

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATED WITH PATRIOTIC ZEAL



The 33rd Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic zeal yesterday afternoon with an official ceremony held at Asmara Stadium.

In his keynote address, President Isaias Afwerki extended his warmest congratulations to the Eritrean people inside the country and abroad, as well as to the Eritrean Defense Forces. President Isaias remarked that the annual celebration of Independence Day is an occasion to assess the dynamic nation-building process of an independent and sovereign Eritrea and the progress achieved against the backdrop of our pronounced mission within the context of fluid global and regional developments and trends.

President Isaias stated that documented observations serve as a point of reference to properly understand the ideologies and policies articulated over the past thirty-three years to crystallize a “new global order” after the Cold War. He noted that in recent years, as efforts to impose a uni-polar world order became increasingly untenable due to the resistance of free peoples worldwide, it became possible to identify and predict the visible contours of the aspirations for a new global order that serves the interests of the vast majority of the world’s peoples.

President Isaias further explained that the exploratory analyses presented during Independence Anniversaries in 2021, 2022, and 2023 were prompted by the need to understand, with requisite depth, the “transitional phase” with all its fluid attributes, particularly the ideology of “domination and monopoly” and the strategies, plans, and tactics of its elite proponents. He posed the question of the current reality and

trends in 2024.

Regarding the developments and trends in the neighborhood, President Isaias stated that numerous complications and devastation have resulted from the agendas of instigating division, creating and managing crises, and provoking war pursued by the elites of “domination and monopoly” over the past 33 years. Despite their myriad

hostilities, their failure seems to have led to higher frustration, prompting them to foment another cycle of war. Nevertheless, President Isaias reassured the people, saying, “No reason for anxiety!”

President Isaias also emphasized the importance of nation-building as the priority, alongside safeguarding independence and sovereignty.

He highlighted the heroic Defense Forces’ role, the unparalleled patriotism and resilience of the Eritrean people, and the ongoing efforts to expand development programs, refine plans, mobilize resources, and enhance institutional capabilities.

In conclusion, President Isaias underlined the commitment to

consolidating ties of friendship, cooperation, and complementarity with close neighbors, the wider region, and like-minded, free peoples of the world. (Full Text of President Isaias’ speech is on page 2)

At the opening speech, Chairperson of the National Holidays Organizing Committee and Commissioner of Culture and Sports, Ambassador Zemed Tekle, congratulated the Eritrean people inside the country and abroad. He explained the time and resources allocated to enthusiastically celebrate the 33rd Independence Day anniversary and commended all those who contributed to the colorful celebration event.

The official Independence Day celebration was broadcast live via ERI-TV and Dimtsi Hafash, featuring a military parade, musical performances, and calisthenics in which over 4 thousand students took part.

MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Heads of State and Government from around the world are sending messages of congratulations to the people and Government of Eritrea on the occasion of the 33rd Independence Day anniversary.

Accordingly, leaders of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the United Arab Emirates, Malta, Austria, Germany, and Oman have extended their congratulations.

President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan, President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates, Fra John Dunlap, Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, President Alexander Van der Bellen of the Federal Republic of Austria, President Frank-Walter Steinmeier of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman expressed their well-wishes for good health to President Isaias Afwerki and peace and prosperity for the Eritrean people.

President Vladimir Putin stated that the friendly relations between the Russian Federation and Eritrea

will further develop constructive bilateral cooperation in various spheres for the benefit of the two peoples and the strengthening of security and stability in Africa.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and the Ruler of Dubai, and Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, also sent messages of congratulations.

Similarly, Heads of State and Government from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Turkey, and Sweden have congratulated the people and Government of Eritrea on the 33rd Independence Day anniversary.

King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of the Republic of Turkey, and King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden expressed their well-wishes for good health to President Isaias Afwerki and peace and prosperity for the Eritrean people.

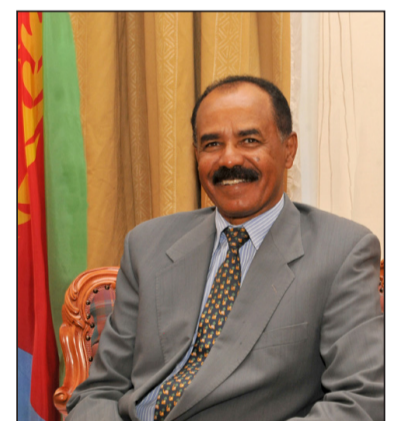
President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan emphasized Turkey’s support for Eritrea’s independence,

territorial integrity, and economic development and expressed his sincere hope that the friendly relations between the two countries will continue to develop in all dimensions.

In the same vein, Heads of State and Government from the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Republic of South Africa have extended their congratulations to the people and Government of Eritrea on the occasion of the 33rd Independence Day anniversary.

President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China, President Droupadi Murmu of the Republic of India, President Yoon Suk Yeol of the Republic of Korea, King Mohammed VI of Morocco, and President Cyril Ramaphosa of the Republic of South Africa expressed their well-wishes for President Isaias Afwerki’s good health and peace and prosperity for the Eritrean people.

In their messages on behalf of their people and Governments, President Xi Jinping and President Droupadi Murmu expressed their confidence that the relationships between their countries and Eritrea



will continue to strengthen further in the spirit of mutually beneficial cooperation.

