



Pride Court, 80-82 White Lion St, London N1 9PF  
020 76308288  
beconuk@yahoo.com

## Press Release

7/9/2022

On Sunday 4 September 2022, British Eritreans commemorated the 61st anniversary of the beginning of Eritrea armed struggle for independence and freedom in front of the embassy of Eritrea in London. The 61st anniversary of the historical day of September 1st has been commemorated both in Eritrea and everywhere where Eritreans reside. 61 years ago the Eritrean hero Hamid Idris Awate and his gallant comrades cried Freedom on 1st of September 1961 in Mount Adal, near Sawa and faced heroically the brutal occupying army of Ethiopia.

The Eritrean people resorted to the armed struggle when the Ethiopian occupying army tried to crash their peaceful struggle for freedom; and they were compelled to pay unparalleled sacrifice to defend their fundamental human and natural rights that was compromised to satisfy the interest of the lobbying group in USA and other western countries.

Since the establishment of Eritrean communities and organisations in 70s of last century, British Eritreans, like all Eritreans in the world who have stake in Eritrea, have been commemorating 1st of September every year. Our commemoration this year, however, was targeted by Tigrean hooligans who seem to have been led by the terrorist TPLF warrior, Martin Plaut. There is an ample evidence that a group of apartheid apologists and TPLF lobbyist in Europe are inciting violence against Eritreans in order to bring to the war and terror raging in northern part of Ethiopia in the streets of London.

The Tigrean hooligans from northern Ethiopian who were described by Martin Plaut as peaceful demonstrators were armed with makeshift weapons in order to hurt and kill British Eritreans who were attending the commemoration, and were violently hurling chairs and tables from nearby cafes towards the police and the people who were celebrating in the event peacefully, and eventually were charged with public disorder by the police.

British Eritrean Communities and Organisations Network would like to praise Eritrean communities in London for commemorating 1st September peacefully; for being calm and composed against all the intimidation and hate speeches, and leaving the matter with the safe hand of the police.

We have been noticing an alarmingly high level of hate speech and call for violence against Eritrea and Eritreans in the social media. Hate speech and hate crimes must neither be tolerated nor condoned by anyone. We call on all British Eritreans and friends of Eritrea to notify the mass media authorities and report hate crime and hate speeches and call to violence to the relevant law enforcement agencies.

BECONUK members  
Eritrean communities, women's groups, youth forums, Eritreans for Justice and Democracy,  
Eritrean Professionals, Investment Forum, and Eritrean Cultural Centre in East London,  
West London, South London, North London, Birmingham,  
Coventry, Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool  
Newcastle, Leeds, Nottingham and Leicester