

Commemoration of Eritrean Martyrs in Oslo

On 20th of June 2008, Eritreans residing in Oslo, Norway, gathered to commemorate Eritrean martyrs day. As expected a large number appeared and early on time **Mr. Fessehaye Habtemariam** made ready the equipments to be in service for that day. A DVD showing the long struggle and the heavily paid scarf ices by Eritrea was presented.

The commemoration proceeded in a well organized manner. First it was **Mr. Keleta Fassil** from Hizbawi Mekete executive committee opened the event.

From the young generation, youth **Hagos Yared** appeared in front of the public and reminded all to remember the martyrs in practical terms and that was by helping the remains of the martyrs. He called on to stretch our generous hand by contributing a monthly contribution to the families of the martyrs. As young his age is he collected a history he heard about a young Eritrean tegadaly (liberation fighter) that martyred just a week moment from the liberation day. It was a heart touching history and it motivates us to be sensible to this special commemoration day.

The event followed by lightning candles and people were contributing money to the cause helping remains of our martyrs. At a glimpse of an event about more than 11,000 Norwegian kroner gathered and this money is going to be transferred directly to the concerned people (the families of martyrs).

Mr. Yemane Haile chairman of hizbawi mekete Oslo says “20th June is a respected day that is going to be remembered for eternity. It is a day Eritrea remembers the sacrifice paid by its precious children and for us it’s a day we renew our promise to fulfil the trust left by our martyrs”.

Mr. Abraham Woldu read a message from Eritrean Embassy in Scandinavian countries. The letter and spirit of the message contains by reminding the recently paid scarifies to safeguard our liberation and sovereignty of the country. It tells about not only the quantity of our martyrs we paid but at the same time the quality of persons we lost comparing to our number is enormous. Therefore, it is imperative, we to be vigilant and keep our promises to fulfil the goal of our martyrs. As president of the state of Eritrea mentioned during the liberation day the challenges awaiting us is not easy so that we to proceed patiently and consciously to defend and renew our promises to our martyrs. The message continues by saying that as there are remnants that lives on looking that do not belong to them and still cherishes to expand and occupy lands, it is expected from us to continue the on going developments. We call on the rule of law to be respected and occupying force of Woyane to be compelled from our lands. We tell our enemies that if they can not defeat us directly we are not going to let them defeat us indirectly. The message concludes by praising our martyrs.

The event of the commemoration of our martyrs continued by reading poems from the participants.

Mr. Efrem Ogubasselassie’s poem tells by remembering the smiling faces, the fast marching foots and the pleasant tales told by fighters for liberation of Eritrea. He praised martyrs for the sacrifice they paid to liberate their people. He said if there are who tries to cover and hide the heroic deeds of fighters simply it is because the truth prevailed. He mentioned the

developments in agriculture and the construction of the country is due to the early hard working of the martyrs. The ongoing construction of dams, the development of Sawa, college of Hamelmalo, the construction of Gelalo, College of Mai Nefhi and the medication of our cattle's to eradicate a disease called by the name Gulhai is thanks to our martyr's early hard work. He concludes by praising our martyrs and mentioned about Warsai's activities to ease the martyrs.

Mrs. Rahewa Gereyesus's poem begins by the heading "Eritrea is a gift by our martyrs". She tells the land and the sea of Eritrea is written by blood of our martyrs. Our Eritrea is defended by youth's grownup in Sahil, Barka and those who learned in revolutionary school during liberation time. She tells about the young, the educated, newly married couples and shepherds being as one body defended the country. She tells about the heroic sacrifices paid in fighting super powers and their stooges. She mentioned the liberation of Eritrea and the freedom that we are enjoying now is due to the heavy scarifies paid by our martyrs. Eritrea being surrounded by enemies it became as an island watched by robbers. She wished if possible Eritrea to go away to a decent place far from wicked neighbours. She mentioned the repeated scarifies paid to make Eritrea exist. She said the great love to Eritrea is due to scarifies paid by our martyrs. The college of medicine, the lakes that are created in the plain of Barka made its people feel comfortable. She mentioned about Warsai Yikalo efforts on the ongoing developments. She concluded by mentioning about the return of wild animals, the ongoing afro-stations, the construction of modern buildings and the ease the Eritrean people is enjoying this time.

Mr. Emabye Tesfu presented a story telling about two youth's remains of martyrs and a poem expressing about martyrs. It reads as follows.

The story's heading is "Being a substitute we found a substitute". To make the long story short it reads as follows. He mentioned about during the armed struggle when somebody asks the where about of somebody the simple answer was he or she has gone far for a long trip. As young person it is difficult to understand the meaning of what is meant he or she has gone a long trip. But as time goes on the meaning of the saying comes clear and it means that he or she is martyred. As every young Eritrean has to go through fulfilling obligations by going to Sawa, two youths meets there and felt in love. When the time was ripe to express their feelings they were asking about each others back ground. They found out that both were remains of martyred families. They married and got a child and they gave him a name Nasthenet means freedom.

After telling the above story he read a poem. The heading of the poem was "I lighted a candle for your reminiscences". He wonders how the fighters who broke the yoke of aggressors silenced in their graves. He begs the martyrs to stand up from their graves to tell us about the past heroic deeds. He mentions the impracticality of the martyrs come back and prefers to tell instead how the children and the families of the martyrs remembering them by holding their pictures. He tells about as the body of the tegadlie is deceased but his soul is alive. He concludes by saying I lighted a candle for your reminiscences.

Mr. Fanuel Ogbamicael poem reads about the ongoing developments in Eritrea and he praise our martyrs for the scarifies paid to liberate us.

The event was much impressive when **Mr. Andom Gebreselasie (wedi Ke-She)** using his talent of kirar (a guitar type traditional instrument) and his sweet melody was praising martyrs

for the scarifies they paid for our cause to live in liberty. He said if the mountains were to tell the story, if books were to tell the story and lyrics to sing a song it will be about the history of the martyrs. He lauded the slogan of Eritreans that says as we do no want that do not belong to us; we don't give to others that belong to us.

Reminiscences for eternity to our martyrs.

Written by Tesfamicael Yohannes.

Composed by Samson Yared.

From hizbawi mekete Oslo, Norway