

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index:  
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17 October 1994

Further information on UA 357/94 (AFR 25/23/94, 27 September 1994) -  
"Disappearance" / Fear of Ill-treatment

*This is a limited action. Please restrict appeals to 25 per section.*

ETHIOPIAAsfaw Gemechu, former Ministry of Agriculture employee

Baricha Kumsa, 38, teacher

Bekelle Wolde-Michael, 58, merchant

Beressa Begna, school student

Diyama Kefeni, 55, teacher

Fufa Sori, teacher, former political detainee

Geremaw Gedefa (note full name), *kebelle* (urban-dwellers  
association) chairman

Lomi Daba (f), 13, school student

Napu Bekelle, son of Bekelle Wolde-Michael (above)

Negussie Jiressa, merchant

Olli Atomsa, 64, retired civil servant, diabetic  
and many others

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**new name: Bekelle Argaw, former army captain, killed by soldiers**

About 40 persons are still being detained from the wave of arrests in Ambo and Guder in early September 1994, following the killing by soldiers of Derara Kefana. None has been taken to court yet. Nine of the detainees - including Bekelle Wolde-Michael, Olli Atomsa, Diyama Kefeni, Baricha Kumsa, Geremaw Gedefa and Fufa Sori - were reportedly beaten and transferred from Ambo police station to incommunicado military custody in Humbacho arms factory near Ambo.

Asfaw Gemechu, who is still "disappeared", may be held in army custody in the former palace in Ambo, according to reports.

In a related incident in Ambo on 26 September, Bekelle Argaw, a former army captain under the previous government, was killed by soldiers at his home in front of his family. The soldiers reportedly shot him dead as soon as they verified his identity, without any warning from them and without any resistance on his part. They also beat his family who witnessed the shooting. He appears to have been extrajudicially executed on suspicion of supporting the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF).

Ten police officers in Ambo, including Captain Shifferaw Heyi, Sergeant-Major Girma Bekelle and Corporal Gudissa Bayatta, are reported to have been arrested and four others sacked for opposing the ill-treatment of detainees by government soldiers and for demanding that they should be taken to court in accordance with the law.

There has been no official investigation so far established into the killing of Derara Kefana, which was followed by these arrests, nor of the killing of Bekelle Argaw.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters:**

- expressing concern that over 30 of the detainees arrested in Ambo and Guder in early September have not yet been taken to court, that Asfaw Gemechu is still "disappeared" and feared held secretly in army custody, that nine other detainees have been ill-treated and transferred to secret army custody;
- expressing further concern that several police officers have also been detained for opposing the ill-treatment and illegal detention;
- calling for all the detainees to be brought immediately before a court, held in an authorised place of custody, and given access to their families, lawyers and doctors;
- repeating calls for an independent and impartial inquiry into the alleged extrajudicial executions of Derara Kefana and Bekelle Argaw, and into the reports of ill-treatment of detainees.

**APPEALS TO**

1) Mr Hassan Shiffa

Coordinator of Police and Prison Administration

Ministry of Internal Affairs

P O Box 5721, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Faxes: + 251 1 552020 (or 514300, 511244 or 514042, via Minister of Foreign Affairs)**

**Telegrams: Hassan Shiffa, Ministry Internal Affairs, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Salutation: Dear Sir**

2) Mr Mahteme Solomon

Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice

P O Box 1370, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Faxes: + 251 1 550722**

**Telegrams: Justice Minister, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Mr Kinfe Gebre-Medhin

Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs (head of security)

Ministry of Internal Affairs

P O Box 5721

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Faxes: + 251 1 552020 (or 514300, 511244 or 514042, via Minister of Foreign Affairs)**

Mr Kemal Bedri

President of the Supreme Court

Ministry of Justice

P O Box 1370, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Faxes: + 251 1 550722**

Mr Seye Abreha

Minister of Defence  
Ministry of Defence  
P O Box 1373, Addis Ababa, 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 28 November 1994.