



Statement on the violations of human rights by the dictatorial regime in Eritrea

Submitted by ELL to the 35th session of the Human Rights Council meeting in
June 2017 - Geneva

Mr. President of the Council of Human Rights,

Representatives of States and human rights organizations and civil society organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Special Rapporteur and members of the Commission of Inquiry on
Human Rights Violations in Eritrea

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since its accession to power 25 years ago, the Eritrean dictatorial regime has consistently
displayed his hostile attitude and practice towards human rights in general the rights of Eritrean
citizens in particular. The most prominent violations are briefly mentioned hereunder:

- Early non-judicial arrests began since the liberation moment and the regime accession to power in 1991 followed by the mass arrests of private school teachers in 1994 the fate of which remains unknown until today. This with the aim of marginalising the diversified cultures of the different Eritrean national components in attempt to impose its cultural domination and hegemony.
- The organized arrest campaigns vigorously continued outside the legal system incarcerating people involving all prisoners of conscience and critics of the regime's policies in extremely inhumane conditions.
- Blatant abuses of rights, torture, murder, disappearances and ethnic cleansing unabatingly continuing.
- Women are subjected to dual exploitation through the draft of compulsory recruitment and engaging them in hard labour and military camps which is incompatible with their female nature and role in society and where rape, and various forms of persecution and torture committed.



رابطة أبناء المنخفضات الإرترية

Eritrean Lowlanders League



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- Waves of forced human migration continues - especially from young people because of the compulsory indefinite military service – despite the risks of exposure of human organs trade criminal rackets, thus the Eritrean youth became the primary target of gangs of human traffickers.
- The regime's antagonistic stand against political, economic and cultural rights and policy of denial of all basic rights and freedoms of the Eritrean people.
- Execution of land and property confiscations, particularly in the Eritrean lowland, as part of the policy of demographic change, which is criminalized by all international laws and norms, among them the Article 19 of the African Union Charter, that criminalizes the illegal seizure of property of third parties despite the fact that the Eritrean regime is one of its signatories.
- Displacement of the inhabitants of the towns and villages of Adi Kayeh, Tessenie, Karkabt, Arrafli, and the town of Hagat, where houses were demolished without prior notification and legal justification and without any compensation and the provision of alternative housing.
- Harsh repression against peaceful demonstrations, the most recent of which was a demonstration and the inhuman assault of the women of the Eastern Lowlands in Bada region in the province of Afar Dankalia in November 2016.
- The recurring bombardment of the Red Sea fisher men last one in May 2017.

Mr. President:

The Eritrean dictatorial regime has never complied with any of the international resolutions taken against it, which the most recent of them were the recommendations contained in the report of the Especial Human Rights Rapporteur Commission (1916) on the violations of human rights in Eritrea that amount to genocide. Among still ongoing violations are:

- The continuation of the recruitment and the imposition of the indefinite mandatory compulsory service continues in significantly increased momentum.
- Continued forced servitude like labour of youth t without paid wages and in poor and hazardous health conditions.
- Rampant land confiscations, displacement of original inhabitants and resettlements of new ones.
- Forgotten Eritrean Refugees in Eastern Sudan in measurable life conditions



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We therefore appeal to the Human Rights Council and the international community to condemn the Eritrean dictatorship atrocities and abuse of rights and bring it to international justice for the following violations:

1. Infringement on the rights of natives to uphold and maintain their special cultures.
2. Extra judicial indefinite detention, incarcerations disappearances and executions.
3. Failure to provide prisoners with fair trials.
4. Assault, murder, torture and enforced disappearance.
5. Expropriation of land and seizure of private property of citizens.

We also hereby reaffirm our support for the content of the report forwarded by the especial Rapporteur on Human Rights in Eritrea, and highly commend the efforts made by the Office of the High Commissioner, in particular UN Special Rapporteur Ms. Sheila B. Keetharuth and the Working Group.

We call for the renewal of the mandate of fact-finding commission headed by Ms. Sheila B. Keetharuth for a further year term to pursue its mission of investigating the regime's continuing violations and crimes against Eritrean human rights.

With all respect, appreciation and gratitude.

Executive Office,

The Eritrean Lowlanders League (ELL)

14th June 2017