



# Liberty



*English –Language Organ of the  
Eritrean People 's Democratic Party - EPDP*

## **WHO CAN STOP A TYRANT BENT AT TEARING DOWN ONE'S OWN NATION?**

The heading of this article is not intended to refer to the 1970's Pol Pot of Cambodia or any other tyrant of a long past. It is about the Eritrean Pol Pot, Isaias Afewerki, whose 'excessive abuses in the past 33 years of the country's independent existence have been subject of repeated reports and inquiries of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and other major governmental and non-governmental bodies. Again on 20 June 2024, the Council concluded that the situation is awful and unchanged. (More about this below).



In 2012, following countless appeals for world support by Eritrean political parties and activists, the UN HRC appointed a Special HR Rapporteur for Eritrea mandated to



All recommendations and appeals of the UN Human Rights Council; the findings of its Commission of Inquiry and those of three successive Special Rapporteurs it mandated since 2012 have failed so far o be helpful.

report on the human rights situation in the country. The first UN Special Rapporteur was the Mauritian lawyer Sheila Keetharuth, who, like the rest of her successors, was refused visa to the country but nevertheless managed to keep the Council abreast the sad situation. It was she who at one point described the situation of prisoners in Eritrea as persons condemned to "detention until death." >>See p. 2

## **TO AVERT ANOTHER SUDDEN 'BORDER' WAR, ERITREA & ETHIOPIA NEED UN, US, EU SUPPORT**

When states are in the hands of reckless leaders, an unlikely cause like unsettled border dispute can ignite bloody armed hostilities that badly affect both sides, like what Eritrea and Ethiopia experienced in the past. Unfortunately, such a spark is still hanging over the skies in the region. This article is a modest SOS call to draw the attention of Eritreans, Ethiopians and the world at large that seem to be mistakenly assuming that the border issue will not cause another war, and beg them to stop this careless conclusion . Therefore,



- ◆ It is wise for both peoples to be concerned about it and urge their respective ruling regimes to urgently put final touches to the already decided border issue.
- ◆ Likewise, it is the duty of the citizens of the two countries to seriously ask help from the four facilitators and witnesses to the Algiers Agreement. >>See p. 4

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## WHO CAN STOP A TYRANT...

(Continued from p. 1):- It was during the mandate of Sheila Keetharuth that a UN Commission of Inquiry was formed consisting of a former UN Assistant General Secretary Mike Smith of Australia; a Ghanaian law professor Victor Dankwa. and Keetharuth. Their scathing 500-page report in 2016 detailed the egregious human rights crimes committed in Eritrea since 1991 and established reasonable grounds that crimes against humanity referable to ICC were being perpetrated.

Other voluminous reports followed during the years by her successors: by Daniela Kravetz of Chile, an attorney with extensive experience in human rights who was appointed in 2018, and since 2020 reports by Mohammed Abdeselam Babiker, Khartoum University Professor founding director of Sudan Human Rights Center.

For the past 12 consecutive years, the UN HRC and its special envoys continued to pass strong recommendations appealing to the Eritrean regime to be kind to its people. It refused to listen. Even the so-called UPR's (Universal Periodic Review), a unique mechanism that call for each UN Member State to periodically undergo a peer review of its human rights record, could not be helpful in the Eritrean case. The Asmara regime also failed to fulfill any of the UPR recommendations as was the case with other HRC recommendations. The question, therefore, remains a question without a possible answer: who will stop a tyranny destroying its own people already weakened by a prolonged national liberation war, continued armed hostilities with one's neighbours and unexplainable control and repression? In other words, the Eritrean situation is an all-round frustration to everybody – to the international community as well as to Eritrea's devastated population, the vast majority of whose energetic youth had been forced out of the country for the multiple reasons given in the report ([A/HRC/56/24](#)) of Dr. Mohammed Abdeselam Babiker. At an era in which full-fledged armed struggle is not the option, therefore, international pressure and support to pro-change forces in Eritrea could be a possible answer.

