

Remembering unique Eritreans in contemporary history

A short biographical sketch
Of
Mohammed Saïd Naud

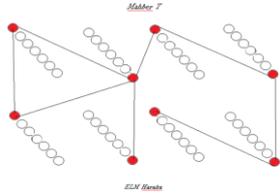


Source: Youtube.com

By

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Source: <http://awate.com/naud-the-living-legend-passes-away/>

Naud: The Living Legend Passes Away

Saleh "Gadi" Johar September 16, 2010

Early life and personal data

Mohammed Said Naud was born in 1936 in Sahel, Eritrea. After attending the Khelwa and studying the Quraan, he attended middle school and high school in Port Sudan. After finishing high school, he was employed by the Eastern Telegraph Company in Port Sudan. At age 22 he resigned from his work and dedicated himself for the Eritrean case. On November 2, 1958, two weeks before General Aboud's coup de etat in the Sudan, he founded a secrete revolutionary movement, the Eritrean Liberation Movement (ELM) in Port Sudan.



family pictures (source: www.24may91.net)

A founder of the Eritrean Liberation Movement (ELM) Mohammed Said Naud was born in Rora Habab, Sahel, the son of a Tokar cotton farmer. He attended school and worked in Port Sudan from 1944 to 1956, where he was involved in the anticolonial movement led by the Sudanese Communist Party (SCP). In 1956, he returned to Eritrea specifically to make contact with the nationalist movement, finding no party organization, he discussed forming one with Ibrahim Sultan Ali in 1957 and with the SCP in 1958, but both opposed the idea. In 1959, he formed the ELM with other Eritreans in Port Sudan and led it until 1970. In 1971, he joined Osman Saleh Sabbe's emerging Eritrean Liberation Forces – Popular Liberation Forces (ELF-PLF) and worked in the organization's Foreign Mission until 1977, when he joined the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front (EPLF) as one of its representatives in the Middle East.

A founder of the Eritrean Liberation Movement (ELM)

The founding members of the ELM were: 1. Mohammed Said Naud 2. Idris Mohammed Hassen 3. Hassen AlHaj Idris 4. Osman Mohammed Osman 5. Yassin Mohammed Aqedah 6. Mohammed AlHassen Mahmoud 7. Saleh Ahmed Iyay and 8. Habib Qaas.



(source: www.24may91.net)

In their first meeting, the members of the group agreed to expand membership by forming secret cells composed of seven persons. The secret nature of the movement was dictated by the prevailing anti-freedom nature of Ibrahim Aboud's rule in the Sudan, which came in a coup d'état only two weeks after the founding of the ELM, when Haile Selassie's regime was almost finished with dismantling the federation arrangement. When later the Eritrean Criminal Investigation Department uncovered a cell that belonged to the movement, all the apprehended were not able to mention more than seven persons' names—members who belonged to their cell only. It was because of this that the CID coined the name 'Mahber Shewaate' or the cell of seven to the group; the name follows the ELM to this day.

He is one of the fiery youngsters of the pre-armed-struggle era; a major personality of the late fifties and sixties. He is the visionary who saw beyond the Federation. An astute politician who planned ahead of time in preparation to the day when Haile Selassie, as he foresaw, would abort the federation. He is the founder of the Eritrean Liberation Movement (ELM), known by its Arabic name Haraka and its popularized name Mahber Shewaate. Our legend from the Fertile Womb today is Mohammed Sid Naud, the living legend.

Due to the prudent and secretive nature of the movement, even Naud, the founder of the ELM, had to use aliases. He was known as Romadan Issa until it was uncovered and he had to change his name to Mustapha. The tradition of using code names became popular and many veterans of the armed struggle are still more known by their nom de guerre than by their real names.



(source: www.24may91.net)

Avid reader and excellent writer

An avid reader and an excellent writer, Naud is a respected leader. He aimed to mobilize the Eritrean society and lead a take-over of the government from within Eritrea. To this effect, the ELM was strongly committed to expanding its membership base. It penetrated the police and security apparatus in Eritrea and recruited followers and members from the Eritrean Police force in almost all police stations. The ELM recognized the Eritrean Police Force as an important element that would be in the forefront of the popular uprising during the final show-down with the occupation forces. The ELM gained a lot of support from the students and almost all professional unions and clubs. The Eritrean middle class was a dedicated supporter of the ELM—teachers, writers, artisans, traders and merchants were all represented in the ELM whose program was so clear that a takeover from within in a swift popular uprising seemed achievable.

