

*For God so loved
the world...
shouldn't we?*

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***Praying for the World
One Country at Time***



ERITREA
January 29, 2012

ERITREA



Full Name

State of Eritrea

Capital

Asmara

Location

Eastern Africa, bordering the Red Sea, between Djibouti and Sudan

Leadership

Transitional Government. Eritrea is run by the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ). Other political groups are not allowed to organize, although the unimplemented Constitution of 1997 provides for the existence of multi-party politics. National elections have been periodically scheduled and cancelled; none have ever been held in the country. In 1998 a border dispute with Ethiopia led to the Eritrean-Ethiopian War. The war resulted in the death of as many as 100,000 Ethiopian and Eritrean soldiers, although specific casualty estimates are varied.

Economy:

Eritrea's economy is largely based on subsistence agriculture, with 80% of the population involved in farming and herding. Drought has often created trouble in the farming areas.

Overview

A two-and-a-half-year border war with Ethiopia that erupted in 1998 ended under UN auspices in December 2000. However, both parties have been unable to reach agreement on implementing the decision. In November 2007, the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission remotely demarcated the border by coordinates and dissolved itself, leaving Ethiopia still occupying several tracts of disputed territory, including the town of Badme. Ethiopia has not accepted the virtual demarcation decision. In 2009 the UN imposed sanctions on Eritrea after accusing it of backing anti-Ethiopian Islamist insurgents in Somalia.

Religion

The registered religions are the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church (an Oriental Orthodox denomination), the Roman Catholic Church, and Sunnite Islam, which represents a majority and is often hostile to Christianity. All other religions are persecuted, including other denominations of Islam, such as Shi'ism, and other denominations of Christianity, such as any of the myriad Protestant denominations.



Population

5,939,484 (July 2011 est.)

Prayer Concerns

The human rights record of Eritrea is considered poor. Freedom of speech, press, assembly, and association are limited. Thousands of Eritreans are arrested if they rebel against any rules held by the government. Domestic and international human rights organizations are not allowed to function in Eritrea. In its 2010 Press Freedom Index, Reporters Without Borders classified the media environment in Eritrea at 175 out of 175, the lowest possible rating, and below that of totalitarian North Korea at 174. According to the BBC, "Eritrea is the only African country to have no privately-owned news media", Independent media has been banned since 2001.