

Statement of creation of Montreal's Eritrean Justice Seekers Institution

Date: 20 -May 2019

Our independence was not achieved by charity or permission; indeed, it was by courage and determination of our Eritrean people. We fought a good fight as one unit, which was proven by the dedication of our men's and women's selfless sacrifices. All this sacrifice was ultimately to build a democratic nation. However, we did not get what we deserve, and we were rather robbed, eroded of our wishes by a brutal regime. On the contrary, every citizen faced or is facing unimaginable injustices, including arbitrary and extrajudicial executions, enigmatic disappearances, detentions without recourse to justice, and detention of innocent people under inhumane conditions and treatment in jail. To run away from this dictatorship, many youths fled the country only to find themselves facing slavery in illegal detention centres run by smugglers in Libya.

Against this background, the Eritrean justice seekers residents of Montreal are trying to propagate #Enough#enough "Yiaakle" a heartwarming message everywhere to break the silence of the Diaspora,—and to give a voice to the suffering Eritrean people with the aim to ultimately help Eritrea become a country ruled by law and not by injustice and cruelty.

In 20 April 2019, the justice seeking residents gathered to declare that they want the dictatorship to end and elected members of an organizing committee that aims at preparing the ground to elect a local leader.

As follow up meeting the organizing committee within short period of time on 10th May, 2019 the city came back to the meeting with extreme excitement to elect their own representative with great expectation and excitement so that able to defeat the dictator; leaders who have quality, caliber and courage to face the multiple challenges ahead of us. In the meeting, the public discussed the following two agendas in detail:

- Firstly, the participants divided themselves into eight groups. The organizing committee prepared and distributed questionnaire that contains the following three major parts:

1. Analysis of the current situation and assessment of public awareness and understanding of each participant and their level of commitment to ensure the continuity of the process to defeat and end dictatorship back home.
 2. The future structure and form of the Justice Seeker institution in Montreal
 3. The future contribution of members: realistic expectation with regards to the dedication of members to avail their resources (that includes time, money and knowledge).
- The second agenda was to conduct an election through a democratic process: first round there was fourteen (14) nominees that were finally downsized to seven (7) elected local members.

Montreal's Eritrean Transitional Justice Seekers Leaders