

**DECEMBER 10, 2008 – THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL
DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:**

A Date to Remember the Victims of Human Right Abuse

Today commemorates the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal declaration of Human rights. It is the first international document that enlisted internal human rights and calls the international community to respect the right of every person. It was a day when many like minded people come to an agreement to declare that:

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

“ Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.” And

Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

*No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or **punishment**.*

The list goes.

What was envisaged by the drafters of the Universal declaration of human rights became a reality with advent of international human right agreements and protocols. The legal instrument, and follow practices resulted in a better world: a world more conscious to right of individuals and groups and less tolerant to human right abusers. It put an end to the unfetter exercise of governmental power by rules. It means not easily for authoritarian

government to hide behind sovereignty and internal matters in violating rights of their subjects and govern at their whim.

In spite of the commendable progress, the situation of human right in Eritrea remains very worrying. The right of every single Eritrea male or women is not respected. Eritreans are not safe in their country; Eritrean are not free to work in trade they wish ; Eritrean are not free to practice a religion of their choice; Eritreans are in danger of being tortured and arrested indefinitely; Eritreans are dying in prisons as a result of torture and execution without a due process of the law. It is against this sad reality in our country of origin that that we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human right.

The day has a special meaning to all human beings. It is a day where we call the respect of human right in every corner of the world to all human being as every one deserves to live in dignity and to enjoy rights.

Those of us who live in western country and who have means and freedom to celebrate the day have a duty to remember those who are devoted of their right and victims of human right violation .

The day is more special to Eritrean in diasporas in general and Eritrean Canadians in particular. Those who are in diasporas have an obligation to hold our government accountable to promises of the national struggle for independence.. we have a responsibility to hold our government accountable to the principles human rights enlisted in our constitution.. We should a duty to urge our government to respect the universal declaration of human rights and let our people live in equality, dignity and respect their rights.

Eritrean Canadians shoulder a heavier responsibility because it is their fellow Canadian [John Peters Humphrey](#), who drafted the Universal declaration of Human rights declaration. It is vision of the famous legal scholar and human right advocate and others

that allowed most of them to find a safe new country . It is only by advocating for right of our brother and sisters in Eritrean, we pay our due and live up to the dreams of the drafter of the Universal Declaration Of Human Rights.

On this occasion, Qalna Human Right Group would like ask all Eritrean Canadians and others

To call the Eritrean government

- to respect the provision of the Universal Declaration Of Human Right
- to release prisoner of conscicene, religious leaders, journalist and all citizens who are imprisoned for express their opinion or profess the religion of their choice
- to respect the human right of Eritrean youth and end holding citizens in an endless military service
- to implement the Eritrean Constitution and its human right provisions

to call the Canadian government

- to pressure the Eritrean government to respect the provision of the Universal declaration of human rights and other international agreement and guarantee the right of every Eritrean citizen
- to hold responsible for violation of human rights Canadian organization and companies who are dealing with the Eritrean government and directly or indirectly contributing to human right violation of Eritreans.

Toronto, December 10, 2008

Qalna – Eritrean Human Right Group