



Hello fellow ERITREAN brothers and sisters Happy 20th Independence of our Beloved Mother Land Eritrea.

To hear that Eritrea turns 20 brings you so much jolliness and happiness to your heart. We are now through two decades of **Perfect Harmony for National Dignity**. That is something that will never be taken away from us. To reach to this holy and special day didn't come so easily. Eritrean people had been through a lot of pain, agony, misery and horrible things that human couldn't take it and describe it. Now we can imagine today we have this harmonious life, thanks to those who unlocked the passage of Freedom for us.

Dear my Eritrean brothers and sisters let us take a minute and you could visualize yourself in those dreadful and horrible times. If you were born 100 years ago during the pain and agony of the fascist Italian time, how would you feel? Can you imagine someone taking your land and torturing you for their greedy interest? Even though some of us are too young to those tragedies, still it makes you cry imagining what happened to our grandfathers and grandmothers. They treated them cruelly and nastily, which is very inhuman. They didn't give them education. Could you believe not having education. They took forcibly

young Eritrean men and brain washed them to fight their aggression war in Sahara desert of Libya and they left them to perish in desert. Can you imagine if you were born that time? The 2nd world war didn't bring any hope to the people of Eritrea. British and Italy fought against each other for their own interest to torture us. British came with the evil and malicious plan to seed hatred, unraveling and disintegrating among Eritrean people. They tried to separate our beautiful culture of tolerance among brotherly people using religious and ethnic based lines. When our sense of humor and unity was the only thing we had. Could you imagine what the situation of Eritrea could have been today if the brave Eritrean icon fathers such Aboy weldeab

Woldemariam and Aboy Ibrahim Sultan didn't fight against the Evil British legacy and united each other

holding hand to hand ([AYNFALAE – 9](#)), as well fight for Eritrean freedom in united nations in the 40's against John Dulles Foster with nothing but their bright brains. Could you imagine when some intruders like King Haile Slasia who said that "he needed the land not the people"? Can you think of it in the dark time with no hope

the brave Eritrean sons like Awate began the long armed struggle, can you imagine those who gave their precious life, our martyrs, who started fighting at early age 16 with a massive amount of determination that stayed with them till they were killed heroically with an amazing courageous slogan, [Awet Nihafash](#). Could you imagine carrying heavy woods throughout the unforgivable mountains day and night with empty stomach? Could you be for few second in the situation when our villages were bombed and the children and women killed, burned down the entire villages to ashes? Could you accept another intruder come to your peaceful ocean like Mengustu Hailmariam the leader of Ethiopia who said “in order to kill the fish you need to drain the water?” And then after independence the Robot of west Like Meles Zenawi of the Weyane who said “we will deport you if we do not like the color of your Eyes” and wage war against our existence. There are so many facts and legacy we can talk about Eritrean people but finally Eritrean people tested the sweet bitter taste of freedom. As we celebrate our great 20th independence, we have to remember the path to freedom that we went through. We should always remember those who sacrifices for us. They put their lives on the line. There is no way we could pay them back but we should carry their merit or legacy by taking our individual responsibility to defend , build, strong , peaceful and all the time beautiful Eritrea and pass the torch of freedom to the future generation. This is what our MARTRYs needed from us The freedom to be Eritrean.



Happy Birth Day our Eritrea shikorina

Awet Nihafash

Zelalemawi Zikri Niswatna

Dawit D Ghebre-medhin

May 2011