

## ERITREA

According to Christian Solidarity Worldwide's submission to the United Nations UPR process in 2014, between 2,500 and 3,000 Christians are detained indefinitely at any given time in Eritrea. Although some were initially released after pledging to renounce their faith, none have been formally charged or tried, and all are held pending similar denials of faith. Since Orthodox Patriarch Antonios was forcefully deposed in 2007, and remains even today in incommunicado detention in an unknown location, twenty-three Orthodox priests are known to be still detained. Jehovah's Witnesses, who were deprived of their citizenship after the ban of their movement in 1994, are also paying heavy tribute with over seventy long-standing prisoners.

### Protestants

#### **Rev. Ogbamichael TEKLEHAIMANOT**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2005

**Charges:** Unknown

**Place of detention:** Barentu Prison

**Other information:** He is the senior pastor of the Kale Hiwot Church. He was arrested for participating in a Protestant wedding ceremony in Barentu. He was taken to Asmara Police Station No. 5, then subjected to ten months of solitary confinement and hard labour at Sawa military camp. He was released after six years, then re-arrested six months later, after a fleeing church member, who was being monitored, called him. He is now back in prison in Barentu, where he has been for eleven years in total.

*Source:* <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/04/4407264/> , <http://bit.ly/2uMizwk>

#### **Mussie EYOB**

**Date and place of arrest:** In February 2011, in Saudi Arabia

**Charges:** Proselytising in Saudi Arabia

**Last court decision:** Unknown

**Place of detention:** Me'etr, North West Eritrea

**Other information:** Eyob was originally arrested in Saudi Arabia for proselytising but then was deported back to Eritrea, after which he was jailed.

*Source:* <http://bit.ly/2udF00m>

#### **Mussie EZAZ**

**Date and place of arrest:** In September 2007, in Adi Kaih

**Charges:** Unknown

**Place of detention:** He is believed to be imprisoned at the maximum-security crime investigation unit, Wenjel Mermera, in Asmara.

**Other information:** Mussie is an evangelist and had previously worked with Youth for Christ after which he established his own ministry, the Kale Hiwot Church. Mussie is married and is the father of three children.

*Source:* [http://www.releaseinternational.org/media/download\\_gallery/PoF-profile-Mussie-Ezaz-bw-03.pdf](http://www.releaseinternational.org/media/download_gallery/PoF-profile-Mussie-Ezaz-bw-03.pdf)

### **Pastor Meron GEBRESELASIE**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2004, in Asmara

**Charges:** Unknown

**Place of detention:** Wongel Mermera

**Other information:** He has never been brought before a court. He was arrested at a police checkpoint just before entering Asmara and was taken to 2<sup>nd</sup> Police Station, held for two months, and relocated to Wongel Mermera, where he remains.

*Source:* <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/04/4407264/>  
[http://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/stories/eritrea\\_160411.php](http://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/stories/eritrea_160411.php)

### **Dr. Kiflu GEBREMESKEL**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2004

**Charges:** Unknown

**Other information:** Dr Kiflu was the senior pastor of Southwest Full Gospel Church and a mathematics lecturer who was faculty head in the University of Asmara until 1999, when he became a full-time pastor. He has been held incommunicado ever since his arrest and was never brought before a court. His wife and four children have not been able to visit him.

*Source:* <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/04/4407264/>  
[https://www.releaseinternational.org/media/download\\_gallery/PoF-profile-Dr-Kiflu.pdf](https://www.releaseinternational.org/media/download_gallery/PoF-profile-Dr-Kiflu.pdf)

### **Haile NAYZGI**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2004

**Charges:** Unknown

**Place of detention:** Asmara's central prison

**Other information:** He is the leader of Eritrea's Full Gospel Church. He has been moved to various locations since his arrest.

*Source:* <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/04/4407264/>

**Twen (full name unknown)**

**Date and place of arrest:** In 2005, in Asmara

**Charges:** Unknown

**Place of detention:** Me'etre Prison

**Other information:** In 2004 she was arrested in the Eritrean capital, Asmara, but was released after her father persuaded her to sign a paper saying she would not continue to meet with other Christians, share her faith or engage in Christian activities. In 2005, she was re-arrested after she was found participating in an evening prayer meeting in an underground church. Following her arrest, Twen was sent to Mai Sirwa Prison. She has never been released because she has repeatedly refused to sign a paper stating they would no longer engage in Christian activities.

*Source:* <http://bit.ly/2sZSkVT>

**Pastor Kidane WELDOU**

**Date and place of arrest:** On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2005

**Charges:** Unknown

**Place of detention:** Asmara's central prison - Wongel Mermera Prison

**Other information:** He is the Pastor of Asmara Full Gospel Church.

*Source:* <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/04/4407264/>

**Orthodox**

**Rev. Gebremedhin GEBREGIORIS**

**Date and place of arrest:** In November 2004

**Charges:** Involvement in the renewal movement of the Orthodox Church

**Other information:** He is an expert theologian.

*Source:* <http://bit.ly/2udyAyq>

**Dr. Futsum GEBRENEGUS**

**Date and place of arrest:** In November 2004

**Charges:** Involvement in the renewal movement of the Orthodox Church

**Other information:** He is a psychiatrist.

*Source:* <http://bit.ly/2udyAyq>

## Dr. Tekleab MENGHISTEAB

**Date and place of arrest:** In November 2004

**Charges:** Involvement in the renewal movement of the Orthodox Church

**Other information:** He is married and has four children.

*Source:* <http://bit.ly/2udyAyq>

### Jehovah's Witnesses

#### 54 Jehovah's Witnesses

According to the last available information (April 2016), fifty-four Jehovah's Witnesses (forty-five men and nine women) are imprisoned in harsh conditions. They are held in detention for C.O., religious meetings, religious activity or for undisclosed reasons.

