



His Excellency President Volodymyr Zelensky
President of Ukraine
Kyiv, Ukraine

February 24, 2023

The Eritrean Regime Votes AGAINST UN Resolution For an Immediate End to the War in Ukraine

Dear Mr. President:

Global Yiakl Eritrean Movement (GYEM) is a worldwide umbrella association of eleven national member organizations from Africa, Australia, Europe, and North America. Our organization advocates for human rights, freedom, and justice, and calls for democratic governance in Eritrea. We are reaching out to your excellency regarding the Eritrean vote at the UN for an immediate end to the war in Ukraine.

Dear Mr. President:

We applaud your resiliency in leading your people through such challenging times. Furthermore, we admire and support the Ukrainian people for fighting back for their existence. The tragedy that is taking place in Ukraine is a matter of grave concern to the Eritrean people. Consistent with UN Article 2(4), we strongly condemn Russian invasion of Ukraine.

UN Article 2(4) "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."

Dear Mr. President:

Eritrea is ruled by a ruthless and highly authoritarian regime under the total control of dictator Isaias Afwerki. The People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) headed by dictator Isaias is the sole political party in Eritrea. There have been no elections in the country since Eritrea's independence in 1993, and Eritrea is still a country that has no constitution. Commonly referred to as the North Korea of Africa, Eritrea is a pariah state governed by a regime that continues to commit gross human rights violations including arbitrary and extra-judicial killings and torture, sudden disappearances, indefinite detention of political prisoners and other citizens in harsh life-threatening conditions without due process, forced labor, indefinite national service, and severe restrictions on freedom of press, freedom of movement, peaceful assembly, and religion. These are established facts well documented by UN Human Rights institutions.





Dear Mr. President:

Dictator Isaias Afwerki has not only a track record of siding with aggressors but solely has dragged the Eritrean people to war with all its neighboring countries. The fact that Eritrea voted in support of Russian invasion of Ukraine through its vote in the United Nations is very unfortunate. We want you to know that the vote doesn't represent the Eritrean people, nor does it represent the state of Eritrea. Rather the sole owner of the vote is dictator Isaias Afwerki.

In conclusion, we urge Russia to withdraw its troops from Ukrainian sovereign territory immediately and unconditionally. We call upon the international community to do its utmost best to put pressure on Russia and force it to agree to an immediate secession of hostilities and withdraw its troops from Ukraine so Ukrainians can get back to their normal lives and start rebuilding their country.

Sincerely,

Awet Tsehaye, Head

Global Diplomacy Dept.

Global Yiakl Eritrean Movement

CC:

- **António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- **Antony Blinken**, United States Secretary of State
- **Ursula von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission
- **Azali Assoumani**, Chairperson of the African Union
- **Sergiy Kyslytsya**, Ukraine Representative to the United Nations
- **Oksana Markarova**, Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States

