



QASA BADIH QAFARIH  
QUNXAANEYTIH LIIG

RED SEA AFAR YOUTH  
LEAGUE (RSAYL)

الاتحاد العام لشباب عفر البحر الأحمر

**Västerås, SWEDEN**

**Date: 08/02/2023**

**THE JOINT FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE RED SEA AFAR YOUTH ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE (Baltimore, USA & Västerås, SWEDEN)  
JANUARY 26 TO FEBRUARY 6, 2023).**

The Red Sea Afar Youth held its annual conference from January 26 to January 31, 2023, in Västerås (Sweden) and Baltimore, Maryland (USA), under the theme of "through unity and steadfastness, we will take back our rights and stick to our demands."

The conference deliberations continued till February 6 before concluding with a Zoom video conference. Participants and delegates came from several countries, including Australia, Canada, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.

The conference was attended by representatives of the Red Sea Afar Youth, Eritrean academics, elites, opposition groups, comrades, civic and human rights organisations, and leaders of the Red Sea Afar Democratic Organisation (RSADO). The Committees in Sweden and USA prepared the agendas for the conferences. The opening remarks and addresses were delivered by representatives and leaders of the Red Sea Afar Democratic Organization, Eritrean Political Forces, Eritrean National Congress Democratic Change, Eritrean People's Democratic Party, and the Eritrean Renaissance Party, respectively. Additionally, the Afar Communities in Sweden and the United States of America sent messages of support and solidarity.

At the conference, a wide range of topics was presented and discussed, among them as follows:

- The policies of the Eritrean regime and the domestic situation in Eritrea. (USA).
- The potential role of youth in bringing about change. (USA).
- The reasons why the organisation had to be established. (USA).
- A report was presented that discussed the situation of Swedish politics following the elections and its impact on new citizens, as well as suggestions for Afar youth on how to engage, participate, and contribute to society. (Sweden).
- The Popular Front: from the ruling party to the ruling elite. (Sweden).
- The RSADO presented its vision and proposal for democratic change in Eritrea. (Sweden).

On the side-lines of the annual conference of the Red Sea Afar Youth, the leaders of the Eritrean opposition organisations, led by the veterans like Nagash Othman, Mengisti Ab-Asmarom, Nour Idris, Yassin Abdallah, and Ismail Gabayta, enlightened the youth in a dialogue session on the Eritrean oppositions and the challenges of change in light of the rapid developments, and later answered all questions and inquiries from the youth regarding the work of the Eritrean opposition organisations.

The conference honoured the combatants Mengisti Ab Asmarom and Abdo Mohammad Karati, as well as the promising young politician Othman Sayed Abdallah, a member of the provincial and municipal councils and the board of the United Nations Office in Sweden, and the vivacious young

man Qasim Mohammad Ali, for their accomplishments and their tireless efforts in serving their community and country. The conference took place at a time when the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) regime in Eritrea was engaging in anti-democratic acts and violating human rights, which have been made known to the public and the international community ever since Eritrea gained its independence thirty years ago. These practices have manifested in all of their forms both at the national, regional, and international levels.

The PFDJ leadership justified their dictatorial and expansionist ambitions against the Eritrean people on all fronts by referring to "unity," "homeland," and "sovereignty" to hide their crimes. Since the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), later (from 1994) People's Front for Democracy and Justice took over the country's affairs, the PFDJ has dedicated itself to suppressing the components of the Eritrean people demanding freedom and democracy and to deny them their right to self-determination, which was recognized by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The ruling PFDJ regime massacred, uprooted, and violated the human rights of many Eritreans in many parts of Eritrea before Eritrea's independence in **1988. The "Black Tuesday"** murders in the As-Eila and Galaalu districts of the Dankalia region, which resulted in the intentional and indiscriminate slaughter of several hundred Afar youth and civilians, were among the well-known and **well-documented crimes the EPLF/PFDJ committed**. In 2000, the regime once again carried out similar atrocities and massacres against Afar villagers in the "Abeh Le Kooma" region of the Daabo district of Dankalia, which led to the deaths of hundreds of our people. The regime also carried out additional horrendous atrocities against the Afars in the Red Sea coastal regions, including purposefully sinking their boats, which resulted in the deaths of numerous local fishermen who were of Afar origin. In addition to the widespread and systematic killings and disappearances committed against the Afar population by the Eritrean dictatorship, it has also been stated that any Eritrean citizens who wanted to criticize the policies of the regime were allegedly either killed, disappeared, or imprisoned.

