

THE GOVERNMENT OF ERITREA



Controlling the People through Abuse... and Getting Away with It

Stifling Resistance

- sow universal distrust
- jail dissidents indefinitely
- surveillance, intimidation
- abuse relatives
- suppress will and ambition
- propaganda
- no due process or rule of law
- 360+ prisons and jails
- many are underground, unlit
- family of refugees fined, jailed
- assembly limited
- punishment by torture
- no public elections
- perpetuate marshal law

Controlling the Youth

- into National Service after 11th grade
- endless military service
 - essentially unpaid
 - no tolerance of dissatisfaction
 - slave labor
 - few marriages, breakdown of family structure
 - women abused

Blocking Outside Observation

- virtually no comprehensive NGO participation
- strict control of who enters the country
- no unescorted travel outside of the capital
- orchestrated tours of hospitals
- no humanitarian inspection of jails
- foreign in-kind aid rejected
- UNHCR v. limited, peace keepers forced out
- no transparency

Reaching Outside the Country

- 2% income tax
- intimidation, threats of opponents, refugees
- no documents, travel to Eritrea w/o paying tax or revealing family member info.
- no toleration of opposition
- control of Orthodox Church
- non-Eritreans not bothered; low profile
- spies and infiltration

Religious Control and Oppression

- Orthodox Church taken over by the state
- Pentecostals, other COs jailed, abused if caught worshipping
- no worship in the military

Funding the Government

- 2% tax on Diaspora
- wresting funds from churches
- metal mining
- huge fines as punishment
- businesses nationalized
- fund raising from Diaspora

Blocking Outside Influence

- lowest Internet connectivity
- no private media