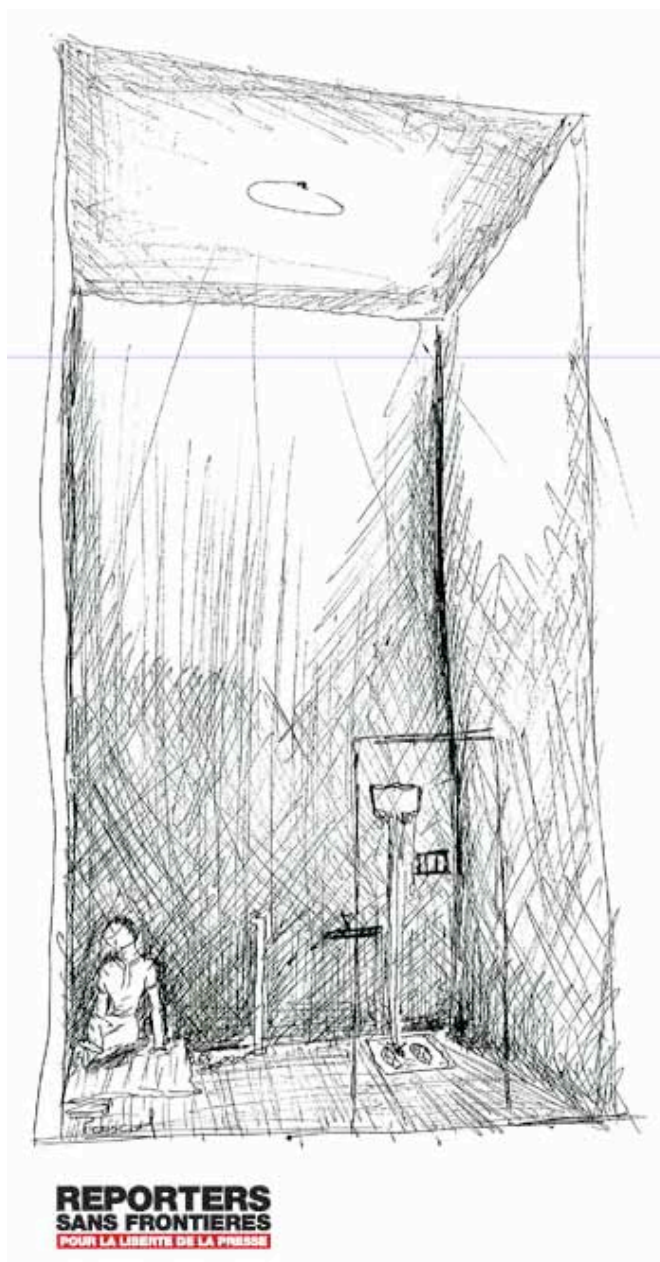


## ERITREA

### Journalists in prison

September 2011



## Journalists currently in prison



### Amanuel Asrat

- Aged 31 at the time of his arrest
- Editor, *Zemen (The Time)*
- Agronomy Graduate, former EPLF fighter
- Arrested : 18 September 2001
- Place of detention : Eiraeiro Prison Camp, Prisoner N°25



### Mattewos Habteab

- Aged 30 at the time of his arrest
- Editor, co-founder, *Meqaleh*
- Mathematics Graduate
- Arrested : 19 September 2001
- **Place of detention : Unconfirmed.** In December 2008, he was transferred to the Dahlaks Islands.



### Temesghen Gebreyesus

- Aged 36 at the time of his arrest
- Sports Journalist, member of the board of directors, *Keste Debena (Rainbow)*
- Married, one son
- Arrested : 20 September 2001
- **Place of detention : Unconfirmed.** Up to December 2008, was in Eiraeiro Prison Camp, Prisoner N°23. After December 2008, was held in the Dahlaks Islands.

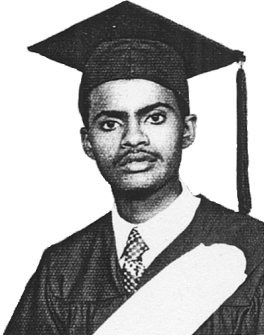
### Seyoum Tsehaye



- Aged 49 at the time of his arrest
- Freelance photographer and journalist, former director of *Eri-TV*
- Former EPLF fighter and author of several documentaries on the independence war
- Married, two children (living in France with their mother where the three of them have been granted asylum)
- Arrested : 21 September 2001

- Place of detention : Eiraeiro Prison Camp, Prisoner N°10
- Winner in December 2007 of the Reporters Without Borders – Fondation de France press freedom prize

## Dawit Habtemichael



- Aged 30 at the time of his arrest
- Deputy editor and cofounder, *Meqaleh*
- Physics graduate
- Arrested : around 21 September 2001 after several days in hiding
- Place of detention : Eiraeiro Prison Camp, Prisoner N°12



