



NUEYS Global

Message from the Editor

Dear Readers!

Greeting from Eritrea! The National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) is happy to send you these updates on Union activities after having 'paused' the publishing of NUEYS Global for a little while. The NUEYS Foreign Affairs Department will be sending out this newsletter every two months. This issue was slightly delayed to make sure to report on the 18th WFDY Assembly, which took place in Portugal early November. We did not want to wait until the end of December to let you in on the successful conclusion of this important assembly. Also, we give you a sneak peak of NUEYS' art clubs attempt to enter the Guinness World Records for the longest painting in the world. On that note, we'd like to inform you that because we've been receiving many requests from youth in the Diaspora, asking how they may partake in environmental conservation campaigns, NUEYS will be developing the guidelines and launching a campaign especially for them very soon! Surely there will be such campaigns during the 5th Eri-Youth Festival (13-15 July 2012). Start preparing yourselves to actively participate in the festival by signing up at the NUEYS branch nearest to you.

Concluding a successful annual evaluation and the 11th regular meeting of the NUEYS Central Council, the Annual Action Plan for October 2011-September 2012 reflects a rise in NUEYS' commitment and activities to mobilize Eritrean youth in the Diaspora, as well as enhancing bilateral, regional, and international relations. For more information about this, please feel free to contact the NUEYS Foreign Affairs Department at any time.

Feedback and contributions to this newsletter are always welcome!

NUEYS Foreign Affairs Department

NUEYS Art Clubs going for Guinness World Records

NUEYS mobilizes youth through clubs as a method of enhancing their participation. This mission of mobilizing youth and students through clubs is a lobbying initiative that opens doors towards motivating them to improve their participation and to bring them to the same national consensus. There are various clubs that organizes youth and students in the extracurricular activities that interest them, but in this article we feature the Art Club as they attempt to lobby to the world in a very 'long' way!

One thousand (1000) youth and children from NUEYS' art clubs, from all corners of the country, are coming together to paint the longest painting in a campaign for environmental conservation. The painting that will compete for the Guinness World Records is under the theme "A Pollution Free World." Environmental awareness and conservation, being one of NUEYS' major campaigns, is being colorfully illustrated by these young people as their art reflects different Eritrean landscapes and aspects of the daily lives of the youth.

How long will the painting be? We're keeping it a secret until the painting is finalized and available for public inspection. But please enjoy the sneak preview of the painting in the pictures below!



It should be recalled that NUEYS members across the country are very active in environmental conservation activities, including tree-planting, terracing, and clean-ups of their communities. Environmental conservation activities also extend to coastal and sea conservation awareness campaigns and activities. The first National Cleaning Day was a campaign initiated by NUEYS as such community service (*maatot*) is a long time tradition of NUEYS, even during the armed struggle for independence.

National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS)

This newsletter aims at:

- > Updating you on NUEYS' activities and achievements
- > Consolidating the global Eritrean youth movement
- > Demonstrating NUEYS' contribution to the general global youth movement
- > Enhancing Eritrean youth solidarity worldwide!

13 - 15 July 2012

5th Eri-Youth Festival

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NUEYS Central Council holds 11th regular meeting

The Central Council of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) held its 11th regular meeting from 28 to 29 October 2011 under the theme **“A mobilized, conscious youth for progressive development and struggle”**.

Closely coinciding with the Central Council meeting was the annual evaluation of NUEYS as a whole, where 285 youth leaders from every sub-zone of Eritrea participated. The profile of participants included the heads of all zonal departments, heads of all sub-zonal offices, and 2 additional cadres from each sub-zone, all of which had to take into consideration gender balance. Each department, zonal office, and a model sub-zone office presented their annual reports. The youth leaders were able to question and make comments on the reports, as well as suggest ways to improve the Unions activities for the coming year.

During the evaluation meeting, participants were also presented with two research papers developed by Union members and were able to comment on them, namely a paper on *“The Current Situation and Future Perspectives of NUEYS Cadres”* and *“The Role of NUEYS in building a Culture of Reading”*.