### **THIS IS ERITREA TODAY:**

Dr. Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker, Special Rapporteur since 2020 on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, said at the interactive dialogue he had with the UN Human Rights Council on 20 June 2024 that “the human rights situation in Eritrea remained dire.” Reprinted below is the summary of his 19-page report ([A/HRC/56/24](#)) he read at the start of the interactive dialogue. It is a must read summary!

\*\*\*.... Patterns of gross human rights violations, including the widespread use of arbitrary and incommunicado detention and enforced disappearance, persisted unabated. The authorities continued to enforce a system of indefinite national service that amounted to forced labour and had been consistently linked to torture and inhuman or degrading treatment.>>>

Fundamental freedoms were systematically repressed. These were all issues that had been raised time and again by international and regional human rights mechanisms, but there were no indications of any measures taken to improve the human rights situation in any of these areas. The Eritrean authorities had chosen to maintain policies and practices that perpetuated the human rights crisis in the country. If these persistent violations were not addressed, including by ensuring redress for victims, the cycle of suffering and repression would continue, stifling Eritrea's potential for peace and development.



Two years on from the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, of which Eritrea was notably not a party, Eritrean forces remained present and continued to be involved in human rights and international humanitarian law violations in parts of the Tigray region of Ethiopia, including extrajudicial killings, kidnappings, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and forced labour. This situation placed peace in the region at risk and contributed to the re-traumatisation of victims and the ongoing commission of grave human rights violations. Mr. Babiker urged Ethiopia and Eritrea to respect the terms of the 2002 decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission, as agreed by both States as part of the 2018 Peace Agreement, and stressed that in this context, the rights of residents and original peoples from contested areas needed to also be duly protected and prioritised.

Today, the Government of Eritrea was celebrating its annual commemoration of Martyrs' Day. However, the families of thousands of Eritreans who had been disappeared since the onset of the Tigray conflict were still waiting to hear about their fate. Mr. Babiker called on the authorities to provide official information to families of victims, who had the right to know.

Due process rights continued to be systematically violated. Cases considered politically sensitive were handled extra-judicially. Hundreds of detainees, including dissidents, government critics, human rights defenders, religious leaders, journalists, and draft evaders continued to be arbitrarily detained for indefinite and prolonged periods without ever being charged or tried, and in conditions that violated their human dignity. Mr. Babiker called for the immediate release of all those currently arbitrarily detained, and for the establishment of proper due process safeguards.

Civic space continued to be completely closed in Eritrea, characterised by the severe curtailment of freedom of expression, association and assembly. The Government tightly controlled all aspects of public life. There was no independent media, no independent civil society organizations, and no political opposition parties operating within the country. Dissent was systematically suppressed, including through the arbitrary detention or enforced disappearance of real or perceived government critics. Religious repression had continued to escalate in Eritrea over the past year. Several prominent religious leaders had remained arbitrarily imprisoned for extended periods, some for almost 20 years. Mr. Babiker was also concerned over the Government's interference in the affairs of religious institutions, in particular of the Orthodox Church, both in Eritrea and in the diaspora.

Eritrean authorities had reached across borders in efforts to control diaspora politics and silence pro-democracy activists, journalists, political opponents and human rights defenders. The mandate had identified evolving patterns of transnational repression, including through kidnappings and enforced disappearances, surveillance, violence, threats, harassment, smear campaigns, social isolation, and the refusal of consular services. Over the past year and a half, there had been an escalation of violence and polarisation in the diaspora. Clashes between Eritrean Government supporters and detractors in dozens of cities across the globe had resulted in several Eritreans killed, hundreds injured, dozens arrested, and public property being destroyed. >>>

Just since September 2023, five Eritreans had been killed in Israel. This violence needed to stop. Eritrea needed to refrain from exercising undue interference in the lives of Eritreans in the diaspora and respect their rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly. He also called on Member States to ensure the protection of the rights of demonstrators, as well as those of festival-goers, and to effectively address transnational repression and protect Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers.

