

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 25/04/96

This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 20 per Section.

UA 111/96

"Disappearance" / Fear of torture

23 April 1996

ETHIOPIA Hailu Tarfassa Tasse, aged 52, church employee

Hailu Tarfassa Tasse, an employee of the Ethiopian Evangelical Mekane Yesus Church (EEMYC), was kidnapped by unidentified persons at about 10am on 17 April 1996 while driving to the Ethiopian Commercial Bank in Addis Ababa. His family have been unable to trace him in police stations but his car was reportedly later found at the Central Police Station.

Amnesty International fears that he may be held in a secret detention centre and could be at risk of ill-treatment or torture. He is a prominent Oromo elder and many members of the Oromo nationality (or ethnic group) have been detained without charge or trial since February 1996 on suspicion of having links with the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), which is fighting the government in the Oromo region (see UA 81/96, AFR 25/03/96, 21 March 1996).

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

- expressing concern about the abduction and subsequent "disappearance" of Hailu Tarfassa Tasse;
- urging the authorities to investigate the circumstances of his "disappearance", including if he is held in police or security custody, and to inform his family of his whereabouts;
- seeking assurances that, if in custody, he is being treated humanely in accordance with international standards for detention;
- requesting that if in custody, he be moved to an authorized place of detention and immediately taken to court and charged with a recognizable criminal offence, or otherwise released.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Dr Negaso Gidada
President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Office of the President
P O Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Ethiopia
Telegrams: President Negaso, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Faxes: +2511 552030
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Meles Zenawi
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
P O Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Telegrams: Prime Minister Meles, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Faxes: +2511 552030
Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Mahteme Solomon
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
P O Box 1370, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Faxes: +2511 550722

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

- Mr Kinfe Gebre-Medhin, General Manager, Security, Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority, c/o former Ministry of Internal Affairs
P O Box 5721, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Mr Kemal Bedri, President of the Supreme Court, Supreme Court, P O Box 6166, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Mr Seyoum Mesfin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, P O Box 393, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia **Fax: +2511 514300**

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 10 June 1996.