

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 211/92 (AFR 25/04/92, 24 June 1992) - Legal Concern/Arbitrary detention

ETHIOPIA: Tadele Demeke (female)
and over 23 others, including:

Shasha Negga (female)

Said Hassen

Said Daoud

Beyene Gura

and new name: Meshesha Mogus, an amputee

Tadele Demeke, who had been detained by the Ethiopia authorities in Gondar since 1 June 1992, was released in Addis Ababa on 10 July 1992. A further 18 people, including Shasha Negga, who were detained in Metemma on the border with Sudan, have reportedly been freed or are shortly due to be released. Tadele Demeke and over 20 other officially recognized Ethiopian refugees had been arrested by the Sudanese authorities in Gedaref in eastern Sudan and subsequently repatriated against their will to Ethiopia where they were detained in Azezo military airport in Gondar.

Said Hassen, Said Daoud, Beyene Gura and Meshesha Mogus are still detained without charge in Azezo military airport in Gondar. These four are reported to be all prominent members of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP). The EPRP opposes the present Ethiopian government headed by President Meles Zenawi, leader of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). Since the detention of members of its military wing in Ethiopia in mid-1991 the EPRP is not believed to be engaged in militarily operations, though some EPRP political activists remain active in exile in several countries including Sudan. All the refugees returned from the Sudan were reported to belong to the EPRP.

Amnesty International welcomes the release of Tadele Demeke and is seeking confirmation of the release of the other 18 refugees currently in Metemma. The organization continues to be concerned at their *refoulement* and the continued detention without charge of Said Hassen, Said Daoud, Beyene Gura and Meshesha Mogus.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express and airmail letters:

- welcoming the release of Tadele Demeke and asking whether the 18 others held with her have yet been freed;

- asking for the reasons for the continued detention of the four refugees

currently held in Gondar, Said Hassen, Said Daoud, Beyene Gura and Meshesha Mogus, asking about their legal status and for assurances that they are receiving humane treatment including medical treatment and access to relatives;

- expressing concern that these four and any others still held may be detained on account of the non-violent expression of their opinions and urging that they be released if they are not being charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

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APPEALS TO

1) His Excellency
President Meles Zenawi
Office of the President
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Salutation: Your Excellency

Telegrams: President Zenawi, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

2) Colonel Alemseged Gebre-Yohannes
Commissioner of Police
Ministry of Internal Affairs
PO Box 2556
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Salutation: Dear Sir

Telegrams: Commissioner of Police Gebre-Yohannes, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

3) Commissioner Hassan Shiffa
Commissioner of Prisons
Ministry of Internal Affairs
PO Box 2556
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Salutation: Dear Sir

Telegrams: Commissioner of Prisons Shiffa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Mr Seyoum Mesfin
Minister of Foreign Affairs
PO Box 393
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

2) The Acting Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
PO Box 1370
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

and to diplomatic representatives of Ethiopia in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 24 August 1992.