

Biography

Walleign Mekonnen Kassa was born on March 22, 1946 in Debresina Woreda, Wollo, Ethiopia.

He was the 4th son of Mekonnen Kassa, a small business owner and Zenebech Gizaw. Walleign had three brothers and four sisters. He was raised as Orthodox Christian in a liberal environment. Walleign acquired the love for his country from an early age and he dedicated his life to Ethiopia until the moment he was assassinated, December 9, 1972.

In 1954, he began his schooling at the Neguse Michel Elementary School and attended the Woizero Sheen Comprehensive Secondary School, Dessie. In 1964, he moved to Addis Ababa and joined Prince Bede Mariam Demonstration School for one year. In 1965, he joined the Haile Selassie University and studied political science. He was one of the devoted university students who struggled to emancipate the Ethiopian workers and peasants from tyranny. Walleign and his comrades were imprisoned by the Ethiopian government and released after five months. Walleign suspended from university by the administration.

Although, he aspired to be a high school teacher, Walleign worked at the Ethiopian Road Authority as a field administrator after he was halted from school.

As a young man, he was a performing artist and a debating club president at Woizero Sehen Comprehensive Secondary and Prince Bede Mariam Demonstration Schools respectively.

He also wrote the articles, “The Question of Nationalities in Ethiopia”, which states the national repression and the solution for this problem, “Le Awaju Awaj”, an article in response to the emperor’s address in the radio regarding the university students, “Ye Azinaraw Eseregan” (Prisioner’s Azinara) and “Message to Professor Afework Gebereyesus”.

Finally, Walleign body rested at Medhane Alem Orthodox Church, Dessie Wollo, December 10, 1972.