

2011-10-11

## Fråga-svar

### Eritrea. Tvåprocentsskatten

#### Fråga

Information om ”tvåprocentsskatten” i Eritrea.

#### Svar

Landinfo (2010-06-22, s. 3):

Eritreere i eksil har i alle år vært pålagt å betale 2 % av brutto inntekt til eritreiske myndigheter. Eritreere som bor i Eritrea betaler ikke denne skatten. Gaim Kibreab opplyser at inntektene fra denne skatten har sunket dramatisk de seneste årene (samtale i Bern, november 2009). Eritreere i eksil som ikke betaler 2 %-skatten og som ikke signerer angrebrev kan risikere at familiemedlemmer i Eritrea møter utfordringer knyttet til utstedelse av utreisevisa og pass, ifølge leder av Human Rights Concern Eritrea, Elsa Chyrum (samtale i London i mai 2010).

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Opposisjonelle eritreere og eritreere som har forlatt landet ulovlig kan imidlertid signere et såkalt angrebrev ved den aktuelle eritreiske ambassaden. Da vil den eritreiske ambassaden utstede pass, ifølge professor Kibreab. I tillegg til brevet, må vedkommende også gjøre opp for ubetalt 2 %-skatt (samtale i Bern november 2009).

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Eritreere i eksil har i alle år vært pålagt å betale 2 % av brutto inntekt til eritreiske myndigheter. Inntil den politiske innstramningen i 2001, var betaling av skatten lite kontroversiell. Det er i henhold til en rekke kilder en betingelse fra eritreiske myndigheter at vedkommende eritreer har betalt 2 % skatt til myndighetene, før konsulære tjenester ytes (Kibreab 2009; HRW 2008; eritreisk kilde 1, 2 & 3). Det er uklart om vedkommende må betale 2 % skatt for hele utestående periode, eller om det er tilstrekkelig å begynne og betale skatten på det aktuelle tidspunktet. Studenter og hjemmевærende husmødre vil i henhold til en velorientert kilde i Asmara være unntatt kravet om beskatning.

Utrikespolitiska Institutet (2011-07-06):

Eritrea kräver också in skatt från utlandseritreaner. Många betalar, av äkta lojalitet eller rädsla för att orsaka besvär för släktingar i hemlandet.

Human Rights Watch (2009-04-16, s. 75):

There are a variety of ways in which the Eritrean government exerts pressure on exiles for both financial and political reasons. The government expects all Eritreans in the diaspora to pay a two percent tax on income. While taxing expatriates may be a legitimate state function, the manner in which the Eritrean government coerces individuals into paying this income presents serious human rights concerns. If refugees or other Eritrean expatriates do not pay the two percent tax then the government typically punishes family members in Eritrea by arbitrarily detaining them, extorting fines, and denying them the right to do business by revoking licenses or confiscating land. The two percent tax is not only a financial mechanism, however. The government also uses it to consolidate its control over the diaspora population by denying politically suspect individuals essential documents such as passports and requiring those who live in Eritrea to provide 'clearance' documents for their relatives who live abroad - essentially coercion to ensure that their relatives have paid the two percent expatriate income tax demanded by the government.

US Department of State (2011-04-08):

There were reports of security forces arresting persons whose foreign family members did not pay their extraterritorial income tax of 2 percent of foreign earned income.

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During the year some children as young as five years of age were denied exit visas either on the grounds that they were approaching the age of eligibility for national service or because their foreign-based parents had not paid the 2 percent income tax required of all citizens residing abroad.

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The government does not recognize dual citizenship; therefore, all persons of Eritrean descent are considered citizens. In general citizens had the right to return. However, citizens residing abroad had to show proof that they paid the 2 percent tax on foreign earned income to be eligible for some government services, including exit visas upon their departure from the country.

Afrol News (2010-05-26):

The numerous refugees from Eritrea around the world are now mobilising to counter "blackmailing" and "surveillance" of them by "agents of the Eritrean regime." The Eritrean Diaspora claims it is

intimidated to pay an illegal "tax" to Eritrea. /.../ they hold, entertains a large network of agents thoroughly placed in the Diaspora, intimidating exiled Eritreans into participating in pro-regime rallies and even paying a "tax" to their old homeland. If not, their families back home are victimised.

International Crisis Group (2010-09-21, s. 18):

Eritreans abroad are expected to "voluntarily" pay 2 per cent of their monthly salaries to the government. This tax is mainly managed through local embassies and consulates. Many do pay, but increasing numbers, especially of the newly arrived, do not, whether because of their economic situations or hostility to the regime.

Human Rights Watch (2009-05-08):

Many of the refugees we interviewed in Italy and Djibouti feared for their safety even outside the country. The Eritrean government has an active network of informants in the region, in Europe and the United States. Overseas embassies are also responsible for fundraising for the government; collecting a 2% tax from expatriates; and intimidating and repressing the family members in Eritrea of those who don't pay.

Diaspeace (2010-07, s. 13):

Since 1991, all Eritreans in the diaspora are asked to pay two percent of their monthly income directly to the Eritrean government. Although not compulsory, this payment was acknowledged by most Eritreans as a duty. Even ELF supporters have been willing to pay the 'tax' to build up Eritrea (Al-Ali, Black, and Koser, 2001, p. 595). During and in the aftermath of the Ethio-Eritrean war, Eritreans were either asked to pay an additional contribution or the monthly payment rate was increased

The Reporter (2011-08-20):

The 2 percent tax on Eritreans in the diaspora: The Monitoring Group correctly identifies the '2 percent income tax' as a substantial source of revenue for the Eritrean regime. It describes in detail how funds are bundled and transferred to the accounts of Eritrea's ruling regime where, given the absence of institutionalization, may end up anywhere, including at the Eritrean embassy in Kenya, to be funnelled to Al-Shabaab. But the Monitoring Group leaves the question of what the '2 percent income tax is' unanswered. They do not specify whether it is income tax, land tax or consular services or who is required to pay; whether it is voluntary or mandatory; neither do they say who it is collecting the money; whether embassy, staff or community members.

Aftonbladet (2009-05-01):

Alla 14 000 eritreaner i Sverige betalar en skatt på två procent av sin inkomst. Nästan alla ska betala men inte frivilligt. Skatten drivs in av den eritreanska ambassaden.

Migrationsverket (2007-09-03):

Normalt måste eritreanska medborgare betala skatt till ambassaden. I det fall det är första gången man ansöker om pass behöver man inte betala skatten. Därefter måste skatten betalas. Skatten är 2 % av nettoårsinkomsten.

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Denna sammanställning av information/länkar är baserad på informationssökningar gjorda av Migrationsverkets landinformationsenhet under en begränsad tid. Den är sammanställd utifrån noggrant utvalda och allmänt tillgängliga informationskällor. Alla använda källor refereras. All information som presenteras, med undantag av obestridda/uppenbara fakta, har dubbelkontrollerats om inget annat anges. Sammanställningen gör inte anspråk på att vara uttömmande och bör inte tillmätas exklusivt bevisvärde i samband med avgörandet av ett enskilt ärende. Informationen i sammanställningen återspeglar inte nödvändigtvis Migrationsverkets officiella ståndpunkt i en viss fråga och det finns ingen avsikt att genom sammanställningen göra politiska ställningstaganden. Refererade dokument bör läsas i sitt sammanhang.

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