The PFDJ authorities took advantage of the twenty-year period of neither war nor peace with Ethiopia to prevent the exercise of all fundamental freedoms and rights, outlaw all independent political and cultural activities in the country, deny entry to the United Nations Special Rapporteur and restrict the free movement of all international humanitarian and non-governmental organisations throughout Eritrea. The regime continues to execute many convicts and political detainees without adhering to the correct legal procedures. It is believed that tens of thousands of people have remained imprisoned for an excessive amount of time without being brought to justice. Even though the Eritrean dictatorship and the Ethiopian government reached a peace deal in 2018, it was not practically implemented on the ground. Instead, the Eritrean regime meddled in Ethiopian affairs by inciting unrest within Ethiopia and deploying troops to participate in the civil war there. And after the conflicting parties in Ethiopia reached a peaceful settlement in Pretoria, South Africa, in November 2022, the PFDJ regime was disappointed and dissatisfied with the outcomes of the peace talks because the PFDJ regime did not meet its expectations, forcing it to immediately withdraw Eritrean forces and leave northern Ethiopia after it was revealed in the settlement that thousands of the best Eritrean youth had been made victims of the war. The Eritrean dictator waged wars without consulting his people in order to maintain his power and prevent a democratic and popular uprising that would have to overthrow his dictatorship. He did this by fostering perpetual conflict and instability both at home and in the regions.

The conference came to an end due to the heated topics—exactly what is being revealed to our people inside—who are subjected to hardship, siege, malnutrition, and intimidation as a result of the PFDJ authorities' daily mandatory national conscription operations. These authorities were not satisfied with these campaigns, so they began to track down families and accuse them of dodging national service while seizing their homes and other assets and imprisoning them. The conference also discussed and examined the dire humanitarian conditions and life-threatening circumstances that the Eritrean refugees living in the Barahle, Aysaita, and Sardo camps in Ethiopia's Afar region, as well as those in Djibouti and Yemen, are currently experiencing.

**Coming to a close, the conference addressed the following:**

- **Assessed** the General Union of Red Sea Afar Youth's performance from the previous year and reviewed its accomplishments and shortcomings. At the conference, the subcommittees of the General Union of Red Sea Afar Youth in Saudi Arabia, Canada, the United States of America, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, Germany, and Australia were re-elected to serve another term.
- **Denounced** the brutal intimidation and harassment of citizens by the PFDJ authorities, the detention of families, the closing of their homes and businesses, the nationalization of their sources of income, and the ongoing daily compulsory recruitment drives that disrupted daily life in all its aspects and drove thousands of citizens out of their homes.
- **Urged** the international community and international organisations to put pressure on the dictatorial regime in Eritrea to stop mistreating and repressing Eritrean refugees who have fled their home country in accordance with the 1951 Convention on Refugees and are now living in neighbouring countries.
- **Placed** a strong emphasis on intensifying the democratic struggle and continuing to expose the crimes committed by the Eritrean dictatorship in all international and regional fora, as well as its unpatriotic motivations and the ludicrous conflicts it launches here and there to maintain power.
- **Stressed** the importance of redoubling efforts to strengthen the steadfastness of our people at home and abroad, to provide all requirements for steadfastness, and to put an end to the ethnic cleansing and forced displacement that the Eritrean regime committed against the Afar people of the Red Sea Region—Dankalia.
- **Urged** the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to provide an immediate, life-saving evacuation and security for the Red Sea Afar refugees in the camps of Barahle, Aysaita, and Sardo in the Afar Region of Ethiopia who are suffering from difficult conditions, as well as to provide them with legal protection, immediate humanitarian aid, and safe third-country resettlement in accordance with the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, so that their human rights, fundamental freedoms, and dignity can be preserved and they can rebuild their lives in a secure and democratic environment.
- **Emphasised** how crucial it is for the Eritrean opposition forces to foster a culture of dialogue and a spirit of tolerance in order to coordinate and unite their political discourse before the Eritrean people as a whole and the international community in order to gain support for the Eritrean people's struggle from democratic and forces that value freedom, peace, and equality.
- **Finally**, the conference honoured and praised the General Union of Red Sea Afar Youth bases and branches for their remarkable efforts and the major roles they played in organising and achieving great success at all levels throughout the conference.

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