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ERITREAN GLOBAL ACTION FOR JUSTICE

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Global Petition Drive Slams Politically-Motivated Persecution of Eritrea

Eritreans and friends of Eritrea from across the world have launched a petition to condemn repeated attempts by two UN-affiliated integrity-challenged bodies to malign the young nation of Eritrea under the cover of human Rights.

The petition calls on the United Nations Human Rights Council to reject the biased reports of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea and the Special Rapporteur Shiela Keetharuth. It also urges the Council to terminate the politically-motivated mandates of these two bodies and to work instead for engagement and cooperation with Eritrea so that the real struggle for human rights could be realized, not only in Eritrea but also in the rest of the Horn of Africa region.

Three months ago, tens of thousands of Eritreans from all corners of the globe, responding to unwarranted charges by the Commission against Eritrea, as well as its people and their culture, flooded the three-member body with their personal testimonies and accounts. Since then, Eritrean Global Action for Justice has learned that the number of personal testimonies that were submitted is now more than double of its earlier estimate. The number is now more than 45,000 submissions. Eritrean Global Action for Justice has also learned the Commission has been engaged in an inquisition-style attempts subjecting many of the authors of these letters to extended interrogations by their Ethiopian operatives. Using Ethiopian operatives to extract information from Eritrean protestors shows how insensitive or clueless (or both) the members of the Commission are about the complex relationship between Eritreans and Tigrigna-speaking Ethiopians.

In an attempt to explain away this storm of protest letters, there are those who insinuate that this was driven by the government of Eritrea; but this only shows how little they know about the Eritrean people and their fierce determination to preserve the sovereignty for which they sacrificed—and still sacrificing—so much in blood and treasure. This also shows how enraged the people are over the gross fabrication and orchestration of the Commission's report on Eritrea. But, the fact is, as those who submitted the letters testified, the whole process was an organic grassroots-based campaign.

All in all, Eritreans in the global diaspora, as communities strongly tied to their people who fought and are still fighting for the human rights and human dignity of their people, do not need any push or pressure to defend the truth about their people and their country.

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