## Dawit Isaac

- Aged 38 at the time of his arrest
- Owner and co-founder, *Setit*
- **Holds dual Eritrean and Swedish nationality**
- Married, three children (in exile in Sweden)
- Arrested : 23 September 2001
- Transferred to Halibet Hospital in March 2002 after he was ill-treated in detention
- **Place of detention : Uncertain. Believed to be Embatkala jail in Ghinda (35 kilometres north-west of the capital, on the road to the port city of Massawa). Others say he might be at Karsheli prison in Asmara or in Eiraeiro prison camp (source : former prison guard in exile in Ethiopia).**
- Briefly released on November 19, 2005. Detained again on November 23. Interim Information Minister Ali Abdu explained he was only allowed to have a "medical check-up"
- **Deteriorating health condition.** Unconfirmed reports said he might have been treated either at Halibet or Sembel Hospital in Asmara. At some point in 2009, he was taken to the Air Force Hospital in Asmara and also admitted twice to Asmara's Kedeste Mariam (St. Mary) Hospital, a psychiatric clinic.



## Hamid Mohamed Said

- Aged 39 at the time of his arrest
- Sports journalist, arab section, *Eri-TV*
- Arrested : February 2002
- Could be accused on leaking documents to foreign diplomats
- Place of detention : Unknown



## Saleh Al Jezaeri

- Aged unknown at the time of his arrest
- Reporter, arab section, radio *Dimtsi Hafash* and *Hadas Eritrea* newspaper
- Arrested : February 2002
- Reason of arrest unknown
- Place of detention : Unknown



## Daniel Musie

- Aged unknown at the time of his arrest
- Reporter, oromo section, *Radio Dimtsi Hafash*
- Arrested : November 2006
- Around 30 journalists employed by state media were picked up in a wave of arrests that began on 12 November 2006, following the defection of several leading journalists. It seems the authorities were very annoyed by the defections and arrested colleagues suspected of keeping in touch with the fugitives or intending to defect themselves. All except Daniel Musie of radio *Dimtsi Hafash's* Oromo-language service were eventually released on bail but remain under surveillance in Asmara.
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito



## Identity unknown

- In his forties at the time of his arrest
- Journalist, *Hadas Eritrea*
- Arrested : Week of 12-16 March 2007
- Reason of arrest unknown
- Place of detention : Unknown



## **Ibrahim Abdella**

- Aged unknown at the time of his arrest
- Archives employee, *Eri-TV*
- Arrested : Week of 12-16 March 2007
- Reason of arrest unknown
- Place of detention : Unknown



## **Identity unknown, ministry of Information employee**

- News archives employee, *Eri-TV*
- Arrested : Week of 12-16 March 2007 with Ibrahim Abdella
- Reason of arrest unknown
- Place of detention : Unknown



## **Eyob Netserab**

- Aged unknown at the time of his arrest
- Amharic section, radio *Dimtsi Hafash* (The Voice of the Masses)
- Arrested : 2007
- Place of detention : Karsheli prison, 2<sup>nd</sup> police station, Asmara
- Very bad health condition



## **Isaac Abraham**

- Aged unknown at the time of his arrest
- Two children
- Former Journalist for *Eri TV*, and then producer of the Sunday entertainment programm for radio *Dimtsi Hafash*
- Arrested : 2008 (on the same day than Mulubrhan Habtegebriel, Ghirmay Abraham and Nega Woldegeorgis)
- Place of detention : Unknown. Was first taken taken to May Srwa and then transfered, most probably at Adi Abeito military prison
- Reasons : Unknown



## Mulubrhan Habtegebriel

- Aged unknown at the time of his arrest
- Worked for the former twice weekly *Meqalih* and for *Setit*
- Essayist, columnist for *Hadas Eritrea*
- Single
- Arrested : 2008 (on the same day than Isaac Abraham, Ghirmay Abraham and Nega Woldegeorgis)
- Place of detention : At first : May Srwa. Now : Adi Abeito. Along with other prisoners, he was taken by armoured cars at night on 22 May 2009 to an unknown destination and then sent back to Adi Abeito.
- Reasons : Unknown



## Girmay Abraham

- Aged unknown at the time of his arrest
- Artist, poet, and journalist on radio *Dimtsi Hafash*
- Arrested : 2008 (on the same day than Isaac Abraham, Mulubrhan Habtegebriel and Nega Woldegeorgis)
- Place of detention : Unconfirmed. At first, he was taken to May Srwa. He was then held in the Doboito detention centre and finally in the military prison of Adi Abeito. No news since then.



