

EXTERNAL

AI Index: AFR 25/13/95

This is a limited UA. Please limit appeals to 10 per section.

20 November 1995

Further information on UA 230/95 (AFR 25/12/95, 3 October 1995) - Fear of ill-treatment / Legal concern

ETHIOPIA Five staff of the Oromo Relief Association:

Martha Arero (f), store-keeper
Fraol Galata, project officer
~~Hailu Gamachu, accountant~~

Aba Gada, accountant
Kenasa, storekeeper

Amnesty International has learned that Aba Gada and Kenasa, arrested in Chinka on 29 September 1995, were released in late October. The organization has no details of their treatment while in custody.

However, Martha Arero, Fraol Galata and Hailu Gamachu, arrested on 21 September in the southern Ethiopian town of Negelle Borana, are still in Negelle Borana prison. They have appeared in court, but have not been charged and remain held incommunicado for investigation.

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

- welcoming the release in late October of Aba Gada and Kenasa;
- expressing concern at the continued detention without charge of three other Oromo Relief Association staff - Martha Arero, Fraol Galata and Hailu Gamachu - who appear to be prisoners of conscience;
- appealing for their immediate and unconditional release if they are not charged with a recognizable criminal offence and given a prompt and fair trial;
- requesting guarantees that they are being humanely treated in prison and that they are allowed immediate and regular visits by their families, legal representatives and medical doctors if needed.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Dr Negaso Gidada
President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Office of the President
P O Box 1031, Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
Telegrams: Dr Gidada, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Faxes: +2511 552030
Salutation: Your Excellency

Mr Kuma Demeksa
President of Oromia
Oromia Regional State Council
P O Box 62259, Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
Telegrams: Mr Demeksa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Salutation: Dear President Demeksa

Mr Mahteme Solomon

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

Telegrams: Minister Solomon, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Faxes: +2511 550722

Salutation: Minister Solomon

COPIES TO:

- His Excellency Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Prime Minister's Office, P O Box 1031, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Mr Kifle Gebre-Medhin, General Manager, Security, Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority, c/o former Ministry of Internal Affairs, P O Box 5721, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Mr Simon Mechale, Commissioner for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness, former Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, P O Box 195, 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 5 January 1996.