

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 357/94 (AFR 25/23/94, 27 September 1994 and follow-ups AFR 25/25/94, 17 October and AFR 25/30/94, 12 December) - "Disappearance" / Fear of ill-treatment

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 25 per section.

ETHIOPIA Baricha Kumsa, 38, teacher (released)

Bekelle Wolde-Michael, 58, merchant (released but re-arrested)

Beressa Begna, school student (probably released)

Diyama Kefeni, 55, teacher (released)

Fufa Sori, teacher, former political detainee

Geremaw Gadifu, *kebele* (urban-dwellers' association) chairman (released)

Lomi Daba (f), 13, school student (released)

Napu Bekelle, son of Bekelle Wolde-Michael (above)

Negussie Jiressa, merchant

Olli Atomsa, 64, retired civil servant, diabetic (released)

and many others

new name: Wolde-Yohannes Mengesha, teacher, former prisoner of conscience

Amnesty International welcomes news of the release of many of a large group of people arrested in September 1994. However, thirteen of those arrested, including Fufa Sori, Napu Bekelle and Negussie Jiressa, are still detained in Weliso prison. Bekelle Wolde-Michael was re-detained in December after 15 days of freedom during which he went to Addis Ababa for medical treatment for injuries resulting from ill-treatment.

Wolde-Yesus Mengesha, a teacher and former prisoner of conscience, who had been detained and tortured in 1992, was arrested in early January 1995 in connection with the same case. None of these detainees has been brought to court or charged with any offence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Most of those named above attended the funeral in Ambo of Derara Kefana, an elderly businessman, who may have been the victim of an extrajudicial execution.

At the funeral, several people criticised the killing and called for those responsible to be brought to justice. No official investigation has yet been held into the killing of Derara Kefana.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the arrest of Wolde-Yesus Mengesha and the re-arrest of Bekelle Wolde-Michael;
- seeking assurances that these two detainees and 13 others still held in Weliso prison are receiving humane treatment; urging that they be given immediate access to their families and legal representatives, and medical treatment if required;
- calling for them to be either brought to court and charged with a recognizable criminal offence or released without delay;
- renewing appeals for an impartial inquiry into the alleged extrajudicial

execution of Derara Kefana and for anyone found responsible to be brought to justice.

APPEALS TO:

1) Mr Hassan Shiffa
Coordinator of Police and Prison Administration
Ministry of Internal Affairs
P O Box 5721, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Faxes: + 251 1 552020 (or 514300, 511244 or 514042, via Minister of Foreign Affairs)
Telegrams: Hassan Shiffa, Ministry Internal Affairs, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Salutation: Dear Sir

2) Mr Mahteme Solomon
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
P O Box 1370, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Faxes: + 251 1 550722
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Mr Kemal Bedri
President of the Supreme Court
Ministry of Justice
P O Box 1370, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Faxes: + 251 1 550722

and to diplomatic representatives of Ethiopia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 March 1995.