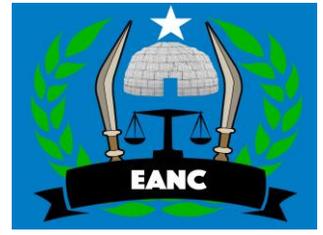




ERITREAN AFAR NATIONAL CONGRESS ERITRIYAH QAFARIH AGATHI KOBOKSU

المؤتمر الوطني لعفر ارتريا

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



ERITREAN AFAR NATIONAL CONGRESS (EANC)

CONGRESS RESOLUTION JULY - 2022

July 6, 2022 | The Eritrean Afar National Congress (EANC) concluded its three-day congress held from July 1st to 3rd across various cities around the world.

The EANC congress delegates including Eritrean political opposition leaders, the leadership of Afar Diaspora, youth groups and Afar intellectuals and regional experts have together expressed their solidarity with the Eritrean Afar people's causes and resolved their commitment to the struggle for democratic reform in Eritrea.

EANC representatives expressed grave concern about the continued existential threat posed to the lives of Afar people in Eritrea, condemning the Eritrean government for its policies of ethnic persecution, marginalization of Indigenous Afar, destruction of their economic way of life, assimilation of their ethnic identity and cultural institutions and more.

As part of its pledge to democratic reform in Eritrea, the EANC congress reaffirmed its commitment to the "[Uppsala Declaration July 2018](#)", which the leaders of the Afar nation outlined as the key to democratizing Eritrea. Those principles include drafting of a new power-sharing constitution, the equality of Eritrea's nine nationalities, the rights of Afar and other nationalities to self-government and self-determination in a federation comprised of autonomous regions of Eritrea, the control of land and resources by its indigenous owners and affirmed other democratic principles such as freedom of religion, conscience, political opinion, expression and freedom of assembly.

Eritrea's Action against the indigenous Afar in Dankalia:

The Afar traditional homeland of Dankalia occupies a very significant strategic corner in Eritrea. It's situated on the African coast of the Red Sea facing Yemen and Saudi Arabia in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. Dankalia's natural resources and geo-strategic wealth made it the primary target since the 2nd world war. It served as the first Italian colonial post as Europe was flexing its power in search of new colonies on continent of Africa (the scramble for Africa). From within the Abyssinian plateau (Ethiopia), Dankalia was and still continues to be the main attraction for those with regional and territorial expansionist ambitions.

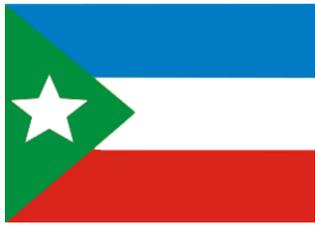
Since it gained its independence in 1993, the Eritrean state deliberately scrutinized Dankalia and the Afar people with the intent of marginalizing and appropriating the natural resources of the area. Dankalia's territory remains one the most militarized area in the country. Currently, the Eritrean regime is removing the indigenous Afar from Dankalia and colonizing the area. To remove the Afar, Eritrea is using mass murder, terror, intimidation and other forms of violence, and is destroying the basis of the Afar economy.

The [UN Commission of inquiry on human rights in Eritrea](#) has established well documented archives of atrocities of persecution against the Afar by the Eritrean regime. Eritrea's treatment of the Afar people was examined in detail by the United Nations Commission on the situation of Human Rights in Eritrea [COI-Eritrea] and the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights in Eritrea [SR-

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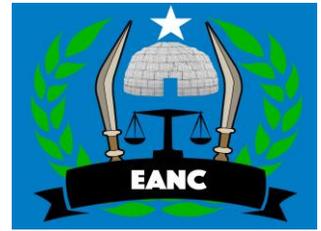
Eritrean Afar National Congress (EANC) is an exiled Afar political organization dedicated to self-determination and self-rule of Eritrean Afar people in their coastal homeland of Dankalia, Eritrea, where the indigenous Afar are subjected to marginalization, persecution and ethnic cleansing at the hands 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.



