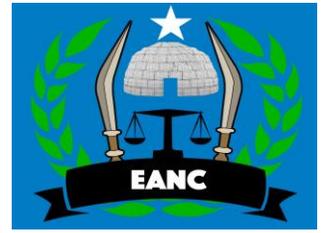


ERITREAN AFAR NATIONAL CONGRESS ERITRIYAH QAFARIH AGATHI KOBOKU

المؤتمر الوطني لعفر ارتريا

*Restoring the Self Determination of the Eritrean Afar Nation
Eretriyah Qafar Isim Isih Madqittaamih Cakki Daabisenno*



PRESS RELEASE | ERITREA IS USING COVID 19 AS POLITICAL WARFARE AGAINST INDIGENOUS AFAR IN DANKALIA

JUNE 1st, 2020

Assab-Eritrea: Credible information from inside Eritrea suggests the indigenous Afar people in Dankalia are at the brink of starvation.

The Eritrean government is using the COVID 19 crises as a political tool of oppression in order to further its power grip on an extremely vulnerable population by using incommunicado detentions of Afar fishermen, confiscation of food supplies and severely restricting their livelihood and access to healthcare.

Since the Eritrean government restrictions were introduced in March following a worldwide pandemic, there has been an increased number of Afar people who were detained in coastal villages and bordering trade routes across Dankalia. Our sources have confirmed the government of Eritrea has detained a number of Afar civilians and confiscated their food supplies in villages of Harsile, Eddi, Badda and other locations, as well as sealing off all critical access points by land and sea, areas used by camel caravans for transporting much needed food supplies for the population of Dankalia.

Understanding Dankalia and the indigenous way of life

Dankalia's population is predominantly of Afar nationality. Dankalia is known for its remoteness, its exotic islands, coastlines villages and known for its richness of unexplored natural resources such as gold, potash and other precious metals and minerals. This region contains the country's two sea Ports.

Eritrea's ruling military junta understands the importance of its prized territory of Dankalia for its geopolitical significance in the region and the future of natural resources driven economy for the longevity of its military rule in the country. This is why the government of Eritrea has particularly militarized Dankalia as a no-go zone for international Aid and nongovernmental groups or any human rights organizations, by doing so kept the international community in the dark of Afar plight.

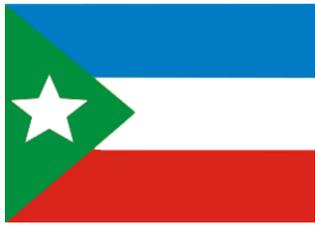
This is also, the territory where the Eritrean government has been condemned by the United Nations agencies for persecuting the ethnic Afar so severely that those crimes amount to crimes against humanity. The United Nations agencies documented Eritrea's crimes against humanity every year since 2013, describing in vivid detail Eritrea's systematic murders, rapes, tortures, land expropriations and communal displacement of the Afar nation.

The indigenous Afar people are dependent on their traditional territories, the land and sea for their sustenance and livelihood as its true everywhere with indigenous communities. This means the sea becomes their farmland; their fishing boats are their essential services and the economic lifeline.

Eritrean Afar National Congress
P.O. Box 78046 Meriline
Ottawa, ON K2E 1B1- Canada

info@dankalia.org
www.dankalia.org
Office 613-627 3273

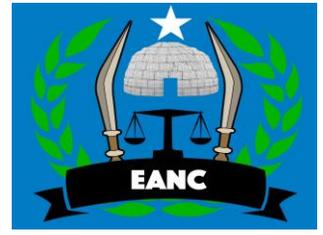
Eritrean Afar National Congress (EANC) is an exiled Afar political organization dedicated to self-determination and self-rule of Eritrean Afar people in their coastal homeland of Dankalia, Eritrea, where the indigenous Afar are subjected to marginalization, persecution and ethnic cleansing at the hands of the current Eritrean government. EANC is the voice of the Eritrean Afar people. EANC draws its mandate from the political and traditional Afar leaders, the leadership of Afar women and youth groups, the Eritrean n Afar Diaspora and Eritrean-Afar refugees.



ERITREAN AFAR NATIONAL CONGRESS ERITRIYAH QAFARIH AGATHI KOBXU

المؤتمر الوطني لعفر ارتريا

*Restoring the Self Determination of the Eritrean Afar Nation
Eretriyah Qafar Isim Isih Madqittaamih Cakki Daabisenno*



No Aid from outside, No government handouts, or essential services are allowed

Following COVID 19 pandemic governments around the globe have introduced restrictions, lockdowns and other social distancing measures to flatten the curve. Though these necessary measures were meant to combat the pandemic temporarily many governments understood the effect of restrictions on their citizens and are looking after the wellbeing of its citizens to address the economic fallout because of the lockdowns, by stepping up efforts to assist its vulnerable population with food security and medical needs in their countries.

In Eritrea however, the government is neglecting its responsibility for looking after it's vulnerable to provide food assistance and healthcare. In addition to that, sadly it has willfully refused international assistance against the COVID 19 pandemic.

On March 24, a planeload of COVID 19 medical supplies donated by the Chinese group (Alibaba) was turned back by the Eritrean government. Last summer, the Eritrea authorities ordered to shutdown over twenty Catholic clinics and hospitals which were providing free healthcare for vulnerable Eritreans.

Eritrean Afar National Congress (EANC) calls on the international community to assist the people of Eritrea by putting pressure on the Eritrean government to allow critically needed food in the country and lift restrictions on freedom of mobility and access to livelihoods.

The Eritrean Afar National Congress (EANC) is calling on all civilized people of the world to join hands with the Afar in Dankalia and provide a voice in solidarity to denounce the inhumane actions of the government of Eritrea.

Let's us all stand together to defeat the evils of systematic repression in Eritrea and the politicization of the COVID 19.

**For further information contact:
Telephone: 613 627 3273 Email: info@dankalia.org**

**Eritrean Afar National Congress
P.O. Box 78046 Meriline
Ottawa, ON K2E 1B1- Canada**

**info@dankalia.org
www.dankalia.org
Office 613-627 3273**

Eritrean Afar National Congress (EANC) is an exiled Afar political organization dedicated to self-determination and self-rule of Eritrean Afar people in their coastal homeland of Dankalia, Eritrea, where the indigenous Afar are subjected to marginalization, persecution and ethnic cleansing at the hands of the current Eritrean government. EANC is the voice of the Eritrean Afar people. EANC draws its mandate from the political and traditional Afar leaders, the leadership of Afar women and youth groups, the Eritrean Afar Diaspora and Eritrean-Afar refugees.