

EPDP Delegation Meets with 4 Nordic Ambassadors in Addis

The Department of Information and Culture
Eritrean People's Democratic Party
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A delegation of the Eritrean People's Democratic Party (EPDP), now in a visit to Ethiopia, on 4 March 2010 held long and constructive discussions at one place with Nordic ambassadors residing in Addis Ababa who included H.E. Mr. Jens-Petter kjemprud, the Ambassador of Norway; H.E. Mr. Jens Odlander, the Ambassador of Sweden; H.E. Mr. Pernille Dahler Kardel, the Ambassador of Denmark, and H.E. Mr. Leo Olasvirta, the Ambassador of Finland.

The EPDP delegation, headed by Ambassador Adhanom Ghebremariam, responsible for the Department of Foreign Relations, consisted of Mr. Mesfin Hagos, Executive Committee member in the Department for Internal Affairs, Mr. Tesfai Woldemichael (Degiga), Director of the EPDP Chair Office, and Mr. Gime Ahmed, member of the Transitional Central Council.

The delegation explained the sad political, economic and human rights situation in Eritrea; the unity process and the paramount objectives of the newly formed EPDP; and the general status of the Eritrean opposition camp, and in particular its umbrella organization, the Eritrean Democratic Alliance, that they described as a representative body that needs attention and substantial support of concerned actors in the international community.

The four Nordic envoys explained the positions of their respective countries vis-à-vis the regime in Eritrea, and each of them reiterated in clear terms that the UN sanctions that they fully support do target only the regime in Asmara, and not the Eritrean people, who are the victims of their own government.

The EPDP delegation noted that the UN resolution 1907 on targeted sanctions is being exploited by the PFDJ regime as if it is "a decision against the Eritrean people". The delegation added that in order to convince the Eritrean people that the sanctions do not target them, it will be important to start implementing the targeted sanctions in a carefully designed manner and at the same time come with quick humanitarian support to Eritreans inside the country and those in refugee in exile.

The Nordic ambassadors believed that, since change would have to come by Eritreans and from within Eritrea, EPDP and the rest of the opposition forces need to work, as much as possible, from within Eritrea to mobilize the people. They also felt that the opposition forces need to redouble their contacts with international actors that would help them promote their objective.