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Eritrea]. Both UN entities found that Eritrea engaged in widespread and systematic persecution of the Afar population, including ethnic cleansing of Afar people from their traditional lands in the Assab port area, by violence, murder and mass murder. Both UN instrumentalities concluded that Eritrea's persecution of the Afar constituted crimes against humanity.¹

Thirty-one years of colonization and persecution have forced nearly 200,000 indigenous Afar to flee Dankalia, and those communities that remain in Dankalia are among the poorest in the country.

DANKALIA NOT FOR SALE (The exploitation of Afar resources and strategic territories)

On September 2015, Eritrean government signed undisclosed agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to grant a [military base](#) near the Port of Assab to be used in the war against Yemen. Even though details about the agreement remain secret, it is believed that the Eritrean government received hundreds of millions of dollars from the UAE.

The UAE- Eritrea agreement quickly expanded from a strip of land around Assab Airport into local indigenous Afar communities. To make way for the arrival of UAE forces, the Eritrean government illegally confiscated massive land near Makkaka village, a privately owned indigenous Afar salt mining land and properties, displacing 2000 Afar families and razed down and uprooted over 30,000 indigenous threes.

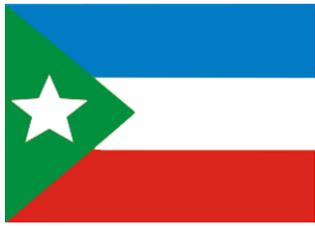
Since arriving in Afar territories in 2015, UAE attack helicopters indiscriminately [shot and killed Afar people](#) as they carry out their indigenous traditional fishing on the red sea coast of Dankalia. Neither the UAE nor Eritrean government has been held responsible for the massacres and devastation of Afar's lives, nor have the families been compensated. Since then, the UAE dismantled Assab's military base in 2021, but the lives and property of the indigenous Afar people were permanently lost.

The ethnic cleansing of Afar continues ...

On May 2013, The Eritrean government through its government-owned Eritrean National Mining Corporation (ENAMCO) signed 50-50 a joint venture with Australia's Danakali Corporation (formerly known as South Boulder Mines). The Afar region has one of the largest unexplored potash resources in the world; the project site covers a massive territory spanning over 400 square kilometers. The Collili Potash mine is estimated to have a production life of more than 200 years, an area traditionally used by the indigenous Afar communities for animal husbandry and cross-border trades. To enforce this illegal taking, the Eritrean military deployed its troops, used its policy of land grab and intimidation over the Afar population and prevented them from carrying out their livelihood and reaching the water resources necessary for their animals. Tens of thousands of Afar families fled the Eritrean persecution and now can be found in the refugee camps in neighbouring Ethiopia.

The joint venture of expropriating the indigenous Afar land and displacement from their traditional territories and resources is ingrained in the policies of the government of Eritrea. Neither the Government of Eritrea, nor its multinational partner corporation ([Danakali Limited](#)) have consulted with the Afar

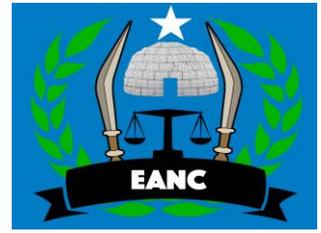
¹ Ethnic cleansing is a well-recognized form of persecution, which is a crime against humanity. See generally, Currie & Rikhof, *International and Transnational Criminal Law* (2nd ed., 2013), p. 134, who also describe the elements of the offence.



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leadership of Afar people about the potash resources located in Afar territory. There have been no formal acts of compensation offered or paid.

Eritrea's actions in destabilizing the region:

In November 2021, The United States announced [new sanctions](#) on Eritrea's military and ruling political party for its involvement in civil conflict in neighboring Ethiopia. The US sanction was in response to the growing humanitarian and human rights crisis and expanding military conflict in Ethiopia including numerous reports of looting, sexual assault, killing civilians, and blocking humanitarian aid.

Since the war broke out in Ethiopia, several UN agencies and aid groups have reported Eritrean refugees inside Ethiopia have been killed, abducted, or forcibly returned home to Eritrea from various refugee camps in Ethiopia. Some 55,000 Eritrean Afar refugees are hosted in Afar regional state in Ethiopia. The Eritrean state currently operates inside the Afar region posing a grave threat to the lives of tens of thousands of Afar Eritreans in Ethiopia.

