

I would like to express my strong concern for Berhane Abrehe, a former Eritrean Minister of Finance, who has been arrested on 17 September at his home in Asmara and detained incommunicado in an undisclosed location ever since. His family has not been notified of his fate or whereabouts or been in touch with him. The arrest is suspected to be related with his book published on 11 September, which criticizes the current Eritrean political system and calls on Eritreans to struggle peacefully to ensure that democratic changes become institutionalized in the country.

I call on you to immediately reveal the whereabouts of Berhane Abrehe and to immediately and unconditionally release him from his arbitrary detention.

I also call on you to ensure that Berhane Abrehe is not subjected to any torture or other ill treatment pending his release.

In addition, I urge you to respect the right to freedom of expression and allow for freedom of expression without fear of government reprisal.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely yours,