Different from previous annual evaluation meetings, sub-zones which had conducted exemplary work over the year were given awards based on a criterion that included the number of activities conducted, the number of new members recruited, and facility management (office, youth center, etc.). Accordingly, sub-zoba Downtown Asmara (NUEYS Central Zone), sub-zoba Asmat (NUEYS Zoba Anseba), sub-zoba Adi Quala (NUEYS Southern Zone), sub-zoba Nacfa (NUEYS Northern Red



Sea), sub-zoba Arraata (NUEYS Southern Red Sea), sub-zoba Tesseney (NUEYS Gash Barka), and the College of Marine Science and Technology (NUEYS Sawa and Higher Institutions) received trophies for their exemplary work.

The NUEYS Central Council conducted its meeting after the annual evaluation meeting. Discussions revolved around the issue of raising the political awareness of the youth, an assessment of the Union’s activities over the last year, the adoption of a newly developed result-based reporting system, as well as the approval of the Annual Action Plan for October 2011—September 2012 with its budget. The CC also approved that the Project Department of NUEYS would change its work and scope to become the Innovation and Employment Creation Department. The department will now be focusing on innovation and entrepreneurship development, micro-credit schemes for youth, and vocational skills training.

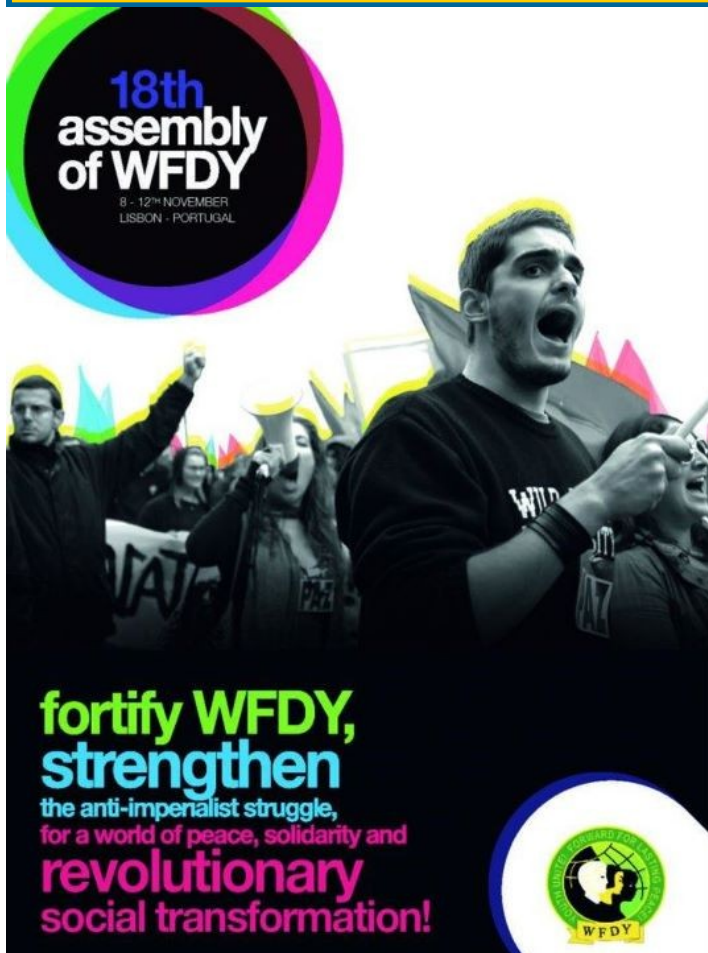
Did you know?

NUEYS operates as if there is a 7th administration zone in Eritrea ; the 7th zonal office is that of Sawa and Higher Institutions. This ‘zonal’ office administers all activities and mobilization efforts for students in Sawa and the various colleges found across Eritrea.

The annual evaluation meeting and the 11th regular meeting of the NUEYS Central Council took place in Asmara, with NUEYS Central Zone as the host. The Administer of the Central Region, Mr. Kahsai Gebrehiewt, presided over the opening. In his speech, he said that the Government is doing its level best to nurture responsible and dedicated youth. He also reminded the participants of the meeting to live up to expectations, to realize their responsibility and duty, and to make their due contribution in nation- building processes.