Alongside Sabbe, Naud served in the ELF-PLF organization as a major leader for so many years. When Eritrea was liberated in 1991, a short time later, Naud decided to stop life in foreign lands and traveled to Asmara. At one stage, he was the governor for the Sahel region. In 1996, Naud

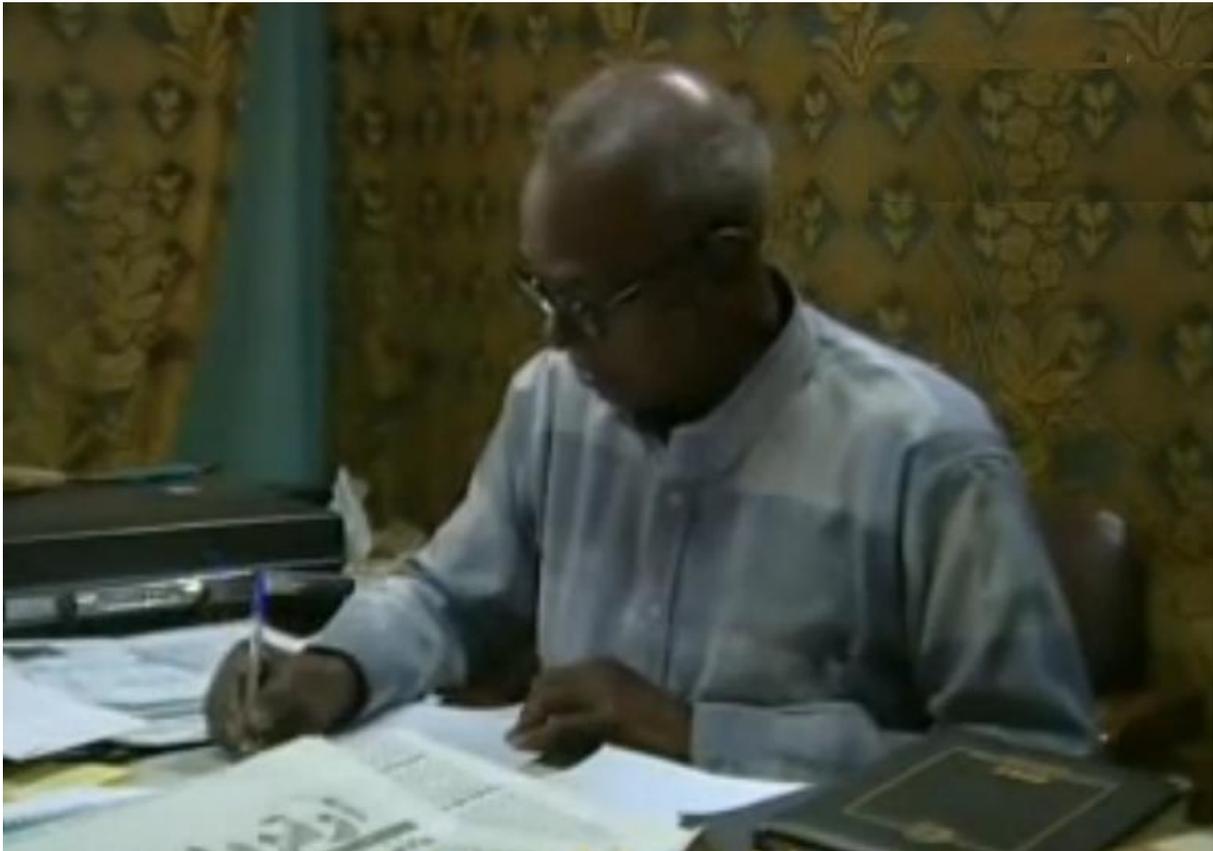
wrote a book of five hundred pages in Arabic titled, “Haraket A’Tahreer Al Eritrea- Al Haqiqa We’tarikh” (Eritrean Liberation Movement – the Truth & The History”. In the book, Nuad takes

the reader through a long journey of one part of our history that started in 1958 and ended in 1991. In the introduction to the book Naud writes:



“...Now after 38 years from the birth of the Eritrean Liberation Movement, we ask ourselves: What was achieved from the objectives that we raise? I take the initiative and say in reply, our struggle has not finished yet, it continues. From our three objectives, the liberation of Eritrea only is realized. As for the other two objectives, namely the national unity and the formation of a democratic state, the struggle is continuing to realize them. And the path to these objectives is democratization – furnishing justice and equality among our people. And the struggle to achieve that would help us achieve a

strong national unity, peace, stability and prosperity. But if we tread a different path, we will face unbearable difficulties. And so that this doesn't happen, we are required to play a single tune which is: Eritrea is home to all Eritreans... they enjoy equal rights and obligations....and they equally participate in the construction and development of their country... and they safeguard peace and stability in their country with equal level of precaution and consciousness....”



