

May 31, 2016

Dear Webmasters:

We are writing to you as friends and compatriots while trying to pen the words with our hearts towards making you understand that the Eritrean Veterans who put their lives to the service of liberating and protecting our beloved country, Eritrea, never had their services acknowledged with a day dedicated solely to them, a day simply called **“Eritrean Veterans’ Day”**.

Our Veterans never looked for glory, for medals, for financial gain. Some of them will be reading this letter and the attached flyer, confined on a wheelchair. Others from the antiseptic corridor of hospitals in a foreign land or in our country. Some are still recovering from explosion, from the shrapnel that pierced their flesh. Many are still processing tumultuous memories and nightmares. All of them are forced to relive the death of their comrades, the enemy’s attacks. Devastation is embedded in their memories.

We are pleased to present you this flyer explaining our wish to create an “Eritrean Veterans’ Day” to honor all our Veterans wherever they might be living. Our initiative is free of politics, nor does it have strings attached to personal feelings or financial request/gain. We are a group composed mainly of Eritrean Veterans and a civilian that wondered the reason why there is not one single day to honor our Veterans. A day when communities will meet with them and simply utter the words **“Thank you”**.

The Eritrean that initiated this dream could not imagine the inconceivable horrors of our Veterans’ war experiences. She told us that it sent chills down her spine to only envision the bombs, the blood, the sweat, the tears and bodies scattered all over after any of the enemy’s attack. What she could not settle in her mind is that these Eritreans Veterans left the comfort of their houses, the offers to study abroad and chose to defend their people and liberate our country from enemy’s occupation. Today they – our own Veterans - are surrounded with silence. This brought a silent trembling to her soul and she approached us. We were humbled and joined hand to create a day that we – ourselves – want to enjoy and be surrounded by our people.

More than a measurement to gratitude, it will be a day to measure our love for country, for our people and forever standing to attention to defend our borders and our Independence.

As Web Developers, you have the skills that can liaise effectively with readers, work colleagues and above all our communities all over the world. We are humbly asking you to work with us individually and as a team and prioritize the need to dedicate a day in the year to acknowledge our deepest gratitude towards our Veterans. We strongly believe that you can make a significant contribution towards this day’s creation.

We want to highlight that we are not trying to take over any of the Government’s responsibility. Far from there. We will be happy to see our Government take over and create a day called “Eritrean Veterans’ Day” for our Veterans. We will be the first ones to stand to attention and salute that day if only it will become a reality. In the light of our Independence’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary we would like you to join us and post the attached flyer on your esteemed website.

**We thank you in advance.**

**Eritrean Veterans.**



# መዓልቲ ሓርበኛታት ኤርትራ ERITREAN VETERANS DAY ንምዝካር

## ህዝባዊ ጸዋዒታ

ኩሉ ኤርትራዊ፡ መዓልቲ ሓርበኛታት ኤርትራ ክህልወና ይግባእ ኔሩ እንዳበለ ብውልቁ ኮነ ብእኩብ ክዘራረብ ዓመታት ሓሊፉ። ኣብዚ ቀረባ ኣዋርሕ ግን ሓንቲ ሓፍቲ ብመራኸቢ ብዙሓት ንሓርበኛታትና እንዝከረሉ ሓንቲ መዓልቲ መሪጽና ከነኹብር ኢላ ለበዋ ምስ ኣቕረበት፡ ነንባይኑ መዓልትን ወርሕን ክዝተየሉ ድሕሪ ምጽናሕ፡ ሓደ ሓው መጀመርታ ሰሙን ወርሒ ነሓስ ብታሪኻዊነታ ብቕዕቲ ክትከውን ትኸእልያ ዝብል ርእይቶ ኣቕረበ። እው ወርሒ ነሓስ ጀማሪት ናይ ኣወንታዊ ምዕባሌታት ወርሒ እያ።

