



Aba Mussie Zerai Eritrean candidate for The Nobel Peace Prize

Aba Mussie Zerai is the very first Eritrean nomination to a Nobel Peace Prize.



My mind cannot stop without remembering the Icon African American recipient of the same Nobel Prize: Martin Luther King.

The nomination for Martin Luther King Jr. by the Norwegian Nobel Committee was in 1964.

Aba Mussie worked and still works hard to save refugees trying to cross dangerous borders and sail tempestuous seas. Most of these refugees are from his and my homeland – Eritrea –

They leave all lands and island they ever knew as a solid ground and take the risks to face the unknown all while holding tight in their arms their children's precious lives and cross hard sea waves to reach freedom and offer a life with promises to their families.

They look back and see dark. They look ahead and hear Aba Mussie's voice asking them to hold on for rescue.

Does this man sleep at all? Does he ever forget to smile?

One wonders what kind of heart it takes to be the person Aba Mussie is.

Many of the refugees attempt to cross the Mediterranean in rickety wooden boats or inflatables. They paid all they had and sometimes women pay the utmost price to be on those boats. Most of the refugees run away from the Libyan detention centers where they undergo torture and hardship at the hands of un-scrupulous people, including Eritreans. Unfortunately many of the victims who contacted Aba Mussie lost their lives before leaving those centers.

Aba Mussie is always on the phone communicating with Eritrean refugees in fear. He uses his satellite phone that allows him to contact refugees much easier even in the middle of an unfriendly sea and at late night.

Their minds filled with painful questions and deep fear. Aba Mussie constantly tries to make their terror dissipate from their hearts by creating a line of hope.

As the say goes "*Of all the forces that make for a better world, none is as powerful as hope. With hope, one can think, one can work, one can dream. If you have hope, you have everything.*"

Aba Mussie simply distributes Hope.

How much can we learn from Aba Mussie? I believe a lot if only we could smile to anyone in pain, share our time and lend a hand. For, we were at the same place and undergoing the same pain not long ago. By boat or by plane, we all left in search of peace and prosperity.

This time Eritreans in pain have Aba Mussie as their point of reference. Let us learn to be our own Aba Mussie wherever we might be by offering a random act of kindness to people around us.

Aba Mussie is the one who took assistance to those in despair to a higher level and with his nomination, he smiled with humility all while taking his seat in the pantheon of the Nobel Prize community, among the greatest such as Martin Luther King of the USA, campaigner for civil rights for all US citizens. Bertha Von Suttner, author of "Lay down your arms" who contributed to the creation of said Nobel Peace prize itself. Theodore Roosevelt, for his mediation to end the Russo-Japanese war. Nelson Mandela, for his work to terminate apartheid.

Aba Mussie the Nobel Peace Prize candidate from Eritrea! Our own country's candidate! What an honor he shares with each and every Eritrean for generations to come.

Aba Mussie gave more reasons for us to tell our country's name with pride and learn how to smile to adversity.

Thank you Aba Mussie.

Kiki and family.

13 October 2015

Some facts about the Nobel Prize:

The Nomination Process for a Nobel Peace Prize

The names of the nominees and other information about the nominations cannot be revealed until 50 years later.

Who chooses who wins the Nobel Prize?

The Norwegian Nobel Committee is responsible for the selection of eligible candidates and the choice of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. The Committee is composed of five members appointed by the Storting (Norwegian parliament).

Source: Wikipedia

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