President Xi Jinping noted that Eritrea’s stance of firmly opposing hegemony and power politics will play a significant role in safeguarding international fairness and justice and promoting regional peace and security.

Furthermore, President Xi Jinping stated that the friendly relations and sincere cooperation between China and Eritrea are developing a solid foundation for creating a strategic partnership.

In their respective messages, all the leaders conveyed their countries’ readiness to enhance strong ties and cooperation with Eritrea.

PRESIDENT ISAIAS AFWERKI'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 33RD INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

Dear Participants,

Congratulations to the people of Eritrea inside the country and abroad; to all its friends; and to the free peoples of the world.

Allow me to express my gratitude to all those who contributed to impart additional splendor to this momentous day - the 33rd Anniversary of our Independence - through various inspirational programmes.

We normally assess – at propitious occasions of the annual celebration of Independence Day - the dynamic nation-building process of independent and sovereign Eritrea; and, the progress achieved against the backdrop of our pronounced mission within the context of fluid global and regional developments and trends.

In this regard, our documented observations are our point of reference to properly decipher and understand the ideologies and policies that have been articulated in the past thirty-three years to crystallize a “new global order” after the end of the Cold War. In the past few years in particular, and as the machinations for imposing a uni-polar world order became increasingly untenable due to the resistance of the free peoples of the world, we had managed to identify and predict the visible contours of the aspirations for new global order that serves the interests of the vast majority of the world's peoples.

The exploratory analysis spelled out during our Independence Anniversaries in 2021, 2022 and 2023, were prompted by the imperative to understand, with the

requisite depth, what may be termed as the “transitional phase”; with all its fluid attributes. Especially, the ideology of “domination and monopoly” as well as the strategies, plans and tactics of its elite proponents. In this respect, what is the reality and trend now; in 2024?

The war declared 30 years ago to primarily “contain” Russia has become a daily theme today; accompanied as it is by intense propaganda. The subterfuges underway to portray - through enlargement and intensive care - the almost defunct NATO and the European Union as more potent than ever before are too transparent and cannot, indeed, conceal the looming quagmire.

It is patently clear that the billions of dollars spent daily in the futile war will spike into trillions of dollars in the period ahead. As the devastation becomes more expansive with the lapse of time, the perilous situation that will ensue at the global level will be immense in terms of all metrics. Furthermore, the elites of the defunct ideology are becoming more desperate. It is thus difficult to predict the (reckless) policy choices that they may contemplate.

The containment of China is fraught with higher risks than the containment of Russia. The declared war – even if packaged in moderate language and diplomatic niceties – is grossly at variance with the facts on the ground and the tensions that these will invariably entail. The looming tension will not be diminished or averted as the elites of “domination and monopoly” cannot accommodate – due to their innate nature and proclivity – the economic, technological and military growth of China; or its expanding international ties. Above all, as they will not discard their agendas of hegemony and domination, their machinations to contain China in Asia through a web of alliances – using “Taiwan and Hong Kong” as narrow pretexts and the “South China Sea” as a wider cause - is patently evident.

More ominously, their greatest anxiety stems from the economic and technological growth of China. The roadblocks and sanctions they are deploying to obstruct this capability is the “tip of the iceberg”. The global crisis that this dangerous mind-set can trigger is not negligible. We must also bear in mind that almost a quarter of the over 30 trillion dollars of US debt will have to be repaid to China.

Another important issue is Africa and the overall situation in the continent in relation to other global developments. In the eyes

of the elite of “domination and monopoly”, Africa has always been, and continues to be, regarded as their exclusive enclave.

The continent is endowed with almost 60% of global natural resources; and, a fast growing population of 1.2 billion. Despite all these resources, its opportunities for development were not only suppressed in the past due to slavery and colonialism, but its growth remains stifled in this post-industrial age. It thus remains a marginalized continent condemned to a subsistence economy and the export of raw materials. On the other hand, the voice of the African people saying “enough” to slavery, colonialism and unfair exploitation has been growing in the last few years.

The growing resistance is not confined to rejection of robbery and looting of the continents' resources. It is also combatting polarized ethnic and clan agendas that aim to wreak havoc in its ranks, as well as corrupt and surrogate regimes. Awareness for nation-building, political independence and sovereignty is growing with concomitant initiatives to that end. The aspirations for a new and just global order is likewise on the rise. This is also true in Asia and Latin America as well as the peoples of Europe and the Americas. These are broad phenomena that should be properly analyzed (will need more profound examination in due time).

How about developments unfolding in our neighbourhood and that have closer impact on us? Our neighborhood that comprises of the Nile Basin, the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea and the Gulf.

The liberation struggle of the Palestinian people for independence is a central issue that has come into the forefront in the past seven months. Even if we cannot revert to the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, the elites of “domination and monopoly” have misconstrued the “Two-State Solution” enunciated in Oslo (1993) for dilatory purposes while exploiting weaknesses of leadership and organizational schisms to create “accomplished facts” on the ground. The scheme or end game includes cajoling Arab countries towards “normalization” while choking and ultimately obliterating the cause of liberation and independence of the Palestinian people. But the just struggle of the Palestinian people has not been debilitated or vanquished. To the contrary, its firmness has won international acclamation and broad popular support. As a consequence, it occupies a central stage at this



point in time. In equal measure to the resistance, the oppressive, duplicitous and deceitful trademarks of the “school” of “domination and monopoly” have been fully exposed.

