

EPP Mobilization Units Launch Campaign inside Eritrea

Department of Information and Culture

Eritrean People's Party

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In the last two weeks, EPP mobilization units have launched a campaign inside Eritrea by distributing papers containing information and messages to the Eritrean Defense Forces. Eritrean People's Party units distributed the papers throughout the areas in which the Eritrean Defense Forces patrol as well as in the surrounding villages of Khuli Zibi, SebEu, AdeBarussom, Abatat, Ksad Iqa, Inda Aruhun, and Adi Barin.

Shaken and unsettled by this action, the security forces of the Eritrean regime began to detain its own militia forces in the area and accused them of collaborating in the distribution of the papers, said sources of Eritrean People's Party from the area. The full content of the text is shown below.

A call to the Eritrean Defenses Forces

Eritrean People's Party

February 1, 2009

The dictatorial regime has turned Eritrea into unlivable place. Without doubt, you are living through it, you are witnessing it, and you are hearing about it every day. Your family, brothers, sisters, and your children are dying of hunger; they are dying of food deprivation, they are suffering from unemployment; they are facing extreme poverty, and they are facing persistent subjugation and imprisonment under the hands of the dictatorial regime. Unable to cope with the hardships, Eritrean youth are fleeing the country in hundreds and thousands, trekking their way through unfamiliar deserts and oceans into foreign lands. Many have died in the oceans, shores, and deserts before they reached their destination and continue to die. Parents of the children who left the country were accused of aiding and forced to pay fines to the regime. You are well aware of the policy of the dictatorial regime that prevented Eritrean farmers including your families from harvesting their crops and feeding themselves. We do not believe the plight and destitution of both your people and your country escapes your conscience and your great imagination.

Your generals, ministers, regional administrators, and other cronies of the regime are feeding themselves and lavishly spending your money in bars and banquets without a slight concern on your conditions and your state of wellbeing. As the country continues to be besieged by a prolonged period of crisis and corruption, the regime's generals and bureaucrats are orchestrating criminal activities to enrich themselves: examples include such crimes as charging thousands of Nakfa for those who flee the country, organizing various groups charged with maximizing profits for these officials through corruption, thefts, and killing of citizens. On the other hand, these officials are also actively engaged in making sure that you exercise the shoot-to-kill policy on their behalf on Eritrean youth who happen to be fleeing the country without paying money. The depth, magnitude, and danger of their crimes to the country are widely known. Here, too, we believe you are mindful of the crisis of the country.

The regime has instituted separate brigades. These brigades are the main forces protecting and supporting the power of Isayas Afeworki. These brigades are the most loyal forces, receiving higher salary than the regular army, well fed more than the regular army, and well dressed more than the regular army. Yet, the regular army does the bulk of the job without getting benefits commensurate to its service. The members of the regular army are wasting their young age in trenches. The cause of all this misery is the dictatorial regime. We do not believe you are not cognizant of the crisis and harm befalling you and the country. For how long a

time can you wait before you stand up and stop the suffering of your people. For how long a time can you continue to serve under the power of unconstitutional regime that opposes the rule of law and benefits only the few? For how long time do you stay in trenches?

We urge you to rise up; we urge you to say enough is enough to the dictatorship. It is time to stand hand in hand with the forces of Eritrean opposition and become an advocate of constitution, justice, democracy, and human rights protection in your country. It is time to stand up and refuse to shoot, kill, or arrest your people. Your role in the event of forced firing shots at your people, remember you have control of the firearm and you can position your firing out of the line of sight. We urge you to stop killing your compatriots who flee the country; they are fleeing the country because of repression and suffering under the hands of the dictatorial regime. Stand up and be the voice of Eritrean prisoners of conscience and political prisoners in providing support for their release from prison, and tell the world both their whereabouts and their condition. Recognize you have the power and moral obligation to free your people from the shackles of repression and dictatorship.