(source: www.24may91.net)

The book is a rich source of information and a recommended reading for all those who are interested in the Eritrean History. Today aged 64, Naud lives in Asmara, and hopefully, he is writing more history. We wish Am Naud a healthy and a long, prosperous life.



(source: www.24may91.net)

Note: It is difficult to write about Naud's history without mentioning the ELM and vice versa. The far-sighted Naud has molded the ELM to his careful, revolutionary and nationalist personality. The ELM is arguably the most organized political movement in our history. It played an important role in harnessing the Eritrean resolve to self-determination. Though not successful in achieving its initial objective of change through popular uprising, the ELM laid the foundation for the armed struggle. It laid the plans that enabled all Eritreans to participate in the struggle under one umbrella. The Living Legend lives on.

The series 'The Fertile Womb' is an attempt by awate.com to re-introduce our heroes. Able historians are encouraged to research and publish Eritrean history. This series, which presented brief introductions about Awate, Sabbe, Welwel – Ibrahim Sultan, Awate and Ras Tessema, presents in this part Mohammed Said Naud. Tales regarding the great men from 'The Fertile Womb' can not be told in a page or two.... But possibly, in volumes. We urge readers to present us with materials related to our heroes.

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Great and dynamic thinker

Naud, admired for his sharp thinking and daring character, was full of energy and dedication. From his residence in Port Sudan, he had many times traveled to Eritrea incognito to meet members and appraise the situation in the country. In 1961, roughly two years after the founding of the ELM, he participated in an important secret meeting which was held in Asmara. The Asmara branch under the leadership of Yassin Aqedda organized the meeting which was held in one of

Hassen Khiar Beyan houses . Representatives of ELM branches from all parts of Eritrea and Jeddah attended the meeting. That meeting is considered a milestone in the life of the ELM and was considered the first and the last meeting for any political organization inside Eritrea. Few months later, Awate started the armed struggle.



Source: (source: www.24may91.net)

Awate's launch of the armed struggle was a surprise to Naud and the ELM because the plans to bring about a popular uprising that would end the Ethiopian occupation of Eritrea was disrupted. Awate's path was totally different from what the ELM had envisaged. Awate believed that nothing but an armed confrontation would bring about an end to the occupation. Naud's efforts to communicate and coordinate with Awate were not successful because the messengers he sent to the Eritrean field to find Awate failed to locate him. Furthermore, Awate's launch of the

armed struggle was gaining sweeping support from the population. Not long after he launched the armed struggle, Awate died of Malaria. His death was kept secret for fear of its negative effect on the morale of Eritrean patriots.

Soon, the ELM started to execute small-scale military operations inside Eritrea and several attempts on the life of important personalities who collaborated with the regime of Haile Sellasie were carried out. Such attempts were made on the life of Asfeha Weldemichael, president of the Executive Authority of Eritrea and Qeshi Dimitros, the staunch supporter of Haile Sellasie and the enemy of Eritrea's independence. The real attempt however, to organize a military presence was made just after the federal arrangement was dissolved and the Eritrean Flag was lowered on November 14, 1962. On December 19, 1962, members of the ELM who were officers in the Police Department made an attempt to form a military wing and escaped from their station after taking over considerable number of guns and ammunition. When the Ethiopian Army discovered of the incident, a force composed of 800 soldiers supported by military helicopters went on a hot pursuit after the escaped patriots of the police force. The two forces clashed in a place in Dankalia where the leader of the group was Martyred. Due to the unfavorable balance of power against them, the ELM members buried their weapons and crossed the sea to Saudi Arabia to reorganize themselves.

On the foreign front, the ELM started to look beyond the borders of Eritrea and Sudan to establish relations with foreign countries. To this end, Naud started a tour to North Africa that took him to Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Algeria. He was successful in establishing relations and he opened an office in Cairo. Earlier, the ELM was able to buy a typewriter, the first major jump in the movement's propaganda activity; Naud, the founder and leader of the movement, was also the only typist.

By 1965, after several attacks on police stations and personalities affiliated to Haile Sellasie's rule, and the unfortunate failure of the Massawa police group, the ELM had finally organized a military wing composed of over forty members. The combatants entered Eritrea and continued mobilizing the Eritrean population for an armed struggle. The ELF, which saw this as a

duplication of efforts, and obsessed with unity to the extent of going violent, attacked the ELM's force and liquidated it in August, 1965 in Ela Tsaada, Sahel, and that was the end of the ELM as a formidable organization.

