

## An open letter from the National Union of Eritrean Woman- Gießen

The Chairwomen of the National Union of Eritrean Woman in Gießen Mrs Lemlem Kaleab



The National Union of Eritrean Woman in Gießen is surprised over the wrong informations as well as interpretations given to the Eritrean Festival in Gießen and to the declared distortions of facts and infos we discussed on the 15th of nov.12 and to the declaration of the gießner municipal authorities (magistrate)

We categorically and vehemently reject all the defamations made against our eritrean festival, since decades different Eritrean groups have been celebrating all over Europe and 2 times here in the city of Gießen. Last year the gießner city mayor Mrs. Weigel Greilich was prominent guest, during the 3 days festival we have enjoyed our music, culture and language being all together we also informed over the developments which is being made in Eritrea

It is a misrepresentation to label our festival as a "propaganda event" of the Eritrean Government, we also reject the lies denoting and labelling our country as ruled by a "military dictatorship", it has been 20 years now since Eritrea got its independence through sacrifice of its beloved sons and daughters and is now busy and engaged on building its infrastructure and working hard to promote its projects in social justice and naturally Eritrea is a sovereign state to secure its borders like the other nations in the world do, there is no famine in Eritrea and the human rights are being attained with success, there is no hunger medical care, education is for all Eritreans and the efforts are supported and promoted by the German aid organizations and it was appreciated by the German Embassy in Asmara and also by the UN delegation for human aid.

We regret that people who left the country didn't continue with the procedure of construction but we are always ready to help them and show our cooperation and it is pity that some are being exploited and instrumentalized to disseminate the falsehood.

We join to leave with all people with different origin and wish peace, equality and harmony being accepted to exercise our political opinion with respects, we don't want to accept that forbidding our festivals through pressure and humiliations we are free and have the rights and freedom to enjoy our culture, the decision and statements of the city officials made against our govt. is not acceptable we want to leave with all people together peacefully. We want to celebrate, discuss whether they faithful to the govt. or not. We are ready to discuss, inform and answer questions about Eritrea with those interested. We also wish that the city of Gießen and gießner presse to be objective on the case.

<http://www.giessener-zeitung.de/giessen/beitrag/73729/offener-brief-der-eritreischen-frauenunion/>