

## Few notes about the Late Colonel Ghirmay Hamdo Nafi

Colonel Ghirmay was born on July 15, 1934 in Glas, Eritrea. He passed away on May 12, 2017 and was buried in Megarih, Keren.

When Colonel Ghirmay became of age, he attended school in Keren and finished his elementary education in Keren Catholic Seminary. Later he continued secondary school in Comboni College, in Asmara.

In 1954, he joined the Eritrean police force school in Dekemhare, and later was assigned in Traffic department in Asmara. In 1956, he was among the six officers who were chosen to join the Aba Dina Police Academy in Addis Abeba. In 1958, he graduated with distinction and was back in Asmara with a rank of lieutenant and was second in command of the traffic department. In 1961 and again in 1965 he followed courses in Haifa Police Academy in Israel.



In 1962 to 1963, he worked briefly in Adi Quala and was later transferred to Asmara and worked as chef security officer under General Zeremariam Azazi for the rest of 1960s. It is mainly during this time that he was closely related to and friendly with student militants of the day, including Woldeyesus Ammar.

In early seventies, he was assigned to Aba Dina Police College as a teacher where he served with distinction and contributed in forming young talented police officers in Ethiopia. His service was recognized by many officers who received him with great honours whenever he travelled in the country.

In 1980 to 1986, He was appointed as the head of police force in the province of Illibabor. On his return to Addis-Abeba he joined Shaleka Dawit Welde Giorgis, who was the director of Ethiopian Food Aid Organization in fighting hunger in Ethiopia. Colonel Ghirmay was manager of transport department of World Food Program in Ethiopia, overseeing the transport of food aid from the port of Assab to different parts of Ethiopia.

In 1989, He was assigned to oversee the distribution of food aid in southern Ethiopia. In 1990, He retired and since independence, he was living in Eritrea.

Colonel Ghirmay liked reading books and was very up to date with events. He was multi-linguist, and could express himself fluently in English, Italian, Arabic, Tigrinya, Tigre, Blin and Amharic. He was very humble, kind hearted and took pleasure in serving people. He was very much appreciated and liked by his work mates. His departure leaves a big hole impossible to fill for us.

**On behalf of our family, I would like to express my thankfulness and gratitude, to all of you who expressed to us in many ways, your words of sympathy and condolences, in connection with the passing of our dear brother, father and grandfather, Colonel Ghirmay Hamdo Nafi. May the Lord accept his soul in his Kingdom!**

**By Isaac Hamdo Nafi**