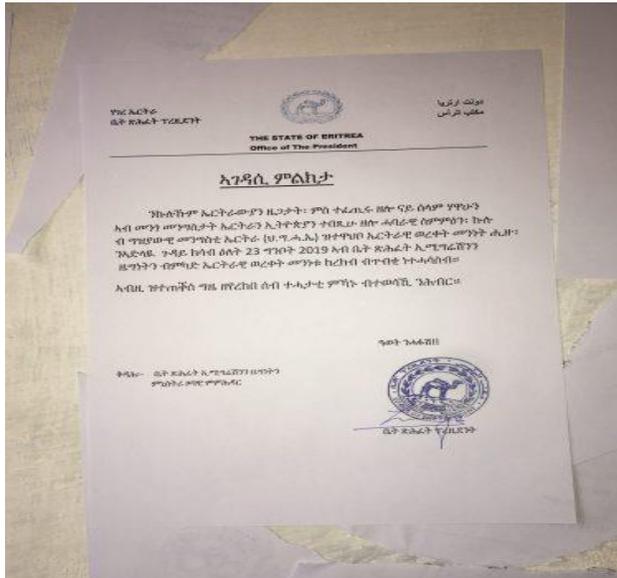


The Revocation of “Eritrean Citizenship”: The Final Phase of Issaias’ Evil Agenda against Eritrea and Its People

“If you want to destroy a society, destroy its identity.”

Dr. Gebre Gebremariam

News that is coming out of Eritrea now shows that the regime is trying to revoke Eritrean ID Cards



from Eritreans who have them. Through a Public Notice that was posted on the Notice Boards of many local administration offices in Asmara, Dictator Issaias has ordered Eritreans to submit their ID Cards to the Immigration Office immediately. The Public Notice referenced the recent reached peace agreement with Ethiopia as a reason for the need to revoke Eritrean ID Cards and it threatened anyone who will not obey the order, which came out from the “President Office”, with severe punishments. The true reason why the Dictator is doing this at this

time should neither be a secret nor a surprise to Eritreans – it is the beginning of the end of a hidden agenda and long drawn-out process of annexing Eritrea to Ethiopia. In essence, it is the culmination of what has been transpiring in Eritrea for decades in general, and more recently in particular. Hence, how this could be a surprise to the Eritrean people after, for instance, they heard Issaias saying: ***“If there is anyone who says that the Eritrean people and Ethiopian people are different, he/she must be someone who doesn’t know history and the truth: the Eritrean people and the Ethiopian people are one and the same”***. Besides, this Public Notice or the act thereof should not be treated in isolation. Issaias, [the Mole](#), has been preparing for this day to come and he is trying to finalize implementing his sadistic agenda against the Eritrean people.

As we all know, from the get go, Issaias has tried to create a system whereby he and only he could decide who is and who is not Eritrean by controlling the issuance of Eritrean ID Cards and Passports. To have full control of this system, he took a number of steps right from the very beginning. First, he constructed artificial administrative regions; declared land a state property; and destroyed the concept of village or “Adi”, which was an important institution in the socio-economic life of Eritreans for centuries. Second, the newly established “State” became the sole Eritrean citizenship in which he wielded enormous power to tailor the right of citizenship in a manner that strengthens his repressive rule. Essentially, he has tried to make “holding/having an Eritrean ID Card or Passport” as a precondition to be an Eritrean citizen. That is, in Issaias’ Eritrea, you are not an Eritrean unless you carry Eritrean passport and/or ID card as a proof of evidence

for your Eritrean citizenship identity. Actually, this has been the dilemma that many Eritreans have been facing. Many people are confused to the extent that they tend to believe that they need Issaias' approval for them to be Eritrean citizens. This belief is reinforced by Issaias' apparent threat to revoke their Eritrean citizenship identity unless they continue to be loyal and serve him and his dictatorial regime.

The reality, though, is that Eritrean is an identity that cannot be given or denied by any force let alone by Issaias and his unconstitutional and rogue regime. Eritrean is a shared identity that has been shaped by a common long history of social, economic, and political struggle by the people, who constitute a Nation-State called Eritrea. To be Eritrean is the irrefutable right of *the Eritrean* and requires no one's approval. But, as always, Issaias is using his presumed rights to revoke citizenship, when he gave his order through the above Public Notice. If you are an Eritrean, your Eritrean identity is in ***your soul, body and blood***. It should be clear to all concerned that Eritrean identity is not a piece of Paper or Plastic Card that can be granted and revoked at the whims of the dictator.

It is imperative that we, Eritreans, should make a distinction and clearly understand the difference between Eritrea as a Nation-State and the government (the regime of Issaias) which governs it. A state is like an organization and the government is like the management team. The Eritrea Nation-State is an entity that occupies a definite geographic area, has a certain culture, people, language history and the like. It refers to Eritreans as a body of people who share a real common history, culture, identity, religion, morality, language, and traditions. The dictatorial regime, on the other hand, is a totalitarian government which controls practically every aspect of public and private life in Eritrea. Essentially, the Regime is not Eritrea and Eritrea is not the Regime. Moreover, the best interests of Eritreans and that of the dysfunctional and totalitarian regime of Issaias are at variance. Hence, the basis for Eritrean Citizenship is one's belonging to or membership in Eritrea, the Nation-State and this fundamental right of every Eritrean cannot and should not be denied by an illegitimate and illegal entity.

As the old adage goes, *if you want to destroy a society, destroy its identity*. Issaias fully knows this and that is what he is trying to do to Eritrea. There have been **systematic and deliberate actions** by Issaias that are aimed at weakening the Eritrean Identity. Hence, Eritreans should not lose sight of the fact that the wholesome revocation of Eritrean citizenship that Issaias planned to achieve by issuing the order (Public Notice), is part of his bigger agenda of destroying the Eritrean Identity. Given the dire consequences that this will have to the survival of Eritrea as sovereign country and people, Eritreans should reject the order of submitting their ID Cards to the Immigration Office as stipulated in the Public Notices, and instead fight back against this evil act of Issaias and save the soul of Eritrea. Besides, Every Eritrean's Eritrean Identity is in ***his/her soul, body and blood*** and no force, how powerful it might be, cannot take it away from him/her.