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المجلس الوطني الإريتري للتغيير الديمقراطي
مكتب العلاقات الخارجية والشؤون الإنسانية

Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change
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April 13, 2023

To: Honorable UN Secretary General Mr. António Guterres
Honorable UN Human Right Council President Mr. Federico Villegas Beltrán
Honorable UN High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi
Human Right Watch Executive Director Mr. Kenneth Roth
Amnesty International Secretary General Dr. Agnès Callamard

Subject: **Remembrance of the Eritrean Prisoners of Conscience**

On April 14, 2023, Eritreans around the world will commemorate “**Eritrean Detainees Day.**” This special day was chosen eleven years ago by Eritreans to remember their unjustly imprisoned compatriots in their homeland by the dictatorial regime of Isaias Afewerki. On this occasion of remembrance, the Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change (ENCDC) would like to remind the concerned world bodies and humanitarian agencies of the thousands of Eritrean prisoners of conscience that are languishing in the dungeons of the Eritrean regime. These prisoners include religious leaders, scholars, teachers, nurses, former ministers, veteran freedom-fighters, and underage boys and girls. Some of these prisoners have been there for decades and many have lost their lives in the detention facilities.

It is a known fact that Eritrea is “the big prison” housing over 10,000 political prisoners in over 350 jail facilities facing torture and harsh prison conditions. Added to this are, almost half-a-million of Eritrean youth that are forcibly serving unlimited national service under slavery-like conditions.

Eritreans around the world will remember these prisoners of conscience with demonstrations, seminars and simply, with prayers. We would like to kindly request you to join us in this remembrance and promise us to not ever forget the Eritrean prisoners of conscience’s cries for justice and freedom. Equally, we urge you to exert the full weight of your good offices to pressure the Eritrean regime to release all prisoners of conscience or afford them due process of law and fair trials.

Sincerely,

Professor Mohammed Beshir

Head of ENCDC Office of Foreign Relations & Humanitarian Affairs