

Writing: 9-12th Grade. 1st Place.

Semira Beraki, Grade 10. Mountlake Terrace High School, Mountlake Terrace.

Teacher: Chris Ellinger.

Fighting Injustice

Who do they think they are?

Trying to suppress us

Lock us

Silence us

What do they gain from this?

Trying to keep alive an arbitrary government

Correction, a dictator

disguising himself under the pretense of a virtuous president

That damns not only itself

But the future of the country to hell

Why don't they hear our please?

Our cries?

Our warnings?

Don't they see our suffering?

Don't they see the state the country is running into?

We just got our freedom

We fought

Sacrificed

Spent our blood and tears for it

And is this what we get In return?

Losing our freedom again

It's nonsense

It's ludicrous.....It's injustice

And further on, having rules and laws that don't benefit the people

Doesn't create order

Having a leader

Imposing order through fear

Abusing our individual, natural rights as human

And our people

Our society

Hitting rock-bottom

Why are things like this?

Tell me..... Why?

Why are my people, my fellow Eritreans

My family

Getting locked up

Spending their days in a dark cellar

Chained until their wrists and ankles bleed

Tortured

Starved

Missing their families

Their only companions the thoughts in their heads

And losing the will to live

And for what, for speaking their minds?

The only resort for my people is to hide in their homes

Or run, trying to escape

Giving up this never ending fight

Freedom of speech is non existent in that place

One glimpse of an antagonizing sign

A quiet comment heard

Or any sense of protest towards the government, towards **that man**

Ends up adding a body to the grave, a bullet lodged in their heads

Is this how my people are going to be remembered?

Or rather, how they're going to be forgotten?

The green olive branch

that is the **true** symbol of my people

Of our freedom

Hidden behind *that* false red, blue, and green flag

We're sick of this

And what's even worse

We're not the only ones facing such oppressions

In this twisted world

We have people denied of their rights for the most absurd of reasons

For their sexuality, their skin color, their religion, for the state their government is in

My country

This world

Can't continue on like this
We need to unite our people
Gather our forces
Muster up the ounce of courage still buried deep within our souls
And remember this, remind ourselves

As long as we're still breathing
We can't stop the fight
From the great words of MLK
"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"

We have to push on, no matter how powerless we are
Endure a little more
And from what I've learned from Elie
Who will be missed dearly
To never fail to protest

Because that's what's it gonna take
For all the ladies out there to get their voices heard
For all the Muslims to open up their faith without hate
For every person of color to **truly** be considered
equal

And for the people of my country
To regain not only the freedom that was lost
But their identity as well