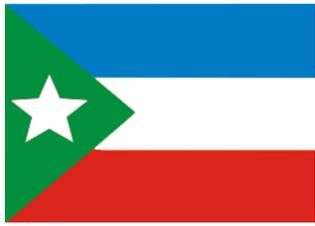
In June 2022, Eritrean Maj. General, Humad Karikare followed 54 defecting Afar soldiers from the Eritrean army into Ethiopian territory and abducted 36 soldiers back to Eritrea, the whereabouts of those soldiers are unknown.

Eritrea's support in destabilizing Europe:

In recent months, Eritrea revealed its true anti-democracy colours by voting down the UN resolution condemning [Russian aggression](#) and supporting the Russian war in Ukraine, the only African nation to do so. By exploiting the war in Europe, Eritrea was able to advance its power grip geopolitically in the region and gain Russia's political and financial favours. As a result, Russia invited Eritrea to Moscow and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reaffirmed Russia's strategic interest along Eritrea's coastline on April 27, 2022, in the presence of Eritrean Foreign Minister Osman Saleh.

EANC congress delegates acknowledged the danger Eritrea poses to the region and to the lives of indigenous Afar people and reaffirmed the followings:

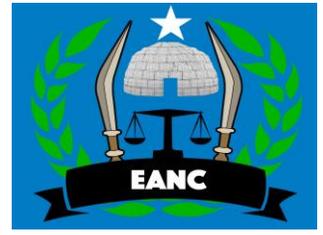
- EANC and its delegates believe the policies and actions by Eritrean authorities against the Afar people amount to **Crimes against Humanity**. The actions of the Eritrean government pose a threat to the lives and economic well-being of the Afar people and to Afar's ethnic identity, as well as the lives of the Eritrean people, Eritrean sovereignty and world peace.
- EANC congress condemns Eritrean government and the role of its international partners for killing, displacing and marginalizing Afar communities in Dankalia, Eritrea. The Lands, resources and the strategic coasts in Dankalia belongs to the indigenous Eritrean Afar people. Therefore, Eritrean government should stop **illegal** confiscation of Afar lands and properties, the displacement of Eritrean Afar from their homes and businesses, the exploitation of their natural resources and then selling of them to multinational corporations and foreign governments.
- EANC and its delegates recognize that Eritrea is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-cultural and multi-lingual country. And that the current unimplemented Eritrean 1997 Constitution is highly centralized constitution; that goes against the values and democratic principles of the



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Eritrean societies. Eritrea needs a powers sharing constitution to protect the rights of all Eritreans and to function as a modern democracy.

Call to Action:

1. EANC calls upon fellow Eritreans, experts on constitutional law, regional policy experts and international community to come together to help draft a new multinational and multiethnic constitution that reflects the ethnic diversity and the cultural history of Eritrean society and their values and principles of democracy.
2. Eritrean Afar National Congress (EANC) extend our hands in solidarity and call upon all the Eritrean political oppositions, civil society and activist groups to work closely with the Afar model to realize democratic transition and reform in Eritrea, the respect for human rights, the rule of law, self governance, protection of diversity and establish a federation based on mutual coexistence, equality and recognition between nations and nationalities of Eritrean in order to secure our national unity and protect national sovereignty and the territories of Eritrea.
3. The Eritrean Afar National Congress (EANC) extends its hands to all Eritrean opposition groups for a joint struggle against the tyrannical rule of President Isaias Afwerki and to hasten the demise of the PFDJ rule in Eritrea.
4. Eritrean Afar National Congress (EANC) call upon the UNHCR and neighboring host countries such as Djibouti, Yemen, Sudan and especially Ethiopia to provide safety to the Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers and protect their rights against refoulment and kidnapping by the Eritrean authorities.

In conclusion, the EANC congress announces the election of Twenty-three (23) Members' of Legislative council (CC), of which nine (9) are Executive Committee members, and there (3) member audit committee. Mr. Ahmed Youssouf Mohamed was re-elected as president of EANC and Mr. Abdalla Hamid Hussen as vice-President.

We would like to express our gratitude to each and every one of you for contributing to the success of our congress, including the Afar Diaspora, Afar youth and activists, and Afar women's groups, as well as experts and democratic opposition parties from Eritrea.

The Eritrean Afar National Congress (EANC)

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July 2022

Giclo Bisoh! The Struggle continues!

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