secretary@aladel.gov.ly)).