

**Eritrea: Land of
Can-Do People!**
(*Yikealo! kikewn eyu
kemey zeykewn!*)



ERI-NEWS

Bi-Weekly Newsletter
**Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to AU
and UNECA**
Press Section

**National Service: A tool
for Economic
Development, National
Cohesion and the
Defence of Sovereignty**



Eritrean and Sudanese Heads of State Discussed All Round Ties

President Isaias Afwerki conducted a three-day working visit to the Republic of Sudan from 11-13 June 2015. On arrival at Khartoum International Airport, President Isaias was accorded warm wel-



come by President Omar Hassan Al-Beshir along with a Guard of Honor and the national anthems of the two countries.

At the meeting that took place at the Presidential Palace on June 11, the two Presidents discussed in depth the status



as well as ways and means of bolstering the partnership that exists between the two countries. The talks between the two leaders also covered regional and international developments of interest to the two countries.

Furthermore, President Isaias held talks with Prof. Ibrahim Ahmed Omar, the Chairman of the country's National Assembly; and Gen. Bekri Hassan Saleh, First Deputy President on enhancing bilateral ties.

'Eritrea Making Significant Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women': Eritrean Delegation Statement at the AU Summit

A delegation led by Ambassador Araya Desta, Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the African Union and UN Economic Commission for Africa, participated in the 25th African Union (AU) Summit held in Pretoria and Johannesburg, South Africa from 7-15 June 2015, under the theme "*Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063.*"



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**Eritrean Mission to
AU & ECA**



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The 25th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government which was held on 14 and 15 of June was preceded by the 27th Session of the Executive Council (from 11-13 June), and the 30th Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (from 7-9 June).



During the discussion on the theme held at the session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, Ambassador Araya shared Eritrea's experience in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. He elucidated that Eritrean women did not wait to be given their rights but they took it upon themselves to guarantee their rights. Under the motto "Equality through Equal Participation" they stood side by side with their brothers to liberate the country. They are now at the center of the efforts to defend the hard-earned independence and to build the nation.

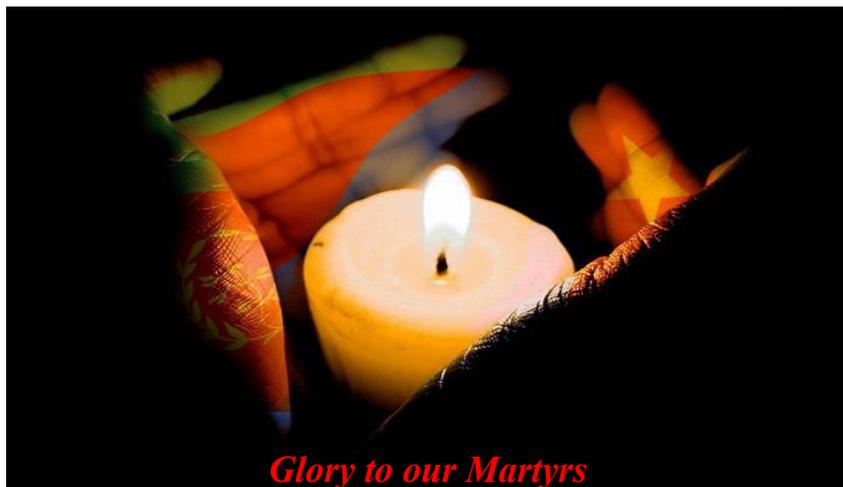
Ambassador Araya elaborated that the Eritrean

Government has put in place policies and institutions that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. Guided by the principle of social justice, the Government has made huge investment, among others, in expanding maternal health services, girls' education, access to water, as well as the modernization of agriculture, provision of firewood saving stoves and micro-credit services.

In the political sphere, Ambassador Araya informed the Assembly that Eritrea promotes the participation of women from the village to national levels through reserving quotas to women in Assemblies, community courts and administrative structures. He also indicated that Eritrea's laws guarantee the equality of women in all aspects of life, including access to and ownership of land and property. He added that Eritrea outlawed underage marriage and set the minimum age of marriage at 18, as well as criminalized FGM.

Ambassador Araya concluded his statement by stating that the measures and investments have resulted in improved wellbeing of women, and their greater participation in all aspects of the social, political and economic life of the country. Nevertheless, the Eritrean People and Government, not contented with this significant progress, are striving to ensure full empowerment of women and gender equality.

