

PUBLIC

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Further information on UA 56/98 (AFR 25/06/98, 20 February 1998) - Prisoners of conscience / Legal concern

ETHIOPIA Kifle Mulat, chairperson of the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists Association (EFPJA), journalist on *Ethio-Times*

Goshu Moges, journalist, *Tobia*

Taye Belachew, journalist, *Tobia*

Birru Tsegaye, journalist, *Tobia*

Anteneh Merid, journalist, *Tobia*, and EFPJA committee member

Alemayehu Kifle, journalist, *Zegabi* - released

Lulu Kebede, journalist, *Nega*

Mukenil Shebo, journalist, *Beza* - released

Tamrat Gameda, journalist, *Seife Nebelbel* - released

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News has been received concerning the recent release from detention of journalists Alemayehu Kifle, Mukenil Shebo and Tamrat Gameda. They were arrested on separate occasions between mid-January and February 1998 for writing articles critical of the government.

The other above-named journalists remain in detention without charge despite many court appearances since their arrests. They are now believed to have access to their families and lawyers. Amnesty International considers them to be prisoners of conscience detained solely for their peaceful journalistic activities.

Kifle Mulat was arrested on 11 February 1998, reportedly for refusing to amend a press release containing details of journalists in prison. Goshu Moges, Taye Belachew, Birru Tsegaye and Anteneh Merid of *Tobia*, a leading Amharic-language private weekly newspaper, were arrested on 16 January.

Although further arrests of journalists are occurring, no further action through the urgent action network is requested. Action will continue to be taken by Amnesty International against repression of the private press in Ethiopia through other means (see "Ethiopia: Journalists in prison, press freedom under attack", April 1998, AI Index: AFR 25/10/98).

Many thanks to all who sent appeals.