Eritreans continued to flee the grave human rights situation in the country, with an estimated 17 per cent of the population having sought asylum abroad as of 2024. The overall deteriorating humanitarian and security situation in the Horn of Africa compounded Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers' vulnerability to trafficking in persons, kidnapping and extortion. The situation of Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia had deteriorated severely, with roundups, mass detention of Eritreans, and summary expulsion to Eritrea. The conflict in Sudan had caused internal displacement as well as onwards displacement to neighbouring countries of Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers. Eritrean refugees and migrant women and girls were also subjected to grave violations in Khartoum and in areas controlled by the RSF, including sexual violence, kidnapping, domestic servitude and sexual slavery. Further, asylum and migratory policy trends in host countries were increasingly placing Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers under pressure, exacerbating their vulnerability and resulting in the infringement of their rights. Mr. Babiker called on Member States to exercise solidarity and ensure their protection. He also called on them to maintain international scrutiny of Eritrea and facilitate access to justice for Eritrean victims of human rights violations.

## **TO AVERT ANOTHER SUDDEN 'BORDER' WAR....**

(Continued from p. 1)

- ◆ It is high time to remind those four facilitators and witnesses to the Algiers Agreement of 24 years ago - namely, the United Nations, the European Union, the United States and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria – that they have the moral duty and responsibility to encourage, push and help Ethiopia and Eritrea finalize the last phase of the “final and binding” decision of the Ethiopia-Eritrea Boundary Commission (EEBC) of 12 April 2002 and its delimitation work by coordinates that ended in November 2007.

Understandably, those final touches regarding demarcation are very important to be acted upon now. The world knows that both sides lost up to 100,000 lives in the border war. Lingering enmities again caused the recent tragic war in northern Ethiopia that proved to be ten times costly than the previous war. The ruling elites in Eritrea and Ethiopia must not be allowed to make their peoples remain Africa's poorest and most conflict-ridden. Ending the border uncertainty is therefore one step towards peace and a better future for Eritrea, Ethiopia and the entire region – not to mention the benefits of peace and stability in the Red Sea basin to the rest of the world.

### **No Use to Hang on Old Mistakes**

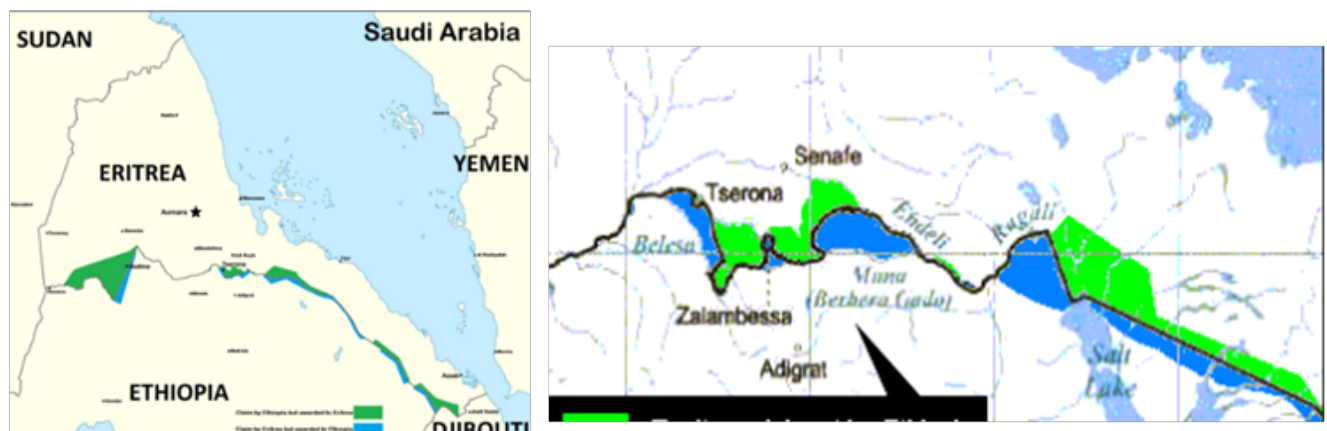
It is true that the leaderships in both Eritrea and Ethiopia made inexcusable mistakes in obstructing the implementation and finalization of the EEBC ruling. But dwelling on mutual incrimination by referring to those mistakes can lead both countries nowhere. Instead, the fraternal peoples of Ethiopia and Eritrea better work hard for a solution. That solution cannot come through war but it can be reached through two other paths:-

