

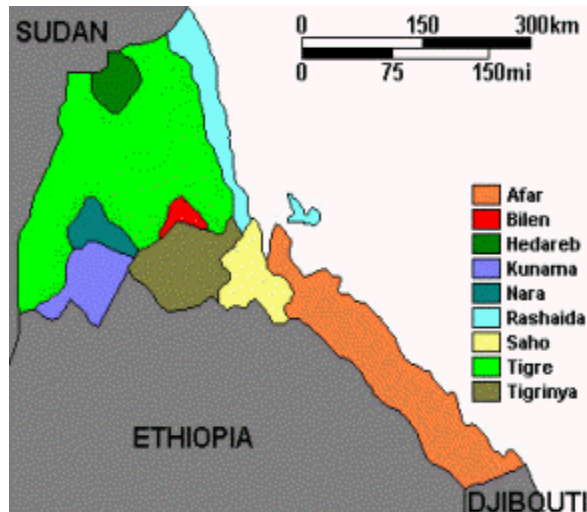
By: Mr. Humed Huley

Kongsvinger  
Norway

May 18, 2010

## The continued miserably suffering of Eritrean peoples

Email:



While the State of Eritrea celebrates its 19<sup>th</sup> year of independence on 24<sup>th</sup> May and the Eritrean Opposition Groups in Addis Ababa are making themselves busy with the National Conference Agendas, the National Security Forces of Eritrea continues to severely violate fundamental freedoms and human rights of its peoples in violation of its obligations under domestic and international law. The people of Eritrea fought 30 years of bloody war with Ethiopia to gain National Independence to realize their legitimate rights to achieve economic prosperity, social progress and to establish a democratic State that promotes the rule of law and respects human rights. Unfortunately, our dreams are today turned into untold misery.

### *Afar Situation in Eritrea*

Eritrean societies are generally living under an oppressive Guerilla totalitarian regime that had turned the whole country into a military prison. The country is under siege by the regime itself. Today, more than ever before, the Afar people in Eritrea are seriously experiencing a great deal of political, economic and social injustice. They are faced with absolute poverty, food insecurity, and lack of medical care, hunger and violations of human rights. The regime has particularly restricted democratic freedoms and rights of the Eritrean Afars. Up-to-date, the Afar people in Eritrea are at risk, says UNHCR 2006. Afar people who try to flee their impossible situation are treated like criminals and many of them were killed on the Djibouti border and on the Ethiopian border.

### *Division of Afar Region in Eritrea*

In 1996, the Guerilla de facto totalitarian regime of Isayas Afworki decided to divide the Afar Region, which was known as **Dankalia**, into two zones and amalgamated them with other nationality regions with the objective of destroying the traditional system of governance, social solidarity, traditional values of the Afar society, and more importantly to legalize the Tigrinya speaking people's settlement in Afar region. This was in violation to International Laws, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) General Assembly

resolutions 2200A (XXI), Res/61/295, and Res/41/128, as it is going to change geographical character of the region, demographical composition of Afar societies.

### ***Economic problem***

Afar People are continuously deprived of the basic rights and they have been restricted all sound because they belong to the Afar ethnic minority group, as the State does not have any confidence in Afar. These situations have caused the Afar several physiological and mental distress and they are living in constant fear. The Eritrean security forces closed down Afar business and revoked their passports and prevented them from travelling abroad to carry on their commercial business, and as a result made the family's life miserable. It was like the whole Afar people were being kept in prison in their own home. Recourses show that since independence from Ethiopia in 1993, Eritrean peoples have faced economic, political and social problems desperately. Thirty years of war have left the country devastated, more than 750 000 people fled Eritrea, taking refuge in neighbouring countries, such as Sudan, Yemen, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Europe, US, Australia etc. Again, during the border war with Ethiopia in 1998 - 2000, approximately 356 000 peoples were forced to leave the country and became refugees. More than 310 000 people were displaced within the country, mainly the Afar and the Kunama Ethnic Minority Groups (EMG). Many Afar families cannot get grain even in their own town. "Any attempt to get maize, wheat or other type of grain from elsewhere has become an illegal activity" said the Eritrean Human Rights Activist Elizabeth/Elsa Chyrum, 2009.

