

Commemoration of Lampedusa boat victims

The Eritrean community representatives in Italy, on the approaching of the first anniversary of Lampedusa tragedy (3 October 2013), which caused the loss of 366 lives of young Eritreans, today announced their intention to promote initiatives through out Italy to ensure that the memory of a such tragic event that shocked the entire Eritrean people and has touched international public opinion, may not be forgotten. In this year spent in silence and sorrow, we have seen with consternation how the Eritrean victims of Lampedusa and those who attempts to reach Europe unsuccessfully were exploited in every way by unscrupulous organizations when they were alive and then they suffered the indignity of being manipulated for political purposes even after death. The prospect of leading a hard life due to economical difficulties that Eritrea is going through as a result of external pressures and unjust sanctions and the prospect of a long wait for a normalization of which there is no end in sight, encourages our youth to flee their country. They are pushed by a well articulated project that shows them a better illusory life, also misled by questionable welcoming policies practiced by some European countries, so they start their sorrowful journey in the direction of the Mediterranean coasts during which they get harassed in every way and subjected to every kind of blackmail and violence without being treated as human beings, but exploited by anyone who have something to gain or used for political purposes aimed to denigrate the Eritrean government.

Still to this day while the Italian authorities are engaged in the completion of the investigation and in the performance of legal formalities, the Eritreans are awaiting the conclusion of the process leading to the go-ahead for the implementation of the commitment made in the days following the formalization of the news of the tragedy, to carry out the transportation of victims in the country, so-called human rights organizations have come forward to create agitation and confusion in the families of the victims with the clear intention to obtain a political advantage and also misleading even from the commemoration of the death of many young people. And is our intention on October 28th together expressing our condolences and our closeness to the families of all the victims of this tragic event of our country by lighting candles during the meetings to which they are invited to participate our diplomatic authorities and all those who care about the fate of Eritrea, in order to reaffirm our determination to remain united and not to allow others to take ownership of our tragedy for purposes offensive to the dignity of our dead or hostile to our beloved nation.

Eritrean Community in Italy

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