June 20: ERITREAN MARTYRS DAY



Eritrean Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Statement

“Commission of Inquiry” Report: Cynical Political Travesty That Undermines Human Rights



The people and government of Eritrea find the wild accusations leveled against them by the “Commission of Inquiry” established by the UN Human Rights

Council of “systematic and gross violation of human rights” totally unfounded and devoid of all merit. These accusations are simply a continuation and an escalation of the politically motivated campaign to undermine the political, economic, and social progress the country is making, including in the area of human rights. They are an attack, not so much on the government, but on a civilized people and society who cherish human values and dignity.

These accusations and despicable attempts to silence those who have anything positive to say about Eritrea are a transparent attempt to race against time to impede the increasing and increasingly productive international engagement with Eritrea. Clearly, the resort to extreme charges and indecent hyperbole, including cynical and unwarranted reference to “possible crimes against humanity,” is intended to forestall a sober reflection on the realities in Eritrea and to rush matters and force the issue before fairness and justice can prevail. It is also undeniable that there are those who will hide behind these outrageous claims to whitewash their transgressions against Eritrea and to seek pretexts for their acts of destabilization.

Eritrea has consistently stated that as a nation born in the struggle for human rights, it remains fully committed to ensuring and enhancing the human rights of its people, and to improving the quality of life of all its citizens. It is a telling indictment that in a region under severe threat from violence, gross

abuse, extremism and terrorism, where so many commit so many crimes, the sponsors of the Commission choose to attack peaceful, stable, harmonious, human development-focused Eritrea. They need to be forcefully challenged and held accountable as their actions and lack of integrity and professionalism undermine human rights and the credibility of human rights institutions as well as regional peace and stability. Eritrea accordingly calls on all nations and on all people who value fairness, justice and human rights to demand an end to the travesty that is being perpetrated by “Commission of Inquiry.”

For Eritrea, the current attacks aimed at undermining our sovereignty and progress are a matter of *déjà vu*. We were denied our right to independence as a former colonial country because of the perceived “strategic interests” of the United States. Few supported us during our legitimate struggle for freedom. The powerful tried to denigrate our cause and bomb us into submission. We were routinely written off. And yet, by dint of our determination and humanity, we emerged victorious.

Today, despite the vile slanders and false accusations, despite a deafening international silence in the face of the illegal occupation of our land in violation of international law, despite economic pressures and encouragement of illegal migration, our resolve and confidence that we will build a dignified and prosperous nation remains unshaken. Eritrea will not be diverted from that lofty objective and will redouble its determination and efforts to achieve it.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Asmara

09 June 2015

At the AU Summit Eritrea Urged Concrete Actions to Combat Human Trafficking

The Eritrean Delegation which participated in the 25th Summit of the African Union (AU) held in South Africa from 7-15 June 2015, stated that human trafficking and smuggling are among the most serious contemporary challenges confronting the African continent and that the scourges have claimed and continue to claim the lives of thousands of Africans, especially youth.



The Delegation elucidated that Eritrea, as one of the countries affected, has been closely working with its neighbors, countries of transit and destination as well as the AU and other regional and

international organizations to combat the problem.

In this regard, the Delegation called for the expeditious implementation of the outcomes of the Regional Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa held in Khartoum, Sudan from 13-16 October 2014. The Assembly of Heads of State and Government accepted Eritrea's call and endorsed the outcomes of the Regional Conference.

Moreover, during the discussions on the reform of the UN and Africa's increased representation in the UN Security Council, the Eritrean Delegation underscored the need to reaffirm the African Common Position on the issue as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. The Delegation also called for redoubling AU's efforts to garner support from other countries and regional groupings to the African Common Position, and cautioned against piecemeal approach to the reform process.

Eritrea Participated in the High-Level Meeting on the Follow-up to the Second UN Conference on LLDCs held in Zambia



Ambassador Salih Omer, Ambassador of Eritrea to the Republic of South Africa and Southern

Africa Region, participated in the **High-Level Meeting on the Follow-up to the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)** that was held in Livingstone, Zambia, from 2-4 June 2015.

The meeting was organized to provide a platform for sharing of best practices, experiences and initiatives, come up with concrete recommendations on the follow-up actions on the implementation of the Vienna Plan of Action (VPoA) and a shared framework system of indicators for monitoring the VPoA.