

TO AVOID JUSTICES ERITREA IS HELD HOSTAGE BY FEAR FOR DECADES

The 5,000 Eritreans flee every month proves that "It is not law that rules Eritreans - but fear/ፍርሃት". In a bigger mirror the 60,000 flee every year makes 1% of 6,000,000 Eritrean populations. According to various sources, Hedarb constitutes 1%, Nara constitutes 1%, Bilen constitutes 2% ... of the Eritrean populations. This suggests that there could be the existence of some Eritrean nationalities not on the ground but only on the screen of the Eritrean television for propaganda purpose. In short there is no doubt that the Eritrean social fabric is at high risk. But the dictator fights, as usual, against the rise of our social awareness. Just to confuse us he says "Eritrea has succeeded in reducing its child mortality", but he already has annihilated the Eritrean family structure and forced the Eritrean young to be slaved, exiled, etc. If this is the case, did he establish children factory in Eritrea? But the Eritrean dictator can't stay for a minute without lying and confusing. We are annoyed of this. But not always, especially when the famine in Eritrea is as result of his government failure, but he blames the drought or CIA becomes a laughing matter. According to his propaganda Eritreans must go to Hague with complains not against him but against the CIA.

With this condition, the Eritrean people walked a long distance. The world was too late to read and understand the Eritrean reality. Here we can't say the Eritrean dictator made the world to see and act according to his evil intentions. The Eritrean people know very well that the dictator doesn't speak and understand democracy the global community language. For this there is a communication barrier between him and the rest of the world. But what the Eritrean people do not know is why the global community took so much time to understand the authoritarian rule of fear in Eritrea in front of enough evidence to prove it? To make the matter worse there are many who are not still illuminated even when it said 'Eritrea North Korea of Africa'. This view is very dangerous because it doesn't welcome a change in Eritrea. But Eritrea will not escape from being South Korea of Africa in order to give an answer to the wish majority.

But it is unfair to say that the Eritrean dictator is where he is now without any world's contribution. Of this it is more than enough if we remember Nevsun Resources, which owns the Bisha gold mine in Eritrea, a company that puts its interest before the Eritrean basic human rights by working hand and glove with the Eritrean dictator. This is clear that with a company or government like Nevsun R. it is very difficult to eradicate an authoritarian rule not only from Eritrea but from every corner of the globe.

We have read that the Eritreans flee proved the rule of fear in Eritrea. And we must not forget that the volunteer Eritrean refugees return home will stand in witness of what will happen. That is the return home of thousands **volunteer** Eritrean refugees from Sudan, Ethiopia, Israel, Europe, etc. will be a sign of the fall of dictatorship and hope to build continuity in Eritrea. During that time Eritrea will turn a new page of history. People will try to say 'I hate Iseayas the dictator but I don't fear him, because we are equal before the law'. So the flee or the return of the people of any country have different valid reasons that need to be better understood. Doing this is the key to a successful relationship.

When Eritreans start to say '**I don't fear the dictator ...**' it means the system that denies the existence of their basic human right is ended. The machine or the system that produces fear of imprisonment, fear of torture, fear of death, fear of shoot to kill policy, fear of being kidnapped and sold as ..., fear of being raped, fear of sexual assaults (in military camps, prison ...), fear of pregnancy after rape or assault, fear of being falsely accused, fear of being accused of your silence, fear of talking on the phone, fear of speaking the truth, fear of speaking to others, fear of speaking to authority figures, fear of speaking to boss, fear of being watched by police, fear the exercising the right of internet access, fear of the unknown, fear of isolation, fear of military slavery under various forms, fear of mass deportation, fear of arrest, fear of chain of roundups, fear of forced labors, fear of losing property (apartment, house, villa, land, ...), fear of losing your business, fear of losing someone, fear of chain of roundups, fear of not continuing education, etc. will be detached step by step. Like this historical Eritrean bad times ends and good begins. At that point Eritrea will start to dream (of national democratic election, building national library, archive, etc.) like any nation.





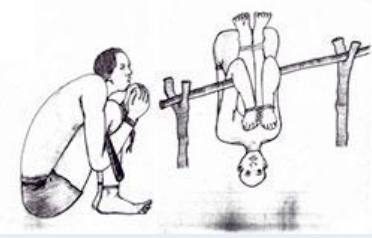
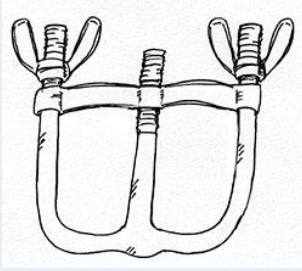

What do the experts say about the horrible fear that is divesting Eritrea and Eritreans?