## Nega Woldegeorgis

- Anesthetist in Massawa
- Freelancer
- Presenter of a sports programm on *Radio Zara* and radio *Dimtsi Hafash*
- Occasional contributor to daily *Hadas Eritrea*
- Arrested : 2007 or 2008. Was first caught when trying to cross the border to Sudan. Was shortly released and then caught again, on the same day than Isaac Abraham, Mulubrhan Habtegebriel and Ghirmay Abraham)
- Place of detention : Unconfirmed. Some sources say May Srwa whereas other sources say Adi Abeito.



## Bereket Misghina

- Also known as Wedi Misghina
- Aged unknown (around 38) at the time of his arrest
- Famous actor and playwright (top young Eritrean play writers)
- Staff member at Radio Bana
- Single. Comes from a very prominent family in Keren (North)
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : May Srwa. He was first held in the Doboziro detention centre and then in the military prison in Adi Abeito. Along with other prisoners, he was taken by armored cars at night on 22 May 2009 to an unknown destination and then sent back to Adi Abeito. Was later transferred to May Srwa.
- Reasons for his arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government
- Was tortured in 2002 after a showing of his film, *Fitsamet*



## Yirgalem Fisseha Mebrahtu

- Aged 27 at the time of her arrest
- She is from Adi Keyih (south of Eritrea)
- Active leader of the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) in Adi Keyih
- Poet and teacher
- Essayist and former art critic for the weekly *Zemen*
- Journalist, staff member at *Radio Bana*
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : May Srwa
- Reason for her arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government



## Basilios Zemo

- Also known as Wedi Zemo
- Aged around 45 at the time of his arrest, father of three children
- Career teacher and member of the revolutionary school
- Director, *Radio Bana*



- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito. He was taken without explanation to the Doboziro detention centre and then to the military prison in Adi Abeito
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government



## Senait Habtu

- Female. Aged unknown at the time of her arrest
- Teacher
- Former journalist for the amharic section of radio *Dimtsi Hafash*
- Staff member at *Radio Bana*, working in the production studio
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito. She was taken without explanation to the Doboziro detention centre and then to the military prison in Adi Abeito
- Reasons for her arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government



## Meles Negusse Kiflu

- Aged unknown at the time of his arrest
- Writer and very famous poet
- Journalist for *Radio Bana*
- Formerly working for *Tsegenay* independent newspaper
- Former presenter of a poetry programme on *Eri TV* called "Remta"
- Married, two children
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : May Srwa. He was first held in the Doboziro detention centre and then in the military prison in Adi Abeito. Along with other prisoners, he was taken by armored cars at night on 22 May 2009 to an unknown destination and then sent back to Adi Abeito. Was later transferred to May Srwa.
- Reasons : Unknown





## Mohammed Said Mohammed

- Father, three children
- Deputy Director, *Radio Bana*
- Head of Tigre programs
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito. He was taken without explanation to the Doboziro detention centre and then to the military prison in Adi Abeito
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government



## Biniam Ghirmay

- Head technician, *Radio Bana*
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito. He was taken without explanation to the Doboziro detention centre and then to the military prison in Adi Abeito
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government



## Esmail Abd-el-Kader

- *Radio Bana*
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito. He was taken without explanation to the Doboziro detention centre and then to the military prison in Adi Abeito
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government



## Araya Defoch

- *Radio Bana*
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito. He was taken without explanation to the Dobozi detention centre and then to the military prison in Adi Abeito
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government



## Mohammed Dafla

- Aged around 25 at the time of his arrest
- Married, father of one child
- He is from Melebso, near Keren (North of Eritrea)
- Tigre radio programmer in environment, *Radio Bana*
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito. He was taken without explanation to the Dobozi detention centre and then to the military prison in Adi Abeito
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government



## Simon Elias

- Aged above 30 at the time of his arrest
- Married
- Tigrinya radio programmer in environment, *Radio Bana*
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito. He was taken without explanation to the Dobozi detention centre and then to the military prison in Adi Abeito
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government



## Yemane Hagos

- Aged around 39 at the time of his arrest
- Father of two children
- Teacher
- Staff member, *Radio Bana*
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito. He was taken without explanation to the Doboziro detention centre and then to the military prison in Adi Abeito
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government



## Stifanos (father name unknown)

- Designer, *Radio Bana*
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito. He was taken without explanation to the Doboziro detention centre and then to the military prison in Adi Abeito
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government



## Henok (father name unknown)

- Computer worker, *Radio Bana*
- Arrested : 22 February 2009
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito. He was taken without explanation to the Doboziro detention centre and then to the military prison in Adi Abeito
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed. Possibly the close working association with foreigners and a programme aired in January 2009 on *Radio Bana* about participatory government



## Wedi Itay

- In his forties at the time of his arrest
- Freelance journalist, former journalist for *Keste Debona*
- Writer and essayist
- Former member of EPLF
- Date of arrest : Unknown
- Seriously ill
- Place of detention : A hospital in Asmara



## Said Abdulhai

- Arrested : Last week of March 2010
- Foreign Affairs Ministry employee at the time of his arrest
- Veteran of the independence war against Ethiopia
- Graduate of Libya's University of Benghazi in the 1980's
- One of the media department's founders after independence
- Has at various stages run the Information ministry's press department, the Eritrean news agency and the main pro-government newspaper
- Place of detention : Unknown. Probably Adi Abeito.
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed.



