

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: AFR 25/14/93
Distr: UA/SC

3 December 1993

Further information on UA 369/93 (AFR 25/13/93, 15 October 1993) - Legal concern/Fear of torture or ill-treatment

ETHIOPIA: Staff of the Oromo Relief Association (ORA) eastern regional office in Dire-Dawa: -

Ahmed Mohamed, regional coordinator
Abbas Said, project coordinator
Sharif Mohamed, administrator
Usmael Umar, secretary (corrected name)
Ali Haider, accountant
Abdulaziz Abdullah, health supervisor
Mohamed Ahmed, social worker
Tajudin Abdullahi, logistics officer (corrected name)
Mohamed Izzedin, health worker
Ammw Hamid, store-keeper
Mohamed Abdu and Mussa Ibrahim, drivers
Raya Abdi, Hamid Abdullahi and Galaye Tufe, security guards

Amnesty International can confirm that all the above, except Tajudin Abdullahi and Usmael Umar, were released without charge a few days after being arrested in late September/early October 1993. Some were allegedly beaten and ill-treated.

Tajudin Abdullahi and Usmael Umar are still detained without charge or formal legal status in Hurso "rehabilitation camp" near Dire Dawa. Hurso is a large detention centre where over three thousand suspected members of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) are reportedly detained to make them denounce the OLF or renounce their alleged membership of the OLF. Detainees are mostly refused visits from their relatives but the International Committee of the Red Cross has access to the detention centre where conditions are reportedly harsh.

The OLF is fighting government forces in parts of the Oromia region, including the areas around Dire Dawa and Harar in Eastern Ethiopia, where there have been mass arrests of Oromo civilians in recent months. Amnesty International believes that many of those detained, including Tajuddin Abdullahi and Usmael Umar, may have been arrested arbitrarily and not on the basis of evidence of actual involvement with the OLF's armed opposition.

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

- welcoming the release of all but two of the Oromo Relief Association staff in Dire Dawa;
- asking for the reasons for the continued detention without charge or trial of Tajuddin Abdullahi and Usmael Umar, and expressing concern that they may be prisoners of conscience;
- urging that they be released without further delay if they are not to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- requesting that they are treated humanely and given regular access to their families, lawyers and representatives of ORA.

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 Wolde-Mariam (head of security)

Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs

Ministry of Internal Affairs

P O Box 2556, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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

Telexes/Faxes: as for the President

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

Telegrams/Faxes: as for President

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Mr Hassen Shifa

Coordinator of Police and Prisons Administration

Ministry of Internal Affairs

P O Box 2556, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

2) Mr Mohamed Siraj

Central Attorney General

P O Box 4467

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

3) Mr Simon Mechalle

Commissioner of Relief and Rehabilitation

Relief and Rehabilitation Commission

PO Box 195

Addis Ababa

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 13th January 1993.