“When we're afraid, we lose all sense of analysis and reflection. Our fear paralyzes us. Besides, fear has always been the driving force behind all dictators' repression.”
 — [Marjane Satrapi](#), *The Complete Persepolis*

tags: [dictatorship](#), [fear](#), [oppression](#), [repression](#)

Of all the fears that mentioned above we will talk only of torture that has paralyzed Eritrea. The authoritarian rule of Eritrea uses many kind of torture techniques (or methods) ተከኒክ/ሰርዓታት/ አግገባታት/ ዕልሊታ ናይ ቶርቱራ, but we will focus only on the following [UN/OHCHR](#) report. We need not words because “ a picture is worth a thousand words”.

	
<p>Helicopter - © 2015 Eritrean torture survivor</p>	<p>Helicopter - © 2015 Eritrean torture survivor</p>
	
<p>Otto - © 2015 Eritrean torture survivor</p>	<p>Almaz - © 2015 Eritrean torture survivor</p>
	
<p>Torch - © 2015 Eritrean torture survivor</p>	<p>Ferro - Drawn by another artist - © 2015 UN/OHCHR</p>
	

Now let us hear to what eyewitness Abba Teweldeberhan Zeggai says about 25 years old young Eritrean torture survivor. It is really a wakeup call (ሐደ ቃጽል ናይ ኣልላርመ). Let us have it.

“ The name of this young man ... is Ali Mohammed. ... he was actually born in a village near the city (port) of Asseb. Ali was deemed fit for the compulsory military service ... between 1995 and 1996. In 1997, while doing his “National Service” ... the military officer tied both his arms and legs ... He threw him in prison and kept him tied up in that way for an entire week. As a result, his blood circulation stopped ... The doctor could do nothing but to amputate both arms, while at least the legs were being saved by a pure miracle. The officer responsible for this criminal act was put into prison for just one week and then left free”(1).



Ali Mohammed

All together the seven drawings by Eritrean torture survivors and photo of tortured and amputated (ቀኑጽ) Ali are crafted to terrorize us. They are instruments with which the Eritrean dictator paralyzes and enslaves our minds in order to be in his shadow. But if we are well organized we can make them to be sources of our unity, strength, and resoluteness. But above all they have the ability to cement our commitments to the rule of law in Eritrea. So (ከምዚ), everybody can stand up against the odds and will not remain shackled by fear. Let us march towards alternative, justice and peace by prevailing not **Egoism but altruism**. Let us give hope for Ali Mohammed and other thousands in his condition.

But when we talk about the fear that rules Eritrea it doesn't mean that there are not other fears. There are different fears that people suffer from, like fear of famine, fear of war, fear of drought, fear of contagious diseases, fear of locust, etc. They are phenomenons that erupt at any time to mark different degree of damages. I would like to call them Abyssinian Tsunami. History of Abyssinia is covered with these. The worst scenario of these is when strike makes Abyssinia wave the white flag.

Now let us shed some light on Abyssinia mass starvation history. Out of many starvation Tsunami stories we will talk only about two. They are **ዘመን ኣካሒዳ** time of great famine and **እቲ ዓመት ናይ ስታግናዥዮ** (*stagnazione*) the year of stagnations. What do we mean by these?

► **ዘመን ኣካሒዳ** Time of great famine: so by definition it is said, because at that time the parents themselves did not recognize most of the children, or vice versa, each one trying to think of himself (*Tempo di grande carestia: dicesi cosi per antonomasia, che in quel tempo gli stessi genitori non riconoscevano piu' i figli, o viceversa, ognuno cercava di pensare a se stesso*). In 1889-1891 was a disastrous famine. But I am not sure if **ዘመን ኣካሒዳ** is after this starvation.

► **እቲ ዓመት ናይ ስታግናዥዮ** (*stagnazione*) the year of stagnations: Richard Pankhurst says: "Notwithstanding the country's agricultural potential the peasants faced many difficulties, their situation being often one of actual poverty in the midst of potential plenty. Famines due to crop failures, ravages of locusts or other pests, and death of plough oxen, as well as to depredations of the troops or destruction produced by war, occurred with moderate frequency.

[...]

This or another climate failure was remembered long after by the Bèt Abraha people of Western Eritrea, who called it “the year of stagnations” and told the German scholar Littmann that in that year “rain disappeared from the earth, and famine came over and beasts” (2).

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References:

- (1) Abba Teweldeberhan Zeggay, “In the Defence of the Oppressed”, Milano, April 13th, 2002, photo first and text second of the page cover.
- (2) Richard Pankhurst, “Economic History of .Ethiopia 1800-1935”, Addis Ababa Ethiopia, 1968, pp.216-217.