

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 153/97 (AFR 25/19/97, 6 November 1997) and follow-ups (AFR 25/20/97, 11 November 1997; AFR 25/22/97, 27 November 1997; AFR 25/04/98, 16 February 1998; AFR 25/17/98, 15 May 1998) - Fear of torture/ Probable prisoners of conscience/ Legal concern/ Medical concern

ETHIOPIA Beyene Abdi, 72, former judge
Beyene Belissa, 50, amputee, telecommunications manager
Hussein Abdi, 50, Mecha Tulema Association office manager, former Ministry of Foreign Affairs employee
Haji Sahlu Kafte, 62, retired civil servant, former Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs member
Gabissa Lemessa, Save the Children Fund accountant
Tilahun Hirpasa, former Oromo Relief Association official, ex-teacher
Zewde Chamada
Adam Hussen
Adugna Fitee
 Mohamed Wayu
 Gadissa Boltossa
 Addisu Beyene, Oromo Relief Association
Hailu Tarfassa Tasso, Church hostel manager
 Gizaw Irana, medical doctor
 Tsige Kebede (f), nurse
 Zawditu Deressa (f), nurse
 and 50 others

The court case surrounding the 65 people imprisoned and charged with armed conspiracy in relation to their alleged links with the Oromo Liberation Front is continuing. Amongst the defendants are eight founding members of the Human Rights League (HRL).

Amnesty International considers the Human Rights League officials and *Urji* journalists to be prisoners of conscience who have not used or advocated the use of violence, and believes that some of the other defendants may also be prisoners of conscience.

There has been no response from the Ethiopian government since their initial replies to some Urgent Action participants, which set out the charges of "terrorism" against the detainees and denied that any of the prisoners were held because of their opinions or human rights activities.

Amnesty International does not consider its concerns in relation to the 65 to have been addressed, and will continue to appeal on behalf of the defendants through other membership structures. Amnesty International is not requesting that any more appeals be made through the Urgent Action network. Thank you to all of you who sent appeals.