

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 399/92 (AFR 23/06/92, 17 December 1992) - Hunger strike/ Health concern/ Prisoners of Conscience

DJIBOUTI:        Ali Aref, 58, former head of government (1976)  
                  Mohamed Daoud Chehem, former director of finance  
                  Mohamed Aden Aboubaker, insurance assessor  
                  Mohamed Hassanleh Abakari, army officer  
                  Abdoulkader Mohamed Abass, army officer  
                  Mohamed Bouha Ali, port employee  
                  Orbisso Mohamed Ali, soldier  
                  Mohamed Ali Moumin, police officer  
                  Ahmed Dini Moyale, police officer  
                  Mohamed Ahmed Adrouh, police officer  
                  Bahloul Abdallah Issa, businessman  
                  Abdalla Ali Mohamed, former US embassy employee

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Amnesty International has now confirmed that the hunger-strike started on 8 December 1992 by these prisoners of conscience, who were arrested in January 1991 and unfairly tried and convicted in July 1992, ended after some days. It is not yet known if there has been any independent inquiry into a shooting incident in the prison, which was the main demand of their hunger-strike. They appear to have recovered from the hunger-strike after receiving medical treatment.

The government has made no reply so far to Amnesty International's appeals about the hunger-strike. On 18 December 1992 the ruling party won all 65 seats in the first multi-party parliamentary elections for 11 years, which were boycotted by many government opponents.

No further action is required from the Urgent Action Network. Thank you to all those who sent appeals on their behalf.