- ◆ Through a mutual agreement between the two states, if they can reach it, or
- ◆ On the basis of international law as stipulated in the final ruling and border delimitation of the EEBC and its cartographers with their 49 maps with necessary details. >>>

## Where the Two Regimes Stand today

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who in his first address to the Ethiopian parliament in 2018 affirmed his government's unconditional acceptance of the Algiers Agreement, again in recent months reiterated the same language when he said he formed a high committee to verify whether or not Eritrean troops are within the border lines decided in favor of Eritrea by the Boundary Commission. This could be interpreted by some as an acceptance of the Eritrean position which assumes that the "virtual delimitation" was sufficient to put the border issue "behind us." Yet, the Prime Minister's statement was contradicted by his spokesman Nebiyu Tedla on 18 April 2024 when the latter said that the border issue will be finalized in "consultation" with the residents of disputed areas.

However, any consultations or changes on "final and binding" ruling are possible ONLY when the two countries agree. But if they don't agree, then they go back to implement the EEBC decision as it was delivered.



**Territory in Green Color were areas claimed by Ethiopia but given to Eritrea, and territory in Blue Color was land claimed by Eritrea but decided for Ethiopia.**

## What Remains to be Done

As the UN Security Council was told in 2007 by the then EEBC chairman, the late Sir Elihu Lauterpacht, the decision is "totally consistent with international law" and that the virtual delimitation can be implemented also solely with the full collaboration of the two concerned countries.

What remains to be done is to complete the physical demarcation process according to the 'virtual demarcation' that was a set of map coordinates that designated the exact border between the two countries. Those details were copied to the two countries by the EEBC 17 years ago when it addressed them to the UN Security Council.

## What UN and Other Actors Could Do

Although the two countries are responsible for the finalization of the remaining process, the UN and the other actors that facilitated the Algiers Agreement are – at least for the sake of promoting peace and security in the volatile region - expected to once more push those less responsible regimes in Eritrea and Ethiopia to cooperate and then help them in the demarcation process which at one point was estimated to cost up to 10 million US dollars.

# EPDP ORGANS IN ACTION

## **EPDP CHAIRMAN SALUTES ERITREANS**

### **AT 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF 24 MAY 1991**



Using different social media channels and events, Mr. Gherezghiher Tewelde, the Chairman of the Eritrean People's Democratic Party (EPDP) as well as head of the platform for Eritrean political forces, congratulated his countrymen and women on anniversary of their country's attainment of hard-won statehood 33 years ago.



One of the major occasions he used to pass his congratulatory message was a well-attended zoom event organized by a fraternal coalition, the Eritrean National Council for Democratic Change (ENCDC). In his moving address, the EPDP Chairman recounted the heavy price paid in sweat and blood by every section of the Eritrean people during three decades of the armed struggle and the resounding success that eventually led to a 99.8% national vote in favor of sovereign statehood.

Chairman Gherezghiher Tewelde also made a graphic presentation of the sad situation that prevails in Eritrea since its independence and listed a number of gross political and human rights violations and abuses of the tyranny in Eritrea. These included the following:

- ◆ Outright betrayal of the new Eritrean authorities since 1991 to the lofty promises of the revolution in handing over sovereignty to the people in a multi-party system of governance;
- ◆ The consolidation of one-man rule that stood opposed to the building of state institutions;
- ◆ Turning Eritrea into 'a State of Fear' without any regard to basic political and human rights;
- ◆ Wasting national all available resources in creating and deepening mistrust among the people;
- ◆ Shutting down all sources of information and killing culture of criticism and pursuit of truth through critical thinking, and
- ◆ Controlling all sources of production and subjecting the entire nation to absolute poverty.

The EPDP Chairman also listed timely actions that have to be taken up by the pro-democracy forces fighting for change. These included solid support and advice to the currently intensifying 'Blue Revolution led by Eritrea's victimized youth in forced exile, and consolidating the different political coalitions into one national umbrella that can become one voice for the entire opposition camp.

