

Seattle Honors its Fallen Heroes and Heroines (ሰማእታት ኤርትራ)

In commemoration of the 2015 Eritrea's Martyrs day, more than 500 people attended the solemn occasion at the Eritrean Association of Greater Seattle Community Center. The program started with a moment of silence to pay homage to the men and women who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom of their people and liberation of Eritrea. This was followed by singing our national anthem, which was led by our youth members of the YPFDJs.

This year's Eritrean Memorial Day makes it even more special since it came on the heel of the usual suspects of Eritrean independence enemies frantically denigrating the people and government of Eritrea with more make-belief stories and bitter hatred for everything Eritrea stands and what Eritreans believe in.

The program continued with moving testimonials after testimonials by former **ተጋደልቲ** (freedom fighters), **ደቀንስትዮ** (women's group) and **ዋርሳይ** (the youth) who have been the subject of "concerns" by the UN's latest report of the so called "Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea" on human rights!

The Eritreans of Seattle and its environs asserted their unwavering stand with their government and demanded the UN stop accusing Eritrea for actions that are nonexistent but were based on fabricated lies. Moreover they demanded that the UN stop harming Eritrea and the Eritrean people, which it has done for the last more than 60 years. If the UN was really genuinely concerned about the plight of our people, then it should lift the illegal and unjust sanctions it shamelessly placed against the hard working people of Eritrea.

Finally the program was concluded with very patriotic zeal and a pledge to support the families of the fallen heroes/heroines for at least one year. It is particularly worth noting that the young members of YPFDJ1 and YPFDJ2 pledged to support 20 families of our martyred comrades for a year! That is Eritreanism at its best.

Eternal glory to our Martyrs!
Eritrean independence is here to stay
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- Berhane Alazar for **Eritrean National Holidays Organizing Committee** – Seattle branch