

EPP Youth League

Message to the 24th Joint Eritrean Festival 2009



Amanuel Beraki, Representative of EPP Youth League

On behalf of the Eritrean People's Party (EPP) Youth League, I wish everybody a joyful and successful Joint Eritrean Festival of 2009. Unlike past festivals, this festival is unique because it is taking place under a highly hopeful and encouraging atmosphere of unity of three political organizations. We are celebrating the 24th Joint Eritrean Festival of 2009 at a time when a solid unity among the Eritrean People's Party (EPP), Eritrean Democratic Resistance Movement for Gash/Setit (EDRM/Gash-Setit), and Eritrean Democratic Party (EDP) is taking place. Of course, this significant unity agreement will bring a new hope for Eritrean people in general and for the Eritrean youth in particular, as well as enhance the process of change in our struggle.

Certainly, in the past, the Eritrean opposition force did not turn out to be a force, which could incorporate, attract, and create an environment that strengthened the participation and the role of Eritrean youth in the opposition.

Now, we enter a new era of struggle, spirit, future of Eritrea, youth participation, and politics requiring new organization and structuring. It is with this in mind that the EPP First & Constituent Congress made a particular focus on the subject of youth, which aims at creating an environment conducive to strengthening and ensuring a sound role of Eritrean youth both in the present and in the future of Eritrea.

Eritrean People's Party views the question of Eritrean Youth with the future vision of Eritrea. It views that the progress of Eritrea depends on a vibrant and dynamic youth. And this is the reason why EPP pushes the question of youth to take the front burner in the struggle for democracy.

History shows us that youth is the main driving force for change. Youth is the pioneer and the leader of change and modernity in society. Undoubtedly, this is what we have witnessed in our own struggle for independence. But unlike in the liberation era when Eritrean youth fully participated in the struggle, we now have a small population of Eritrean youth who are participating in the struggle for justice in our country. The number of youth who have membership in the current Eritrean opposition force is even far less than anyone can imagine.

Of course, under the dictatorship of PFDJ, there is no reason to believe the existence of human rights violation, subjugation, and abuse needs explanation. It is just a brute fact. Eritrean people in general and Eritrean youth in particular do not seek explanation on it. Therefore, it goes without saying that those who by some miracle fled from the shackles of the repressive regime and saved their lives ought to start struggling for human rights and democratic change in our country.

Let me conclude by saying that we, as the driving force of change in our country, have the obligation and responsibility to face the dictatorial regime and reclaim the dignity of our people.

I thank you for your attention,
Representative of EPP Youth League
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