

I remember talking to my mom saying that I was going to go to Ethiopia, and she was shocked to hear me saying that and told me how she loved me and did not want me to abandon her. But I believe it was my destiny and the destiny of many Eritreans, I fled from my country which I love on Wednesday June, 24, 2009 with my cousin. I remember that morning as if it is happening now. I, my cousin and a guy named Ahmed decided to leave in the morning and it was between 8:00 Am to 9:00 Am. but unfortunately our friend Ahmed was not able and me and my cousin took a camel and a cow with us and walked for about 2 hours till we crossed the border, and entered Ethiopia. We kept running for about half an hour and I remember that I was behind him and was so tired, and my cousin continuously begged me to run faster because the place where we were was so dangerous if we were seen by Eritrean soldiers then they would take us back and beat us unmercifully and be put in prison if we were lucky but if not, they would kill us and throw our bodies in the border for animals, that is how the system works there. After running we came across an armed man who was working in his farms, when he discerned us he rushed towards his rifle and immediately commanded us to kneel down etc.....

[Click on it for to go to the next](#)



# The big picture

- Self Introduction
- Eritrea
- Eritrean Immigration
- Eritrean In Ethiopia
- Illegal Immigrants' Journey
- Eritrean In Israel
- Eritrean Europe
- Conclusion



# Self Introduction

I was born in Eritrea,  
I was in Ethiopia from June,  
24, 2009 to August, 27, 2014 as  
refugee.

I came to the United States  
through the UN Refugee Agency



# Eritrea

- The Italians created the colony of Eritrea in the 19th and named it with its current name.
- Eritrea is a multi-ethnic country, with nine recognized ethnic groups.
- Isaias Afwerki is the first president of Eritrea and is in this position since its independence in 1993.
- He has dictated Eritrea for nearly 27 years.
- No national elections have been held.
- The government controls all media. In 2001 the government closed all independent newspapers and arrested its leading journalists.



# Speech

There is no the right of speech for anyone.



# Religion

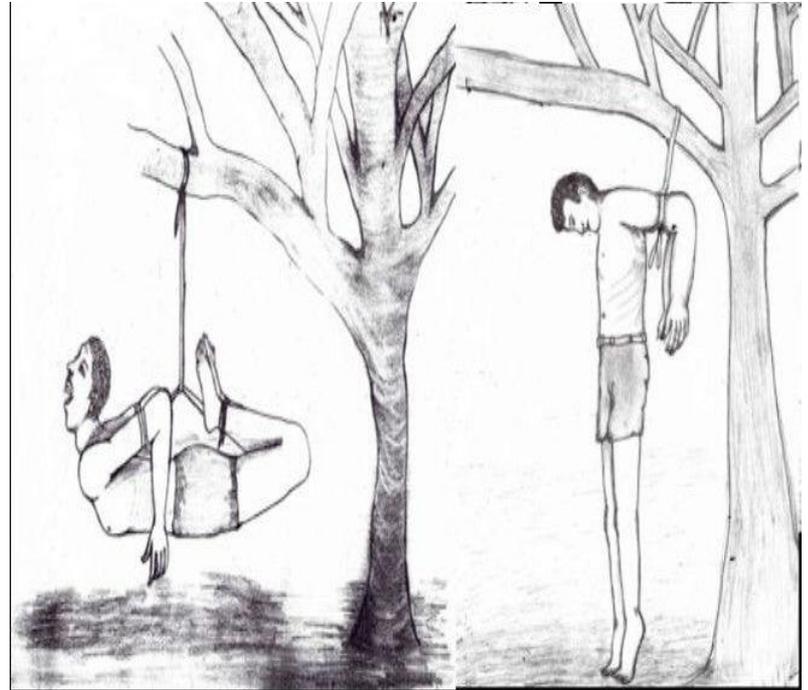
- There is no religious freedom
- The most leaders are prosecuted and jailed by the government.

Abune Antonios, is the the Eritrean Orthodox Church, leader and now he is in prison under strict surveillance and held without charge.



