

URGENT ACTION

JOURNALIST'S FATE UNKNOWN AFTER ABDUCTION

On 15 April, Million Beyene, journalist and managing editor of independent media outlet Addis Standard, was abducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, by unidentifiable individuals in plain clothes. It is believed he is being detained without charge in an undisclosed, informal detention facility without access to his lawyer or family. His abduction appears to be linked to his work as a journalist. Amnesty International urges the Ethiopian authorities to carry out an effective, independent, thorough and transparent investigation into the abduction of Million Beyene, and if in their custody to release him immediately.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia

Abiy Ahmed Ali

Email: info@pmo.gov.et

X: @AbiyAhmedAli / Facebook: Abiy Ahmed Ali

Fax: +251 111 226 292

Dear Prime Minister,

I am deeply concerned about the abduction of **Million Beyene** who appears to have been targeted for his journalistic work.

Million Beyene is a journalist and managing editor at prominent independent media outlet Addis Standard. On 15 April, he was abducted from the Addis Standard newsroom in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, by three men wearing plain clothes who did not identify themselves or explain why or where they were taking him. His mobile phone became briefly active that evening, at 10pm, before going silent, raising concerns among his family for his safety.

While no official explanation has been communicated about who is holding him and his whereabouts, it is believed that he is being targeted because of his work as a journalist.

On 24 February, two months prior to Million Beyene's disappearance, Ethiopia's media regulator, the Ethiopian Media Authority (EMA), revoked Addis Standard's registration certificate. The EMA accused the outlet of repeatedly violating national laws and undermining state security. Addis Standard rejected the decision, stating that it had never received any formal notice or warning of alleged violations from the EMA. The outlet announced that it would challenge the revocation in court, arguing that the legal requirement to issue prior warnings before revocation had not been met, among other legal flaws in the decision.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case. Other journalists in Ethiopia have been abducted by masked and unidentifiable persons in recent months. These abductions constitute a clear infringement upon their entitlement to freedom of expression and press freedom, as safeguarded by both regional and international human rights conventions, of which Ethiopia is a state party.

I call on you to ensure that Ethiopian authorities carry out an effective, independent, thorough and transparent investigation into the abduction of Million Beyene. If he is in the custody of the Ethiopian authorities, I urge that his whereabouts be immediately be disclosed and that he be released immediately and unconditionally and perpetrators be held to account.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Violations of the right to freedom of expression, including press freedom, and attacks against journalists in Ethiopia have intensified in recent years. In January 2026 the Ethiopian Media Authority (EMA) revoked the license of Wazema radio - an online news outlet- because its reporting was contrary to the country's national interest. In February 2026, EMA [declined](#) to renew the accreditation of three Addis Ababa-based journalists from Reuters. [Addis Standards](#) online media license was also revoked on 24 February 2026 by EMA. In a [statement](#) EMA said it had issued several warnings and that the outlet had failed to take corrective measures before canceling its registration under Ethiopia's Media Proclamation.

Ethiopia has a long-documented pattern of abducting journalists, with reporters frequently taken by plain-clothes or masked security personnel, held incommunicado, and denied access to lawyers or families, particularly during periods of political tension.

The right to freedom of expression must be respected and protected at all times.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English and Amharic
You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 24 August 2026
Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Million Beyene (he/him)