



**Statement of Beyene Gerezgiher, Spokesperson for the Eritrean
Bright Future Movement**

Stop the Impunity of the Eritrean regime

European Parliament Roundtable on Eritrea

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I would like to thank MEP Langensiepen and the European External Programme with Africa for inviting me to speak here today.

All protocol observed.

Thank you for inviting me to this important meeting.

I am Beyene Gerezgiher the spokesperson for the Eritrean Bright Future Movement.

I will focus on three crucial points requiring urgent attention and our collective effort.

1. Stopping illegal and undemocratic activities of the Eritrean regime in the EU

The gross violations of human rights in Eritrea are well-documented, including a 600-page report by the UN Special Commission of Inquiry. The reports states that Eritrean Embassies abroad recruit spies for intelligence gathering and force Eritreans in exile to support the regime. The regime also conducts illegal activities in European soil, harassing, intimidating and threatening refugees and collecting a 2% tax on the income of exiles and money laundering. It stages propaganda festivals used to showcase support from exiles and the European public. The increasing number of propaganda festivals in major European cities and the associated violence witnessed recently, necessitates action from the EU to safeguard the well-being Eritrean refugees in European soil. Many of the Eritrean refugees traumatized by the regime's cruelty and oppression, feel extremely shocked and provoked to see that regime in Eritrea is using Europe as platform to exercise its power. We underscore the spies of the Eritrean regime that openly supports Russia President Putin and all of which poses a threat to EU security. As the EU is aware of these activities, we believe it has the moral obligation and legal duty to protect refugees on European soil and prevent the continuation of these illegal activities.

2. The issue of continued flow of Eritrean refugees

Eritrea has been experiencing a mass exodus, with approximately 1 million Eritreans fleeing the country since its independence in 1993. This not only affects the demographics of the nation but also hampers the struggle for democratic governance. The repressive regime sees this mass exodus as a way of eliminating the risk of youth uprisings and an opportunity to exploit refugees for monetary gain. To address the root causes of this situation caused by the repressive regime in Eritrea, it is essential for the EU to assist us by recognizing and supporting the need for regime change in Eritrea.

3. Ensuring peace and security in the Horn of Africa

The current regime in Eritrea has destabilized and undermined the security of several countries in the Horn of Africa. It has committed gross violation of human rights including crimes against humanity, genocide, war crimes in Tigray region of Ethiopia together with Ethiopian armed forces as reported by the International Commission of Human Rights on Ethiopia. Those responsible for these crimes must be held accountable. The prevention of a failed state in post-dictatorship Eritrea, the fragmentation of the Ethiopian state, and guaranteeing peace and security in the Red Sea and Bab-al-Mandeb and the entire region are not only in our interest but also vital for the EU. The EU and its allies should pressure for regime change and need to create a stable alliance with those of us who seek a transition to a democratic governance and minimize the risk of societal collapse and regional instability.

We in The Eritrean Bright Future Movement, who stand for the democratic values of liberty, equality and fraternity, believe that by working together, we can address these issues effectively and pave the way for a prosperous and democratic Eritrea in peace with itself and its neighbors.

Thank you for your attention.