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**UPR 32<sup>nd</sup> Session:**

**Pre-Session Statement by Eritrean Lowlanders League (ELL)**

**Statement:**

The Eritrean Lowlanders League is a civil society organisation concerned with defending the human rights of Eritreans in general, and the rights of the Lowlands communities in particular.

As we have recently submitted a report to the 32<sup>nd</sup> UPR Working Group Session, we will focus on three issues derived from recommendations made to previous UPR sessions on the human rights situations in Eritrea, namely:

- Detention Conditions.
  - Property rights.
  - Co-operation with OHCHR & mandate holders
- 1- The Recommendation made by (Germany, Slovenia, Norway, Djibouti & Australia):

"Release or bring before a court all persons detained without a charge and respect international standards in the treatment of detainees".

Since the last UPR round, the situation of prisoners got worse in the following aspects:

- Enforced disappearance, torture, and extra judicial executions, and killings. (Head of Al-Diaa school, Haji Mousa Noor - October 2017)
- Unlawful and unwarranted arrests, without charges and trials. (Former finance Minister Mr. Berhane Abrehe - October 2018)
- Number of prisoners in excess of ten thousand.
- Inhumane prison conditions that are far below the international standard required.

**Resource:** \* Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea\* A/HRC/38/50

- We recommend that " Eritrea should improve its prison conditions, identify the whereabouts of prisoners, and either put them to fair trials or release them immediately.
- Allow all concerned international and national human rights organizations access to detention centres.



- 2- The recommendation made by Italy "Take further measures to ensure protection of property rights, pursuant to international standards, including the provisions in articles 14 and 21 of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and article 5 of CERD."

This Recommendation has not been implemented, and more property rights violations have been committed:

- Land expropriation by the Eritrean state in the Eritrean Lowlands in the form of resettlement projects. (500 families from the Highlands to Karkabt Village 2017)
- Rightful land owners have been forcibly displaced, and others resettled on their land. (Megareh, Ansaba region 2016, houses demolition in Hagat village 2017)

**Resource:** \*Resolution by the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, Session 62, Niger 2017.

- We Recommend that " Land must be returned to its original owners, including the return of displaced owners from refugee camps in Eastern Sudan to their land"

- 3- The recommendation made by (Tunisia, Portugal, Germany, Somalia)

"Effectively cooperate with OHCHR and the mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, and issue a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders."

- The special Rapporteur has been denied access to Eritrea from 2012-2018.
- Proper human rights monitoring and accountability for violations cannot be carried out without the cooperation of the relevant country authority with the Special Rapporteur and other international organizations concerned.

**Resource:** (1) \* A Catalogue of Human Rights Violations in Eritrea by Centre for Human Rights, PULP.

(2) \*Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea\* A/HRC/38/50

- We Recommend that: (1) "Grant full access to human rights mandate holders & International HR Organisations concerned to Eritrea, and agree and facilitate for the Human Rights Council to open an office in Eritrea "



# رابطة أبناء المنخفضات الإرترية Eritrean Lowlanders League



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- Question to Eritrea State: After the Peace and Friendship Agreement signed between Eritrea and Ethiopia, is it not high time that the Eritrean Government started to make peace with its own people by refraining from all human rights violations and redressing the wrongs that have been so far committed?