



26/03/1986

ዘተና ልብ ወለድ ገቢ ማሳደግ፡-

የቆይታ ስጦታ ለሌሎች ለማድረግ የሚያስፈልገውን የገቢ ልማት ማረጋገጥ

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አታ ለዲክሮን ዳክሞቹ ገቢ ማረጋገጥ ገቢ ስለተሰጠ
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PREFACE

For nearly a quarter of a century, the Eritrean people have been fighting against Ethiopian occupation of their land. A few courageous journalists have visited the liberated areas of Eritrea and their reportages usually refer to it as "The Forgotten War", "The Longest War in Africa", "Russia's Vietnam". But, considering the importance of the events, such reporting has been extraordinarily sporadic.

For over six years now, ERITREA INFORMATION, which is published by the Research and Information Centre on Eritrea (RICE) has consistently attacked the conspiracy of silence in the Western media (not to mention the total black-out in the Eastern bloc) that has surrounded the Eritrean issue for so long. Year in and year out, a small band of dedicated people have worked with RICE to try, with very limited means, to fill the gaps and counter the propaganda of the Ethiopian Government that has been taken up and repeated indiscriminately in the press and by international organizations - usually with little or no critical comment.

Myth after myth has been exposed in the pages of ERITREA INFORMATION, but rarely have our exposures been taken up by newspapers, most of whom have shown no interest in giving their public a true picture of what has been going on in the Horn of Africa.

Suddenly, in 1984, the situation changed. Tragically, it was the famine that made many people conscious of the Horn of Africa and its problems. And, although the focus has been overwhelmingly on Ethiopia, the victims of famine and the relief operations - with many unfavourable references to Mengistu's politics and his alliance with the Soviets - gradually more information has crept into the media about the long struggle of the Eritreans for independence. This has been mainly in the context of the Ethiopian Government's refusal to allow food to reach the famine-stricken populations of Eritrea and Tigray.

For their part the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Eritrean Relief Association (ERA) have been making superhuman efforts to alleviate the effects of drought and famine on their own people, although the resources available to them are but a fraction of those that have been showered upon the Mengistu regime. Those who have witnessed these operations have been unanimous in praising their efficiency in the face of tremendous odds.

All this, and much more is documented in this collection of newspaper cuttings which have been put together by Mr. Emnetu Tesfaye, an Eritrean residing at present in Norway. As its title implies this document is divided into two sections. The first 102 pages cover the relief and famine aspect while the remaining pages (referred to as yellow pages in Tesfaye's foreword) deal with the military and political situation.

RICE would like to express its appreciation to Mr. Tesfaye for all the time he has put into this work which will, we hope, make a most useful contribution to deepening public understanding of the Eritrean question and the need for a political solution as quickly as possible to prevent yet further suffering and loss of life on both sides.

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