

**ERITREAN-ONTARIONIANS COMING TOGETHER TO HONOUR THE LATE
DR. HABTE TESFAMARIAM:
(PRESS REPORT)**

By: Abdu Habib

sabbahar@rocketmail.com

Eritrean residents of Ontario, Canada, gathered in the city of Toronto on Sunday, February 5, 2017 to honour Dr. Habte Tesfamariam, a legendary Eritrean revolutionary and great patriot who had dedicated his youth to see Eritrea liberated and emerging as a free and independent state. Though independent Eritrea was the dream for which Dr. Habte and his compatriots had dedicated their youth, they were denied the right of return and participation in the reconstruction of the country by the gang that shamefully hijacked the independence from day one and founded an authoritarian regime, forcing them to continue the struggle, but this time against an internal oppressor, for freedom, rule of law, justice, equality and democracy. It was in the middle of this struggle that death robbed us on January 13, 2017 of one more patriot who is not easy to replace in the on-going national struggle to end the rule of the gang and bring a radical change in Eritrea, ensuring that it is for all Eritreans, irrespective of regional, ethnic, religious, cultural, and political backgrounds. a

As I was honoured to attend the memorial held in his honour, I was able to witness firsthand the reaction of the folks and was keen to follow each and every word said about him by way of eulogy and anecdotes some had to share as their personal encounters with the remarkable leader. The event was a real moment of history I was lucky enough to witness and document in my diary with all its details.

His tremendous dedication, immense contribution, love for his country and its people were the sentiments echoed by a series of speakers who had the real honour to know him personally during the armed struggle, work with him, and learn from his comradely compassion, humility, vision for the future of the country, and leadership qualities, that all of them described in unison as extraordinarily rare and will remain an inspiration for all, both young and old. One outstanding thing I have concluded from the speeches is that the smallest interaction with great compatriots, like Dr. Habte,

could have a huge impact on the person, and that his/her grief could be as strong as someone who was much closer to him. Another thing I have observed during the memorial is that some of the folks who barely knew Dr. Habte were greatly affected by his death and struck by his popularity that made a very remarkable impression on their minds.

While I do not hide my curiosity to see if that display of honour Eritrean-Ontarionians have shown will eventually come to give room to practical steps towards taking up the torch and implementing the most fundamental value Dr. Habte stood for: THE UNITY OF ALL NATIONAL CONTINGENTS. This is the only way we can express our affection to the hero and recognize his leadership virtues and commitment to the national cause. No other yard stick could measure our affection, admiration of his dedication and leadership qualities except the action to implement his ideals. Short of that, it is nothing but an idle talk. Finally, I would like to send my sincere condolences to his survivors, comrades, and the nation at large. May his soul rest in peace! =====