Another development in our neighborhood that should be appraised together with the liberation struggle of the Palestinian people for independence is the pronouncements and positions of solidarity that the peoples of this neighborhood are invoking in their respective countries. This has triggered tension in the Red Sea; and especially in the Gulf of Aden. Illicit interferences and naval stampedes by defunct forces of “domination and monopoly”, presumably to “safeguard international maritime routes” using the perceived tension as a pretext; and, its dangerous ramifications, are crucial trends that warrant proper appraisal.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Current developments and trends in our neighbours and that have much closer influence and impact – both directly and indirectly – on our domestic situation are numerous indeed. The complications and devastation inculcated by the agendas of instigating division; creating and managing crises; and even provoking invasion and war, concocted and pursued by the elites of “domination and monopoly”, especially in the last 33 years of our Independence, have been enormous. The failure of their myriad hostilities seems to have engendered higher frustration in the camp of “domination and monopoly”. They are accordingly embroiled these days in fomenting another cycle of war. This has become an open secret (all its details will be divulged at the appropriate time).

At this juncture, the simple message to our people is: “No reason

for anxiety!”

Indeed, the frontal role and shield of our heroic defense forces; the unparalleled patriotism and resilience of our people who did not only ascertain liberation and independence in 50 years of struggle that exacted precious sacrifices, but also preserved their sovereignty and independence in the last 33 years are testaments to our fortitude.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As our security readiness to all potential hostilities remains intact, the priority of our priorities is, and remains, nation-building. We will thus continue to toil by expanding our development programmes; enhancing their effective implementation; continuously refining the plans charted out; mobilizing the necessary resources; making requisite adjustments and sacrifices; and, reinforcing our institutional capabilities and frameworks.

We express our profound appreciation to our compatriots abroad for the patriotism they have displayed in various trying times as well as in the past year; and urge them to keep this up.

Beyond safeguarding our independence and sovereignty, we will continue to work hard, without complacency, to consolidate the ties of friendship, cooperation and complementarity with our close neighbours and the wider region as well as with like-minded and free peoples of the world.

Peace Anchored on Resilience!

Best wishes for a good rainy season with popular resilience!

*Glory to our Heroic Martyrs!
Victory to the Masses!
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Resilience and Struggle: The Long Road to Independence

Located in the volatile Horn of Africa and possessing a long, pristine coastline on the Red Sea, Eritrea is a country with a rich, complex, and turbulent history. It won its independence from Ethiopia in 1991 after waging one of the longest, most destructive wars for liberation in modern African history. This series helps to shed light on its decades-long struggle.

Dr. Fikrejesus Amahazion

Resilience amidst efforts to extinguish hopes for independence

After a lengthy international process, on 2 December 1950, United Nations (UN) Resolution 390 (V) was passed by the UN General Assembly. The resolution extinguished Eritreans' hopes and aspirations for independence, federating Eritrea with Ethiopia as "an autonomous unit ... under the sovereignty of the Ethiopian Crown." Importantly, however, the terms of the international resolution stipulated that Eritrea was to possess legislative, executive, and judicial powers in the field of domestic affairs, while the jurisdiction of Ethiopia was to extend to defense, foreign affairs, and international trade.

However, Ethiopia, an absolute monarchy ruled by Emperor Haile Selassie, viewed the federal structure with pure contempt. His representative made that abundantly clear in a speech he delivered to the Eritrean Assembly on 22 March 1955, where he declared that, "There are no internal or external affairs as far as the office of his Imperial Majesty's representative is concerned, and there will be none in the future. The affairs of Eritrea concern Ethiopia as a whole and the Emperor."

Across the decade following its coming into force, the international resolution was systematically violated by the imperial regime, and the latter worked to steadily dismantle the federal arrangement. On 30 September 1952, a mere 19 days after the federal arrangement was officially ratified by Emperor Haile Selassie and came into force, the imperial regime committed its first violation of the terms and conditions of the Eritrean constitution (and thus the federal arrangement), through Proclamation 130, which made the Ethiopian Supreme Court Eritrea's final court of

appeals, bypassing Eritrean laws. Eventually, the entire Eritrean constitution would be replaced, while the Eritrean flag was replaced by that of Ethiopia. Eritreans were also banned from speaking their own languages (e.g., in transactions, in schools, etc.), with Amharic, the dominant language of Ethiopia, being made the official language – among the "gravest errors" committed by the imperial regime.

The Emperor forced elected community leaders to resign, and the economic basis of Eritreans' autonomy was also eroded, as Eritrea's highly lucrative shares of customs and excise were expropriated by the Ethiopian government, while foreign investors were pressured to invest in Ethiopia rather than Eritrea. Furthermore, tax funds from Eritrea were used for imperial rather than local interests, while most of the profits made by Eritrea's successful industries were funneled to Ethiopia.

