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Global Yiakl Eritrean Movement  
حركة الإريتريّة العالمية الكافية



## Background

Global Yiakl Eritrean Movement (GYEM) is an umbrella association of eleven national member organizations in Africa, Australia, Europe, and North America. The organization advocates for democratic governance, peace and development in Eritrea, where all democratic freedoms denied to the Eritrean people by the current government are fully respected.

Global Yiakl Eritrean Movement Departments	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Ground Connection Dept.</li><li>▪ Lobbying &amp; Diplomacy Dept.</li><li>▪ Political Affairs &amp; Strategic Planning Dept.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Media &amp; Information Dept.</li><li>▪ Mobilization Dept.</li><li>▪ Treasury Dept.</li><li>▪ Engagement Dept.</li></ul>

Eritrea is ruled by a ruthless and highly authoritarian regime under the total control of a dictator,

Isaias Afwerki. The People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ), headed by dictator Isaias Afwerki, is Eritrea's sole political party. There have been no elections since Eritrea's independence in 1993, and Eritrea is still a country with no constitution. Commonly referred to as the North Korea of Africa, Eritrea is a pariah state governed by a regime that continues to commit gross human rights violations, including:

- Arbitrary and extra-judicial killings and torture;
- Sudden disappearances;
- Indefinite detention of political prisoners and other citizens in harsh life-threatening conditions without due process;
- Forced labor, including indefinite national service;
- Severe restrictions on freedom of the press, freedom of movement, peaceful assembly, and religion.

These are established facts well documented by UN Human Rights institutions.

## Eritrea's aggressive regional and wider international role in support of war and instability

The current Eritrean regime, led by the dictator Isaias Afewerki and his sole party, the PFDJ, believes in the resolution of any dispute with its neighbours through confrontation rather than dialogue and recourse to international law. It indeed has the notoriety of having been at war with every one of its neighbours: Yemen, Sudan, Ethiopia and Djibouti! To sustain these wars, generations of Eritreans have been under indefinite military service. Eritrea, a proud country of many gallant heroes with a rich history and home to honest, hard-working and peaceful people, has been turned into a land of misery and countless prisons, where thousands languish for decades or perish without a trace, a country with no constitution, no elections, and not even the pretense of the rule of law. Today's only option for its young people is to flee the country by any means possible. In the process, they often perish in the Sahara Desert or during perilous journeys on flimsy boats over the Mediterranean Sea.



The Eritrean government, which essentially means Mr Afwerki and a dozen or so of his close confidants, has no regard for the rule of law, for its international obligations as a member of the United Nations, or African institutions like the African Union and regional bodies like the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). It has flouted international law, routinely and contemptuously dismisses international opinion and calls for it to behave as a responsible member of the community of nations.

Besides dragging the Eritrean people to war against all of Eritrea's neighbors, dictator Isaias Afwerki has a track record of siding with terrorists and aggressors globally. Besides having supported terrorists such as the Al Shabab in Somalia, the fact that Eritrea joined Belarus, Syria, North Korea, and Russia and supported the Russian invasion of Ukraine through its vote in the United Nations are cases in fact. The vote doesn't represent the position of the Eritrean people, nor does it represent the state of Eritrea. Instead, the sole owner of the vote is dictator Isaias Afwerki. The Russian invasion of Ukraine, the invasion of one sovereign country by another, is an affront to the existing international order, the basis of the United Nations. The Eritrean people would never support such a blatant and dangerous violation of international law that poses a threat to all nations and peoples. GYEM does not!

### GYEM's Accomplishments

As a grassroots mass movement, GYEM's primary goal is to bring peace, justice, and democracy to Eritrea. Since its establishment in 2019, the movement has inspired tens of thousands of Eritreans, breaking the silence and fear of speaking against the regime. GYEM has also engaged other Eritrean justice seekers to find solutions to our challenges. Through such collaborations, GYEM has been very successful in:

1. Disrupting the regime's fundraising "Festivals" in Western countries;
2. Advocating for sanctions against the regime;
3. Providing humanitarian assistance to Eritrean refugees; and
4. Encouraging resistance inside Eritrea.

