



# Eritrean Afar State in Exile

*Restoring the Dignity of the Eritrean Afar People Democratically*

*"Eretriyah Qafarih Konnabna Demokraasil Daabisenno"*

Press Release

OCT 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014-Logiya-Afar Regional State-Ethiopia

## **Ref: Political interference and intimidations involving Eritrean Afar refugees in Ethiopia**

Our organization was informed the Red Sea Afar Democratic Organization (RSADO) and its Chairman Mr. Ibarhim Harun Hassan has ordered a meeting of Afar elders on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 in Logiya-Ethiopia, in order to solicit support for his political group to vote down an earlier ruling by Afar Traditional leaders (Majlis Al –Aiyaan). The Afar Traditional leaders released a communiqué raising concern over RSADO's accountability and lack of confidence in its leadership (Mr. Harun). The Majlis has called for reform and urged everyone to respect the role of traditional leadership as caretakers of Eritrean Afar people.

Mr. Harun told Afar elders (who are UNHCR registered refugees from Eritrea) to reject the ruling of Afar traditional representatives and anyone who refuses to play along could be faced with harsh penalties and will not be considered for third country resettlement opportunities.

These intimidations and political interferences of our elders, traditional leaders and refugees cannot be tolerated and unacceptable. More importantly, it is illegal under United Nation 1951 conventions for refugees.



Refugees and elders meeting in Logiya

UNHCR has the mandate to protect these refugees from political coercion and respect for their traditional law and customs.

We urge Administration for *Refugee and Returnee* Affairs (ARRA) to work closely with UNHCR- Ethiopia to resolve these concerns and assist these refugees.

EASE has taken up the causes of Eritrean Afar refugees, Afar political and Human rights with various governments in EU, the UN, including in Ethiopia, Yemen and Djibouti. EASE will defend the rights of our Afar citizens and will pursue Mr. Harun and his culprits with necessary legal action with the authorities in Ethiopia and with UN offices in Geneva.

We call on our citizens to contact our Hotlines immediately for assistance:

Geneva: +41762488325, In Canada: 613 627-3273, Email: [info@dankalia.org](mailto:info@dankalia.org)

Eritrean Afar State in Exile (EASE)  
Executive Committee

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