WFDY 18TH General Assembly Concludes Successfully



On 12 November 2011, the 18th Assembly of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) concluded its procedures successfully. Throughout 4 days, the 82 member organizations present at the Assembly (together with 2 national friendly and 2 international friendly organizations) had intensively discussed all aspects of the life of the Federation and agreed on all documents, reports and resolutions. NUEYS, as a member of WFDY, participated in this historic Assembly.

During the Assembly, WFDY once again underlined its anti-imperialist character, reaffirming the struggle of the youth, together with

the workers, in each country, as the only way to overthrow the dominant order that is imperialism.

In its resolutions, WFDY showed great determination by showing that the capitalist system (now in its upper phase, imperialism) is responsible for the inequalities, injustices and wars of the world, and that the present crisis is not just a “bad moment” or the result of a “bad administration of the system”, but is in fact the only possible result of a system based on exploitation.

Furthermore, the WFDY Assembly expressed its full solidarity with the peoples of Palestine, Western Sahara, Cuba, Burma, and all others, whose fight against imperialism is on a daily basis and demands from them courage and determination so that imperialism cannot defeat them, despite the clear advantage of means that imperialism has to fight these peoples.

WFDY 18th Assembly elected a new leadership; EDON Cyprus (represented by Dimitris Palmyris) and UJC Cuba (represented by Hanoi Sanchez) were elected as the new President and Secretary-General, respectively.

Also on this occasion, NUEYS Eritrea has been elected into the General Council of WFDY as well as the Regional Coordinator for WFDY’s activities in Africa. Moreover, in its Declaration on International Solidarity, and the Declaration on Occupation, Imperialists Dependence and Domination, the member organizations of WFDY clearly state their solidarity with the Eritrean people in their struggle against imperialism, call for the immediate annulment of the unjust sanctions imposed on Eritrea, and are firmly against the recent threats of harsher sanctions that target the very livelihoods of the people of Eritrea. Moreover, the resolutions called on the international community to play its role in pressuring Ethiopia to abide by the Algiers Peace Agreement signed in 2000 by implementing the final and binding ruling of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission.

The closing ceremony of the Assembly was held at Voz do Operario in a rally organized by the hosting organization (JCP Portugal) in the presence of hundreds of Portuguese young people and counted with the presence of Jerónimo de Sousa, Secretary-General of the Portuguese Communist Party.

It should be recalled that on the occasion of the World Wide Demonstration Against the UNjust sanctions imposed on Eritrea (22 February 2010), WFDY had issued a solidarity statement that was read out loud at each demonstration site.



Aim, Courage and Martyrdom: The hallmark of Eritrean Youth By Daniel Semere

For anything and everything we want, we have to give something in return. What we give depends on how much we need the thing we are giving for, for we pay dearly to the things we want the most. If we want to read, then we have to give up watching TV; if we want to buy a bicycle, we have to forget going to Massawa for vacation; and if we want independence then we have to pay the price worthy of it. These are all sacrifices. But sacrifices by definition entail a higher purpose, because what we want to achieve is far greater than what we are giving up. And when this is not so, we say it was a waste. That is why

we have to first weigh and believe that what we want to achieve is worth what we are giving up. Defining our aim is therefore very important and directs our every energy and action. However, it is not by any means enough. Knowing what we want doesn't mean anything by itself unless we have the will and courage to do whatever it takes to reach to that point. Hence, courage becomes an important ingredient to the realization of our aim and goal. Likewise, if we only have courage without aim then it is meaningless because we won't have a destination. In fact, it can be destructive for we don't know what we are doing and why we are doing it.

It is the combination of aim (purpose, meaning, goal) and courage (will, commitment) that make any sacrifice worthwhile and bring the aspired difference. And the beholder of these qualities is what we call the hero. All the achievement that contributed to our well-being in this world is the result of the heroes in every field.

The story of Eritrea is the story of her heroes and their sacrifices. It is the story of the youth who had the time and resources to carry the burden of their society and change their situation. Each generation of Eritrean youth met a formidable challenge. Each time however, the youth were able to prevail over their challenges because they were able to define their aim and commit themselves to their cause courageously. And they paid their time, money and their irreplaceable lives for it. Hence, aim, courage and martyrdom have become the hallmark of Eritrean youth. And through these, they have reassured that no challenge, no matter its magnitude, can stand in the way of these three qualities as it has become the iron shield of the nation. We can trace this tradition throughout Eritrean history, including to the time of colonialism.

