

PUBLIC

AI Index: AFR 25/016/2001

27 June 2001

Further information on 99/01 (AFR 25/006/2001, 18 April 2001) and follow-ups (AFR 25/007/2001, 20 April 2001; AFR 25/008/2001, 27 April 2001; AFR 25/010/2001, 10 May 2001; AFR 25/015/2001, 14 June 2001) - Fear for safety and new concern: health concern

**ETHIOPIA**                    Lidetu Ayalew, EDP Secretary General  
                                  Tadiwos Tantu, EDP Central Committee member  
**New names:** Daniel Demissie, EDP member  
                                  Sepsibie Yimer, EDP member  
  
                                  Students of Addis Ababa University  
                                  Civilian demonstrators in Addis Ababa, including students  
                                  from secondary schools  
                                  Over 80 other EDP members  

---

                                  26 members of the All Amhara People's Organization

Four members of the opposition Ethiopian Democratic Party (EDP), who had been released, were re-arrested on 24 June. According to press reports the police have said they are detained at Shewa Robit Prison, some distance from Addis Ababa. They have not been charged or brought to court, in contravention of Ethiopian law, which states they should be brought to court within 48 hours. They are held in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions and Amnesty International is concerned for their health, already weakened by their earlier arrest. They have not had access to their families or lawyers.

All four had first been arrested on 19 April, after police had violently broken up demonstrations by students and others, leaving at least 31 people dead and many more injured. Hundreds of people were arrested, including over 100 EDP members. Daniel Demissie and Sepsibie Yimer were released at the beginning of May on bail but without charge. At the beginning of June Lidetu Ayalew was released unconditionally and Tadiwos Tantu on bail without charge. Around 80 EDP members are still detained incommunicado.

Twenty-six members of the All Amhara People's Organization (AAPO) are still detained without charge and with no access to a lawyer. They are held in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, and many are reported to be ill as a result. A number of students and other demonstrators are allegedly also still detained without charge.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in or in your own language:**

- expressing concern about the re-arrest of Sepsibie Yimer, Daniel Demissie, Tadiwos Tantu and Lidetu Ayalew, and asking the authorities to either charge them with a recognizably criminal offence, or release them;
- urging the authorities to guarantee that none of those detained will be tortured or ill-treated;
- expressing serious concern that around 80 opposition party members and reportedly scores of students are still detained incommunicado, and urging the authorities to reveal where they are being held, and why;
- calling on the authorities to allow all those still in custody immediate access to lawyers of their own choice, their families, and adequate medical care;
- calling on the authorities to either charge those still detained with a recognizably criminal offence, or to release them.

**APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency  
Meles Zenawi  
Prime Minister

2

Office of the Prime Minister  
PO Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
**Fax: + 251 1 552020**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Commissioner of Police  
Office of the Commissioner of Police  
Ministry of Justice  
PO Box 21321, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
**Fax: + 251 1 550278**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

Mr Werede-Wold Wolde  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
PO Box 1370, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
**Fax: + 251 1 550278**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

General Manager, Public Security  
Office of the Prime Minister  
PO Box 1031, Addis  
**Fax: + 251 1 552020**  
**Salutation: Dear Sir**

Ms Genet Zewdie  
Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1367, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
**Email: moe@telecom.net.et**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

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 8 August 2001.