

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on EXTRA 107/93 (AFR 25/15/93, 17 December 1993) and follow-ups (AFR 25/03/94, 6 January 1994, AFR 25/07/94, 22 February 1994 and AFR 25/11/94, 21 April 1994) - Legal Concern

ETHIOPIA:

Abera Yemane-Ab
Elfinesh Kano (f), a popular Oromo singer

Amnesty International has learned that Elfinesh Kano, a professional Oromo singer who was detained on 31 December 1993, was released on 4 May 1994 after paying a bond, without having been formally charged. Amnesty International had heard previously that she had been formally charged but it seems that this was inaccurate. Elfinesh Kano was reportedly ill-treated and beaten and denied medical treatment while in detention but details of her current state of health are unknown.

Abera Yemane-Ab, a representative of the exile opposition Coalition of Ethiopian Democratic Forces (COEDF), remains in detention but has not been charged with any new offenses.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals on her behalf.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters, either in English or your own language:

- welcoming the release of Elfinesh Kano who was obviously a prisoner of conscience;
- urging that Abera Yemane-Ab be promptly charged with a recognizable criminal offence and guaranteed a fair and early trial or released immediately if there is no evidence to charge him with any other offence.

APPEALS TO:

1) President:

His Excellency President Meles Zenawi

Office of the President, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telegrams: President Meles, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telexes: 21050 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Faxes: + 251 1 514300 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs (head of security):

Mr Kifle Gebre-Medhin

Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs

Ministry of Internal Affairs

P O Box 5721, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telegrams: Vice-Minister Internal Affairs Kifle, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telexes/Faxes: 21050 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Faxes: + 251 1 514300 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Vice-Minister

3) Minister of Justice:

Mr Meheteme Solomon

Minister of Justice, Ministry of Justice

P O Box 1370, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telegrams: Minister of Justice Meheteme Solomon, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Faxes: + 251 1 550 722

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Mr Hassan Shiffa, Coordinator of Police and Prisons Administration,
Ministry of Internal Affairs, PO Box 5721, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

2) Mr Beyene Fisseha, Commandant, Central Prison, P O Box 2234, 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 10 June 1994.