

**National Council of
Eritreans in Sweden**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peaceful Demonstration by the Swedish Eritrean Community - Upholding Our Rights and Ensuring Safety

Stockholm, November 13, 2023

The Swedish Eritrean community announces a peaceful demonstration in Stockholm on November 13, 2023. This demonstration holds significant importance for our community, aiming to address several critical issues:

1. Reaffirmation of Our Rights: As Swedish citizens, legal residents and taxpayers, we stand firm in our right to freely and safely assemble, and to celebrate our cultural heritage. The Eritrean Festival, a cherished tradition spanning over 25 years, has become an integral part of Swedish Eritrean identity and Swedish multicultural society as a whole.

2. Ensuring Safety: We seek reassurance that our community can gather without the threat of physical harm. The violent disruption of the 2023 festival by approximately 1,000 hooligans deeply concerns us. Every citizen has the right to participate in peaceful cultural events without fear of harm or intimidation.

3. Clarification of Festival Organization: It is vital to clarify that the festival is organized solely by legally registered Swedish Eritrean civil society groups. There is no involvement or association with any foreign entities, despite misleading portrayals.

4. Demand for Legal Action: We call upon the authorities to take appropriate legal action against those who jeopardize public safety at our community's peaceful cultural events. Violence and intimidation have no place in Sweden, and we trust that the legal system will address these incidents seriously.

As Swedish citizens, we firmly believe in our democratic right to celebrate our heritage through peaceful assembly. We demand that the Swedish Government and Parliament take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of our community and the success of our planned peaceful demonstration on November 13, 2023. We seek your support in upholding our democratic right to peaceful assembly and ensuring our community's safe participation in cherished cultural traditions.

We are open to discussions and collaborations to foster a deeper understanding of the Eritrean diaspora's relationship with its home country. For further inquiries and collaborations, please contact us at public@nces.se.

Sincerely,

The Swedish Eritrean Community