### ንምንታይ መጀመርታ ወርሒ ነሓስ ?

ወርሒ ነሓስ ኣደ ሕድግት፣ ኣደ ሰላም፣ ኣደ ዕርቂ፣ ኣደ ስምረት፣ ኣደ ምትሕግጋዝ፣ ኣደ ዓወት ስለዝኾነት።

### ተዘክሮታታ

- ህዝቢ ንመጀመርታ ግዜ ኣብ መንጎ ኣትዩ “ኣይትቀታተሉ!” ኢሉ ውግእ ሕድሕድ ጠጠው ንምባል ዝተበገሰላ
- ተጋደልቲ ንመጀመርታ ግዜ ንህዝቢ "ሓቕኹም ኣብ ሞንጎና ኣቲኹም ድኣ ዕረቕኻ" ኢሎም ዝጎሰጎሱላ
- ተጋደልቲ ንመጀመርታ ንሞት ከም ዘቕጽዕ ምኻኑ እንዳፈለጡ፡ "ብረትና ነሕዋትና ኣይነቕንዕን!" ዝበሉላ
- ናይ ህዝቢ ናይ ዕርቂ ሽማግሌ ዝወጸትላ ከምኡውን ናይ ተጋደልቲ ናይ ስምረት ሽማግሌ ዝተመዘዘትላ።

### ወርሒ ነሓስ እንተዘይትህሉ

- ንጸላኢ ብሓባር ሃሪምና ንእስመራ ኣይምመለስናዮን
- ውድባትና ስንቕን ዕጥቕን ካልእ ንዋትን ኣይምተለጋገሳን
- እቲ ሽው ዝነበረ ውግእ ሕድሕድ እንተዝቕጽል፡ ጸላኢ ንሰውራና መበርዓና ኔሩ።

### ወርሒ ነሓስ ናይ ተስፋ ወርሒ

- ህዝቢ ከተማን ገጠርን፡ ዕርቂን ስምረትን እባ ክመጽእ ይኸእል እዩ! ኢሉ ንሰውራ ሓንገር
- ብሰንኪ ናይ ሜዳ ሕንፍሽፍሽ፡ ኢዶም ንጸላኢ ሂሮም ዝነበሩ ናብ ሰውራኦም ተመልሱ
- ምስ ጸላኢ ተዓስኪሮም ዝነበሩ ኤርትራውያን፡ ናብ ሰውራ ኤርትራ ኣዘንበሉ
- ሰውር ስርርዕ ሰውራ ኣብ ከተማታት ማዕበለ
- ናይ ምዕራባውያን ዜና ማዕከናት፡ ስርሒታት ሰውራ ኤርትራ ኣቃልሓ
- ውድባት ቕጽፊ ሰራዊተን በዝሕን ሓየለን።

እታ መንፈስ ናይ ዕለት 7 ነሓስ 1974፡ ሕጂውን ናይ ኩሉ ሓርበኛ ኤርትራዊ ወርሒ ክትኮነልና ንዕድም።

ዝኾነ ሓበሬታ፡ ሕቶ፡ ወይ ርእይቶ ፡ ናብዚ ኣብ ታሕቲ ዘሎ ኢመይል ለኣኹልና፡

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## يوم المحاربين الإريتريين القدامى - دعوة لكل الإريتريين

يتطلع الإريتريون أن يكون لهم يوم يحتفلون فيه بالمحاربين القدامى ويطلق عليه : يوم المحاربين الإريتريين القدامى Eritrean Veterans' Day ... ولقد بدأت المناقشات واستمرت بين العديد من الإريتريين سرا وعلانية ولسنوات طويلة دون أن تحرز شيئا إلى أن جاءت امرأة إريترية في وقت مبكر من هذا العام .. وتساءلت عن سبب عدم وجود يوم للمحاربين الإريتريين القدامى يحتفلون به أسوة بالمحاربين القدامى في كل مكان في العالم .. وقد نتج عن هذا الحوار أن إقترح أحد المحاربين القدامى إختيار يوم في الأسبوع الأول من شهر أغسطس ليكون يوم المحاربين الإريتريين القدامى Eritrean Veterans' Day .. وأن يكون شهر أغسطس بمثابة ذكرى محفورة لهم في التاريخ الإريترى.

### السبب في إختيار اليوم / الشهر

وقع الإختيار على شهر أغسطس بإعتباره الشهر الذي حال فيه المواطنون الإريتريون مدنيون وعسكريون ومن كل الفئات مسيحيون ومسلمون ومن مختلف المؤسسات الدينية والإجتماعية دون إستمرار نشوب القتال بين المتقاتلين والمتحاربين من ذوي الأصول الواحدة بينهم وبين بعض ... فجلبوا بذلك في هذا الشهر السلام والوحدة بين المقاتلين .. وأخذوا الفتنة وحققوا النصر

