

Prayer Diary: Eritrea

15-21 September 2024



The People's Front for Democracy and Justice, headed by President Isaias Afwerki, is the sole political party in Eritrea. It has been in control since 1991. The situation today is a far cry from the nation its citizens dreamed of when they voted joyfully and overwhelmingly in favour of independence 30 years ago.

In January 2024, over 30 evangelical Christians were arrested at a child's birthday party. In March, three families were detained. In April, over 30 Christians were arrested. In May, 83-year-old Rev Ghirmay Araya died after almost three years in prison. The reverend's son has been detained arbitrarily for seven years. Each of these illustrate the government's merciless, continuing and comprehensive crackdown on the rights of citizens.

Sunday 15 September

Today is the International Day of Democracy. Pray earnestly for peaceful, free and fair democratic change in Eritrea, as well as for the 1997 Constitution to finally be implemented.

Monday 16 September

Pray for all people of faith who are unjustly imprisoned on account of their religious beliefs in Eritrea – including six Christian leaders who are marking their 20th year detained incommunicado. Ask God to strengthen and console them, and return them to their loved ones.

Tuesday 17 September

As devastating news emerges from Sudan of refugees dying due to lack of food, pray for protection, provision and deliverance for Eritrean refugees there and in Ethiopia. Remember especially Eritrean women and girls in Sudan who are particular targets for sexual and gender-based violence.

Wednesday 18 September

On this day in 2001, the Eritrean government closed all independent media outlets and arbitrarily detained 11 independent journalists, as well as 11 of the 15 prominent ruling party members who had called for democracy, along with their family members. On the anniversary of their enforced disappearances, pray that justice would prevail.

Thursday 19 September

Praise God for the longstanding CSW team members who are tirelessly committed to advocating for the rights of Eritreans, including our Africa and Middle East Team Leader, Dr Khataza Gondwe. Pray for her as she undertakes her work and speaks truth to power with knowledge, excellence, wisdom and compassion.

Friday 20 September

'See...I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.' Pray Isaiah 43:19 over Eritrea today.

Saturday 21 September

Lord Jesus Christ, on the International Day of Peace, we pray for all Eritreans, and especially remember those who have been forcibly conscripted. Be their strength and shield, we pray, and their very present help in times of trouble. Amen.