



Day 4: Dispatch from the Marchers

Aug 22, 2006

Four days have elapsed since the march begun. The morale is still high while the feet are already hurting. There are no words to describe the spirit of Eritrean friends who gave us their warmth, hospitality and encouragement along the way. Their courage represents the voice of all Eritreans back home. They are setting an example for all those silent, selfish and blind Eritreans who deny the suffering of their own people. While we are marching for freedom, a tragedy is happening in Libya where 400 Eritreans are at risk of being deported back to Eritrea soon. We heard that some are on hunger strike...

These are young men, women and children whose only demand is to have respect for their right to live.

What a contrast against the young people who grew up abroad and most of whom had the opportunity to study and enjoy their lives. They live in democratic countries but are totally indifferent to the dictatorship and oppression that is taking place in their country of origin. Some do even travel further to support the regime.

Fortunately, there are a section of young Eritreans who are trying to understand. They reject the campaign of brain-washing being conducted by the Eritrean Government. They sympathize with this march for human rights. They'll all be in our hearts forever.

And what is there to say about Senait.....

Senait Kassahun is only 26 years old and a graduate student in clinical psychology from Trenton (NY). She is doing research on refugee mental health and the condition of refugees living in refugee camps. When asked why she joined the march, she said:

“When I heard this human rights march was coming through my town, I knew I wanted to join. I was so proud of the marchers and I was proud to be one of them even for a little while!”

Thank you, Senait.