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Eri-Human Rights Defender in the Netherland

ERITREAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE NETHERLANDS CONCERNED ABOUT PRO-REGIME EVENT IN Stockholm -Sweden

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Eritrea is an independent country which is located in the Horn of Africa, at the coastline of the Red Sea, with a population of an estimated 3.5 million people. In 1993 Eritrea became independent after 30 years of war of struggle against Ethiopian regimes, emperor Haileselesie and the brutal regime of Mengstu Hailemariam. Since 1991, Iseyas Afwerki has ruled unelected as a dictator in Eritrea.

The country is rich in natural resources but nonetheless is the source of millions of refugees. Everything in the country is under the control of the dictatorial regime. The regime of Iseyas Afwerki is a murderous, oppressive regime. Higher officials and journalists including Dawit isack swidish - Eritrea citizens, no body knows where they are ? once when they took from their huis since 2001. No freedom of speech, no freedom of writing, no freedom of movement and people do not trust each other, because of the widespread intelligence cells inside and outside of Eritrea. The Eritrean people do not have a real chance to make a good life in this country for themselves.

Apart from that, the 'long arm of the regime' is clearly visible abroad. The regime organizes 'festivals' which are presented as celebrations of Eritrean culture, but are used to spread propaganda and collect (illegal) taxes from the Eritreans in the diaspora.

The activities of the regime abroad are all politically motivated, they never represent the cultural or historical legacy of Eritrea. They cause great fear among the Eritrean people in Europe, they do not feel secure at all. Because of that **Eritrean human rights defenders** strongly condemn any activity of the dictatorial regime in **Stockholm Sweden and anywhere else in Europe.**

We hope the municipality of **Stockholm** understands this and understands the distinction between the pro-regime groups which are organizing these events, and the persons whose security and family in Eritrea is threatened by such events taking place. During these events, the pro-regime groups are known to instigate violence, such as unfortunately happened on 28 May 2023 happened in Rijswijk (the Netherlands) 8 July 2023 in Gissen Germany, when peaceful protests were held against such an event by Eritrean human rights defenders.

As Eritreans human rights defenders in the Netherlands, we follow the developments around the event in Stockholm on social media with great concern and we are worried for our brothers and sisters in Sweden who are threatened by the event. We ask the municipality of Stockholm to stop the event from taking place, or if it does happen in any case to ensure the security of any peaceful protesters at the event.

Thank you, we hope you understand us!!!