

## **Joint Eritrean Festival Beam of Hope**

**Joint Media Team  
Eritrean Democratic Party/Eritrean People's Party  
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Hosted by the Eritrean Democratic Youth Union since its foundation in 1985 and by the Eritrean Democratic Association (EDA) in recent years, the Annual Eritrean Festival has been going on every year for the past 23 years in the German towns of Kassel and Frankfurt. Now into its 24th year, the Eritrean Democratic Association is hosting this year's festival in Frankfurt, Germany - featuring for the first time a joint attendance of the Eritrean Democratic Party and the Eritrean People's Party.

Taking place from August 7 through August 9, 2009 at the Frankfurt Bockenheimer Warte University, the Eritrean Democratic Association is bringing a number of Eritrean scholars and experts together to deliver speeches and presentations on "Eritrea of Tomorrow" seminar and Youth programs. This year's theme of the presentations will focus on peace and democracy, and press and culture in the Eritrean context.

This year's festival will also feature variety of Eritrean cultural music and inspiring songs. Coordinated and led by Yitebarekh Gebretensae, artists such as Hussien Ali, Eyob Haile, Ibrahim Mahmud, Alem Asefaw (Rose), Nur El Din Mahmud, Tecele Sbahtu, Sutan Yassin, Semira Asmelash, Michael Araia, Alula Habte, and other veteran singers and entertainers will perform over the duration of the festival.

In addition, notable development in this year's festival will be a comprehensive presentation on the unity progress among the three Eritrean political parties, namely the Eritrean Democratic Party, the Eritrean People's Movement, and the Eritrean People's party. There will be also a series of other speeches and solidarity messages by Eritrean Political organizations and other invited guests.

Under the theme of "let the Eritrean opposition forces' joint works thrive for ending the rule of PFDJ and establishing a constitutional government", the 24th festival is gearing up to highlight and underline the strategic importance of unity and establishing a strong Eritrean opposition force. Coming together in such a festival will also raise hope and inspire Eritrean people in the fight against the dictatorial regime of PFDJ in our country.

Over the last three years, the Frankfurt festival has grown to include diverse Eritrean talents, expertise, and political views, which is a trademark of Eritrean society.