

Six human rights defenders have also been detained - three investigators and three regional managers of the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO) (see UA 165/05, AFR 25/003/2005, 15 June 2005.)

The Minister of Information and the police have publicly accused the CUD of inciting violence and organizing the demonstrations. The CUD has denied both accusations. Some 40 CUD officials (including those named above) are currently detained, from Addis Ababa and certain regional offices where CUD alleges election fraud. They were allegedly detained to prevent them giving evidence to an investigation committee. Two MPs-elect – CUD chair Hailu Shawul and public relations officer Lidetu Ayalew – have been released from house arrest.

36 people were shot and killed by police during the protests in Addis Ababa on 8 June, and over 100 were wounded. On 12 June, an elected opposition Oromo National Congress (ONC – part of the UEDF coalition) parliamentary candidate, Tesfaye Adana Jara, a 24-year old health worker, was shot dead by police in Arsi town, 180km south of Addis Ababa. Police have detained six police officers in the murder investigation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- welcoming the news that 690 detainees arrested in post-election demonstrations since 6 June have been released without charge, as well as the announcement that detainees at the Ziway military camp will now have access to their families and to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
- appealing for the thousands of people reportedly still detained to be transferred immediately to designated places of custody, to be granted immediate access to their families, legal counsel and medical care, and to be brought without further delay before a court to be charged and given a fair and early trial, or else released;
- calling for guarantees that none of the detainees shall be subjected to torture or ill-treatment or enforced “disappearance”;
- appealing for the immediate and unconditional release of those detainees who are prisoners of conscience, held solely for exercising their right to peacefully express their opinions;
- urging the government to establish an independent and impartial inquiry into the police killings of 36 people and excessive use of force during the protests.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister

His Excellency Meles Zenawi

Office of the Prime Minister

PO Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Fax: + 251 1 552020 / 552030 (please keep trying)

Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice

Mr Harka Haroye

Ministry of Justice

PO Box 1370, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Fax: + 251 1 51 77 75 / 520874

Email: ministry-justice@telecom.net.et

Salutation: Dear Minister

Federal Commissioner of Police

Mr Workneh Gebeyehu

Ministry of Federal Affairs,

PO Box 5068, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Salutation: Dear Commissioner

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Seyoum Mesfin, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PO Box 393, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Fax: + 251 1 514300

Email: mfa.addis@telecom.net.et

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 2 August 2005.