Alongside all of the above, Eritreans were subjected to rising levels of state repression, violence, and persecution, while all forms of civil disobedience,

(Part II)

dissent, opposition, and resistance, which had for the most part been peaceful and drew in broad segments of the Eritrean population, were forcefully crushed. In 1957 and 1962, students organized mass demonstrations, while in February 1958 a four-day national general strike was conducted by underground trade unions, paralyzing the country. Ethiopian troops beat and shot the unarmed, peaceful protestors, killing dozens, leaving a large number of others wounded, and arresting hundreds. The ruthless persecution of and assassination attempts against nationalists also became relentless, forcing some of the most prominent figures, such as Woldeab Woldemariam, Ibrahim Sultan, and Idris Mohammed Adem, into exile. From abroad they would continue their opposition to Ethiopia's expansionism and helped establish resistance groups.

Although Eritreans had been guaranteed a review of their case if Ethiopia violated the international resolution, and despite the fact that many Eritrean political leaders and activists, on numerous occasions, made direct appeals and petitioned to the UN in protest of Ethiopia's eroding of the federal arrangement, the UN and the international community remained completely silent

and failed to muster any type of condemnation or response. Ultimately, "[Eritreans'] hopes and faith in United Nations waned as the situation worsened in Eritrea."

Finally, in November 1962, the Emperor fully dissolved the Eritrean parliament under force of arms and annexed Eritrea, proclaiming it as the empire's 14th province. Western officials that witnessed the abolition of the federation called it a "putsch" and described the imperial regime's role in it as "a brutal and arbitrary act." Eritreans were shocked and dismayed.

Throughout these developments, the UN and the international community again voiced no objections and failed to act in response to this flagrant breach of Resolution 390A(V) which explicitly stipulated that only the UNGA could implement amendments or changes. Yet rather than representing a fatal or decisive blow, the move by the imperial regime only inspired greater nationalism among Eritreans and it served to give further impetus to Eritrea's nascent armed struggle for independence, which had emerged the year prior.

Specifically, on 1 September 1961, harbanya (patriot) Hamid Idris Awate, a daring soldier regarded as a renegade by the

Italians, British, and Ethiopians, and a small band of fighters, armed with only a handful of old rifles, fired the first shots of the armed struggle in the Gash Barka region of Eritrea. Awate was a talented marksman who had earlier served as a soldier in the colonial army. There his military bravery and skills earned him the respect of his superiors and a variety of medals. A few months following on from Awate's launch of the armed struggle, Abdu Mohamed Fayed became its first martyr when he was killed at Adal, near Sawa. (Abdu Mohamed Fayed's grave is now located in Sawa, while Hamid Idris Awate himself passed away about 10 months after the beginning of the armed struggle. He had succumbed to food poisoning.)

For the peace-loving Eritrean people, the launch of the armed revolution was "the expression of the indignation of a people whose rights [were] flagrantly and ruthlessly suppressed". In the graphic words of one author: "Three times denied their dreams, the Eritreans now had no other recourse than to take their destiny into their own hands."

In a perceptive passage within his 1960 book, *Eritrea: A Colony in Transition, 1941-1952*, G.K.N. Trevaskis, who served as a political secretary in Eritrea during the period of the British military administration in Eritrea, advised Ethiopia against the abrogation of the federation, warning that maintaining the federal arrangement in accordance with UN Resolution 390A(V) would be in the best interest of both Ethiopia and Eritrea. Yet he ultimately recognized that, "...the temptation [for Ethiopia] to subject Eritrea firmly under her own control will always be great. Should she try to do so, she will risk Eritrean discontent and eventual revolt, which... might well disrupt both Eritrea and Ethiopia herself."

In light of what would eventually come to pass over the following three decades, these words would prove to be highly prescient.



OPINION

Eritrea: Model of Peace and Harmony Built on Resilience

The Eritrean Peace Model:

The Eritrean peace model includes several components such as upholding human rights, encouraging unity among various ethnic and religious groups, advocating for fairness in society, building resilience in its broadest sense, following a foreign policy

Eritrea has maintained stability, peace, and harmony in a turbulent region for 33 years since gaining independence, despite facing significant challenges. To understand how this nation, often and unjustly portrayed in very pejorative terms is thriving in adversity, it is essential to delve deeper into its methods. Despite obstacles, Eritrea has sustained a peaceful society and has been instrumental in resolving regional conflicts.

This piece will delve into Eritrea's peace framework and its impact on stability in the Horn of Africa as it embarks on celebrating its 33rd Independence anniversary under a fitting theme "PEACE ANCHORED ON RESILIENCE"

designed to reflect the country's diverse culture and history, promoting a cohesive national narrative.

Guided by the belief that education is a crucial vehicle for promoting respect for humanity, ever since independence, the Eritrean government worked diligently to make sure every Eritrean citizen is afforded free education from kindergarten to higher education opportunities including fully paid scholarship studies abroad students. It is also worth noting that the number of graduates from colleges, vocational schools and training institutions have been increasing steadily over the years with zero gap between male and female graduates.

Providing free healthcare to all Eritrean citizens – another important and main goals of the GoE – is protected by the National Charter. Despite limited resources, sponsored wars, political & economic sabotages, illegal economic sanctions by the UN & US and high medical costs, the GoE miraculously managed to provide efficient medical care to all Eritreans. From lowering child and maternal mortality rates to elimination of HIV/AIDS, TB & malaria infections are well documented by UNDP and other international organization. Another case in point is preparedness, early detection



from feeling marginalized. An illustration of the Government of Eritrea's dedication to cultural and language preservation is the event held on March 31, 2024, by the Commission of Culture and Sports in conjunction with the Ministry of Education on "the oral tradition of the Tigre language" <https://shabait.com/2022/04/16/presentation-on-the-oral-tradition-of-tigre/>. This initiative encourages public

ensure social justice. This ethos is reflected in the nation's legal framework and in all governmental policies and institutions, which includes efforts to provide equal opportunities for all citizens, regardless of their background.

