



**Bi-Weekly Newsletter  
Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea to AU  
and UNECA  
Press Section**



## **President Isaias Afwerki Conducted a Working Visit to Qatar**

President Isaias Afwerki conducted a fruitful working visit to the State of Qatar from 19-22 August 2015.



During the visit, President Isaias held talks with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani. The talks focused on further enhancing the warm ties of friendship and cooperation that exist between the two countries and, on international developments and trends of mutual interest to both countries.

The Emir of Qatar hosted a lunch reception in honor of President Isaias Afwerki.

## **The 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Launching of the Eritrean People's Armed Struggle for Independence Commemorated**

1<sup>st</sup> of September 1961 heralded the launching of the Eritrean People's armed struggle for independence. The historic day was commemorated this year with various activities, including musical shows.

A statement issued by the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) on the commemoration of the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary elucidated that the people of Eritrea were compelled to take up arms to assert their inalienable national and human rights when the vigorous legal, peaceful and political struggle that they conducted in the 1940s and 1950s were callously shunned by the international community.

The values of social justice and human dignity that were nurtured during the long decades of armed struggle have not only enabled the Eritrean people to vanquish occupation and achieve Independence but they also remain pivotal in inspiring the new generation to work with utmost dedication to lay the foundations of a civilized and modern nation.

The statement emphasized that the popular mind-set nurtured during the arduous armed struggle remains the key ingredient for the attributes of Independent Eritrea that are anchored on independent political choice, human dignity, social justice and self-less dedication towards national progress and development.

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### **Contact Addresses:**

**Tel: +251-116620052  
Fax: +251-116620011  
Email: eritreanaumission@  
gmail.com  
P.o.Box: 5527  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

 **Eritrean Mission to  
AU & ECA**

 **@EritreaAU**

## Eritrean Economy Entering a New Phase of Growth: Mr. Yemane Gebreab

The Voice of America recently interviewed Mr. Yemane Gebreab, Head of Political Affairs of the PFDJ and Advisor to the President. The interview focused on migration, national service and the economic prospects of Eritrea. Here is excerpts from the interview.



### Why are EU immigration officials visiting Asmara?

“Several European countries sent their immigration departments to come and look at the situation in Eritrea for themselves. The British have been here, the Danes have been here, and the Norwegians have been here several times, the Dutch have been here, the Swedes are here right now, and officials from Switzerland have been here.”

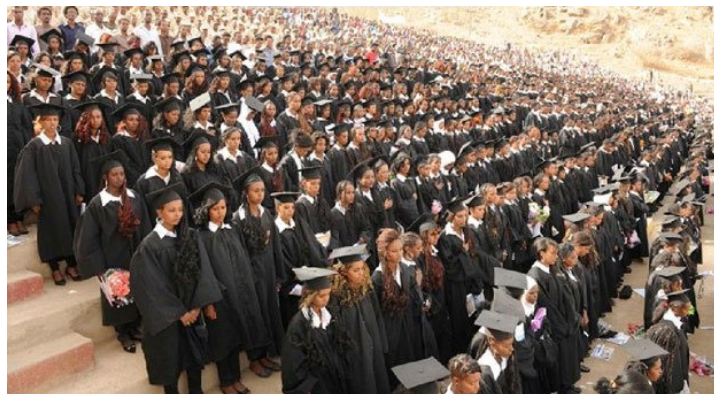
“So, key European countries have sent their people to look at the situation on the ground. I think that they have come to the realization that what is being said about Eritrea is not true, that there is no political persecution in this country, that national service is not indefinite, that it does not constitute slave labor. Those who are traveling to Europe are traveling there essentially for economic reasons.”

### Are they all really Eritreans?

“People in this neighborhood - Ethiopians, Sudanese, Somalis and others have claimed they are Eritrean to expedite their asylum procedures.”

### On National Service

“National service doesn’t mean only people serving in the military. It means people serving mainly in the civilian sectors. So as you go to our schools, our teachers – probably around 60 percent – are national service members. They fulfill their national service obligation in our educational system, teaching. If you go to our health system, our hospitals and clinics and health centers, again a significant percentage are national service members. If you look at our agriculture, the people who are providing extension services to farmers and giving them advice are national service people.”



### A new Phase of Economic Growth

“War and its pain are restrictions on the society and the economy because they, in a sense, take a priority at that time. Now, that phase is coming to an end. We are entering a new phase of growth and we believe that in the next three to five years the Eritrean economy will see a significant transformation.”

“We believe that in three to five years we will be able to provide job opportunities for our young people. We are getting more and more confident in the development prospects in Eritrea and that is leading to this change.”



## Eritrean Community Members in UK Call for the End of Occupation, Sanctions, and Politicization of Human Rights



Eritrean community members in UK held demonstrations in front of the Office of the UK Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street in London, from 26 June to 23 August 2015. The members of the Community also held three mass demonstrations on 03 July, 07 August and 4 September 2015.



The community members, in their demonstrations and through their briefings and petition, urged the UK Government to work towards the:

- ◆ implementation in full, and unconditionally, of the delimitation and demarcation decisions of the Eritrea Ethiopia Boundary Commission, and the end of Ethiopia's occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories;
- ◆ annulment of the US driven unjust sanctions imposed on Eritrea by the UNSC; and
- ◆ total rejection of the fabricated report of the Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea.

The demonstrators pledged to continue engaging the British Government for the fulfillment of their demands.



During the demonstration which continued for 58 days, the demonstrators briefed UK government officials, leaders of political parties, members of parliament, members of the media and the general public on their demands. Representatives of the community also met with officials of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and submitted a petition signed by thousands of Eritreans and friends of Eritrea.





## Eritrean Teenager Ghirmay Ghebreslassie Made History at the World Championships in Beijing

On 22 August 2015, the Eritrean athlete Ghirmay Ghebreslassie won the men's marathon competition at the IAAF World Championships in Beijing in a spectacular fashion. The 19-year-old became the youngest ever winner of a road event at the IAAF World Championships. He is also the first Eritrean athlete to win a gold medal at the championships.



President Isaias Afwerki received the athletes at State House, and congratulated them on behalf of the people and the Government of Eritrea. President Isaias stated that the Government and people of Eritrea are proud of the memorable victory achieved and expressed his confidence and trust in all the athletes to exert more efforts in the future and for more victories.



*Following his victory, Ghirmay told the media "Here it was difficult, but we Eritreans never give up until the finish line."*



Upon their return home, on 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, the marathon champion and the other members of the Eritrean national athletic team were accorded heroes' welcome. Residents of Asmara and its environs turned out in thousands to give the athletes a rousing welcome.

