

EDP/EPP Delegation Holds Public Meeting in Holland

By
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At the end of an official mission to Holland, a joint delegation of the Eritrean Democratic Party (EDP) and the Eritrean People's Party (EPP) took time on Saturday, 6 June 2009, to exchange notes on important national issues with Eritreans opposed to the dictatorial regime in Asmara.

The delegation members who took part in the public discussion were Messrs. Woldeyesus Ammar, EPP chairman; Rezene Tesfazion, EDP head of Department for Information; Tesfai Woldemichael (Degiga), EPP vice-chairman in charge of Foreign Relations, and Mehari Tesfamairam, acting chairman of the Eritrean Red Cross/Red Crescent Society.

In his opening remarks at the meeting, the EPP chairman presented a lengthy account about the mission of the delegation to Holland; the general situation back home; the status of the opposition camp at this moment in time; the recent political and physical merger between the EPP and the Eritrean Democratic Resistance Movement/Gash-Setit, and the ongoing unity process between EDP and EPP.



From left to right, Messrs. Tesfai Woldemichael (Degiga), Woldeyesus Ammar, Rezene Tesfazion, and Mehari Tesfamairam.

Speaking in turn, the delegation members stressed the urgency of creating awareness in the international humanitarian community about the seriousness of famine in Eritrea this year and the increasing flight of its young people out of the country. They said these two developments were posing as additional threats to Eritrea and its people's survival and that every Eritrean and friends of Eritrea need to address them in the most effective way possible. It was also noted that the joint EDP/EPP delegation came to Holland for the second time this season to address mainly these two issues on which a memo was submitted for international action that could be initiated by the government of The Netherlands.

The delegation members explained the overall current situation in Eritrea to be extremely bleak, but added that the regime has lost the trust of the overwhelming majority of the people who would now think of finding a way out of this hell. The delegation members also believed that the organized Eritrean opposition organizations and the civil society groupings Diaspora have started taking positive steps towards strengthening themselves by coming together for joint action, and that this will help in creating a new momentum for the struggle for change and democratization in Eritrea.



A lengthy exchange took part with meeting participants who showed great interest in the unity processes within the opposition camp and what more could be done to strengthen the national umbrella. Speaker after speaker from the audience realized the importance of creating viable parties or fronts in order to have a viable national alliance with an effective strategy that can work for both the pre- and the post-PFDJ periods. It was also generally agreed that a national conference could be a way towards creating a working national umbrella although caution was deemed

necessary to carefully study the mechanisms of making such national conference of a fragmented opposition a real success.