The educational system emphasizes the values of tolerance, unity, and cooperation, equipping students with the mindset and skills needed to contribute positively to their

of non-alignment and resolving conflicts to name a few.

Respect for humanity:

Eritrea has long been known for its dedication to humanity. Throughout the 30-year armed struggle for independence, the EPLF set a new standard in caring for prisoners. Detainees received thorough medical treatment, opportunities for cultural activities and education, and chances to join other Ethiopian dissidents or pursue better opportunities abroad. This exceptional treatment was well-documented at the time by organizations such as Red Cross, and others, as well as through firsthand testimonies from former captives like Mamo Afeta who recounted his experiences in the novel "Antu Be'Enat" https://borkena.com/2022/04/10/captive-who-ended-up-marrying-a-woman-from-the-captors-force-amusing-eritrean-ethiopian-story/#google_vignette.

The gesture of compassion towards those who caused suffering was evident again during the 1998–2000 border conflict and was instrumental in the 2018 reconciliation with Ethiopia, despite the significant damage inflicted by the TPLF-led EPRDF government during its 27-year tenure. Eritrea's respect for humanity is not merely a strategic move for public image;

it is deeply rooted in the daily life and societal structure of Eritrean society both at home and on the global stage.

Harmony in ethnic & religious diversity:

Throughout its history, Eritrea has been a melting pot of various religions and cultures, consisting of nine ethnic groups, each with its own unique language and traditions. Despite this rich diversity, the country has cultivated an atmosphere of inclusivity, where all cultures are honored and treated with equality. Christianity was introduced to the country in 329 A.D. In around 614 A.D., followers of the Prophet Muhammad seeking refuge from persecution in Mecca arrived in Eritrea and established the renowned "al-Sahaba Mosque," marking it as the first mosque built in Africa <https://mosqpedia.org/en/mosque/1487>. Other Christian denominations (Protestantism, Catholicism etc.) were introduced to the country especially in the 19th century.

The ethnic/religious harmony that began during Eritrea's fight for independence continues seamlessly in present-day Eritrea. Government policies outlined in the National Charter promote equality irrespective of religious beliefs, gender, or ethnicity. These policies also emphasize equitable development and cultural preservation to prevent any group



involvement in safeguarding their language, highlighting the strong commitment of both the government and Eritrean society to peace and unity.

Furthermore, Eritrean national festivals, celebrated both domestically and internationally, exemplify the country's unity. Events like Independence Day and Women's Day feature lively showcases of cultural attire, music, and dance representing all ethnicities, underscoring the nation's shared identity. These festivities not only evoke national pride but also reinforce the notion that in Eritrea, diversity is a valuable asset, as evidenced during the struggle for independence.

Ensuring Social Justice — Protecting Human Dignity:

Eritrea's National Charter enshrines the principles of human rights and dignity emphasizing the importance of treating every citizen with respect and dignity by implementing policies to

communities and the nation as a whole. Additionally, the Eritrean government has also placed a strong emphasis on building a



unified society through education and national service. This has helped to consolidate a sense of common purpose and shared responsibility among the Eritrean people. The curriculum is

and rapid response to Covid-19 pandemic cases that resulted in minimal infections & deaths compared to global statistics.

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Eritrea: Model of Peace and ...

Continued from page 4

Self-reliance and Resilience:

Understanding present-day Eritrea requires examining its colonial and post-independence history. The detrimental impact of British actions from 1941 to 1952, which destroyed Eritrea's industrial strength; the illegal federation with Ethiopia leading to annexation; prolonged conflicts with Ethiopia spanning over six decades; and the unjust and unlawful sanctions imposed by the UNSC and US have all significantly hindered Eritrea's economic growth and development prospects.

Since achieving independence, Eritrea has faced obstacles from the United States and its allies, impeding its political, diplomatic, and economic advancements. Following the liberation of Eritrea by the EPLF in 1991, the nation encountered the challenging endeavor of reconstructing its economy and institutions. However, merely seven years later, Ethiopia invaded Eritrea with tacit support of the US and its allies, initiating a prolonged period of turmoil aimed at disrupting Eritrea's progress.

For the latter, the tragic conflict was seen as an opportunity to steer Eritrea away from its independent political and developmental trajectory.

However, Eritreans are resilient and independent, refusing subjugation despite attempts to disrupt their path to development and economic liberation. They prioritize self-reliance and seek solidarity with like-minded countries to advance their nation and maintain peace and security in Eritrea and the region.

Despite these challenges, the GoE has consistently emphasized the importance of self-reliance, a principle that underpins all its policies. It is important to clarify that self-reliance does not equate to isolation, as some critics suggest. Rather, it involves making independent decisions about one's future, including political, economic, and security choices, while also engaging with regional and international partners on shared interests without interfering in their affairs or allowing interference in its own.

