Dear friends of the embassy,

We are deeply shocked and outraged by the brutal attack that scum calling themselves "Eritrean dissidents" carried out against an Eritrea festival in The Hague, yesterday, on 17 February.

It is yet another attack by enemies of Eritrea, backed by the West, on festivals of the Eritrean community. Attacks like those that took place in Sweden, Canada, Germany, Israel and elsewhere.

The media cannot really hide the fact that responsibility for the incidents lies with the attackers, who used sticks, stones and Molotov cocktails to enter the hall where the party was taking place and run amok. The mayor and chief of police of The Hague stressed that the aggression happened in true commando style. Four people were injured among the police. It was indeed the sinister Nhamedu brigade that carried out the attack, like everywhere else in the West.

Despite all these facts, the media in the Netherlands and Belgium speak of "a fight between pro- and anti-Afwerki dictatorship in Eritrea". More than that, they show some "understanding" for the scum's aggression because "these Eritrean dissidents are at an end and want to put an end to the terror that the regime is sowing among the diaspora".

The leading core of these anti-Eritrea campaigns in the EU is certainly the EEPA group led by Mirjam van Reisen and backed by "the journalist" and USA agent Martin Plaut. At an EEPA conference at the EU Parliament in October last year, they declared "great understanding for all attacks on the festivals of the Eritrean diaspora in the past and future!".

We assure you that the Friends of Eritrea in Belgium condemn these repeated campaigns and brutalities against Eritrea and they declare their solidarity with Eritrea's resistance to this scum. I have already received several messages of support today from friends of Eritrea in Belgium.

We encourage you to further call on the diaspora in the EU to further support their homeland in word and deed. We friends of Eritrea are fully on your side. It would be a great honour for us if you invite us again to next your Festivals in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Long live Eritrea, its government and its unity party

Long live the Eritrean diaspora

Le President Afwerki

PS If you have more information on recent events and Brigade Nhamedu, please provide it to us. In any case, we will disseminate as widely as possible the Eritrean government's condemnation of the attack in The Hague