Resistance of the youth to colonialism and its suppression means nothing but the defining of their aim. And once they rallied around this aim, it was the different courageous armed resistance, like that of Bahta Hagos, which followed as they paid even with their lives. And in the 1950's, when the future of Eritrea was hanging in the



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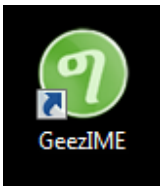
assassinations and murders. The stories of Abdelqadr Kebire, Ibrahim Sultan and Woldeab Woldemariam attest to this fact.

Some aims and goals may not be realized in one generation, but it is the responsibility of the first generation to embark upon the long journey even if it won't be there at the end when the dream is finally fulfilled. But whether you are at the beginning or the end, you only have to carry out your timely duty. That is what generations of the 1950's did and paved the way to the generation of the armed struggle. And with a defined aim of independence, the timely task of this generation was to courageously take on the means to realize it. The only option, as we all know, was fighting for independence through armed struggle, which continued for thirty years. This was perhaps a time where the commitment of our youth was unequivocally shown through martyrdom, and a generation's dream was finally fulfilled with independence in 1991.

In all these layers of previous Eritrean generations there are common qualities and values that passed from one to another. These are a clearly defined aim, unswerving commitment and courage, and sacrifice, the combination of which has always managed to bring Eritrea to a higher ground. It is these values that have always made Eritrean youth the guarantor of the well-being of the nation. Like its predecessors, today's generation of youth are facing a huge challenge of reconstructing the nation and making sure that the dreams of previous generations, which were paid much for, will not be in vain. And these dreams are the dreams of today's generation as well, a dream of having a nation with socio-economic and political security. This might be a broad definition of it, but in each and every field the youth should employ the three values it has acquired from its predecessors. Hence, the youth should define the problem and set the aim in every field, and be ready to make the sacrifice needed. It is the same tradition that is and will be the answer to the present and future challenges, challenges that generations of youth should overcome. Because the history of our youth has asserted time and again that, it has never been otherwise.

balance, though there was division of opinion and hence aim, it was the youth's aim of independence that was professed persistently. And though the youth were in the belly of a strong and alien power, they pursued their goal with unmatched courage. The different political activities through parties, the media and other means were all courageous attempts to realize the dream of independence. In such a great challenge, the sacrifice was also huge, ranging from imprisonment to exile,

GeezIME Launched to the Public



As the use of computers and internet have become essential for the daily activities, interactions and transactions of people, the demand to be able to use these tools in one's language has also increased greatly. However, in order for one's language and culture to be interpreted through technology, it requires the ability to digitally process and publish written materials easily.

The Geez script is used by the languages Tigrinya, Tigre and Amharic; a completely different type of alphabet than the most commonly used Latin alphabet, it not only requires a change of font, but also simple techniques to interpret user operations [usually keys typed on an English keyboard] into the characters of the intended language.

Through the cooperation of NUEYS' innovation and fabrications technology program, *Able GeezIME* software has been developed as an input method editor for the Geez writing system, not only for easier typing but also taking into the consideration the needs of disabled people, both the blind and hearing-impaired.

A true work of genius, this software has been developed by Fitsum Gaim in cooperation with youth leaders of NUEYS and friends of

NUEYS. *Able GeezIME* is really easy to use; just press control+shift to turn it on and off. This new software makes it even easier to type in Geez on an English keyboard than previously developed Geez software. With a voice output support enabled in the software, the visually impaired can have their text read to them by just pressing the shift button and the arrow keys. And, if it suits your needs, you can have your text changed into sign language by just highlighting it and changing the font. And check this out people: *Able GeezIME* is absolutely free! To learn more about the software and to download it, visit <http://www.eri-lingual.blogspot.com>.

Able GeezIME is part of the Eri Lingual Solutions Series, delivered by a special interest group aimed at delivering language related solutions to the public. The Eritrean Sign Language is a recently standardized language of the Eritrean deaf society.

It should be recalled that NUEYS provides financial support and micro-credit schemes for youth to explore their potential in inventions and fabrication technology projects. For more information on how you can support and/or get involved in this program, please contact NUEYS directly.

