

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 04/02/96

17 September 1996

Further information on UA 211/96 (AFR 04/01/96, 23 August 1996) - Fear for safety / Refoulement and new concern: "Disappearance"

ETHIOPIA / DJIBOUTI Girmay Moges Newaye-Mariam, aged 38

**new names: Muhyadin Muftah  
Aydrus Hussein and six others**

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Girmay Moges Newaye-Mariam, an Ethiopian refugee, is still "disappeared" in Ethiopia after being sent back against his will from Djibouti.

Eight more Ethiopian government opponents have also been detained in Djibouti and sent back to Ethiopia, according to Amnesty International's information. This appears to follow a new security agreement between the two governments.

Muhyadin Muftah, deputy general secretary of the Afar Revolutionary Democratic Unity Front (ARDUF), an armed opposition group in Ethiopia's Afar region in the northeast, was arrested in Djibouti on 23 August 1996 and "disappeared" some days later. According to unofficial sources in Djibouti he was handed over to the Ethiopian authorities and has since "disappeared" while apparently in secret detention in Ethiopia.

Aydrus Hussein, a former member of the Somali Regional Assembly in Ethiopia and a former regional commissioner in Degabur town, was arrested in Djibouti with six Ethiopian Somali businessmen on 1 September 1996. After about a week in detention, they were reportedly handed over to the Ethiopian authorities and have since "disappeared" while in secret detention in Ethiopia. All seven are said to be supporters of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF), which is fighting the Ethiopian government in the Ogaden area in the southeast. Other alleged ONLF supporters in Djibouti are said to be at risk of arrest and expulsion to Ethiopia.

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of all those listed above after they were handed over to the Ethiopian authorities, and that they were arbitrarily detained and forcibly returned to Ethiopia by the Djibouti authorities.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in French/English to Djibouti and in English to Ethiopia, or in your own language:**

(A) To the Ethiopian authorities:

- expressing concern for the safety of Girmay Moges Newaye-Mariam, Muhyadin Muftah, Aydrus Hussein and six other Ethiopian Somalis who are reportedly detained in Ethiopia after being arrested recently in Djibouti and handed over to the Ethiopian authorities;
- asking for a public statement of where they are held, and for them to be treated humanely and given access to their families and legal counsel

(B) To the Djibouti authorities:

- expressing concern that Girmay Moges Newaye-Mariam, Muhyadin Muftah, Aydrus Hussein and six other Ethiopian Somalis, all opponents of the Ethiopian government, were detained in Djibouti and handed over to the Ethiopian

authorities against their will and without any court process or reference to the Office of the UN High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR)  
- asking them to seek assurances of their safety from the Ethiopian authorities;  
- calling for the Djibouti government to respect the principle of non-refoulement in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

**APPEALS TO:**

(A) Ethiopia:

His Excellency Dr Negaso Gidada  
President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Office of the President  
P O Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Ethiopia  
**Telegrams: President Negaso, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**  
**Faxes: +2511 552030**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

His Excellency Meles Zenawi  
Prime Minister  
Prime Minister's Office  
P O Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
**Telegrams: Prime Minister Meles, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**  
**Faxes: +2511 552030**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Mr Mahteme Solomon  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
P O Box 1370, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Ethiopia  
**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**  
**Faxes: +2511 550722**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

(B) Djibouti:

His Excellency Hassan Gouled Aptidon  
President of the Republic of Djibouti  
BP 6  
Djibouti  
Republic of Djibouti  
**Fax: +253 355049**

**COPIES TO:**

Executive Secretary  
Office of National Assistance to Refugees (ONARS)  
BP 55  
Djibouti  
Republic of Djibouti

and to diplomatic representatives of DJIBOUTI accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 October 1996.