

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 35/94 (AFR 25/05/94, 2 February 1994 and follow-ups (AFR 25/09/94, 25 February, AFR 25/10/94, 14 April, AFR 25/13/94, 18 May, AFR 25/17/94, 20 July, AFR 25/27/94, 20 October) - Legal Concern

ETHIOPIA                      Update on arrests of journalists

1. Serving prison sentences:

Tefera Asmare (two year prison term)  
Daniel Kifle (18-month prison term)

2. Released after serving six-month prison terms:

Habtamu Belete (immediately re-arrested)

Girma Endrias

Melaku Tadesse

Melaku Tsegaye

3. Released without charge:

Tesfaye Tadesse  
Keleme Bogala  
Tewedros Kebede  
Kumsa Burayu  
Tolera Tessema

4. Still "disappeared":

Nayk Kassaye

5. Released on bail:

Goshu Moges (appealing against a six-month prison term)

6. New arrests/releases:

Bekelle Mekonnen (released)  
Tesfaye Deressa (released)  
Garoma Bekelle (still detained)  
Israel Saboka (released)

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Fourteen more journalists from the independent press were arrested in mid-December 1994. Some were provisionally released on bond in January 1995 after being taken to court, such as Bekelle Mekonnen and Tesfaye Deressa of *Urji* magazine, an Oromo magazine and Israel Saboka of *Saifa Nabalaba* magazine, another Oromo publication. Garoma Bekelle of *Urji* magazine was arrested in mid-January 1995, taken to court but still held in custody (possibly to be provisionally released soon).

Goshu Moges, editor of *Tobia* magazine, was arrested in October 1994, taken to court and imprisoned for six months for "contempt of court". In December a court granted him bail pending an appeal hearing. He was imprisoned for publishing a letter from Professor Asrat Woldeyes, the imprisoned leader of the All-Amhara People's Organization, declaring that he could not expect a fair trial in a new case against him. In December, Professor Asrat Woldeyes, a prisoner of conscience, also received a six-month prison sentence for contempt of court on account of his letter, and a further three-year prison sentence

on a separate political charge, added to a two-year sentence imposed in July 1994 (AFR 25/WU/02/94).

Dozens of journalists arrested in 1994 on account of published articles who have been provisionally released on bond could yet face trial and imprisonment or substantial fines if tried and convicted under the Press Law, and could be prisoners of conscience.

**NO FURTHER ACTION ON THESE CASES IS REQUESTED FROM THE URGENT ACTION NETWORK.**

Amnesty International is following up these cases as appropriate by other means.