

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 25/013/2004

24 November 2004

Further Information on UA 276/04(AFR 25/010/2004, 28 September 2004) Fear of torture/Unlawful detention/"Disappearance"

ETHIOPIA **Abdulaziz Abba-Fitta (m)**
 Getinet Gemechu (m)
 Tesemma Olessa (m)

Released **Abdu Mohamed Zein (m)**
 Khadija Hassan (f)
 Siraj Mohamed (m), businessperson (telecommunications)
 Balina Gudina (m)

Amnesty International has learned that four of those named above were conditionally released on bond in mid-October. They were arrested on 26 August in Agaro town, near Jimma in the Oromia Region along with scores of other people who have also been released.

Concern still remains for the safety of Abdulaziz Abba-Fitta, Getinet Gemechu and Tesemma Olessa who are being held without charge in incommunicado detention. Getinet Gemechu, who reportedly "disappeared" after being arrested, is now said to have been transferred to the police Central Investigation Bureau (known as Maikelawi) in Addis Ababa, where political prisoners have reportedly been tortured.

Many of those who were released were reportedly ill-treated or tortured whilst being held in harsh prison conditions. Several prisoners are alleged to have died as a result of the spread of infectious disease and due to delays in providing medical treatment or admission to hospital. They were all reportedly accused of having links with the armed opposition Oromo Liberation Front (OLF).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please write, in English or your own language:

- welcoming the conditional release of many of the detainees arrested on 26 August 2004 in Agaro town in the Oromia Region including those named above;
- calling for others still detained to be brought to court and charged with a recognizable criminal offence or released;
- asking for urgent investigation into reports that Getinet Gemechu, now said to be held incommunicado in the police Central Investigation Bureau (Maikelawi) in Addis Ababa, has been tortured, and appealing for him to be given access to his family and legal representative and medical treatment;
- calling for an impartial investigation into reports of the torture or ill-treatment of detainees in Agaro, and into deaths of prisoners through the failure of the authorities to provide adequate medical treatment;
- pressing for those still detained to be allowed access to their families, legal representatives and medical treatment if required.

APPEALS TO:Prime Minister

His Excellency Meles Zenawi
Office of the Prime Minister
P O Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Fax: +251 1 552020**Salutation: Your Excellency**Minister of Justice

Mr Harke Haroye
Ministry of Justice
P O Box 1370
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Fax: +251 1 520874**Salutation: Dear Minister**Commissioner of Police

Mr Workneh Gebeyehu
Ministry of Federal Affairs
P O Box 5068, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Fax: +251 1 552020**Salutation: Dear Police Commissioner****COPIES TO:**Head of Security

Mr Getachew Assefa
Office of the Prime Minister
P O Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Fax: +251 1 552020Oromia Regional State President

Mr Junedein Sado
Oromia Regional State Council
P O Box 1917769, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Fax: +251 1 513642

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 5 January 2004