Immediate Press Release

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Eritrean Authorities Escalate Arbitrary Arrests of Religious Leaders and Elders!!!!

As part of the ongoing national crackdown **on Eritrean religious institutions**, the Asmara regime has continued the arbitrary arrest of prominent Afar figures. On this occasion, the security apparatus detained several religious leaders and elders, **including Sheikh Hasan Hamadu, Head of Islamic Affairs of Arrata sub-zone, Imam Mohammed Humo**, and elder **Hasan Mohamed Ali**. These individuals were forcibly arrested yesterday in Tio town and forcibly transported to Assab **Zerab Gidef** prison this morning.

In a related development, forces under Navy Commander **Mohammed Ahmed Ali, known as 'Wedi Halima,**' are reportedly conducting ongoing forced military conscriptions of fishermen, elders, and underage students in the Red Sea coastal area. This conscription campaign appears to be part of a broader nationwide mobilisation effort initiated by the PFDJ authorities in response to escalating tensions with Ethiopia. The mobilisation follows coordinated actions by regime officials across multiple regions, including the organisation of public conferences with local communities and closed meetings with traditional leaders, during which they urge preparation for war and warn against supporting opposition groups**.**

We reiterate our appeal and urge regional bodies, human rights organisations, and the international community to fulfil their obligations and act promptly to end these inhumane practices. We also call for increased pressure on Eritrean authorities to stop ethnic cleansing of Afar people, arbitrary detention, and attacks on civilians, and to unconditionally release all detainees in Eritrean prisons, in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international treaties.

RSAMC- Office of Information and Public Relations