

**PUBLIC**

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**Further Information on UA 154/05 (AFR 25/001/2005, 07 June 2005) and follow-up (AFR 25/004/2005, 23 June 2005) - Fear of torture/Prisoners of conscience**

<b>ETHIOPIA</b>	Student demonstrators at Addis Ababa University (AAU) and elsewhere
	Andargachew Tsege (m), writer, former deputy Mayor of Addis Ababa
	Gebrechristos Haileselassie (m) ] Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD)
	Azeb Amare (f) ] office staff in Addis Ababa
	Endale Hailu (m) ]
	Haileyesus Ijiga (m) (in Bahar Dar region) ]
	Bisrat Abbi (m) (in Dessie region) ]
	Getachew Mogesse (m) (in Arsi region) ] CUD regional branch leaders
	Kemirte Kamma (m) (in Arba Minch region) ]
	Gizaw Gebremedhin (m) (in Jimma region) ]
	Shemsu Sesekicho (m) (in Gurage zone) ]
	and scores of other opposition party officials and supporters

All the people named above have been released, but some 190 Addis Ababa University students are still in custody at Sendafa police training college, and are at risk of torture.

Many detainees were reportedly tortured or ill-treated during arrest or while in custody. Students held at Sendafa police training college were reportedly forced to walk on their knees on sharp stones and do hard physical exercises, while being frequently kicked and beaten. Some prisoners reportedly had their heads dry-shaved with razors. Most detainees in Ziwei prison were held in congested and hot zinc-iron buildings, and many were reportedly beaten.

Those released were among thousands of people arrested in the capital, Addis Ababa, during and after demonstrations that began on 6 June and continued for several days. Demonstrators and the opposition parties alleged widespread fraud in the 15 May general elections, which the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) claimed to have won. Some 4,000 of those arrested have now been released, and there have been similar large releases of people arrested in other towns at the same time.

Writer Andargachew Tsege was released on 5 July, on bail of 2,000 birr (approx. US\$230). He had been arrested on 8 June, and was reportedly beaten severely in an Addis Ababa police station. He was transferred the same day to Ziwai federal prison, some 200km south of Addis Ababa, along with some 4,500 others arrested in Addis Ababa. Conditions were poor in Ziwai prison, but Andargachew Tsege received medical treatment and recovered from his injuries. He was held incommunicado for over two weeks before he was taken to court. In late June the authorities finally allowed foreign diplomats, the International Committee of the Red Cross and families access to the prison. Like many detainees, Andargachew Tsege was accused of organizing the demonstrations, seeking to subvert the Constitution and other offences, which he denied, but he was not formally charged with any offence.

The CUD office staff and regional branch leaders named above were also taken to Ziwai prison, and have been released on bail. Some 40 CUD regional branch leaders had been held in various regional police stations or prisons: all have now been released on bail.

Most of the Addis Ababa University students who were taken to Sendafa police training college have been released, as have most student demonstrators at other universities. The authorities are reportedly trying to identify the leaders of the demonstrations.

Several thousand people, some of whom may be prisoners of conscience, may still be held in official prisons such as Ziway prison (where over 500 are still held) or in army or police centres (such as Sendafa police college) which are not officially designated prisons. The authorities have ignored the legal and constitutional requirement that an arrested person should be brought before a court within 48 hours, as have the judges hearing the cases. Police refused to disclose any information on the whereabouts of the prisoners and it was only after about two weeks that their families found out where they were held.

Allegations of fraud and irregularities in many constituencies during the 15 May elections are being investigated, with the official final release of results postponed. The final round of the elections, in Ethiopia's Somali Region, is due to take place on 21 August.

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

- welcoming the release of those named above, and some 4,000 others arrested in post-election demonstrations;
- calling on the authorities to grant all remaining detainees immediate access to their families, legal counsel and medical care, and either bring them before a court without further delay or release them;
- calling for guarantees that none of the detainees will be tortured or ill-treated, and that any evidence obtained by such means will not be admissible in court;
- calling for an independent and impartial inquiry into the security forces' use of excessive force, which led to the killing of 36 people during the demonstrations in Addis Ababa on 8 June.

**APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister

His Excellency Meles Zenawi

Office of the Prime Minister, PO Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Fax:** + 251 1 552020  
+ 251 1 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 517775  
+ 251 1 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 17 August 2005.