### Eritrean "Festivals" in the diaspora

Like many other communities worldwide, Eritreans hold annual festivals initially held in Bologna, Italy, during the 30-year armed struggle for independence. These gradually spread across Europe and North America. Eritreans gathered in their thousands to maintain contact with each other and enjoy their cultural activities, and more crucially, to keep abreast of what was happening in Eritrea and raise funds for the struggle for independence. These festivals continued after independence but increasingly became divisive as the regime in Eritrea turned the country into a gulag state. The liberators turned oppressors and divided Eritrean society into two camps: Pro and anti-government. The government used these festivals to prop support to its wars and unfettered control inside the country, to raise funds, and to promote its unacceptable law to force Eritreans living abroad to pay a 2% tax on their income earned abroad to get any Eritrean government service. The pro-government groups dominated the political theatre through intimidation and threats for about two decades post-independence.

As years passed, the political landscape shifted, with anti-government diaspora groups gaining the upper hand. That shift manifested itself in the 2022/2023 summer festivals in a way never



seen before, with the pro-regime completely overshadowed into irrelevance by pro-democracy and pro-justice elements. Thanks to recent counter-protests of Eritrean democratic forces fueled by public awareness of the true nature of the repressive regime, the festivals have failed to achieve their objectives of generating income for the regime.



## Sanctions Against the Regime

During the Tigray war in Ethiopia, in which the Eritrean army fully participated in support of the Abiy government, the United States Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned four Eritrean government entities and two government officials, pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 14046 in response to their destructive role in the war. GYEM played a critical role in providing information to relevant bodies within the State Department. Furthermore, GYEM’s close working relationship with the American Embassy in Eritrea was vital to the success of the sanctions. The reason behind the sanctions is Eritrea’s involvement in the internal conflict of Ethiopia and those elements’ criminal role in the conduct of that war. The four entities and two individuals sanctioned are the Eritrean Defense Force, People’s Front for Democracy and Justice, Red Sea Trading Corporation, Hidri Trust, Abraha Kassa Nemariam, the Eritrean head of Intelligence, and Hagos Ghebrehiwet, the head of the Financial dealings of the PFDJ.

