

One Eritrean Killed and Another Wounded by Border Security

Department of Information and Culture

Eritrean People's party

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On Monday, Sept. 7, 2009, a border security officer fired shots at a car carrying Eritreans, killing one and wounding another. The incident took place at the Eritrean-Sudanese border, just few kilometers east of Kassala town. The Eritreans were fleeing the country and trying to reach Kassala when fired upon by the border security.

The name of the Eritrean killed by the border security officer is Helen Kibreab Gebreslassie, a resident of Gofa, a village located in the vicinity of Keren. The name of the wounded is Liya. Eritrean People's Party sources could not identify the last name of Liya or where her residency is in Eritrea.

Apparently the driver escaped from the gun-fire safely and reached Kassala with the dead body of Helen and the rest of the Eritreans on board. After entering Kassala, the driver dropped off the dead and the wounded in a certain street, including the rest of the passengers and drove off. Sudanese authorities are trying to locate the driver and the vehicle, as well as the whereabouts of the remaining passengers.

In the morning of the incident, a local resident passing by discovered both Liya and the abandoned dead body of Helen and called authorities. Liya is receiving medical treatment in Kassala hospital. Sources of Eritrean People's Party said, Sudanese security forces reportedly have arrested the border security officer responsible for the shooting and are conducting investigation on the shooting.

Kassala is one of Sudan's Eastern towns situated few kilometers from the Eritrean-Sudanese border. And all the border cross-entry points close to Kassala are commonly used as an escape route by thousands of Eritreans who seek political asylum in Sudan. The Eritrean border security forces have killed many Eritrean youth, women, and journalists, including teenagers in this route over the past few years.