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### No change without participation of youth

No fundamental change has taken place in any society without the participation of the downtrodden, which includes youth and women. In this issue, we like to focus on the participation of Eritrean youth.

The situation in Eritrea in the 1960s and 70s was dreadful. In response to that, Eritrean youth of that generation said enough is enough. They joined the resistance movement within the country in droves. The Eritrean youth who resided in North America, Europe and the Middle East at the time became their link to the world and contributed immensely morally, materially and diplomatically. The same movement put an end to the succession of detached and ty-

rannical domination by outsiders. No one needs convincing that today the situation in Eritrea is worse than it was under the former ruling elites. Here is why we need another youth movement:

To mention just one, education, the single university that existed is no longer there. As we reported before, Issaias and his handpicked cronies decided building technical schools in place of a university is more important for Eritrea.

The Eritrean government has opened a polytechnic school on the outskirts of Asmara, in Myhabar. The relatively new polytechnic school is the only post-secondary institution which is operational at this time.

Even then it is bedeviled by lack of resources and qualified staff for obvious reasons. The instructors and students are constantly streaming out and join those who are forced to watch their country being mishandled from the safety of a life of a refugee.

It begs the question, why is university education considered to be a luxury? Are there any other reasons except what they needed are workhorses rather than thinkers? Indeed to have multiple polytechnic and technical colleges would be good and timely. But so are universities. In any case Eritrean youth have not had the luxury to enjoy not even high school,

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### Facts

2003-Issaias shuts down Asmara University and moves the final year of high school to Sawa...shifting government priority away from youth education toward a national policy of indefinite conscription.

2004-A well known Eritrean recording artist and pacifist, Helen Berhane was jailed and emerges out of jail paralyzed from the beating and torture she suffered in jail, fate thousands of other Eritreans have shared.

Enable our youth to shoulder their national role

### ንማይ ዝተማህለልካዮ ንበረድ ኣይኹን!

ህዝቢ ኤረትራ ጭቆናን ግፍዕን መግዛእትን ስለዝመረጸ ድኣኣምበር ብረት ንክልዕል ደስ ስለዝበለ ኣይነበረን። ብመሰረቱ ህዝቢ ነጻ ክኸውን፣ ብዘይገብር ገበን ከይእሰር፣ ኣብዓዳ ፍትሒ ክነግስ፣ ቅዋም ክህል፣ ነጻ ዝኾነ ቤት ፍርዲ ክምስርት፣ ሰላምን ራህዋን ክረክብ፣ ካብ ሕማም ካብ

ድክነት ክናገፍ ምእንቲ ዝድለ መስዋእቲ ክፈሉ ባዕዳዊ ገዛኢ ኣውጹኡ። ኣምሓርኛ ዝሃረቡ ጨቆንቲ ወጹኦም ብትግሪኛ ዝሃረቡ ጨቆን ክትክሉ ግን ግዜ ኣይወሰደን። ኩሉቲ ንባዕዳውያን ነላግበሎም ዝነበርና ግፍዕታትውን ገደደ።

ቤት ማእሰርቲታት ካብ ሰምበልን ዓዲ ኪላን ሓሉፉ ፍቕዳ ገጠርን ከተማታትን ዊዓን ናኹራን ተወሰኹም። ናብ ገጽ 2 ይቕጽል

ሐሳብኩም አብዚ ዝስዕብ ልእኹልና <kemzelata@yahoo.ca>

### Thoughts of a frustrated youth

I was on the PFDJ official website today and saw an article entitled, "Eritrean global youth movement makes rapid progress."

In spite of the government's talk of participatory nation building, the youth of modern day Eritrea (and the Diaspora for that matter) are reduced to the role of political spectators. PFDJ attitude toward youth is anchored by the age-old misconception that we are neither capable nor interested in contributing to the development of our nation. Proof of this sad fact

comes in the form of the abrupt closing of the University of Asmara in 2006, indefinite military conscription, and the replacement of independent as well as vibrant youth organizations with the more complacent YPFDJ. In the Diaspora, YPFDJ conferences are reminiscent of youth rallies under Nazi Germany, where everyone is draped in matching t-shirts, lined up row by row, and subjected to the arrogant ranting of some out-of-touch elder who claims to represent our concerns.