### الذكرى

- المدنيون الذين كانوا يعيشون في مناطق القتال أخذوا على عاتقهم ولأول مرة مسؤولية وقف الحرب المشتعلة أوارها بين الأشقاء والحيلولة دون إستمرارها .
- المقاتلون من أجل الحرية (التيجاديلتيز tegadeltys) أدركوا لأول مرة معنى الحقيقة والمصادقية والصلوات التي أقامها لهم أبناء شعبهم فطلبوا المساعدة.
- بعض المقاتلين الذين يعرفون جيدا أن رفض حمل السلاح من شأنه أن يؤدي إلى معاقبتهم بعقوبة الإعدام (الموت) رفضوا إشهار أسلحتهم ضد إخوتهم وأخواتهم.
- السكان المدنيون والمقاتلون من أجل الحرية ( تيجاديلتيز ) قرروا إختيار مجموعة للعمل كوسطاء

### ماذا لو أن هذا اليوم وهذا الشهر لم يكن إختيارا

- بدون الوحدة .. لم يكن بإستطاعتنا هزيمة العدو ودفعه إلى الوراء إلى ضواحي أسمرا.
- كان الأريتريون سيضطرون إلى تسليم أسلحتهم وأمتعتهم وقبل كل شيء أرضنا / بلادنا.
- كان المقاتلون الأريتريون من أجل الحرية سيقتلون بعضهم بعضا ويتروكون السيادة والنصر للعدو

### أغسطس هو شهر الأمل

- السكان الإريتريون الذين يعيشون في المدن والقرى كانوا عندئذ سيستوعبون روح من الأمل التي احتضنت كل المقاتلين من أجل الحرية ( تيجاديلتيز )
- بسبب سوء التفاهم في أوساط المقاتلين من أجل الحرية ( تيجاديلتيز ) ترك البعض مواقعهم الأمامية وعادوا إلى الخلف بعد هذا اليوم ... يوم الوحدة.
- الأريتريون المجندون في جيش العدو، انضموا إلى جبهات التحرير الأمامية
- إزدادت حرب العصابات تحت الأرض في العدد في جميع أنحاء المدن.
- إزداد أعداد المجندين المنضمين إلى جبهات التحرر.

إن روح هذا اليوم السابع من شهر أغسطس عام 1974 سيظل يعيش في قلوبنا وسنظل نسعى أن يكون هذا اليوم كما أسميناه ... يوم المحاربين الإريتريين القدامى ... ونأمل أن تنضم إلينا



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أية معلومات وإستفسارات وتعليقات .. يرجى إرسالها على رسائل البريد الألكترونية أعلاه



# Eritrean Veterans' Day - A call to all Eritreans

Eritreans have been looking forward to have a day called “Eritrean Veterans’ Day”. Discussions have been going on among many or in private. Earlier this year, an Eritrean woman approached some Eritrean Veterans and asked the reason there was not a day called “Eritrean Veterans’ Day”. One of the Veterans suggested the 1<sup>st</sup> week of August as the best timing for that day.

## The reason for choosing this date?

Many already know the significance of the month of August engraved in Eritrea’s history. It was the month that brought peace and unity when Eritrean fighters lifted one another. This unity led us to victory.

## Remembrance

- The civilians living in the war thorn areas – for the first time – involved themselves to stop the fratricide war going on.
- The freedom fighters (tegadeltys) for the first time recognized the truth and prayers coming from their own people and asked for help.
- Some of the fighters-- knowing full well that refusing to take arms would result in their being punished with capital punishment (death)--refused to point their arms towards their own brothers and sisters.
- The civilians’ population and freedom fighters (tegadeltys) decided to elect a group as mediators.

## If this day/month was not an option

- Without unity, we could not defeat the enemy and push him back to the outskirts of Asmara.
- Eritreans would have had to surrender their weapons, their belongings and above all our land/country.
- Eritreans freedom fighters (tegadeltys) would have killed each other and the enemy would have prevailed.

## August is a month of hope

- The Eritrean population living in the cities and villages were then absorbed in a spirit of hope that embraced all freedom-fighters (tegadeltys).
- Because of the misunderstanding among freedom fighters (tegadeltys) some that had left the front came back after this day of unity.
- Eritreans conscripts of the enemy’s army, joined the liberation fronts.
- The underground guerrilla warfare increased in numbers in all cities.
- The number of conscripts joining the liberation fronts increased.

The spirit of that day – August 7/ 1974- still lives in our hearts and we aim at making it a day called “Eritrean Veterans’ Day” We hope you will join us.

**Any information, queries and comments, please send to emails below:**

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