

President Isaias Afewerki
Office of the President
PO Box 257
Asmara
ERITREA

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you concerning journalist Dawit Isaak. He was arrested on 23 September 2001, during a crackdown on independent media in Eritrea. He has since been held incommunicado by the Eritrean authorities who refuse to disclose his whereabouts or details of his health and well-being. Sources have said that the government accuses Dawit of being a "traitor", though he has never been charged or brought to trial. The African Commission on Human and People's Rights decided in May 2007 that those arrested in September 2001 in Eritrea, including Dawit Isaak, were being held in arbitrary and unlawful detention. It called upon the Eritrean government to release the men and compensate them. The Government of Eritrea has ignored the decision and journalists arrested in September 2001 remain in secret, unlawful detention.

Therefore, I urge you to disclose Dawit Isaak's whereabouts and immediately and unconditionally release him as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained for his peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression. In the meantime, please ensure that he is granted regular and unfettered access to his lawyer and family in detention.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

Botschaft des Staates Eritrea
Herrn Yohannes Woldu Habtemikael
Stavangerstraße 18
10439 Berlin

Fax: 030 – 44 67 46 21
E-Mail: embassyeritrea@t-online.de