### ***No Freedom of Movement***

Today, the Afar people are not allowed to travel to Yemen, Djibouti and Ethiopia even for medical treatment. The Afar people are systematically required to obtain special permission to conduct their own business in the country. Afar businessmen are subject to Immigration control. Their movement is severely restricted

### ***HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS:***



#### ***Background***

***Name:*** Ali Yusuf Mohamed

***Age:*** 50s

***Occupation:*** Member of Regional Assembly

***Marital Status:*** Married

***Children:*** five

***Ethnicity:*** Afar

***Religion:*** Muslim

***Date imprisoned:*** 1999

***Reason for his detention:*** Peaceful expression, opinions, views.

***Information:*** Have not heard anything from him since.

***Location:*** Unknown

Human Rights sources reported that, in Eritrea, thousands of people are imprisoned, disappeared and killed by Eritrean security forces indiscriminately in different places. Thousands of young people and youths have fled the country due to fear of being

imprisoned and harassed or fear of being sent to the war zones. Among the detainees are military officers, high government officials, members of local Assembly, such as a vice-President Mahmud Sherifo, General Ogbe Abraha, the former Foreign Minister Mr. Haile Woldetensae, Mr. Ali Yusuf Mohamed member of Eritrean National Assembly (afar), Mr. Ahaw Ali, President of Local Assembly (afar) Mr. Ali Issa (Afar), deputy mayor of Assab, Dankalia Region and also over 560 members of the Afar ethnic groups have been detained without having been charged with any offence, and without access to a free and fair trial since 1999- up- to -date. Some of these detainees were members of the Dankalia Regional Administration officials. They were imprisoned on account of their non-violent opinions and beliefs. None has been brought before the court of law, while the national laws require this to be done within 48 hours accordingly. Their locations remain unknown up to present. Security forces continued to detain and arrest parents of individuals who evaded national service duties or fled the country, along with their family members; there were reports that such parents were either fined 50,000 nakfa (\$3,333) or forced to turn their children in to the government”( USA report 2010).

**Helicopter torture**



Torture is regularly practiced in this way. Torture and ill-treatment in detention are routine in Eritrea, reported Human rights watch 2009.



**Situation of Eritrean Afar refugees!**

Eritrean Afar refugees are at serious risk due to lack of medical care, food, water, and shelters.  
Photo: Qafar.com

**Eritrean Afar refugees in Barahle, zone 2 of Afar region**

Eritrean Afar refugees in Barahle, zone 2 of Afar region – Ethiopia, are starving! They are living under sever conditions and need emergene relief aid. They have to survive hostility and

humiliation from where they sought asylum, including European countries. For example, Eritreans deported for UK, Germany, Malta, Libya, Egypt and Sudan were imprisoned on their arrival and their whereabouts are unknown. Here are some Afar refugees entered into Afar Region - Ethiopia to seek asylum. Our thanks go to the Ethiopian government, Afar regional government, Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA) and Afar Charitable Foundation in Canada (Can go Afar) for their generous support that they have been given to us.

### ***Eritrean Afar refugees in Aysaita-zone 1Afar Region***



Eritrean Afar refugees in Aysaita- zone 1 of Afar region hoping to receive relief aid form Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA) based in the State of Afar and Canada based Afar Organisation, known as “Can go Afar”.

*Photo: Qafar.com*

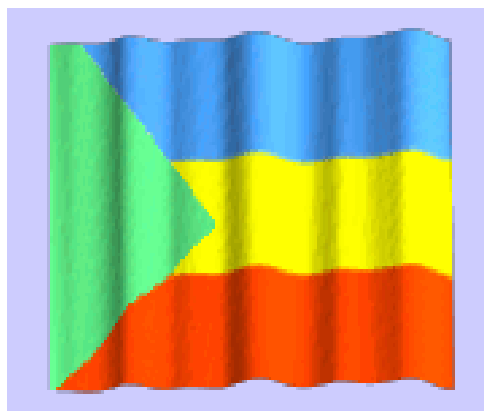
### ***Afar refugees Children in Aysaita Camp***



These are young Afar children who were forced to leave their own country because of racially and politically motivated abuse, harassment and mal-treatment and discrimination that they faced in their country.

*Photo: Qafar.com*

### ***National Flag of the Red Sea Afar Democratic Organisation***



*Photo: Dahlak.org*

The aforementioned factors contributed to the creation of the Red Sea Afar Democratic Organisation. The front's ultimate objective is to realise political and human emancipation of the Afar people in Eritrea.

Today, what is left for the Eritrean people? Nothing left. Today in Eritrea there is no law, no freedom, no right, no democracy, no justice and no respect for human rights.

All peace loving peoples of Eritrea must resist a Guerilla de facto regime of Eritrea by providing all possible means and support to the Red Sea Afar Democratic organisation established to realize the legitimate rights to Self-Determination of all nations and nationalities of Eritrea.