It is not surprising then that Eritrea commands respect from superpowers like China, Russia, and India, as well as other global South nations. Eritrea represents the ideals they aim to achieve and uphold. President Isaias Afwerki's visits to Russia and China, along with his participation in the BRICS and Africa summit in South



Africa in 2023, were significant historical moments. These events demonstrate that Eritrea and its leadership are significant players in both the regional and global political spheres; standing on equal footing with world powers rather than being puppets.

Independent Foreign Policy and Non-Alignment:

Eritrea's excellent track record of independent foreign policy, non-alignment & conflict resolution domestically as well as regionally is well documented. Eritrea's emphasis on self-reliance & complementarity have also extended to the country's foreign policy. When it joined the Non-Aligned-Movement (NAM) in 1995, Eritrea had under its belt 30 years of experience in battling colonialism, in all its forms, political interference, polarized alignments etc. As a result it was a perfect platform for Eritrea to share its experiences and strengthen the movement in creating a fair, peaceful and equitable world.

Creating a peaceful world requires strength, de-escalation and strengthening international institutions such as the UNSC, UNGA etc., to empower them to fulfill their mandates in conflict resolution as opposed to being tools of oppression by certain powers, and facilitating meaningful peace talks. Examples of this abound again when we look at Eritrea's history. From accepting the final and binding decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia border commission despite Ethiopia's refusal to accept the decision with the full support of US and EU leaders, to Somalia, Sudan or other global conflicts, where it has maintained a policy of non-interference.

Conflict Resolution Efforts:

Eritrea's approach to peace has

not only fostered a peaceful society within its borders but has also been instrumental in resolving conflicts in the region. Analysis of Eritrea's methods for resolving conflicts reveals a focus on neutrality, dialogue, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of others, inclusivity, non-interference, and the pursuit of sustainable solutions to prevent further violence.

Eritrea has demonstrated its commitment to peace through various initiatives, such as hosting the Somalia reconciliation meeting in Asmara in 2007, facilitating peace talks between Sudan and South Sudan, and brokering deals in Asmara on Oct 14, 2006. Additionally, Eritrea has advocated, in conflicts with international ramifications, for adherence to international norms and prudent policies that exacerbate perilous and avoidable conflagration.

Furthermore, Eritrea has diligently worked with its neighbors to help facilitate an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire and enduring resolution to the tragic conflict in the Sudan. International recognition, including UNSG António Guterres' special envoy visit to Eritrea in late April 2024 is indeed a testimony and appreciation of Eritrea's relentless pursuit to peaceful coexistence within its borders as well in a region prone to conflict.

Emphasis on unity, building inclusive societies, nurturing national identity & patriotism, creating a diversified economy to benefit the entire society, prioritizing resilience, learning from adversity, preparedness & response to crises, encouraging innovation & entrepreneurship are what describe Eritrean society and it has garnered Eritrea and its people much respect globally.

Conclusion

Eritrea's approach to peace has

been a success in a region troubled by conflicts and instability. The focus on unity, self-reliance, and resilience

has not only led to a peaceful society but has also helped in resolving conflicts in the Horn of Africa.

Eritrea's consistent respect for humanity is not just an idea but a reality that influences every aspect of the nation. From cultural events to legal and educational systems, Eritrea demonstrates how to uphold human dignity. This dedication to unity and respect sets an example for other nations striving for a more inclusive and harmonious world. Eritrea's journey highlights that valuing humanity can bring people together and enhance societies. Eritrea proves that when a country prioritizes unity and dignity, it sets the stage for a future that respects and empowers all its citizens.

Happy 33rd Independence Anniversary!

Contact: iguskemambesa@gmail.com

Written by Aman N.

Passionate and interested about Eritrea, Ethiopia, the HOA in general

NEWS

INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Sawa

The 33rd Independence Day anniversary was enthusiastically celebrated in the Southern, Gash Barka Regions and Sawa National Service Training Center under the theme "Peace Anchored on Resilience."

The celebratory event in Mendefera on 22 May was attended by senior Government and PFDJ officials and a number of invited guests. It featured cultural and artistic performances in which over 850 students and artists participated.

Mr. Habteab Tesfatsion, Governor of the region, stated that the 33rd Independence Day anniversary marks the day when Eritrea secured its peace and security. He also

emphasized that the Eritrean people have emerged victorious against occupation, successive external hostilities, and open aggression due to their unity and perseverance.

Mr. Abraham Yohannes, chairman of the Holidays Coordinating Committee in the region, noted that various programs have been conducted across the region since 16 May as part of the celebratory events.

In related news, the 33rd Independence Day anniversary was celebrated in Barantu at the regional level on 22 May.

