

## **Afework Awraris Degenie's Funeral**

November 19, 2011  
Covina, California

Afework Dejenie was born on July 24, 1958 in Gondar province, Ethiopia to his father Awraris Dejenie and his mother Zenawa Melaku. After completed high school at Debretabor Auraja, he worked as a teacher and taught in an elementary school for sometime. While in teaching in Gondar, he became active in politics of the day disgusted by what he saw and decided to join the EPRP and continued fighting against the then military junta and has done so until the last minute of his life in America.

In 1977, he joined The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Army, EPRA, the armed wing of the EPRP that committed to beat the then military junta in a head-on battle. He has done so until he was forced to fled to the Sudan like many others. Today many of his comrades witnessed how dedicated and brilliant comrade he was and further stated publicly that he was brilliant and faithful to what he believed and stood for. We missed him so much!!

His funeral was held in November 19, 2011 at Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Los Angeles, California where several condolence notes, poems, funeral songs and letters that comforted families and friends were read.

Shortly after his short biography was read by Ato Mekuria the poem written by his wife, Mrs. Abeba Hagos was read. It was very touching. The poem began with their comradeship that they joined the EPRP together, that they fought side by side in harmony against all odds together, that they went school together, became husband and wife, and had two lovely babies together, and at the end she urged him to promise her to meet him there in heaven where they shall live happily ever after death together.

Next, his lovely two kids took the stage; Menbere Dejenie his older daughter sung a song, remembering her experience she had with her father and explained how dedicated father he was and ended that she will miss him forever. And then, Rebecca Dejenie, his second child read a poem remembering her unforgettable experience she had with her father, she went on to say this, my dad is my hero, he taught me everything I needed to know and I promise I will follow his footprint. I know he fought for his country all his life and has been telling me about it she told the mourners.

There were more poems written by members of his family and significant others too. All of them were about how generous and dedicated, father, husband, comrade and citizen Afework was.

Then, Ato Tegegne Mogus, was there representing the EPRP leadership committee. He read the short message of the EPRP leadership committee, expressing how the EPRP is saddened to hear of his death and how big lose it was for the party. Ato Tegegne further expressed that losing a dedicated comrade like Afework is unbearable. And then staring at Afework's body laying down on the cascade, Ato Tegegn Mogus mentioned more other comrades by name that have passed away before him in North America and told

him to tell them that the EPRP is still with its ZINAR to fight on the enemy. EPRP shall continue its struggle, the struggle they were committed to carry on to the end until our country Ethiopia is free from ethnic dictatorship.

Comrade Afework is survived by his wife Abeba Hagos, his lovely daughters Menbere Dejenie, and Rebecca Dejenie, and his brother Tadesse Dejenie , his sisters ; and his nephew Fassil

We miss him so much!!

Yelfiwos Wondaya