

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 25/08/97

10 April 1997

Further information on EXTRA 40/97 (AFR 25/05/97, 24 March 1997) and follow-up (AFR 25/07/97, 2 April) - Ill-treatment / Prisoners of conscience

ETHIOPIA200 students (170 released) -

30 still detained include:

Abebe Desse (economics)

Addisu Asnake (law)

Amlaku Admassu (languages)

Araba Yeshanew (biology)

Ayechew Adane (geography)

Goraw Goshu (biology)

Ishetu Alene, who is blind (law)

Wendwossen Demissie (geography)

Yaregal Asabe (maths)

three new arrests, including:

Yeshanew Zerihun (maths)

Zeyasterey Bekuru (biology)

Thirty university students arrested at a peaceful demonstration in Addis Ababa on 21 March 1997 are still detained. They have been transferred to the Central Investigation Bureau (known as the 3rd police station, *Maikelawi*), but have not been taken to court or charged with any offence. They are now said to be allowed visits when relatives can take food, clothing and other items.

Three more students were arrested in early April - including Yeshanew Zerihun and Zeyasterey Bekuru -- reportedly for urging students to boycott classes in protest at the detentions.

PLEASE CONTINUE ACTION, MODIFYING ANY FURTHER APPEALS TO:

- welcoming the releases and permission for visits;
- appealing for the immediate and unconditional release of the student demonstrators and the others arrested later, as they are prisoners of conscience;
- calling for an independent and impartial inquiry into the reports of ill-treatment.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Meles Zenawi
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
P O Box 1031, 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

Faxes: +2511 550722

Salutation: Dear Minister

Colonel Legesse Tegegne
Commissioner of Police
Ministry of Justice
P O Box 1370
Addis Ababa

Fax: +2511 550722

Salutation: Dear Colonel

COPIES TO:

- Mr Kemal Bedri, Chief Justice, Supreme Court, P O Box 6166, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, **Fax: +2511 550278**
- Mr Seyoum Mesfin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, P O Box 393, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, **Fax: +2511 514300**
- Dr Mogesse Ashenafi, President, Addis Ababa University, P O Box 1176, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, **Fax: +2511 550911**
- Mr Ali Abdo, President of Addis Ababa Administrative Council, P O Box 2445, 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 15 May 1997.