

**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**



Eritreans Held Europe-Wide Demonstration Against the UN COI Report

Thousands of Eritreans and friends of Eritrea in Europe held a rally in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22 June 2015, to express their indignation at the fallacious and defamatory reports issued by the UN 'Commission of Inquiry (COI) and the Special Rapporteur (SR)'.

The demonstrators underlined that Eritrea safeguards the basic rights of its citizens, as a consequence of which it has earned the reputation of being an island of peace and security in a war-torn region. The reports issued by these entities with dubious credibility are politically motivated and deliberately designed to tarnish Eritrea's image.

These schemes are woven to deflect international attention from Ethiopia's continued occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories in violation of the EEBC arbitral award as well as to create another instrument to harass Eritrea which remains under unjust UN sanctions.

Eritrean citizens residing around the globe sent messages of solidarity to their compatriots who staged the demonstrations in Geneva.

Representative of the demonstrators delivered to UN officials petitions signed by more than 19,000 people.



The petition urged the UN Human Rights Council to:

- ◆ reject the Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea and the Special Rapporteur
- ◆ call for the unconditional withdrawal of Ethiopian forces from sovereign Eritrean territories, and
- ◆ call for an immediate lifting of the unjust sanctions imposed on Eritrea.



Vol 2. Issue 36

08 July 2015

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Contact Addresses:

**Tel: +251-116620052
Fax: +251-116620011
Email: eritreanaumission@gmail.com
P.o.Box: 5527
[Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](#)**



**Eritrean Mission to
AU & ECA**



@EritreaAU

At UN HRC, Eritrea Reaffirmed its Commitment to the Promotion of Human Rights, Rejected Politically Motivated Mechanisms

An Eritrean Delegation led by Ambassador Tesfamicael Gerahtu participated in the 29th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), held in Geneva. The Delegation delivered two statements to the Council on the Report of the Commission of Inquiry and the draft resolution on Eritrea.



Excerpts from the Statement delivered by Ambassador Tesfamicael Gerahtu to the Council, on 23 June:

“The bleak narrative on human rights in Eritrea that the Commission has portrayed is widely at variance with the prevailing reality in the country. Yes there are shortcomings and I have no intention to claim that everything is rosy in my country. In any case, these have been and are being addressed within the UPR process. Eritrea is indeed a young nation that is facing numerous problems; a big part of which has to do with externally-induced, existential, challenges. The statutory, 18-month duration, National Service had been extended because of Ethiopia’s belligerent appetites, postures and designs. But Eritrea has reverted to expansive demobilization when and if conditions permit and is currently exerting efforts to ensure educational and employment opportunities for those who fulfill their national service obligations. The fact is, in spite of all these challenges, Eritrea’s institutions are evolving at a reasonable and healthy pace.

Its economy is progressing steadily and ready for take-off after much hard work. To ignore all these realities and falsely indict Eritrea to advance the political agenda of certain powers will thus constitute a huge travesty of justice that cannot be excused under any pretext.”

Excerpts from the Statement delivered to the Council on 2nd of July:

“Eritrea has rejected the politically motivated mechanisms and the prescriptive reports and recommendations of the COI and SR on Eritrea. This draft resolution is only meant to legitimize these unfounded, biased and shunned reports and my delegation thus calls upon members of the Council to oppose the draft resolution.

“The resilience of the people and government has been ascertained as a reality and neither will Eritrea surrender its sovereign rights nor will it abandon its independent political stance under any name including under the pretence of human rights.

“Eritrea is, however, earnestly redoubling its development efforts to achieve a qualitative leap in the next 3-4 years. The mainstreaming of human rights is being strengthened as an integral part of this process and reflects our commitments and efforts to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. On the other hand, engagement, cooperation and institutional links on human rights has also been consolidated and expanded. Eritrea believes that the draft resolution is a recipe for a sustained confrontation with no dividend to the promotion of human rights.”

The full texts of the Statements of the Eritrean Delegation delivered at the session can be accessed from:

<http://shabait.com/news/local-news/20049-statement-of-eritreas-delegation-on-the-commissions-report>

<http://shabait.com/news/local-news/20100-29-session-of-the-hrc-statement-of-the-eritrean-delegation-on-the-draft-resolution-on-eritrea>

Eritrea Investing in Its Youth to Secure a Brighter Future

Human capital development is at the center of Eritrea's development strategy. Eritrea provides its citizens with free, accessible and quality education from pre-elementary to post-graduate levels. Over the last two weeks, more than 3200 youth graduated from Tertiary and Technical/Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions. More than 40% of the graduates are female.

Eritrean Institute of Technology (EIT)

1,283 students graduated from the Eritrean Institute of Technology (EIT) with Master's, 1st Degree and Diploma in the fields of Engineering, Science and Education. 10, 901 students have graduated from EIT over the past eight years.



Asmara College of Health Science

416 students graduated from the Asmara College of Health Science with 1st Degree and Diploma in Patient Care, Pharmacy, Public Health and Health Assistance. More than 2,000 students have graduated from the College since its opening in 2005.



Adi-Keih College of Arts and Social Sciences

350 students graduated from Adi-Keih College of Arts and Social Sciences with 1st Degree, Diploma and Certificate. The areas of study include Archeology, Anthropology, Law, Eritrean Languages and Literature, Political Science and International Relations, Sociology and Social Works, Journalism and Mass Communication, and Fine Arts.



Asmara Community College

Asmara Community College graduated **440** candidate teachers with Diploma and Certificate. 326 of the graduates are female.

TVET

- ◆ **167** students graduated from Dombosco Technical School, with certificate in the fields of Mechanics, Wood and Steel Works, Electricity and Electronics...
- ◆ **21** students graduated from Halai Technical School with certificate in General Metal Works
- ◆ **446** students graduated from Denden Commercial School with certificate in Accounting, Secretarial Science and Book Keeping.
- ◆ **150** students graduated from Mai-Habar Technical School with certificate in Mechanics, Building, Drafting, Electronics, Plumbing, General Metal and Wood Works, Electricity and Surveying.

Eritrean Youth Making History at the Tour de France

Eritrean professional cyclists Daniel Teklehaimanot and Merhawi Kudus are making history at this year's Tour de France for their country and Africa.

The two pioneers are participating in the prestigious race representing their South African team MTN Qhubeka, the first team from Africa to compete in the more than a century of the Tour's history.



President Isaias Afwerki received the cyclists before their departure and awarded them racing bicycles and other gifts in recognition to their outstanding achievements.

Merhawi is the youngest participant in this year's race, while Daniel has already been identified as one of the top five mountain climbers.



Eritreans Demonstrating in Geneva, 22 June 2015