## Eyob Kessete

- Journalist, Amharic-language service of public radio *Dimtsi Hafash*
- Has also been part of the monitoring section at the Ministry of Information
- Arrested : Summer 2010
- Caught by Eritrean border guards on an unknown date as he tried to enter Ethiopia.
- Place of detention : Unknown.
- Had already been caught in May or June 2007 and was transferred between different places including a metal container in May Srwa Detention Facility and "Track-B" military prison. Released "on bond" at the end of 2008 or beginning of 2009, before being caught again.



## Nebiel Edris

- Arrested : 22 February 2011
- Arabic-language service of radio *Dimtsi Hafash*
- Place of detention : Unknown.
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed.



## Ahmed Usman

- Arrested : 22 February 2011
- Tigre-language service of radio *Dimtsi Hafash*
- Place of detention : Unknown.
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed.



## Mohamed Osman

- Arrested : 22 February 2011
- Bilen-language service of radio *Dimtsi Hafash*
- Place of detention : Unknown.
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed.



## Tesfalidet Mebrahtu

- Prominent sport journalist for public radio *Dimtsi Hafash* and public television *Eri-TV*.
- Arrested : March 2011
- Place of detention : Adi Abeito. He was taken without explanation to the Doboziro detention centre and then to the military prison in Adi Abeito
- Reason for his arrest : Unconfirmed. It is reported he was suspected of willing to escape to Sudan or Ethiopia

## Journalists who died in detention



**DEAD**

### Medhanie Haile

- Aged 33 at the time of his arrest
- Deputy Editor, *Keste Debenä (Rainbow)*
- Law Graduate
- Arrested : 18 September 2001
- Place of detention : Eiraeiro Prison Camp, Prisoner N°8
- **Believed to have died in detention in February 2006 (source: prison guards)**
- His body was never handed over to his family



**DEAD**

### Yusuf Mohamed Ali

- Aged 46 at the time of his arrest
- Editor, *Tsigenay*
- Commerce Graduate
- Severe eye problems
- Arrested : 19 September 2001
- Place of detention : Eiraeiro Prison Camp, Prisoner N°9
- **Believed to have died in detention on 13 June 2006 (source: prison guards)**



**DEAD**

### Said Abdulkader

- Aged 34 at the time of his arrest
- Founder and editor, *Admas*
- Former journalist with public-owned *Haddas Eritrea*
- Owner of a family printing press
- Arrested : 20 September 2001
- Place of detention : Eiraeiro Prison Camp, Prisoner N°24
- **Believed to have died in detention in March 2005 (source: prison guards)**



**DEAD**

## **Fessehaye Yohannes a.k.a. "Joshua"**

- Aged 46 at the time of his arrest
- Cofounder, *Setit*
- Former EPLF fighter, poet and playwright, director of the children's group "Circus Eritrea"
- Married, two children
- Surrendered to the police on 27 September 2001
- Place of detention : Eiraeiro Prison Camp, Prisoner N°18
- **Believed to have died in detention on 11 January 2007 (source: prison guards and security apparatus insiders). Other sources say he might have committed suicide in 2003.**
- His body was never returned to his family



**Journalists "released on bond"  
(under surveillance, with relatives acting as guarantors)**



**Daniel Kibrom**

- Oromo section, *Eri TV*
- Arrested : October 2006
- We was arrested near Senafe (South) while trying to cross the border to Ethiopia
- Place of detention : Ala Bazit Prison Camp (South) and then transfered to another place
- Daniel Kibrom has been sentenced to five years of forced labour
- Released : June 2009



**Tura Kubaba**

- Aged 40 at the time of his arrest
- Reporter, kunama section, *Radio Dimtsi Hafash*
- Arrested some time between August and December 2006
- Was initially incarcerated in "Track-B," a military prison in a western suburb of Asmara. Run by an officer known as "Colonel Berhane", this centre consists of undergrounds cells and metal containers holding a total of about 2,000 detainees.
- In the course of 2007, Kubaba was transferred from there to an unknown place of detention.
- Released : 2009 (First Semester)
- Very poor state of health

## Journalists who have disappeared or about whom there is no news



### Musa Sila

- Former fighter for independence
- Was the head of the kunama service at radio *Dimtsi Hafash* in 2006 and 2007 until he disappeared



### Rahel (family name unknown)

- Teacher
- Joined the kunama service at radio *Dimtsi Hafash* some time between 2005 and 2007