

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: AFR 25/30/94
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12 December 1994

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

Further information on UA 357/94 (AFR 25/23/94, 27 September 1994) and follow-up (AFR 25/25/94, 17 October) - "Disappearance" / Fear of Ill-treatment

ETHIOPIAAsfaw Gemechu, former Ministry of Agriculture employee
Baricha Kumsa, 38, teacher
Bekelle Wolde-Michael, 58, merchant
Beressa Begna, school student
Diyama Kefeni, 55, teacher
Fufa Sori, teacher, former political detainee
Geremaw (second name not known, *kebele* (urban-dwellers association) chairman
Lomi Daba (f), 13, school student
Napu Bekelle, son of Bekelle Wolde-Michael (above)
Negussie Jiressa, merchant
Olli Atomsa, 64, retired civil servant, diabetic
and many others

Amnesty International has learned that Asfaw Gemechu "reappeared" in late October 1994 when he was released without being taken to court or charged with any offence. The organization is investigating reports that he was tortured after he "disappeared" into secret detention by the security authorities.

About six of the remaining 40 people detained in early September are also believed to have been released, although their identities are unknown to Amnesty International. Several others have been transferred to prison in the town of Weliso further south. Most of the detainees are reported to have been tortured or ill-treated. None has been taken to court or charged with any offence.

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

- welcoming the release of Asfaw Gemechu and six others arrested in Ambo and Guder in early September 1994, but calling for an independent and impartial investigation into reports that many of those arrested at that time have been tortured or ill-treated;
- expressing concern that none of the detainees has been taken to court or charged with any offence, far exceeding the 48-hour limit prescribed by law during which detainees can be held without charge;
- calling for all those still held to be immediately charged with a recognizably criminal offence or released;
- seeking assurances of the humane treatment of the remaining detainees and urging that they be given immediate access to their families and legal representatives, and medical treatment if required.

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

Mr Seye Abreha

Minister of Defence

Ministry of Defence

P O Box 1373, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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 24 January 1995.