



Rome, 23rd March 2006

Shameful exhibition concerning the “Eritrean Beauties” is over: contradictions, ambiguity and curios

1. For one month - throughout the exhibition defined a mere artistic-cultural event –propagandistic material of the Eritrean dictatorship was distributed.
2. The exhibition opened on 23rd February 2006 at 17,00, with what was defined a “Private Party by the Eritrean Embassy”. It was taking place exactly in the same day and at the same time of the Convention called “Eritrea: Peace, Democracy and Rights” arranged by Habeshia Agency, which had planned many months before and had invited the Eritrean Ambassador as well. If a pure coincidence is very unlikely, it seems to be clear the attempt by the Eritrean Embassy to overshadow the Congress to provide the ambassador a very valid excuse in order not to find himself in an awkward situation facing journalists, university teachers and associations, asking to know the truth concerning the tragedy of the Eritrean people.
3. In order to inform the public opinion of what was going on, two representatives of the Asper Association gave out leaflets during the opening of the exhibition. The leaflet was prepared by the Coordination for Peace, Democracy and Rights in Eritrea. They were insulted and invited to leave for the ceremony was a Private Party, thus not opened to everybody. The police was called but found that the distribution of the leaflets was allowed. So the distribution continued under the police protection in front of the museum entrance, despite the provocative attitudes and attacks by the sympathizers of the Eritrean government.
4. The Ethnographic Prehistorical National Museum Luigi Pigorini housed the exhibition in order, may be, to keep good relationships with the government and to carry on the study in Danalia already begun.
5. The NGO ISCOS Marche (which was one of the exhibition sponsors) is one of the only two NGOs accepted by the Eritrean government – which recently expelled all the other Italian NGOs even though they had always been legally working for years and with humanitarian aims.
6. Eritros (another exhibition sponsor) introduces itself as an Association for the promotion and the defense of the rights, even if it cooperates with those who seriously violates the rights themselves.
7. For what concerns the authors of the exhibition, Mr Maurizio Frullani, Mr Giuseppe De Marchi and Mrs Mariana Valentini simply fell into a demagogic trap set for them by the Embassy and the Eritrean Government.

The Eritrean Ambassador in Italy Mr. Zemed Tekle has declared the following:“The exhibition will be a good occasion to give both the adult and the young Italian public, the opportunity to discover Eritrea by means of the exhibited pictures. We want to strengthen the already good relationships between the Eritrean and the Italian institutions, - which are the result of a cultural and historical link” ...

Nice words.... but the truth is different:

Italian diplomats expelled, carabinieri of the UN mission forced to leave Asmara, authoritatively expropriations of the Italian properties, expulsion of six Italian Non-Governmental Organizations....

We invite everyone to think about this all.

COORDINAMENTO per la Pace, la Democrazia e i Diritti Umani in Eritrea

Agenzia Habeshia per la cooperazione allo sviluppo

Associazione Immigrati Eritrei in Italia (AIEI)

Asper – Associazione per la tutela dei diritti umani del Popolo Eritreo

Coordinamento Democratici Eritrei in Italia (CDEI)

Mossob – Comitato di solidarietà per l'Eritrea



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