

EPDP Chair Urges Europe to Take Action Against Asmara Regime Agents Abusing Refugee Laws

EPDP Information Office



In a strong memorandum addressed to Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, and copied to all European Governments, Mr. Tesfai Woldemichael (Degiga), the Chairman of the Eritrean People's Democratic Party (EPDP), urged European countries consider the Norwegian initiative of carefully scrutinizing and take appropriate action against Eritrean regime agents masquerading as "refugees" while continually violating refugee laws in the host countries.

The memorandum warmly saluted those EU and other European countries which are generously providing political protection for up to 400,000 Eritreans in the continent. It also condemned those few among the "refugees" who turned out to be Eritrean regime agents and infringing domestic laws of host countries by engaging in illicit payment of 2% taxes to the repressive authorities in Eritrea and collaborating with them in other different ways.

The message further stated that the vast majority of Eritreans who are opposed to the regime in Asmara will not regret any appropriate action by Norway and other European Governments against those "Eritrean regime agents or refugees who forfeit the political protection they obtained by collaborating with the abuser regime in Asmara."

Reprinted below is the full text of EPDP Chairman's memorandum to EU and other European leaders.

Call for Scrutiny & Action against Eritrean Regime Supporters Abusing Refugee Status in Europe

To: H.E. Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker,
President of the European Commission,
Brussels, Belgium

CC: To Heads of State & Government of 28 EU Member States
+Norway, Switzerland and non-EU Schengen Member States,
18 August, 2019

*Dear Mr. EU President Juncker and
Heads of State and Government in Europe,
On behalf of the Eritrean People's Democratic Party (EPDP) in exile and its Eritrean
friends and sympathizers, I wish to draw the kind attention of Your Excellencies*

receiving this modest memorandum by calling for appropriate action against yet another abuse of refugee laws in Europe by the lawless Eritrean regime and its agents masquerading as “refugees.”

During the past few weeks, concerned organs of the Norwegian Government have started discussing the possibility of taking action against those Eritrean “refugees” who appear to be closely linked to the Eritrean government that they claimed to have opposed and fled from it for its endless national service and other multiple abuses, including extreme forms of political and human rights violations.

Dear EU President Juncker, and Excellencies,

We in the Eritrean opposition have always called for action against Eritrean abusers of host country laws by paying illegal and undeserved 2% taxes and other forced financial collections to the Eritrean regime. Today, one can only welcome the reported intention for scrutiny and possible action by Norway against Eritrean regime agents and collaborating “refugees” who are violating refugee laws in that country which kindly gave shelter and protection to about 22,000 Eritrean refugees assuming that all of them had nothing to do with the abuser regime in Asmara.

Your Excellencies may also very well know that about a third of Eritreans (up to two million, including old refugee caseloads) are outside home without their will to be refugees and to remain refugees. Of this big number of exiles, an estimated 20% (i.e. over 400,000) are in Europe. Our Party’s rough estimations are that over 120,000 Eritrean refugees live in Italy; 80,000 in Germany; 50,000 in Sweden; 40,000 each in Switzerland and UK; 25,000 in Holland; 4,000 each in Finland and Denmark 3,000 each in Belgium and France and so on.

We in the EPDP and sister organizations are grateful for the warm welcome and humane treatment of Eritrean refugees by many European countries during the past several decades.

However, we do know, as the Norwegian authorities have rightly indicated, that there are some “refugees” who willingly gave up their right to enjoy political protection by violating refugee laws and closely working with the Eritrean embassies and attending festivities organized and addressed by top regime officials that were alleged by a UN Commission of Inquiry in 2016 to have committed “crimes against humanity”. The UN Inquiry Commission also made a list of alleged perpetrators of those egregious human rights abuses in Eritrea. **Mr. Yemane Ghebream**, the presidential advisor and the second-man to the Eritrean dictator, could undoubtedly be part of that black list submitted to the UN Secretary General and the UN Security Council for a follow up action which, unfortunately, is not yet taking place.

Excellencies,

As the pictorial exhibits in the Annex to this memorandum show, the Norwegian authorities started discussing the process of scrutiny and possible action against the “refugees” abusing their status following an Eritrean embassy celebration in early August this summer in Oslo marking the 25th anniversary of the now notorious national service

and the establishment of the military camp of Sawa. Needless to say, Norway and many other European countries have accepted Eritrean refugees who claimed to have been abused by that open-ended “national service”. Those celebrating anniversaries of the national service and similar regime events with Eritrean officials can only blame themselves for having risked their refugee status in the host countries.

