



Frankfurt Task Force Freiheit & Gerechtigkeit für Äthiopien
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Frankfurt Task Force Freedom & Justice for Ethiopia

Rt. Hon Theresa May MP,
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister:

On June 23rd, 2014 Andargachew Tsige, a British citizen travelling with a UK passport was abducted by Yemeni security forces while transiting via Sana'a International Airport to Eritrea. He was illegally rendered to Ethiopia where he had been sentenced to death in absentia. At the time of his detention, he had broken no laws to warrant his illegal abduction and rendition by Yemeni security forces in blatant violation of international law.

Mr. Tsige a well-known pro democracy activist and father of three has been in jail in Ethiopia for almost 4 years. We have received credible reports that Mr. Tsige is being tortured by security forces. Consistent reports from respected international organizations have documented the Ethiopian regime's use of torture against political dissidents to extract information or as a form of punishment.

International law unequivocally prohibits torture. The U.N. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), to which Ethiopia and UK are party to, expressly states that "no exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture." The Ethiopian regime is clearly violating international law by subjecting Mr. Tsige to torture and/or cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

We appreciate to determined effort on the part of your government to do everything in its power to condemn the Ethiopian government for its flagrant violation of international law. It is truly appalling

that the UK could simply stand by and watch its citizen be subjected to torture and barbaric treatment at the hands of the security forces of its closest ally in Africa.

The lackluster response by the government of the United Kingdom not only sets a dangerous precedent for dictatorial regimes to flout international norms, it gives the dangerous perception that the British government condones the Ethiopian regime's criminal actions. Furthermore, since Ethiopia is the largest recipient of British development aid to Sub-Saharan Africa, the financial, political and moral support is enabling, one of the most ruthless and authoritarian regime in Africa, to flagrantly violate international law.

We hope you will take action to strongly urge the Ethiopian authorities to release Mr. Tsige from prison and return him to his home and family in London.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter

Sincerely,

Frankfurt Task Force Freiheit & Gerechtigkeit für Äthiopien

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cc: Ambassador Sir James Sebastian Lamin Wood