

Goitom Tatek

Addis Ababa

Tigray Commemorates martyr's Day

Tigray Regional State, the most northern tip of Ethiopia, is observing the martyr's day for the 24th time, which is marked every year on 22 June. Ethiopia, particularly Tigray, has paid many precious lives of heroes for the equality of its nations, nationalities and peoples as well as for the country's peace and stability, human and democratic rights, and economic development. Had it been easy to get these fundamental foundations, the martyr's would never have paid their valuable life.

What made them fight in the bushes is atrocity committed on the people of Tigray and the Ethiopian people at large. In those times the region was shelled by bombs including internationally banned cluster bomb which makes it look like as if it was a military experiment in the retrospect. Over 2,500 innocent residents of Hawzen and people who came to the market from nearby villages were killed at with in short time by airplane attack on unarmed civilians. This is not only the damage caused to human lives during the seventeen years fascist military rule. In the battle against the brutal dergue regime, more than 60,000 freedom fighters have lost their lives. They gave their life for their noble goal of ousting the brutal dergue. They had in their heart a goal to make Ethiopia a land of peace, equality, freedom, and a home of nations, nationalities and peoples whose right to self determination is respected. They died for the cause of ensuring a new Ethiopia where unity in diversity is strengthened, and where tolerance prevails in spite of diversity in culture, language, religion and opinion. They had a belief that Ethiopians will have prosperous and stable nation through their struggle even when that means paying a life sacrifices.

In deed, they have achieved and made their dream reality. Yes, in deed, the country has been registering a credible economic growth. It has remarkably scored double digit economic growth for the last successive eight years. In ensuring democracy, Ethiopia

has seen four times democratic national elections in its history. The elections held in 1995, 2000, and 2005 and in 2010 are witnesses to the democratic exercises in the past two decades. Freedom of expression has also been respected. Today there are hundreds of media both print and electronic. This all is because of the seventeen years struggle waged by heroes who gave their lives to make these a reality.

Nations, Nationalities and peoples are working hard to change their life and nation's image based on common understanding and mutual benefit. Unlike the threats of disintegration which was in the minds of different individuals early time when the dergue regime collapsed; the nation is getting strong united than ever. Ethiopia has become a land of peace, tolerance and cooperation. This should be strengthened. The youth should follow the footsteps of those who gave their life to give us freedom and development. Above all we should not forget the causes of martyr's. We should remember them for their heroic deeds.