

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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"Disappearance"

16 June 1994

ETHIOPIA Mustafa Idris, aged about 40, telecommunications worker

Mustafa Idris, an employee of the Ethiopian Telecommunications Agency in Addis Ababa, has "disappeared". He was last seen at 5pm on 31 May 1994 in Addis Ababa being approached by unidentified armed men presumed to be security officials. He has not been traced to any police station and his whereabouts are unknown. There are serious fears for his safety.

Mustafa Idris was a prisoner of conscience for more than 10 years, and subjected to torture, under the former government of President Mengistu Haile-Mariam, overthrown in 1991. He was born in the Hararghe region in eastern Ethiopia and is a member of the Oromo nationality or ethnic group. The authorities may suspect him of supporting the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), which has been in armed opposition to the government since June 1992. Amnesty International believes he may be a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned for his opinions.

There is an emerging pattern of "disappearances" of suspected government opponents in Ethiopia. In reality these people are held in secret detention by the security service, and are at risk of further human rights violations, including torture. Amnesty International has received testimonies of former "disappeared" people who were tortured in secret security interrogation centres in Addis Ababa in the past year.

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

- expressing concern for the safety of Mustafa Idris, who "disappeared" on 31 May 1994, after he was seen being approached by men thought to be security officials;
- calling for urgent investigations into his "disappearance", and that if he is found to be in custody he be immediately placed either in police custody if suspected of a criminal offence, and brought before a court within 48 hours as required by the law, or released;
- urging, that if in custody, he be granted immediate access to a lawyer and relatives, and treated in accordance with international standards.

APPEALS TO

1) 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 or 511244 or 514042 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Mr Kinfu Gebre-Medhin
Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs (head of security)
Ministry of Internal Affairs
P O Box 5721
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telegrams: Vice-Minister Kinfu, Internal Affairs, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telexes: 21050 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Faxes: + 251 1 514300 or 511244 or 514042

Salutation: Dear Vice-Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Mr Hassan Shiffa
Coordinator of Police and Prison Administration
Ministry of Internal Affairs
P O Box 5721, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

2) Mr Meheteme Solomon
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
P O Box 1370, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
faxes: +251 1 550722

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 28 July 1994.