Dehai Diaspora

NUEYS Dubai Holds Important Meeting on How to Strengthen Branch



NUEYS Dubai and N/Emirates held a meeting on how to strengthening the branch on 30 September 2011. Twenty-five young Eritreans along with invited guests attended the meeting.

The Eritrean General Consulate in Dubai, Mr. Yohannes, delivered the opening speech. He mentioned that it's the right of all young Eritreans to be involved in NUEYS and it is advantageous for the youth to get involved, as NUEYS is an independent and democratic organization. He finally assured that the consulate will be on the Union's side in any of its future endeavors. Following the opening speech, the chairperson of the Eritrean community in Dubai and N/Emirates, Mr. Kemal Mohammedburhan, mentioned that organized youth have a crucial role to play when it comes to nation building and leadership; he reminded the participants that beyond the benefits they get from the Union, their active participation will contribute to Eritrea's future. He then promised that the community will back them in their activities.

The Chairperson for NUEYS Dubai and N/Emirates, Suod Taha, presented an 8-month report of the branches activities. In his report he pointed out that relations with unions and youth in the Gulf, as well as continuous discussions with the Consulate, were conducted to strengthen the branch.

Participants were then involved in discussions on how to strengthen the branch and increase the participation of youth in the Union.

The main ideas and comments given by the participants included:

- ◆ More activities on the introduction of NUEYS should be done among the youth
- ◆ NUEYS' brochure should be distributed widely
- ◆ Activities which can attract youth should be conducted
- ◆ Activities which can solve the problems of youth should be organized
- ◆ The office should have a clear plan and strategy for conscious -building
- ◆ Each participant should mobilize members
- ◆ The branch should create assistance between the youth
- ◆ The branch needs to know and understand the problems and demands on the youth
- ◆ The branch should conduct organized activities and trips in youth activities like football, swimming, etc.

There was a great amount of involvement from the participants in the discussions and the main problem they mentioned was not having a meeting place which, if solved, would create a positive impact on youth mobilization progresses.

Finally to strengthen the activities of the branch, four new members were selected. It was also decided that all of the participants of the meeting will be considered active members who will be part of all branch



Basic Principles that Guide NUEYS' Aims

NUEYS' defined aims are outlined within its constitution, and the principles that guides NUEYS to achieve its aims are the same as those outlined in the PFDJ National Charter. The six basic principles outlined in the Charter are as follows:

1. National Unity
2. Active Participation of the People
3. Decisive Role of the Human Factor
4. Relationship between National and Social Struggles (Struggle for Social Justice)
5. Self-Reliance
6. A Strong Relationship between People and Leadership



National Union of Eritrean
Youth and Students (NUEYS)

BUILDING A VERSATILE YOUTH



Next Edition...

- New NUEYS branch in Abu Dhabi
- World Aids Day 2011
- NUEYS' Volunteer Program
- Updates on the MEKETE Movement

We're on the web!

<http://www.nueys.org>

Send us feedback!

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Feature: Dates for the 5th Eri-Youth Festival Announced

It is our pleasure to announce that the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) will be hosting the 5th Eri-Youth Festival in Sawa from **13 – 15 July 2012**.

The festival is a great opportunity for Eritrean youth in the Diaspora to learn more about their country, heritage and people. Your participation will show to the people of Eritrea that you are interested and willing to fully participate in the affairs of your country, as well as learn how you too can contribute to her development.

The full participation of youth from the Diaspora is crucial to the success of the 2012 Eri-Youth Festival. By participation, we do not mean just attending the festival but also contribution to the various activities of the festival. Represent the Eritrean youth in your area by actively taking part. Areas of participation include presenting the achievements of your youth group, cultural exhibitions, workshops, and more. Accordingly, we urge you to start organizing Eritrean youth in your area so that they can positively contribute to the success of the festival. To sign up for the festival, contact the NUEYS branch nearest to you.

You may find updates about the festival on [NUEYS' website](#) and on the [5th Eri-Youth Festival \(SAWA Festival 2012\) Facebook page!](#)

SAWA



13 – 15 July 2012

5th Eri-Youth Festival