## **EPDP NORTH AMERICA HOLDS SUCCESSFUL CONGRESS**

After almost a year-long rigorous preparation, the steadfast members of the EPDP North America Zone branches have successfully held their congress on 20 April 2024, which is organized every two years per party constitution. It was held via zoom so that almost every member who finds it convenient can attend it. The ongoing developments in the Horn of Africa and Red Sea basin as well as the ever growing Eritrean movements in diaspora have added importance to the usual agenda items of the congress.



Opened with a welcoming statement of Mr. Yemane Fitwi, chair of the preparatory committee, the congress was addressed by EPDP chairman, Mr. Gherezghiher Tewelde, who highlighted the current situation of Eritrea and Eritreans with all the multiple hardships they continue to face for decades without let up.

Following the party's chair address, Mr. Desbele Kahsai, the outgoing chairman of the North America Zone, presented an overview of the Zone's successes and challenges in the past two years and later invited departmental heads of the EPDP North America (that includes US and Canada) to go on the details of the performances. >>>

Exhaustive discussions followed led by a five-person congress secretariat. Other than party issues, the discussions encompassed the challenges faced by Eritreans everywhere and their ongoing struggle for democratic change. The congress pledged increased efforts to strengthen the EPDP, its partnership in coalition with others and to actively support the Eritrean youth movements everywhere.

After adopting congress documents that included future action plans, the congress elected a seven-person zonal leadership with two reserve members. The new leadership included two women and two representatives of the party's youth. Elected at the congress was also an internal auditor who will present his report at the next zonal congress.

## EPDP WOMEN'S LEAGUE ALSO HOLDS ITS CONGRESS ON TIME

Eritrean women's double struggle continues inside the EPDP as it was during the 30-year long national liberation struggle - the only difference today being a struggle for democratic change and the unfinished global struggle for gender emancipation. To do these tasks, women members of this mainstream party make their contributions under different hats: as members of EPDP organs that make active outreach with sister organizations as well as working under their own league within the party to give more emphasis to gender emancipation.



. Thus the EPDP Women's League that holds its congresses every four years did hold its latest congress on 22 June, 2024 with almost all of its members attending. The event was arranged via zoom so that members in Australia, Europe, North America and other places could take part.

Ms Adiam Teferra, head of the EPDP Women's Affairs Office in the Executive Committee, addressed the opening session of the congress in which she saluted the dedicated work done by the leadership and expected the new team to be elected at the congress to do much more in the next four years. The last congress of the League was held in November 2020.



Following the opening address, the outgoing League leaders presented past performances and challenges for discussion alongside the old League constitution. Both documents and deliberated upon and adopted after necessary additions and corrections were made. Also as one of its functions, the congress elected a new League chairwoman, a secretary, treasurer and two alternate members. The congress pledged to give full support to the new leadership in promoting the tasks of all forces of change and commended the role being played by the EPDP in constructing a national umbrella and felt pride in the contributions of Ms Adiam Teferra as an active member in the transitional leadership of Eritrean political forces which are scheduled to hold a founding congress of an inclusive national umbrella in the summer.

## EXPOSING ONE MAJOR LIE OF THE ERITREAN REGIME

By now, almost every person who follows world developments continually knows well that the Eritrean regime is a pathological liar. It denies not only the well documented findings about its gross political and human rights violations for the past three decades, but also any other blame rightly leveled against it. For instance, the tyrant regime boasts - mainly for domestic consumption - that Eritrea is self-sufficient country and its people are not hungry, although the country would have been emptied of any living human by starvation were it not to the remittances from the ever generous Eritrean diaspora.



On such lie from Asmara was exposed in a recent Reuters report that put Eritrea second only to Burundi among the most hunger-ridden 16 countries of the world. Writing in the occasion of 28 May World Hunger Day, the agency estimated those affected by hidden hunger to be 2 billion through an assessment in the past three years covering peoples in 26 countries.