Simply put, much like an over-bearing parent who sits their child at the "kids table" during dinnertime, uncle Issaias is more interested in keeping us young people away from the decision making table than he is in allowing us a seat at it.

The government treats Eritrean women just as bad. Independent women's unions and groups like Bana were closed down in 1996 in favour of the more conservative and patriarchal, the National Union of Eritrean Women.

## Full youth participation is vital in building a democracy

### ... Without Participation of youth ... (continued from page 1)

let alone college or university education, since their subjugation to endless military service has placed them in foxholes or in a perpetual servitude of free labour.

It is also a common knowledge high school and elementary education in Eritrea has deteriorated far bellow, even below, what they were during Ethiopian regimes. The standard is too low for Eritrean youth who had left the country to pickup the pieces and continue their education abroad.

Today, Eritrea is in no better condition than Cambodia was under the Khmer Rouge and Pol Pot. Issaiyas has borrowed a chapter from Pol Pot's book and has made all Eritrean intellectuals idle or blue-collar workers. The fear of educated youth is obvious.

Yemane Gebreab, the only member of the regime capable of speaking youth language has started his world tour of deceit and misinformation.

The blackmail comes in many forms. The common thread however is money for the regime which certainly is being used to boost the regime's grip on Eritrean youth.

This is a call to Eritrean youth everywhere to shoulder their historic role and join the drive for change. In so doing, challenge the tools of repression like Yemane Gebreab when ever they appear in your part of the world.

## ብዘይተኻፋልነት ደቂ አንስትዮ ለውጢ ኣይርከብን

### ንማይ ዝተማህለልካዮ ንበረድ ኣይኹን ... (ኮብ ገጽ 1 ዝቐጸለ)

እስኪ ነወዳድርም፤  
ደርጊ ንዓመት ዝኣክል ከይሰርሑ ንሰራሕተኛታት ደግዝ እኹፍል ኔሩ ህግደፍ ግን ንዝሰርሑ ኣይከፍልን።  
ደርጊ ብኮሎኛ እንዳተንቀሳቐሰ ንህዝቢ ክምግብ ህግደፍ ንረድኤ ይኸልክሎም  
ደርጊ ምስብረቶም ዝተታሕዙ ከይተረፈ ኣብ ቤት ፍርዲ የቐርብ ቤተሰቦም መግቢ ከብጽሑሎምን ክበጽሑምን ይፈቅድ ኔሩ።

ህግደፍ ግን እንኳን ናብቤት ፍርዲ ክቐርብስ ኣበይ ክምዝተኣስሩን ስለምታይ ክምዝተኣስሩን ኣየፍልጥን።  
ህዝቢ ንኣርባዕተ ባኒ ክረክብ ንግሆ ሰዓት ኣርባዕተ ይስራዕ ኮንሬላት ህግደፍ ክኣ ቪላታት ይሰርሑ።  
ህዝቢ ኤርትራ ቅሚ ብዙሓት ካልኣት ሃረራትዮ ብሕጊ ምንባርን ብፖለቲካ ምድርጃውን ዝፈልጥ። ሎሚ ግን 4 ሰባት ውን ተራኺቦም ክማያየጡ ኣይክእሉን።

እንተደኣ ኣብ ፈቐዶ ኣንጎሎ ናይ መሕለፊ ፍቓድ ዝሕተት ኮይኑ፣ ባዕዳውያን ገዛኡቲ ከምዘወጹ መረጋገጹ የብሉን። ንመስከረም ክኣ ብታሕንስ ክዝክሩ ሞራል ኣይረክብን። እታ ናይ ብሓቂ ነጻነት ተምጽኣሉ መስከረም ክጅምር ይግደድ። ከምዚ ምስኮነ ክኣ እዩ ንማይ ዝተማህለልካዮ ንበረድ ኣይኹን ዝበሃል።