But the ardent patriot Mohammed Said Naud did not give up struggling for the liberation of Eritrea. After the SudHa Ela congress, where the PLF was founded, the ELM became an integral part of the new organization.

Return to Asmara

When Eritrea was liberated in 1991, a short time later, Naud decided to stop life in foreign lands and traveled to Asmara. From 1992 to 1995, he served as governor of Sahel Province, and in 1998, after relocating to Asmara, he published a memoir on the ELM, *Harakat al-Tahrir al-Eritrea*. (footnote Historical dictionary of Eritrea by Dan Connell and Tom Killion).



Snap shot from diplomatic activities (source: www.24may91.net)

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Naud: The living legend

Naud is a product of the post World War II era of rebellions and revolutions that engulfed the whole of Africa, the Arab region and the rest of the world beyond. He was influenced by the peoples of different parts of the world that rebelled to regain their sovereignty after having lived under the yoke of colonialism for too long. Leaders like Ghandi of India, Mohammed Ali Jinnah of Pakistan, Mao Tsi Tung of China, Sukarno of Indonesia and General Giap of Vietnam influenced the young man. He was then determined to achieve for his people what the great men of the age achieved for theirs. In Africa, he looked in awe to the Mao-Mao rebellion of Jamo Kenyatta, the anti-French struggle of Ahmed Seko Touri of Guinea, and the Moslem Brotherhood’s struggle against the British colonizers. He was further inspired by the revolution of Gemal Abdel Nasser of Egypt and the calculated move of the young officers he led and that eventually deposed King Farouq and ended the monarchy in Egypt. Naud was captivated by the revolutionary ideals of the world’s people. He aspired to follow suit and free Eritrea from the chain of federation with Ethiopia that he foresaw as a means used by Haile Sellassie to swallow Eritrea. Naud saw in himself a leader who would challenge Haile Sellasie and end the unwanted monarchical occupation of Eritrea.



Items Naud kept in his home. A good reminder of the tradition (source: www.24may91.net)

End of Life

*On September 16, 2010, the legendary leader Mohammed Said Naud **passed away** in Asmara Eritrea where he has been living since he returned to Eritrea in 1991 just after the Ethiopian forces were pushed out of Eritrea. He was seventy four years old. The Eritrean ruling party's website announced his death in two-sentences only: "Veteran Fighter Mohammed Seid Nawd was martyred today, September 16th 2010. The funeral service for the late veteran fighter would be held tomorrow at the Patriots Cemetery here in the capital at 10 am." **Naud: The Living Legend** was first published by Saleh "Gadi" Johar on november 19, 2000 at awate.com's The Fertile Womb section.*



(source: www.24may91.net)

----- *The End* -----

A wakeup call

Many countries in the world honor their heroes and commemorate them eternally by erecting statues, naming streets, parks, schools, universities and all sorts of institutions in their names. Eritrea has failed to remember its heroes in all spheres of life and fields including statesmanship, military, scholarships, arts, literature, religion, music and sports. It would be too long to list all the great Eritrean personalities from antiquity to the present. Even the heroes of the last 50 years who have not been recognized and honored are very many.

I believe many will agree with me that Eritrea has many amazing individuals in history who have done something unique to their country in the field of politics, culture, education, sport etc, which we need to remember them for what they have done. It is disheartening though not to see biography books of Eritreans in the library shelves. Lately I have decided to open a section in my website that will be dedicated to the biography of individual Eritreans from all walks of life in history (www.emnetu.com).

To start with I have randomly established a list of possible candidates. I therefore ask you all to put additional names to the list and return it to me. The list has to accommodate only individuals who have passed away. In other words we will concentrate only on post mortem biographies. I will update the list when I hear from you. The list will remain open all the time for additional names.

If you are positive about this idea and you have the time I would challenge you all to write biographical sketch or find individuals who can be interested to write a biography on any in the list. If you come across anyone who has access to information but not ready to write, you can ask him/her to supply the information to me in any format (paper, diskette, gramophone dish, cassette, videos, photographs etc) so that I can send it to the one who is interested to write.

The size of the file is not important at all. What is important is remembering them and trying to document their history before it disappears all together. The size will be determined only by the amount of information available on these individuals. Of course the individuals in the list must have done something positive to the cause of our country or to the well being of our people and our culture.

Emnetu Tesfay