

Minister Getachew Ambaye
Federal Ministry of Justice
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Noordwijk, The Netherlands, November 2016,

Your Excellency,

I wish to express my concern about Semayawi Party members Aweke Tezera, Blen Mesfin, Abebe Akalu, Eyasped Tesfaye and Tena Yitayew. They were arrested on 9 October 2016 due to their public critique of the Ethiopian authorities given the current political situation. Aweke Tezera, Blen Mesfin and Abebe Akalu have been charged with 'incitement of violence'.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Aweke Tezera, Blen Mesfin, Eyasped Tesfaye, Abebe Akalu and Tena Yitayew, who are being detained solely for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

I further call on you to ensure they are not subjected to torture or other ill-treatment pending their release.

Lastly, I call on you to stop arresting people for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,