Dear EU President and Excellencies,

While reiterating the gratefulness of my party and many Eritreans for the kindness and support given to Eritrean refugees by several European countries, my party takes the liberty of calling on the EU and other non-EU European countries receiving this humble message to give more attention and help to the endless suffering of Eritrean refugees stranded in Libya, Israel and those hundreds of thousands of Eritreans living in the squalor of refugee camps in the wider Horn of Africa region.

At the same time, we have no sympathy for any appropriate action taken by Norway and hopefully also by other European countries against Eritrean regime agents or refugees who forfeit the political protection they obtained by collaborating with the abuser regime in Asmara.

Respectfully yours,

Tesfai Woldemichael (Degiga), Chairman

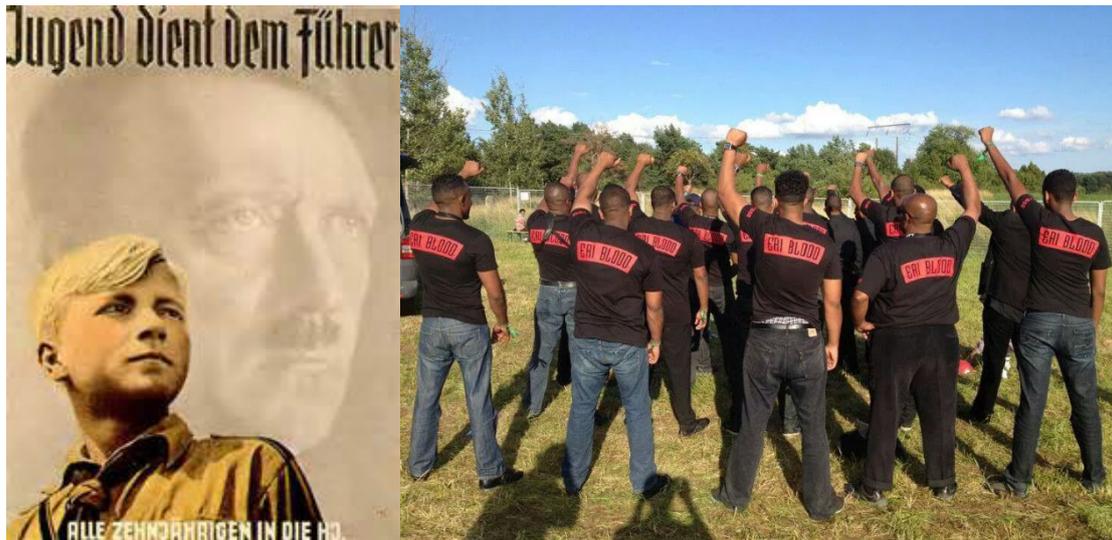
The Eritrean People’s Democratic Party (EPDP) in exile

(Sealed and signed)

Annex: Pictorial exhibit of Abuses by Eritrean Refugees Supporting their “Government”.



These young persons in military fatigues are not soldiers but Eritrean refugees in Oslo, Norway, with Eritrea’s second man, Mr. Yemane Ghebreamichael, on 3 August 2019 celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Eritrea’s National Service and the establishment of the Sawa Camp. They were supposed to have fled the country because they opposed the regime and its multiple abuses like the slave-like national service programme.



The repressive Eritrean regime has a party called the PFDJ (the misnamed Popular Front for Democracy and Justice). A youth wing of that party, called the Y-PFDJ, has been in existence for about 15 years in Europe. Known to many Eritreans as reminder of the hated Hitler Youth (**Hitlerjugend**) of the last century, the Y-PFDJ has been organizing annual festivals in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, the UK and several other European countries. Their topmost organizer and annual keynote speaker has always been Mr. Yemane Ghebreab, that same presidential advisor and the second-man of the Eritrean regime. The Y-PFDJ has a gang of young men who wish to call themselves as **Eri-Blood** (see picture above). They threatened and acted violently at several occasions against Eritreans opposed to the regime as well as foreigners who expose the evil acts of the regime. Victims of their shameful acts included Ms Sheila Keetharuth, the former UN Human Rights Rapporteur for Eritrea, and Professor Myriam van Reisen of the European Policy Advisors (EEPA) in Brussels.