

President Isaias Afewerki  
Office of the President  
PO Box 257  
Asmara  
ERITREA

## Dawit Isaak

Your Excellency,

The Swedish-Eritrean journalist and writer: **Dawit Isaak** was arrested on 23 September 2001, during a crackdown on independent media in Eritrea. He has since been held incommunicado by the Eritrean authorities who refuse to disclose his whereabouts or details of his health and well-being. Sources have said that the government accuses Dawit of being a "traitor", though he has never been charged or brought to trial. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights ruled that those arrested in September 2001 in Eritrea, including Dawit Isaak, were being held in arbitrary and unlawful detention. It called upon the Eritrean government to release them or give them a fair trial according to international standards.

The Government of Eritrea has ignored the decision and journalists arrested in September 2001 remain in secret and unlawful detention.

Therefore, I urge you to disclose Dawit Isaak's whereabouts and immediately and unconditionally release him. He is a prisoner of conscience, detained for his peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression. I further urge you to ensure that he is granted regular and unfettered access to his lawyer and family for as long as he remains in detention.

Yours sincerely,