



**We, the undersigned Canadian Human Rights International Organization, draw the attention of Premier Minister Justin Trudeau to the following:**

**THAT, WHEREAS**

- *In 2001 the Eritrea President Isaias Afewerki detained eleven out of the fifteen government officials of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice who signed the letter to promote democracy in Eritrea during the G-15*
- *During this time there were also another 18 journalists that were arrested in 2001. They were never tried. All that the world knows is that they were kept in steel containers in the remote and hottest part of the Eritrea desert. President Afewerki dismantled all independent press, in hand leaving the only news source is government run. This takes away their freedom of speech.*
- *There is also concern about the mandatory military service that has been extended from 18 months to an indefinite period of time. According to the UN this is the main reason young people attempt to find asylum in Europe.*

**Issue. THEREFORE, your petitioners call upon Premier Minister Justin Trudeau to assist the missing and disadvantaged citizens of Eritrea.**

These human rights abuses have been identified by the UN and the Human Rights Watch.

“Eritrea’s government under President Isaias Afewerki continues to be responsible for repeated serious rights violations. Thousands of Eritreans flee the country monthly to avoid “national service,” conscription that lasts indefinitely. Eritreans are subject to arbitrary arrest and harsh treatment in detention; no means exist to challenge detention or other abuses. Eritrea has had no national elections, no legislature, independent press, or independent civil society organizations since 2001. Religious freedom is severely curtailed. The 2018 peace agreement with long-standing enemy Ethiopia provided some hope that restrictions on national service would be lifted, but so far there has been little change.”

- Human Rights Watch

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1.	



<b>Signatures (Canadian citizens or residents only)</b> <b>(Please sign your name, do not print)</b>	<b>Addresses</b>
2.	