

Sep 8, 2010

Red Sea Afar Democratic Organization (RSADO)

Press Release

Re: An Urgent call to save 9 Sea Afar Refugees from being handed back to Eritrean Government.

It has come to our attention that Eight Red Sea Afar from Eritrea, who fled to Yemen across the Red Sea to their safety on Sep 2nd have been apprehended by Yemeni Authorities in Hudayda, Yemen.

We have learned out of these men 6 are defected from Eritrean Navel Force with their navy patrol speed boat and 3 are students all from Ethnic afar minorities. We have also learned the Eritrean authorities are diligently working to get their hands on these Refugees and have made contacts with Yemeni government and in the process of their extraditions back to Eritrea.

The Red Sea Afar is one of the highly persecuted minorities inside Eritrea. The Eritrean Government is subjugating the Afar to untold atrocities including Murder, Torture, Rape, Disappearances, Expulsions, Forcible Confinements and Aggression against them in their ancestral homeland in Eritrea. The afar land is targeted by Eritrean regime for its geo-political significance and its rich resources under sea and above coastline. This made the Afar the obvious target for repression.

In the past 10 years the Red Sea Afar has been forced to flee their ancestral homeland in Dankalia in to neighboring countries for safety. It is believed some 200,000 afar fled their homes. There are 24,000 Refugees registered with UNHCR in Ethiopia, Many more are not registered. It has been over a week since we have heard the news first, now we are very much concerned about their safety and fate. Eritrean Government makes no secret of the treatment of those apprehended defectors, especially if they flee from the line of duty as soldiers. Their punishment is execution in front of their military units so it will deter others from doing the same. In 2004 there has been a similar incident where 17 year old afar teenage soldier (Mahmud Kassim Shehem) and three other military officials who made it across to Djibouti were handed back by Djibouti Authority to Eritrean Military; these four were executed by the Eritrean Government on the spot after they were handed over. Eritrean Government has acknowledged their death.

We urge the international Human rights organizations ,such as Human Rights watch and Amnesty International to put pressure on Yemeni Government to honor international covenant for refugees and save the lives of these helpless Afar citizens , if they're handed back they will most certainly will face death by the hands of Eritrean Government .

Here are the names of Detained Afar citizens.

- 1. Rashid salih alawi .**
- 2. Ali Idris Alilo .**
- 3. Ali mahmmed .**
- 4. Anwar Abdu Ali .**
- 5. Ismail Robito osman .**
- 6. Shifa akadar .**
- 7. Ahmed shami muktar .**
- 8. Ahmed mussa raga**
- 9. Name unknown**

Thank You;

Ahmed Y Mohamed

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