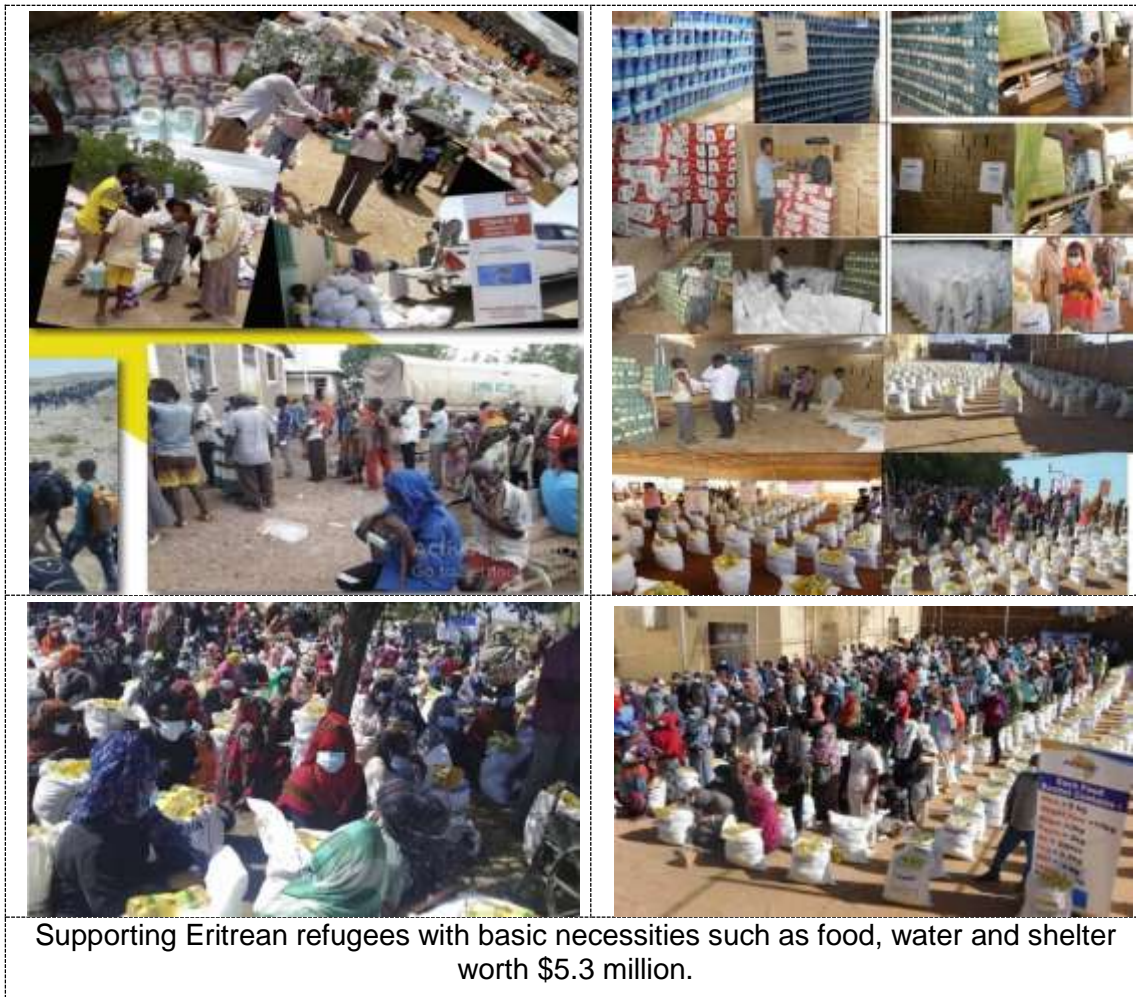


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## Provision of Humanitarian Assistance

To win over the hearts and minds of Eritrean refugees and, more importantly, to save Eritrean lives, GYEM worked very closely with various non-profit organizations to secure the funds needed to assist Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Sudan, Egypt and Libya. GYEM supported Eritrean refugees with basic necessities such as food, water and shelter worth \$5.3 million.



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## Encouraging Resistance Inside Eritrea

For over 32 years, Eritrea has remained under the iron grip of Isaias Afwerki with no constitution, independent judiciary or media, and no opposition parties. Hence, it's very challenging to advocate for democracy, justice, and the rule of law from inside Eritrea. Even though it's not at the desired level, GYEM has made connections and worked with clandestine pro-democracy forces inside Eritrea. Furthermore, GYEM has cultivated good cooperative working relationships with Eritrean opposition political and civic groups outside Eritrea.

## GYEM Needs Your Support

As a united mass movement, we can and are confident to win the battle against the brutal Eritrean regime. However, with your support, we can expedite the demise of the Eritrean regime. We need partners that promote peace, stability, and democracy in Eritrea, the Horn of Africa region and the world in general. To continue to meet our objective of the practical work we are doing, we need support in:

- A. **Gaining Recognition:** Given its successful track record, GYEM needs to be recognized and supported as an effective opposition instrument to the dictatorial regime in Eritrea.
- B. **Sharing Information & Intelligence:** We would like to form effective partnerships to share intelligence for strategic planning.
- C. **Forming Network:** We would like to ask for assistance to help us build relationships with governments and international institutions, which would enable us to put more pressure on the Eritrean regime.
- D. **Raising Funds:** We have developed various projects to expedite the removal of the brutal Eritrean regime and are ready to launch them; we seek financial assistance to enable us to initiate and sustain them. We are prepared to share those projects.

## GYEM Status in the US

With nine functional departments, GYEM is registered with the Department of the Treasury's Internal Revenue Service in the United States.