

Eritrean nationals in London - UK, commemorate Martyrs Day

Sunday 20 June 2010

London's, Hyde Park, over 2300 Eritreans came together to participate in the Martyrs Day activities organized by the Eritrean Public Campaign Committee. The activities included singing, poetry reading and speeches.

Present at the London commemoration were H.E. Tesfamicael Gerahtu, Eritrea's Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Ireland, Embassy staff, religious leaders, and invited guests. The evening activities began at 5:00pm with a moment of silence in memory of all those who sacrificed their lives for Eritrea's liberty and sovereignty.

Ambassador Tesfamicael Gerhatu, in his address to the gathered Londoners reminded all that it was the responsibility of each and every Eritrean to support the families of those that were martyred to liberate Eritrea, and also the families of those who were martyred defending Eritrea during the Ethiopian invasion of 1998-2000. He also stated that the atrocities committed in She'eb massacre on 12 June 1988 in which 400 nationals, most of whom mothers and children, were massacred - is part of the barbaric acts perpetuated by colonial Ethiopian forces in different parts of the country. The erection of the monument in She'eb provides added impetus to the people's commitment of honouring the trust of martyrs.

He stated that the prevailing peace and stability in the country is the outcome of the heavy sacrifices paid, and stressed that every citizen is duty-bound to assist children and families of martyrs. Ambassador Tesfamicael also called on Eritreans to raise their participation and redouble their efforts in the development activities of Eritrea. In his final remarks, he underlined that our task is to remember our martyrs not only by lighting candles and planting trees, and making pledges but, above all, by honouring their trust: that of rebuilding the country for whose freedom they paid with their lives.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-chairman of Eritrean Public Campaign Committee (EPCC), Dr.Hailu Embaye, pointed out that the people and Government of Eritrea are doing their level best to honour the trust of martyrs. He further commended the contribution made by Eritrean citizens in the aforementioned countries and called on them to enhance it.

Mr Tesfaledet Beraki, chairman of Sponsor a Martyr's Family (SMF) committee in his address to the participants also stated that Martyrs Day is an event in which the Eritrean people commemorate fallen heroes with pride and dignity, and that supporting martyrs' families is not only the responsibility of the Government, but also that of the general public.

Following that Ambassador Tesfamicael, Eritrean embassy staff, and religious leaders all took part in lighting candles in memory of those that were martyred for the good of Eritrea's future. A reflection of the hard times that Eritreans endured during the barbaric colonial period was portrayed in form of drama, music, and poetry readings. Amidst this the SMF took this opportunity to mobilize more Eritreans to "Sponsor a Martyr's Family".

One of the participants, Adey Abrehet Bokru in her usual wisdom and energy, told Eritreacompass, that the people of Eritrea who had foiled attempts by Haile Selassie and successive Ethiopian regimes to subjugate them were more than capable of taking care of the Martyrs' families, and more. She talked about the resilience, perseverance and most of all the unparalleled commitment of the Eritrean people in the development endeavour of their nation.

The performance by the Eritrean artists from London, who presented various national songs and songs from the liberation struggle era along side a musical drama which demonstrated the transfer of our values as a heritage to the new generation raised the emotion of participants. The Warsa Youth Cultural Group also presented a drama "Tzenatna" (our resilience), and nationalist songs from the liberation struggle times. The participation of the youth in various activities of the event in general made Martyrs Day an even more memorable day.

The day's activities ended with the singing of the Eritrean National Anthem.

The event was also broadcasted live worldwide via www.eritreacompass.com which was re-launched with a fresh look and feel to it as part of the campaign "Through work, we challenge, we progress!" The website was re-launched on Eritrea's Martyrs Day in London.

Information and Communication

EPCC, London