## ERITREA'S BLUE REVOLUTION NOT TO COOL OFF BEFORE REAL VICTORY

For the past two years, hardly a month passed without at least one major incident organized by Eritrea's victimized younger generation in forced exile protesting against the tyranny in Eritrea and its enablers in diaspora. The latest action of the reborn Blue Revolution, also called Brigade N'Hamedu, was a mammoth demonstration held on 22 June in the Swiss capital of Bern.

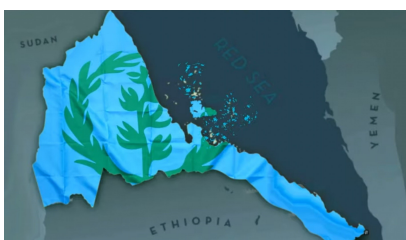


With participants estimated in the thousands, the demonstrators were sending the message of "We Are Coming Home Soon" to the regime in Asmara in addition to submitting a number of requests to the

Swiss authorities that included the following:

- ◆ Switzerland must deny the Eritrean embassy and its agents any permission to hold its so-called festivals and seminars which in fact are hate platforms;
- ◆ Send back to Eritrea the regime supporters who already invalidated their asylum demand and refugee status by their stand with the regime in Asmara;
- ◆ Grant legal protection and refugee status only to those who deserve it and stop plans and threats of sending Eritrean justice seekers back to Eritrea or to a third country;
- ◆ Stop the Eritrean regime from imposing its illegal 2% tax and other extortions on Swiss-Eritreans and refugees.

Needless to say, up to 15 countries in all continents have witnessed peaceful and, at unfortunate times, violent demonstrations by the growing Blue Revolution whose aim is to stop sinister regime activities abroad and also encourage and eventually join their compatriots inside the homeland in dislodging the tyrant regime and replace it by a peaceful and democratic system of governance.



For those who know little about Eritrea, the Blue Flag was the then autonomous Eritrea's official flag as of 1952 until it was taken down by the Ethiopian emperor who ended the country's federal status in 1962. Since then and until Eritrea's liberation in 1991, the Blue Flag was an over-all symbol of the armed struggle.



**RENEWED 2024 UN RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**SUBMITTED TO THE ERITREAN GOVERNMENT**

**Again submitted on 20.06.2024 by the current Special Rapporteur to the Eritrean authorities for action, the recommendations must be carefully read and re-read by Eritreans pro-change strugglers and human rights advocacies to fully comprehend what the regime in Asmara has been refusing to act for decades now. Good Reading or re-reading.**

**Eritrea is once again asked to:**

***(a) Put an immediate end to human rights violations, as documented by the Special Rapporteur and the commission of inquiry on human rights in Eritrea, including the ongoing violations highlighted in the present report; 34 See A/HRC/29/41; A/HRC/35/39; A/HRC/38/50; A/HRC/41/53; A/HRC/44/23; A/HRC/47/21; A/HRC/50/20; and A/HRC/53/20. 35 See A/HRC/29/42; and A/HRC/32/47. 36 See CCPR/C/ERI/CO/1. 37 See CEDAW/C/ERI/CO/6. 38 See A/HRC/41/14. 17 GE.24-07496 A/HRC/56/24***

***(b) Engage constructively with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and with other human rights mechanisms and organizations;***

***(c) Discontinue the indefinite military/national service by respecting the legal duration of 18 months stipulated in the National Service Proclamation, prevent the recruitment of children by the Eritrean Defence Forces, ensure adequate living conditions for conscripts, prevent the use of conscripts and members of the military and reserve army for forced labour, cease the persecution of draft evaders and deserters, investigate allegations of human rights violations in the context of military/national service and bring perpetrators of such violations to justice;***

***(d) End the chronic and widespread practices of enforced disappearance and prolonged arbitrary detention, reveal the whereabouts and state of health of victims of enforced disappearance, facilitate regular communication between detainees and their families and establish an efficient and transparent system for the registration of detainees;***

***(e) Release immediately and unconditionally all those unlawfully and arbitrarily detained, including the 11 members of the G-15, members of the political opposition, journalists, prisoners of conscience, people of faith and draft evaders and their families;***

***(f) Put an end to the practice of arrests and detention carried out without legal basis and ensure that all detainees are held in official places of detention and are afforded due process rights, including access to a lawyer, the right to review the legality of their detention, the right to trial without undue delay and the right to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal;***

