



QALNA ERITREAN HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP - TORONTO

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PRESS RELEASE

Six years ago on September 18, 2001, the Government of Eritrea crushed the private media and independent reporting. Since the free press crackdown about 15 journalists have virtually disappeared. The Eritrean officials have refused to provide information on their health, whereabouts, or legal status.

None of these journalists has been charged with any offence or presented to a court. They have not been seen by their families since then. It is reported that terrible various methods of torture are used on detainees in Eritrea.

We, the founding members of Qalna (The Eritrean Human Rights Group- Toronto), would like to point out that holding these journalists and other political prisoners incommunicado without due process is a gross violation of human rights.

Eritrea's human rights records are not limited to jailing journalists and cracking down on free press. The government does not recognize the right to conscientious objection or political dissent. Members of minority and majority Christian churches have been jailed and tortured or ill-treated to make them abandon their faith. In like manner, Moslems have been targeted too, some held in secret incommunicado detention for years.

Qalna calls for the immediate release of all prisoners; journalist, politicians, and members of various faith groups. Likewise, we call upon the Government of Eritrea to disclose the whereabouts and health of all the detainees.

Qalna commends CPJ, Journalists without Border, CJFE, PEN Canada, Amnesty International, US State Department, and European Union for all the hard work they have done in exposing all the gross human rights violation on the part of the Eritrean Government.

Equally, Qalna calls upon all peace loving people, Governments, Human rights Groups, the UN, AU, and Non Governmental agencies to intensify their pressure to relive Eritrea of its current gruesome human rights violation.

Qalna (Eritrean Human Rights Group-Toronto)  
The founding members