Mr. Idris Saleh, chairman of the Holidays Coordinating Committee

Continued on page 8



Gash Barka

PEACE ANCHORED ON RESILIENCE

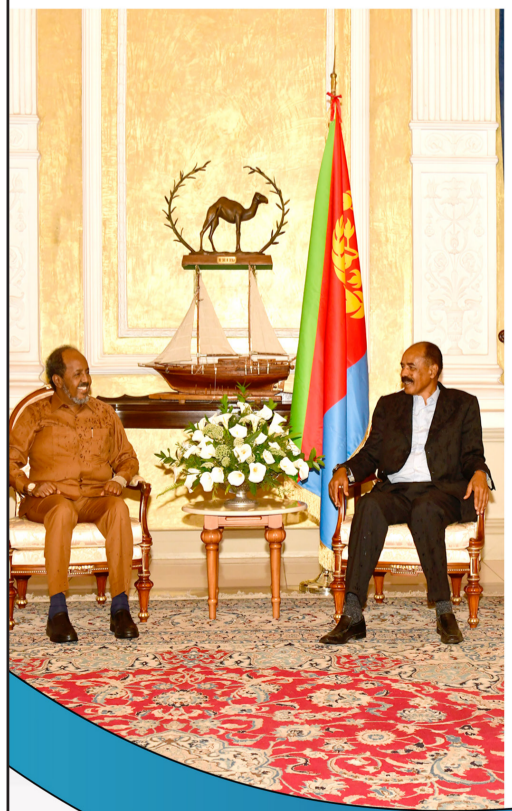
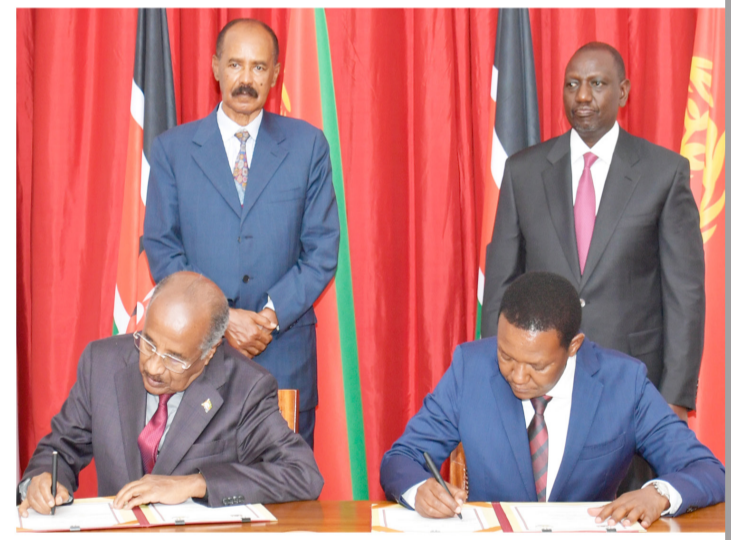
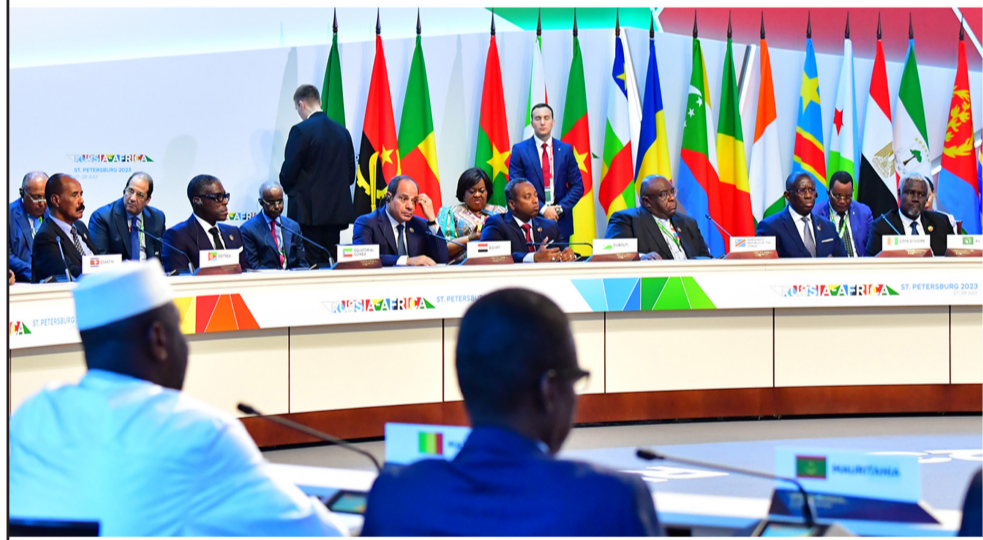
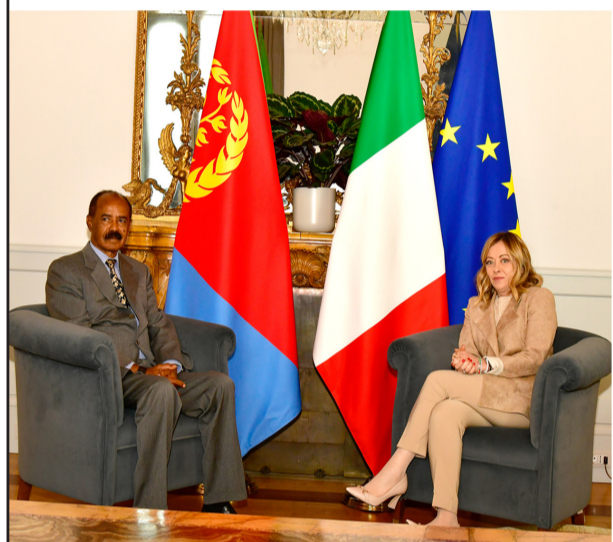
33rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE



ውሕሰነት ሰላም ብመኸተ ! ضمان السلام بالتصدي !

Peace Anchored on Resilience !

