

Eritrean refugees



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Teacher Eritrean Refugees Situation Eritrea is bordered by the Sudan on the north and west, the Red Sea on the north and east, and Ethiopia and Djibouti on the south. Eritrea became colony of Italy in 19th Century. This colonial era was ended after World War II and in 1952 the UN combined Eritrea with neighboring Ethiopia under a federation, giving Eritrea two official languages and its own flag, constitution, and parliament. UN intervention did not bring freedom to the poor people of Eritrea. The strategic location of Red Sea proved a great lucrative for USA and formed many military bases in Eritrea. Another major development was the announcement by neighboring Ethiopia to completely disregard UNO. The vested interest of the world powers were in supporting the actions of Ethiopia therefore the voice of Eritrea received no attention. The war of liberation against Ethiopia started which lasted for 30 years. Former USSR also involved in the war when Ethiopian regime was changed in 1974. The situation further deteriorated in 1984 due to famine. In 1991 Eritrean People's Liberation Front defeated Ethiopian army and formed government. During war of liberation the first wave of refugees fled to Sudan in 1950's when USA assisted Ethiopia. The second wave again fled to Sudan in 1974 when former USSR started its assistance to the changed regime in Ethiopia. The last major movement was in 1984 when famine forced Eritrean population to leave their homeland. The flow of refugee is still on due to the oppressive policies of current Eritrean government. The majority of such refugees take shelter in neighboring Ethiopia. Eritrean refugees have taken shelter in different countries. Majority of them are in Sudan but they are also taking shelter in Libya, Egypt and Ethiopia. Along with them there are IDPs also within border of Eritrea. The condition of all these refugees and IDPs is a big challenge for humanity. The reports of torture, rape and exploitation are <https://assignbuster.com/eritrean-refugees/>

numerous but do not reach main stream media. Eritrean refugees are facing multiple problems. In the field of education the majority of UN funded schools are overcrowded, lacking basic necessities of school and majority of the schools are held under tree or abandoned buildings. Similarly in the field of health the situation is even more alarming. All the maternity cases are dealt in the camp inside tents without any doctor, medicine or hygiene. Special cards are issued to the refugees but due to non availability of clinics the facility is meaningless. Malaria and polio are very common in the camps. The situation of food is also depressing. Once a month food is distributed but supplies are normally short. IDPs have to walk for a whole day in order to get the food item. In order to rehabilitate the population one year supply is given to them but there is no training for population to earn livelihood. Related to food is the issue of water. The supply of water was severely disturbed due to famine. At the camps, water is either available by pump or is delivered by trucks once a month. Due to this diseases are common and refugees are suffering. Last but not least is the issue of landmines. The widespread landmines are a major factor in stopping Eritrean from going back home. The issue needs special attention but unfortunately the world community is paying no heed to the issue. Eritrean people are looking to the outside world for help. They are oppressed at home by their own government and outside by neighboring countries. Major Powers of the world are busy in securing their own interests. The situation of the Eritrean refugees called for resolute help from the world community. The bleak situation can only be changed if the world is ready to help the Eritrean community sincerely. References

Connell, Dan. Getting Home is Only Half the Battle. 2001. Specific Groups and Individuals: Mass Exoduses and Displaced Persons. UN Economic and <https://assignbuster.com/eritrean-refugees/>

Social Council. 25 Jan 1999. Background Note on Eritrean Refugees in Sudan
by the UNHCR. 29 Jan 2002