# Immigration

Eritrean people are fleeing the country because the country is in fit to be defined by one word which is “dictatorship” completely. The only way for people to escape from torture is by abandoning it. There was a report from freedom house describing Eritrea as “worst of the worst” along with North Korea and Saudi Arabia.



# Immigrants in Ethiopia

There are four Eritrean refugee camps in Ethiopia namely

- Shmelba
- May-ayni
- Adi-harish
- Hintsats

In February 2017, 3,367 Eritrean refugees arrived in Ethiopia, according to the Ethiopian Administration for Refugee.

According the U.N refugee agency, there are 165,000 Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia.



# Immigrants in Israel

There are about about 35,000 Eritrean immigrants in Israel. they were permitted to stay and work there on renewable visas every two months. But on April, 1st 2018, the government gave them three options. And they are return to their homelands, jail or resettlement in a third country. But now after many protests they were able to get the attention and support of the majority of Israel people as well as the international recognition such as United nations and even jewish people living in United states and other countries.



# Eritrean Immigrants in Europe

Ethiopia is the starting point for Eritrean refugees making their way to Europe. This country has the highest number of refugees in Africa , more than 700,000 immigrants living.

In recent years 400,000 Eritreans have fled their country, many to Ethiopia. There, most live in border camps.



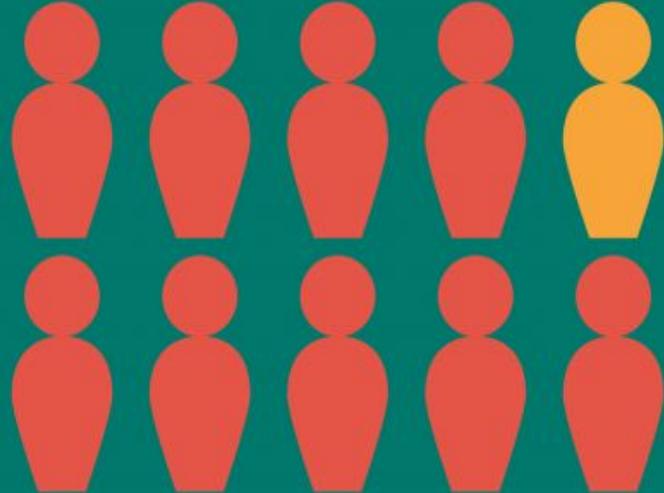
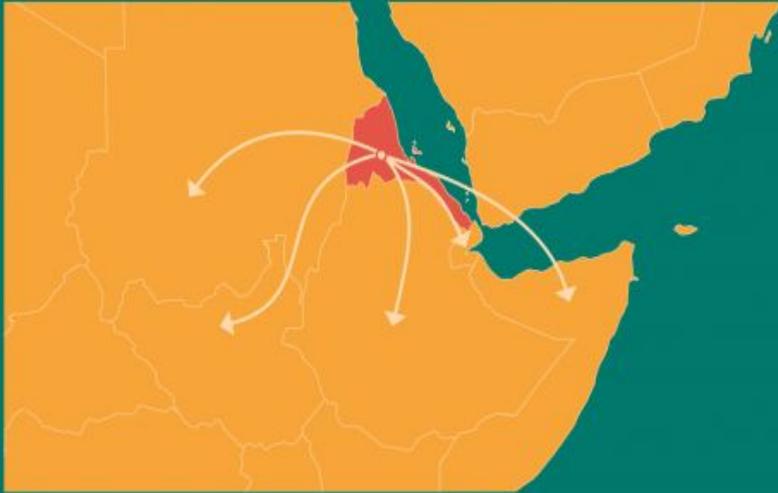
# EUROPE

- Yellow: Cities and Economic centers (major cities)
- Blue: Seas and Oceans
- Red: Mountains
- Pink: The land of the journey from the country to...



In recent years **400,000** Eritreans have fled the country.

That's almost **10%** of the population.



Find out more: [odi.org/migration-decisions-eritrea](https://odi.org/migration-decisions-eritrea)





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