



For Immediate Release

The Source of the Tragedy is in Asmara

The people of Eritrea at home and diaspora are faced with one more massive human tragedy. The sinking of a boat near Lampedusa Island, Italy, loaded with 500 African immigrants, with the majority of them being Eritrean political refugees. This is an extension of a bigger national tragedy imposed on Eritrean people.

While we must mourn and extend the deepest condolence to the families of the martyrs, we have to go beyond the immediate tragedy and address real source of the recurring national tragedy. Whether it is a repeated shipwreck with the death of hundreds of Eritreans in the Mediterranean or the protracted inhuman torturing of Eritreans in Sinai, the **root cause** of all this evil being perpetrated on our youth is the tyrannical one man regime in Asmara.

In this hour of our national tragedy, we must stand strong and express our deepest sorrow, condolence, prayer, solidarity and sympathy with

the families of the victims of the Lampedusa. We appeal to the world and especially to the leadership of the Italian government, that the victim's remaining be returned to their families in Eritrea, so that they can be buried in their homeland and the families will have a closure.

Beyond the grieving period, when the issue moves from the front pages of international media to the archive of tragic incidents, Eritreans at home and in the diaspora have to turn their sadness and anger to a united action against the sources of this crisis. Eritreans have the unavoidable duty of putting aside all irrelevant and tangential differences and work hand in hand to bring a strategic remedy and resolution, by addressing the source of our national tragedy and crisis. As long as the regime in Asmara has control on Eritrea we will have more of these kinds of horrific tragedies.

We appeal to all Eritreans to reaffirm our sense of national duty and grasp the gravity of our national tragedy. We should stand strong as one people and bring an end to the tyrannical system imposed on our people and our country. A regime that cannot declare National Mourning Day, when over 300 of its citizen perish in a tragedy of this proportion, is nothing but the true enemy of the Eritrean people. A "president" who was willing to talk 5 to 6 hours of nonsense on TV- ERI a month ago, but fails even to extend a one minute public condolence to the families of the dead and the nation does not deserve to stay in power for a single day. The source of our tragedy is not in Rome, London, Washington DC, Cairo or Tripoli: It is in Asmara.

The Executive Committee

Eritrean Global Solidarity

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