C.O.= Conscientious Objection

UNK= Unknown

Name	Age	Gender	Location	Date Arrested	Charges
Eyassu, Paulos	43	Male	Sawa Camp	24 /9/94	C.O.
Mogos, Isaac	41	Male	Sawa Camp	24/9/94	C.O.
Teklemariam, Negede	40	Male	Sawa Camp	24/9/94	C.O.
Abraha, Aron	42	Male	Sawa Camp	9/5/01	C.O.
Fessehaye, Mussie	44	Male	Sawa Camp	6/03	C.O.
Tsegezab, Ambakom	41	Male	Sawa Camp	2/04	C.O.
Fessehaye, Bemnet	44	Male	Sawa Camp	2/05	C.O.
Ghebru, Henok	32	Male	Sawa Camp	2/05	C.O.
Kiros, Worede	59	Male	Sawa Camp	4/5/05	Religious activity
Yonas, Yonathan	30	Male	Sawa Camp	12/11/05	Religious activity
Fessehaye, Kibreab	38	Male	Sawa Camp	27/12/05	C.O.

Oqbagabir, Bereket Abraha	46	Male	Sawa Camp	1/1/06	C.O.
Fessehaye, Yosief	27	Male	Sawa Camp	07	C.O.
Gebremskel, Mogos	68	Male	Adi-Abieto	3/7/08	UNK
Abraha, Bereket	67	Male	Meitir Camp	8/7/08	UNK
Ashgedom, Ermias	25	Male	Meitir Camp	11/7/08	UNK
Mekonen, Habtemichael	74	Male	Meitir Camp	17/7/08	UNK
Tesfamariam, Tareke	64	Male	Meitir Camp	4/8/08	UNK
Tesfamariam, Habtemichael	67	Male	Meitir Camp	8/8/08	UNK
Habtezion, Tewoldemedhin	57	Male	Meitir Camp	9/8/08	UNK
Beyene, Teferi	73	Male	Meitir Camp	23/9/08	UNK
Abraham, Beyene	63	Male	Karen Police Station	23/10/08	UNK
Haile, Asfaha	80	Male	Meitir Camp	2/12/08	UNK
Leghesse, Tsehaye	75	Male	Karen Police Station	23/12/08	UNK
Tesfazghi, Tsegezeab	68	Male	Meitir Camp	23/12/08	UNK
Tecele, Yoab	63	Male	Meitir Camp	23/4/09	Rearrested
Tsegezab, Yoel	40	Male	Meitir Camp	26/8/08	C.O.
Hagos, Nehemiah	30	Male	Meitir Camp	26/8/08	C.O.
Ghirmay, Samuel	33	Male	Meitir Camp	3/09	C.O.
Gebrehiwot, Teklu	40	Male	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Afeworki, Isaias	30	Male	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Milen, Isaac	27	Female	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Seid, Faiza	30	Female	Meitir Camp	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Gebremichael, Tesfazion	72	Male	5th Police Station	20/7/11	UNK

Woldemichael, Hagos	62	Male	Meitir Camp	21/4/12	Preaching at a funeral
Ghebremariam, Araia	60	Male	Meitir Camp	21/4/12	Preaching at a funeral
Berhe, Tsegabirhan	52	Male	Meitir Camp	21/4/12	Preaching at a funeral
Meharizghi, Daniel	38	Male	Meitir Camp	21/4/12	Preaching at a funeral
Tesfamariam, Yoseph	51	Male	Around Keren	5/12	C.O.
Berhane, Gebru	65	Male	2nd Police Station	14/4/14	Religious meeting
Gebrehiwot, Tekle	59	Male	2nd Police Station	14/4/14	Religious meeting
Tesfagabir, Thomas	33	Male	5th Police Station	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Estifanos, Mordochai	21	Male	5th Police Station	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Tewolde, Mehari		Male	5th Police Station	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Gashazghi, Michael	23	Male	5th Police Station	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Hidru, Liya		Female	5th Police Station	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Shiwaseged, Wintana	26	Female	5th Police Station	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Taddesse, Mikaal	24	Female	5th Police Station	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Woldai, Emnet	36	Female	5th Police Station	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Ghebrehawot, Salem	20	Female	5th Police Station	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Berhane, Senait		Female	5th Police Station	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Habteyesus, Bereket	23	Male	2nd Police Station	26/5/14	C.O.
Habtemariam, Meraf Seyum	53	Female	1st Police Station	25/10/15	Preaching
<b>Gebru, Saron</b>	28	Female	Haz Haz Women's Prison	05/04/16	Religious meeting