

**FLORENCE TEATRINO LORENESE**

Monday July, 17th 2006 - h. 21,00

**Eritrea, democracy and human rights
Festa dell'Unità Firenze**

Yesterday, during the Festa dell'Unità in Florence, a meeting by Francesco Muratore took place. The speakers were: Andrea Semplici, journalist, knowing Eritrean history very deeply and who has always been next to those who fought for the independence of this Country; Semere Tekeste, from EDP (Eritrean Democratic Party) and former responsible of Asmara University Movement, escaped from Eritrean prison by miracle, has given a very accurate testimony about the violation of human rights in Eritrea; then, Michael Kidane, responsible of the Eritrean Democrats Association in Milan, who has underlined the role and the importance played by the Eritrean Civic Societies in the defense of the human rights for a democratic future; at the end Dania Avallone, Asper's president, who took the occasion to formally introduce the March for the Human rights taking place on next August from New York City to Washington DC, and she gave a synthetical testimony of her personal experience when living in Eritrea, and the reasons why she founded Asper during year 2004. Desbele Mehari, responsible of the Italian Section of EDP, was the translator for the following languages: Italian-English-Tigrigna.

Following the first part of the meeting, there was the question-answer session, in which there were the following interventions: Mr Deres Araya, who expressed his opinions in the defense of the Eritrean regime together with a lady who preferred not to introduce herself to the audience; a representative of the Somalian Community who has generously given his solidarity by inviting both parts to the quiet and constructive dialogue; Eng. Tekle Alemayo, who distinguished himself during the Geneva-Rome march for the human rights, last year.

Asper wishes to thank the organization staff and the audience who participated the meeting for the attention they addressed to the very delicate subject of the violation of the human rights in Eritrea, a country which is too much frequently ignored by the international press.