



# Eri-Justice

17/06/2022

## Press Release

The regime in Eritrea has been detaining and imprisoning citizens indiscriminately in the last three weeks. The scope and nature of this latest round-up are unusual. Sources have indicated that the regime is paranoid and torturing the prisoners. It has arrested 153 business people and veterans so far from their homes and workplaces in the last week of May and the first week of June. They are being held in the Teseney, Barentu, Ferrobia (Asmara), and 1st police station (Asmara) prisons. They are high-security prisons operated by the Eritrean National Security Intelligence Agency (ENSIA) where detainees are held in inhumane conditions and severe interrogation, torture, and beatings are carried out on daily bases. If prisoners are lucky enough to leave these prisons, they usually end up with chronic conditions because of the lack of food, medical care, and torture.

No charges have been filed against them in any court of law. This is a common practice of the regime. A six-member investigation team tasked by the president's office is investigating the detainees. Their families are still not allowed to visit them. Among the detainees, Jaefer Mahmoud Ibrahim, a resident of Teseney sub- zone, is a businessman. He is currently in intensive care in a hospital because of the severe torture he suffered in prison.

In addition, three traders, Mr. Mohamednur Ahmed, Mr. Yasin Omar and Mr. Abdullah Salah, former employees of Red Sea-09 company, were kidnapped by the Teseney Border Surveillance unit from Kassala, Sudan. They are being held and tortured in the Tesenay prison.

The detainees are 59 from Gash barka region, 9 from Zoba Anseba (keren) region, 65 from the central region and surrounding areas, 9 from the Northern Red Sea region, 8 from Southern region and 3 were kidnapped from Kassala as mentioned above. The following are among those detained in Asmara, Teseney and Barentu;

No	Full name	Date of arrest	Prison	Address
1	Habteab Teweldemedhin	27/5/2022	Forobia Prison	City Center (Asmara)
2	Okubai Mehari	27/5/2022	Forobia Prison	Maichhot (Asmara)
3	Alemseged Gebrekidan	27/5/2022	1 <sup>st</sup> Police Station	Travolo (Asmara)
4	Kahsay Gebreamlak	28/5/2022	1 <sup>st</sup> Police Station	Korea Housing (Asmara)
5	Jaefer Mahmoud	2/06/2022	Barentu Prison	Teseney s.zone



# Eri-Justice

	Ibrahim			
6	Gebreab Tesfamariam	2/06/2022	Barentu Prison	Teseney s. zone
7	Abdullah Mohammed Ali	2/06/2022	Barentu Prison	Teseney s. zone
8	Hamed Ali Ramadan	3/06/2022	Barentu Prison	Goluj. s. zone
9	Colonel Tsegay Haile	2/06/2022	TeseneyPrison	Goluj. s. zone
10	Colonel kidane Teklebrhan	2/06/2022	Barentu Prison	Keren s. Zone

The investigators tasked by the President's Office are as follows;

Full name	Military rank	Unit
Tesfaldet Habteslassie	Colonel	Office of the President
Amanuel Tsehaye	Colonel	Office of the President - Secret Service
Yasin Mohamedkadir	Captain	Office of the President - Secret Service
Khald Abderrahman	Captain	Police Criminal Investigation
Tsegaye Mehari	Captain	Eritrean National Security Intelligence
Yonathan Gebreab	Sergeant	Computer Technology Institute

Eri-Justice laments that Eritreans and the international community have considered such arrests a regular occurrence and are not being reported widely. This round of arrests is unusual because the arrest is focused on the well-to-do business people in Teseney, Barentu, and other major cities, and security officials working with the regime. It is also widespread. Therefore, we implore the international community to condemn the regime strongly.