

ASPER

Associazione per la Tutela dei Diritti
Umani del Popolo Eritreo



WALK FOR FREEDOM

NEW YORK TO DC

Los Angeles, CA. Aug 14, 2006.

An International group of human rights advocates representing the Eritrean Anti Tyranny Global Solidarity and ASPER: Associazione per la Tutela dei Diritti Umano del Popolo Eritrea will be marching from New York City's Statue of Liberty to the Capitol Hall in Washington D.C. to raise awareness on the continued assault on human rights in Eritrea.

The "Walk for Freedom" (www.awate.com/petition/walk.htm) marchers are urging the UN and the US Congress to call for an International Commission to investigate the massive human rights violations in Eritrea.

15 years after independence, Eritrea remains a one-party military state where the free press is banned with independent journalists suffering in jail. Thousands remain in jail for opposing the war with Ethiopia, opposing the forced conscription, exercising their religious rights, and demanding accountability of the non-elected president of the country, who has been in power for the last 15 years and continues to refuse the implementation of the constitution.

Along the route from New York City to Washington D.C., marchers will make stop over in Elizabeth, New Brunswick and Trenton (New Jersey), Philadelphia (Pennsylvania), Wilmington (Delaware), and Aberdeen and Laurel (Maryland).

March coordinators, Saleh Gadi from California and Dania Avallone from Italy are hopeful that the march will generate enough interest and support for human rights in Eritrea. "The Walk for Freedom follows similar marches in Europe," said Avallone, one of the co-founders of ASPER. "We will march for the voiceless and the invisible languishing in the dungeons of the oppressive regime in Eritrea."

"We are inspired by our friends in Europe who are joining us in the march," explained Gadi. "The messages of solidarity from Africa, Australia, Canada and within Eritrea have added resolve to our peaceful struggle for respect of human dignity in Eritrea," Gadi went on to say.

Apart from massive human rights violations in Eritrea, marchers are concerned that forcibly-conscripted Eritrean youth will be used in Eritrea's recent military support for the Supreme Somali Union of Islamic Courts, an islamist militia that is fighting the internationally-recognized transitional Somali government.

For more information on the Walk for Freedom:

www.awate.com/petition/walk.htm

For more details:

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