



Statement by the Network of Eritrean Women

Background

Mr. President,

WILPF stands in solidarity with Network of Eritrean Women on this statement. We endeavour to work towards advocating for the rights of Eritrean Women but for human rights in Eritrea as a whole.

We welcome the Commission of Inquiry report and its conclusion on Eritrea and recognise the difficulty it has faced on many levels in documenting sexual violence faced against women and girls. The high incidence of sexual violence and harassment during military service has led to increased early marriages as a means of avoiding military conscription. The report also noted on the array of human rights violations in Eritrea and the lack of legal mechanism for people to seek recourse where their rights have been violated. In spite of these findings, the president's advisor, Yemane Gebreab, has made comments denying the prevalence of sexual violence in the country.

Based on the findings of the Commission of Inquiry Report on Eritrea, we call upon the United Nations and the International Community to:

- Create an independent judicial body inside Eritrea to monitor and investigate all human rights abuses.
- To ensure those that have perpetrated crimes against humanity are made accountable for their crimes in courts such as The Hague or the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights.
- Ensure that all those who have suffered from sexual violence in military training camps or in detention are provided with counselling, support, rehabilitation and compensation.
- Ensure that the rights of all women are promoted and protected at all levels in society.
- Ensure that all Eritrean refugees are given protection
- Ensure that Eritreans inside Eritrea are provided with information, support, humanitarian and medical assistance.
- Ensure immediate humanitarian rescue and assistance of Eritrean refugees in Libya especially women held under IS or other Libyan Militia.
- Ensure the protection of Eritrean communities worldwide who have been affected by the long arm of the Eritrean government.
- Ensure all international corporations, institutions and governments who deal with the Eritrean government and contribute directly or indirectly to human rights violations are held accountable.
- Ensure that any peace building process includes women and that their concerns and needs are addressed.
- Ensure that the UN deploys a mediator so that the voice of women's movements both civic and political is heard at all levels.

Thank you Mr. President.