***(g) Establish efficient, transparent mechanisms for the registration of detainees and introduce adequate monitoring mechanisms to prevent torture and inhuman or degrading treatment;***

***(h) Ensure that persons deprived of their liberty are treated with respect and dignity, in accordance with the Nelson Mandela Rules;***

***(i) Develop effective rule of law institutions and ensure the administration of justice by independent, qualified and professional individuals, including an independent judiciary, an attorney general and review bodies;***

***(j) Take specific steps to open up civic space in the country by lifting restrictions on freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and creating a safe and enabling environment for independent media, national and international civil society organizations and members of the political opposition to freely operate and participate in public affairs; >>>***

*(i) Develop effective rule of law institutions and ensure the administration of justice by independent, qualified and professional individuals, including an independent judiciary, an attorney general and review bodies;*

*(j) Take specific steps to open up civic space in the country by lifting restrictions on freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and creating a safe and enabling environment for independent media, national and international civil society organizations and members of the political opposition to freely operate and participate in public affairs;*

*k) Respect the freedom of religion, conscience and belief as protected by the unimplemented constitution of 1997 and the international and regional instruments to which Eritrea is a State party, halt the persecution of individuals based on their religious beliefs and refrain from interfering in religious activities and institutions in Eritrea and in the diaspora;*

*(l) Investigate the allegations of human rights and international humanitarian law violations by the Eritrean Defence Forces in Ethiopia in the context of the Tigray conflict and after the signature of the cessation of hostilities agreement in November 2022, and bring perpetrators of such violations to justice;*

*(m) Immediately and completely withdraw any remaining Eritrean troops from Ethiopian territory.*

**92. The Special Rapporteur recommends that Member States and international organizations:**

*(a) Keep Eritrea under close scrutiny until consistent, verified and tangible improvements have been made with regard to the human rights situation; 18 GE.24-07496 A/HRC/56/24*

*(b) Ensure that human rights issues remain at the core of all engagement with the country and include human rights guarantees in the negotiation of development cooperation projects and investments in Eritrea,*

*(c) Exercise universal jurisdiction over alleged international crimes, including crimes against humanity and war crimes, and initiate legal proceedings against individuals responsible for the commission of international crimes, including grave breaches of international humanitarian law, in accordance with the national legislation of Member States;*

*(d) Actively engage in the upcoming review of Eritrea during the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, with a view to promoting human rights in the country;*

*(e) Exert maximum pressure on the Government of Eritrea to end all practices of enforced disappearance, torture and the arbitrary and incommunicado detention and persecution of thousands of political opponents, journalists, critical voices, prisoners of conscience and people of faith;*

*(f) Urge the Government of Eritrea to develop and take specific steps to address the country's significant human rights challenges, with specific actions, timelines and benchmarks;*

*(g) Provide protection and assistance to Eritrean nationals fleeing the country due to a risk of persecution or of being subjected to human rights violations, in accordance with the provisions of international law governing asylum, and respect the principle of non-refoulement;*

*(h) Protect Eritrean refugees and asylum-seekers from the hostile migratory policies adopted by some host countries that place them under pressure, exacerbate their vulnerability and potentially infringe their rights under international human rights law and refugee law;*

*(i) Support Eritrean human rights defenders and civil society organizations in their efforts to advocate for human rights in Eritrea, promote accountability and support Eritrean refugees and asylum-seekers in host countries and Eritrean victims of human rights violations;*

*(j) Protect Eritrean refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants from transnational repression, including taking the measures necessary to prevent the extortion of Eritreans in the diaspora through the payment of the 2 per cent tax, investigating criminal complaints filed by members of the diaspora and investigating the role of Eritrean diplomatic missions in the intimidation and social control of Eritreans abroad;*

*(k) Urge the Ethiopian and Eritrean authorities, as well as the Tigray People's Liberation Front, to take all steps necessary to ensure the consolidation of the cessation of hostilities agreement signed in November 2022 and to address impunity for the commission of grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law.*