Human Rights Council, 34th Session
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Agenda Item 4 – Interactive Dialogue with the SR on Eritrea
Statement delivered by Ms Elizabeth CHYRUM
Contact: derek.brett@ifor.org (Main representative in Geneva)

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation and Human Rights Concern – Eritrea thank the Special Rapporteur for continuing to highlight the egregious human rights situation in Eritrea. Nothing has changed in the government’s attitude of denial and complete refusal to engage with her mandate despite the recommendations from this council and the Commission of Inquiry. Nothing has changed in the nation; there have still been no elections, there are no rights to protest, or to assemble in public, no religious liberty, no political parties, no unions, no human rights organisations and no independent judiciary.

Due to lack of accountability by the government, and failure to meet even the most basic of human provisions, today Eritreans face acute water shortages, 2 million citizens are without adequate food supplies, and up to half the children in rural areas suffer stunted growth due to malnutrition. Government rationing systems, imposed for political control, contribute to major food shortages. There are thousands of internally displaced citizens, many reduced to begging or dying of starvation.

There is a major cash shortage brought about by the government restrictions making people’s savings unavailable to them, and thereby forcing private businesses to close down nationwide. Privately-owned buses have been decommissioned, while the state-owned bus services are wholly inadequate.

All citizens over 18 are conscripted into the military indefinitely and are forced into a kind of “slave labour” in mining and government owned industries, factories and construction companies for just 10 to 30 dollars per month. It is no wonder that 60,000 citizens risk their lives to leave the country escaping crimes against humanity every year despite the shoot to kill border policy.

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