

# **A Protest letter against the forced repatriation, killing and ill-treatment of Eritrean asylum seekers by the Egyptian border guards, police and immigration authority in Egypt**

Saturday, July 31, 2010

H.E. Mr. Tarek Ghoneim  
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
Permanent Representative to the AU & ECA,  
Addis Ababa/ Ethiopia

Dear Ambassador:

We Eritreans who are in here Addis Ababa, to participate for the national conference for democratic change in Eritrea, organized by the Eritrean Democratic Alliance and Eritrean civic societies in diasporas are really saddened by the forced repatriation, killing and ill-treatment of the Eritrean asylum seekers in Egypt, by your border guards, police and immigration authority. Despite repeated calls by the United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other International Human Rights Organizations upon your government to stop this outrageous action still is continuing.

Your Excellency

Ever since the Eritrean independence, Mr. Isaias Afewerki's PFDJ dictatorial regime, has persecuted, tortured and arrested any individual or group of individuals: war disabled veterans, journalists, youth, elderly, parents, religious leaders, reformers, university students and more who were in any position to exercise their basic freedoms and civil liberties.

Furthermore, the National Service in our nation (Eritrea) is supposed to last for a year and half. However, in reality, this National Service has no end; hundreds of thousands are still serving for years on hard slave labor camps in pretext of National Service and National Development Campaign. This endless military service and forced conscription have caused mass exodus of our youth from nation to neighboring countries and much further beyond (including your country Egypt), since they don't see any future with the dictatorial regime except for forced slave labor camp or prison. Therefore, our youth and people who are fleeing from, Mr. Isaias Afewerki's PFDJ repressive regime, needs your protection not further abuse or killing and ill treatment of your border guards and police.

Your Excellency

We will be always thankful for your government and to the peoples of Egypt for the vital support during our struggle for independence of our nation Eritrea. However, the present acts of forced repatriation, ill treatment and killing our fellow citizens by your border

guards, police and immigration authority is immoral disgusting and should stop immediately.

Your Excellency

With this appeal, we are respectfully calling on your government to immediately stop, all forced repatriation, ill treatment and killing our fellow citizens by your border guards, police, and give unlimited and immediate access to UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Egypt to assess their asylum situations. As you are well aware, as signatory of the 1951 UN Convention against torture your government is obligated to respect the rights of all refugees.

We look forward to hearing back from you, as we look forward to the time when we Eritrean people can freely exercise the freedom and civil liberty to which we are entitled  
Sincerely Yours,

Bashir Ishaq

Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of National Conference for Democratic Change

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