PEACE ANCHORED ON RESILIENCE
Eritrea's Diplomatic Engagements



*Design: Taezaz Abraha
 Photographers: Taezaz Abraha
 Aklilu Zerezghi
 Saleh Abdelkader*



The Expression of Young Women Professionals on Eritrea's Independence

Simon Weldemichael



My name is Winta Kahsay. I work at the Commercial Bank of Eritrea. Our Independence Day was the dream, aim, and vision of our liberation fighters, martyrs, and people. It still is and will always be the next generation's sight, value, and future. During the celebration of our Independence Day, I look around me; I see unity, peace, and strength that not many countries enjoy. That is the power of our freedom that our independence brought for us. I can only put my idea and feeling of independence in one word: it is priceless.

On Independence Day, in the festive mood, every Eritrean joins hands in the continuing efforts to maintain peace and harmony and to march ahead on the path of development. Eritreans inside and abroad are inspired by a great national purpose, and their national pride transcends limitations. National joy expands in every direction, and the celebration goes beyond mere celebration.

The celebration of Independence Day is a good time for youth to revisit and understand the past and envision the future. When I was thinking about writing about how Independence Day is defined by young people, the group of young women professionals that was established in 2019 came to my mind. I met them and conducted a conversation with six members of the group. Here are the views and expressions of the outspoken, courageous, and creative young women professionals working in different government institutions.



My name is Solyana Yemane. I work at the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) central office research and

documentation center. Even though I was born and raised in time of peace and independence, I never stopped to think about how it would have been on 24th May 1991. Recently, I heard one veteran fighter's memory of Independence Day and witnessed the depth of his emotions as he tried to recollect his memories. It made me realize that Independence Day has more profound meaning. It was the day when many faced the overwhelming questions of family members seeking news of their loved ones. Now, I have started asking any veteran about their memories of Independence Day to broaden my understanding of the experiences and values that made this unified nation possible.



My name is Kiebron Merhawi. I work at the PFDJ Political Affairs Department. We all know the price of our independence. The reason why Eritreans enthusiastically celebrate Independence Day is because it came after heavy sacrifices. Eritreans greatly respect freedom because they know the bitterness of colonization. The price we paid to bring and maintain independence has left a visible mark on every Eritrean family. Once again, as a society, we believe that our survival, continuity, and security depend on our competence, and we are ready to fulfill what is required of us.



I am Amira Senay, working at Barka Secondary School as a counselor. Celebrating Independence Day reminds me of our past struggles and current and future opportunities every year. When I see people from all walks of life moving peacefully and with smiles on their faces, I feel grateful for the unity and harmony of the Eritrean people. When you look at Liberty

Avenue, the people are vibrating on the same frequency, and their souls are dancing to the same rhythm of the music. This makes you wonder about time and how fast it changes, and it wasn't long ago that we were not allowed to even walk near that street. But now we are walking proudly, smiling, and celebrating our 33 years of independence.

My mom joined the armed struggle for independence when she was young. I still wonder how she felt. And what she could have seen that made her do such a brave thing at a very young age? Even though she is a war-disabled, she feels lucky because she has us (me and my little brother), but she also feels sad because many of her compatriots weren't as fortunate to see the light of independence.



My name is Bisrat Birhane. I teach at Midre Babur Elementary School. Independence is a feeling that is difficult to explain. Thanks to the freedom fighters,

we are now able to enjoy the true meaning of independence. When we celebrate Independence Day, I usually remember the dark hour of colonization that tortured the life of our parents. Colonization is a hindrance to a dignified life. Eritreans never hesitate to pay the required price to achieve independence and maintain peace. As a young generation, we should take the celebration of Independence Day as an opportunity to remind ourselves to be responsible citizens and to uphold the banner of independence. As we commemorate the birth of our country, we are grateful for Eritrea, home of nine ethnic groups, and to the heroes and heroines who have battled, and bled for this nation.

My name is Salem Mekonen, Medical Doctor at Orotta national referral hospital. For me, independence is the state of being able to support oneself without help from others. This is the definition that best describes independence in the case of Eritrea. It makes me proud to be part of a nation that strives to stand on its own, the fruit of its sacrifices for over 60 years. Independence Day marks a special occasion for all of us, and I value it with deep appreciation in the knowledge that my efforts are to emulate this young, proud, and hopeful nation. Celebrating the 33rd Independence Day, I renew my pledge to liberate my people from the shackles of



preventable diseases. I would love to congratulate all Eritreans on this joyful day and wish them a peaceful, prosperous, and fruitful year.

Independence Day ...

Continued from page 5

in the region, said that the Independence Day anniversary celebrations were conducted in all 16 sub-zones of the area, featuring military parades, cultural and artistic performances, and other programs. He also commended those who contributed to the successful implementation of the programs, including the public, Eastern Command and Border Patrol, and administration at all levels.

Ambassador Mahmud Ali Hirui, Governor of the region, explained the profound significance of the Independence Day celebrations and called for double-fold efforts

to secure peace and successfully implement national development programs.

Similarly, the 33rd Independence Day anniversary was celebrated in Sawa yesterday, featuring various cultural and artistic programs.

The celebratory event was attended by Col. Debesay Ghide, Commander of the National Service Training Center, commanders and staff members of the center, and members of the 36th round of the national service.

At the occasion, Col. Debesay Ghide called on the youth to shoulder the responsibility that the day bestowed on them and to preserve their unity in diversity.