

EXTERNAL

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Further information on EXTRA 91/97 (AFR 25/12/97, 25 June 1997) - Fear of imprisonment as POC / Fear of ill-treatment

ETHIOPIASvetlana Mamedova (f), aged 44, music teacher

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The Ethiopian Department for Immigration and Nationality Affairs has issued a press statement concerning the case of Svetlana Mamedova, who is feared to be at risk of indefinite detention without charge or trial and ill-treatment in Ethiopia if she returns there from the United Kingdom.

The press statement is critical of the concern being voiced by those it says "are blatantly distorting the facts pertaining to the case... and are even going to the extent of associating the issue with human, citizens' and women's rights." The statement then goes into some detail concerning Svetlana Mamedova's citizenship and residency status over recent years. It also gives information as to her alleged "crime" related to her "purchase agreements to buy vehicles, generators and other materials" of the former Soviet Union military mission in Ethiopia, and her subsequent deportations. Svetlana Mamedova is contesting some of the points made in the statement.

However, the Ethiopian authorities have so far failed to adequately address Amnesty International's specific concerns in this case, in particular the question of what would happen to Svetlana Mamedova if she was to return to Ethiopia. The authorities have also not responded to concern about her previous periods of detention without trial and her allegations of ill-treatment in police custody.

The International Secretariat continues to pursue these concerns with the Ethiopian authorities, but at present no further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to those who sent appeals.