



Nazareth), a town 100km east of Addis Ababa. The transfer was perceived to be against Oromo interests. Many are still detained without charge or trial, although some have been released.

Other Oromo prisoners who may also, like many of these demonstrators, be prisoners of conscience, include MTA board members Legessa Yedeta (m), Dechassa Benti (m) and Shane Korma (m); former MTA Secretary Legessa Detti (m) and MTA office staff Ayelew Itissa (f) and Jigas Abdeta (m); several other MTA members; journalists Dabassa Wakjira (m) and Shifferaw Insarmu (m), from the state-controlled Oromo-language television service, accused of passing information to the OLF; Derare Abdissa (m) of Finfine Oromo Self-Help Organization; and several other AAU students. Ashebir Kebede (m), Lelisse Timkata (f) and Fikreselassie Bulcha (m) of development NGO *Hundee* have, however, been released.

The MTA, the main Oromo welfare association, which constantly denies accusations of supporting the OLF has had computers and equipment seized, and bank account frozen. In mid-July, the Ministry of Justice closed down its offices, alleging it had engaged in political activity.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:**

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Mecha Tulema Association officials Diribi Demissie, Gemechu Fayera and Sentayehu Workneh, who Amnesty International believes are prisoners of conscience who have not used or advocated violence;
- urging the authorities to allow all the detainees named above access to their families, legal counsel and any medical treatment they may require;
- asking for them to given access to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which visits prisoners in Ethiopia;
- calling for urgent investigation into the arbitrary detentions of other MTA officials, former officials or members, such as Dechassa Benti, Legesse Detti, Legessa Yadeta and Shane Korma, who are also held incommunicado without charge (naming some of those mentioned above and immediately brought before a court and either charged with a criminal offence or released.

**APPEALS TO:**

Prime Minister

His Excellency Meles Zenawi  
Office of the Prime Minister  
P O Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Fax: +251 1 552020**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of Justice

Mr Harke Haroye  
Ministry of Justice  
P O Box 1370

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Fax: +251 1 520874**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Commissioner of Police

Mr Workneh Gebeyehu  
Ministry of Federal Affairs  
P O Box 5068, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Fax: +251 1 552020**

**Salutation: Dear Police Commissioner**

**COPIES TO:**

Head of Security

Mr Getachew Assefa  
Office of the Prime Minister  
P O Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Fax: +251 1 552020**

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 16 August 2004.