

PUBLIC

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Illegal detention / Fear for safety / Fear of
refoulement / Health concern

23 April 1998

KENYA Dima Noggo, Ethiopian opposition representative, former Ethiopian
government minister

There are fears for the safety of Dima Noggo, an Ethiopian man arrested by police in Nairobi, Kenya, on 16 April 1998. He is currently held illegally and in incommunicado detention, and is also at risk of deportation to Ethiopia, where he would be immediately detained and at risk of torture or "disappearance".

After being arrested at the Fairview Hotel in Nairobi, Dima Noggo was taken to a police station, where he was held for several hours without being charged. He was then reportedly taken away by officers of the Department of Security Intelligence (also known as the Special Branch). He was later said to be held in Kileleshwa police station in Nairobi, and to be ill. Police have refused to say where he is being held or to allow anyone access to him. His detention is illegal as he has not been brought to court within the required 24-hour period.

Noggo was at the end of a two-week visit to Kenya and about to return to Germany, where he is resident with his wife, an Ethiopian refugee who is now a German citizen.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Dima Noggo is a member of the Ethiopian opposition Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) central committee and a former Minister of Information in the 1991-1992 Transitional Government of Ethiopia.

On a previous visit to Kenya in 1996 he was also detained, allegedly at the request of the Ethiopian government, and nearly deported to Ethiopia. He was released after a short period as a result of international appeals and publicity of his arrest and ordered to leave the country.

The OLF has been in armed conflict with the Ethiopian government since it left the government coalition in 1992. Peace talks seem to have broken down. There have been large-scale arrests of suspected OLF supporters in Ethiopia during the past few months, and Ethiopian refugees in Kenya, particularly members of the Oromo ethnic group or "nationality", have frequently expressed fears for their safety in Kenya.

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

- expressing concern at the illegal and incommunicado detention of Dima Noggo and calling for him to be released and allowed to return to Germany, or, if suspected of a recognizably criminal offence in Kenya, to be immediately taken to court and charged;
- calling for assurances that he is not being ill-treated and will not be deported to Ethiopia where he would be at serious risk of torture and other violations of his basic human rights;
- urging that he is immediately given access to medical treatment, legal counsel, a German diplomatic representative, friends and any appropriate humanitarian organization.

APPEALS TO:

Major Marsden Madoka
Minister of State (responsible for internal security)
Office of the President
P O Box 30510
Nairobi, Kenya

Telegrams: Major Madoka, Nairobi, Kenya
Faxes: + 254 2 337340 (if no tone, please try later)
Salutation: Dear Major

Commissioner Duncan Wachira
Commissioner of Police, Police HQ
P O Box 30083, Nairobi, Kenya
Telegrams: Police Commissioner Wachira, Nairobi, Kenya
Faxes: + 254 2 330495
Salutation: Dear Commissioner

Mr William Kivuvani
Director, Department of Security Intelligence
c/o Police Headquarters
PO Box 30083
Nairobi, Kenya
Telegrams: DSI Director Kivuvani, Police, Nairobi, Kenya
Faxes: + 254 2 330495
Salutation: Dear Director

COPIES TO:

Mr Amos Wako
Attorney General, P O Box 40112, Nairobi, Kenya
Faxes: + 254 2 211082

and to diplomatic representatives of Kenya accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 June 1998.