

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 263/98 (AFR 25/26/98, 7 October 1998) - Health Concern

ETHIOPIA Shimelis Zewde, acting general secretary of the Ethiopian Teachers Association

Shimelis Zewde was released from detention on 15 or 16 October 1998. He was reportedly very sick on his release.

Shimelis was reportedly denied regular access to medication during his detention, contrary to the instructions of his doctor. However, he was permitted some medication at irregular intervals. The lack of appropriate medical attention and the cramped conditions of his detention have reportedly caused his condition to deteriorate seriously.

Background information

The two other members of the executive committee of the Ethiopian Teachers Association, Abate Angore and Aworke Mulugeta, have also been released. Amnesty International considers all three detainees to have been prisoners of conscience detained because of their trade union activities.

No further action is required from the UA network. Thank you to all who sent appeals. Amnesty International will continue to follow closely developments surrounding Shimelis Zewde and the others should charges follow their release.