

Archpriest Father Hadgu Hadgembes Disappeared

**Department of Information and Culture
Eritrean People's Party
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Archpriest Father Hadgu Hadgembes was assigned by PFDJ regime to minister the Eritrean Christian church in Nairobi, Kenya. When the Eritrean community decided to raise money to build a new modern church, Archpriest Father Hadgu was very instrumental in campaigning and raising funds to the cause. However, soon a serious misunderstanding surfaced between the community and the committee in charge of the funds collected for church. The committee was composed of PFDJ supporters. The conflict became so intense that the regime dispatched two priests to Kenya to solve the problem. According to information released by Eritrean People's Party on August 20, 2008, the two priests were unable to solve the conflict.

At the centre of the conflict is the intervention of PFDJ regime and its manipulative actions to steal the money of the church. When the community stood its ground and nothing seemed to go well for the PFDJ, the Eritrean Embassy in Nairobi resorted to plotting to kill Archpriest Father Hadgu Hadgembes and Deacon Abraham Woldeslassie by hiring Kenyan hit men; Ex EPLF fighters Yafet Kiros, Michael Gebretenae, Kiflom Gebremariam, and Petros Tekies were assigned to coordinate and facilitate the killing by contacting the hit men. The price tag for the job was 30,000 Kenyan shillings (\$5,000 American dollars). However, before this elaborate plan of action against the lives of Archpriest Father Hadgu and Deacon Abraham took place, the plan blew on the face of the PFDJ Embassy. Archpriest Father Hadgu knew about the plot against his life and immediately reported it Kenyan police. Sources reaching us say that the four Ex EPLF accomplices in the plot were immediately picked up by police and were put under the custody of Kenyan police.

But the Eritrean Embassy in Nairobi soon managed to bail out the four collaborators from prison. Following the release of the four men and on Sept 15, 2008, the Eritrean embassy had the Kenyan police forcibly close down the Eritrean community church in addition to physically harming and removing Deacon Abraham Woldeslassie from the church during the shutdown of the church. Sources tell us that Archpriest Father Hadgu and Hailmariam Tweolde (Eritrean citizen) have disappeared and their whereabouts is unknown. Eritrean mothers and concerned Eritreans have been camping in front of the closed church, holding vigil lights and joining in prayers. Eritrean People's Party will update you more on this as information becomes available.