

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 194/94 (AFR 25/14/94, 19 May 1994) - Legal Concern / Fear of Torture

ETHIOPIAHassan Jirreh Kalinle, former president of the Regional Assembly (parliament) of Region Five (ONLF) - released
Ahmed Ali Dahir, former Vice-president of the Regional Assembly (ONLF) - released
Shukri Yasin, former mayor of Godey
Abdillahi Kalaas, businessmen
Hassan Mohamed Farah, restaurant owner

and eight other members of the Regional Assembly (3 released)

new names: Omar Mohamed Soyaan)
Hassan Mohamed Issaq)
Abdi Sheikh Omar) detained
Bedel Abdi) in
Abdifatar Sheikh Mohamoud) Godey
Osman Abdi Hassan)
Gabon Kenadid)

Mohamed Haji Wahdi) detained
Abdimiyir Abar) in
Aden Abdullahi) Kebri Dahar

Mirad Leli Sigale, aged 58, Mayor of Godey - killed
Mirad Sheikh Yusuf, aged 41 - killed
Mukhtar Aden Gadan, deputy Mayor of Godey - killed

Hassan Jirreh Kalinle and Ahmed Ali Dahir, and three other members of the Region Five Assembly who had been arrested with them in May 1994 and transferred to police stations in Addis Ababa, have been released without having been charged or tried. They are restricted to Addis Ababa.

The following members of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) who were arrested by soldiers at the same time in eastern Ethiopia are still detained:

Omar Mohamed Soyaan (head of the Electoral Commission), Hassan Mohamed Issaq, Abdi Sheikh Omar, Bedel Abdi, Abdifatar Sheikh Mohamoud, Osman Abdi Hassan, Gabon Kenadid, Mohamed Haji Wahdi, Abdimiyir Abar, and Aden Abdullahi.

Amnesty International has just learned that Mirad Leli Sigale, mayor of Godey, who was arrested at the same time, was in fact killed in detention a few days later. Another suspected government opponent, Mirad Sheikh Yusuf, was reported killed at his home on 21 May. In a later incident on about 25 July, another senior regional official, Mukhtar Aden Gadan, was killed by soldiers at his home.

An emerging pattern of human rights violations in "Region Five", including the extrajudicial execution of those held in incommunicado detention has heightened Amnesty International's fears for the safety of all those in military custody in the region, including those named above. Region Five, also known as the Ogaden, and inhabited predominantly by ethnic Somalis, has been a

virtually closed military zone for several months. (See also UA 312/94 (AFR 25/18/94, 25 August 1994) and follow-up to UA 75/94 (AFR 25/19/94, 26 August 1994) for further information.)

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

- welcoming the release of Hassan Jirreh Kalinle, Ahmed Ali Dahir and three other regional assembly members;
- urging that others still detained (naming some from those listed above) are immediately released if they are held solely for their non-violent opinions and have not been taken to court to be charged with a recognized criminal offence;
- expressing fears about detainees' treatment in military custody - citing the reported killing of Mirad Leli Sigale - and appealing for them to be given access to their families, legal counsel and medical treatment;
- calling for an independent inquiry into the reported extrajudicial executions of Mirad Leli Sigale, Mirad Sheikh Yusuf and Mukhtar Aden Gadan, and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

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 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Mr Seye Abraha
Minister of Defence
Ministry of Defence
P O Box 1373
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Telegrams: Defence Minister, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Telexes: 21050 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Faxes: + 251 1 514300 or 511244
Salutation: Dear Minister

3) 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
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 Mahteme Solomon

Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
P O Box 1370, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

3) Commander Molla, EPRDF military headquarters, Godey, Ethiopia

4) Mr Ali Ugas Muhumed Qani, President of the Regional Assembly, Jijiga, Ethiopia

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 6 October 1994.