

ERITREA

According to Christian Solidarity Worldwide's submission to the United Nations UPR process in 2014, between 2,500 and 3,000 Protestants 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.

In May 2017, 122 Eritrean Christians were detained in a series of round-ups of members of unregistered denominations in various locations around the country. Fikadu Debesay, who was detained with her husband in May during **raids targeting Evangelical Christians** in Adi Quala town, died in incarceration in early August.

On 5th March 2018, 10 friends were visiting a newly-wed couple in Asmara, when the police arrested them. The authorities released eight of the group two days later. The four remaining Christians, including the newlyweds, were moved to Adi Abeito Prison, north of Asmara. According to the World Watch Monitor source, the newlywed couple was split up after the arrest and the bride was released on 27th March 2018

On 25th March 2018, Eritrean police arrested 32 Christians in the capital Asmara. Three days later all were still in detention.¹

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. Since his house arrest in 2007, he made a first public appearance on 16 July during Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Asmara. He was surrounded by guards.

Jehovah's Witnesses, who were deprived of their citizenship after the ban of their movement in 1994, are also paying heavy tribute with over fifty long-standing prisoners.

Protestants

Rev. Ogbamichael TEKLEHAIMANOT

Date and place of arrest: On 9th January 2005

Charges: Unknown

¹¹ Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/03/eritrea-newlyweds-among-32-christians-arrested-in-fresh-crackdown/> and <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2018/03/un-failing-eritreas-detained-christians/>

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 Saudia 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, Wengel 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

Pastor Meron GEBRESELASIE

Date and place of arrest: On 3rd June 2004, in Asmara

Charges: Unknown

Place of detention: Wengel 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 2nd Police Station, held for two months, and relocated to Wengel Mermera, where he remains.

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2016/04/4407264/>
http://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/stories/eritrea_160411.php

Pastor Dr. Kiflu GEBREMESKEL

Date and place of arrest: On 23rd 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

Haile NAYZGI

Date and place of arrest: On 23rd 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 18th 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/>

Coptic 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/2udyAyg>

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/2udyAyg>

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/2udyAyg>

Jehovah's Witnesses

55 Jehovah's Witnesses

According to the last available information (31st December 2017), fifty-five Jehovah's Witnesses (forty-four men and eleven women) were 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 of Arrest	Charges
Eyassu, Paulos	43	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	24 /9/94	C.O.
Mogos, Isaac	41	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	24/9/94	C.O.
Teklemariam, Negede	40	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	24/9/94	C.O.
Abraha, Aron	42	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	9/5/01	C.O.
Fessehaye, Mussie	44	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	6/03	C.O.
Tsegezab, Ambakom	41	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	2/04	C.O.
Fessehaye, Bemnet	44	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	2/05	C.O.
Ghebru, Henok	32	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	2/05	C.O.
Kiros, Worede	59	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	4/5/05	Religious activity
Yonas, Yonathan	30	Male	Mai	12/11/05	Religious activity

			Serwa Prison		
Fessehaye, Kibreab	38	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	27/12/05	C.O.
Oqbagabir, Bereket Abraha	46	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	1/1/06	C.O.
Fessehaye, Yosief	27	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	07	C.O.
Gebreemeskel, Mogos	68	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	3/7/08	UNK
Abraha, Bereket	67	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	8/7/08	UNK
Ashgedom, Ermias	25	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	11/7/08	UNK
Mekonen, Habtemichael	74	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	17/7/08	UNK Died in prison on 7 th March 2018 https://bit.ly/2rb4atj
Tesfamariam, Tareke	64	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	4/8/08	UNK
Tesfamariam, Habtemichael	67	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	8/8/08	UNK Died in prison on 3 rd January 2018 https://bit.ly/2rb4atj
Habtezion, Tewoldemedhin	57	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	9/8/08	UNK
Beyene, Teferi	73	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	23/9/08	UNK
Abraham, Beyene	63	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	23/10/08	UNK
Haile, Asfaha	80	Male	Mai Serwa	2/12/08	UNK

			Prison		
Leghesse, Tsehaye	75	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	23/12/08	UNK
Tesfazghi, Tsegezeab	68	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	23/12/08	UNK
Tecle, Yoab	63	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	23/4/09	UNK
Tsegezab, Yoel	40	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	26/8/08	C.O.
Ghirmay, Samuel	33	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	3/09	C.O.
Gebrehiwot, Teklu	40	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Afeworki, Isaias	30	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Milen, Isaac	27	Female	Mai Serwa Prison	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Seid, Faiza	30	Female	Mai Serwa Prison	28/6/09	Religious meeting
Gebremichael, Tesfazion	72	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	20/7/11	UNK
Woldemichael, Hagos	62	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	21/4/12	Preaching at a funeral
Ghebremariam, Araia	60	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	21/4/12	Preaching at a funeral
Berhe, Tsegabirhan	52	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	21/4/12	Preaching at a funeral
Meharizghi, Daniel	38	Male	Mai	21/4/12	Preaching

			Serwa Prison		at a funeral
Tesfamariam, Yoseph	51	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	5/12	C.O.
Berhane, Gebru	65	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	14/4/14	Religious meeting
Gebrehiwot, Tekle	59	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	14/4/14	Religious meeting
Tesfagabir, Thomas	33	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Estifanos, Mordochai	21	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Tewelde, Mehari		Male	Mai Serwa Prison	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Gashazghi, Michael	23	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Hidru, Liya		Female	Mai Serwa Prison	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Shiwaseged, Wintana	26	Female	Mai Serwa Prison	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Taddesse, Mikaal	24	Female	Mai Serwa Prison	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Woldai, Emnet	36	Female	Mai Serwa Prison	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Ghebrehiwot, Salem	20	Female	Mai Serwa Prison	27/4/14	Religious meeting
Berhane, Senait		Female	Mai Serwa Prison	27/4/14	Religious meeting

Habteyesus, Bereket	23	Male	Mai Serwa Prison	26/5/14	C.O.
Habtemariam, Meraf Seyum	53	Female	Mai Serwa Prison	25/10/15	Preaching
Dawit, Samuol	27	Female	Mai Serwa Prison	09/04/16	C.O.
Dawit, Hadas	38	Female	Mai Serwa Prison	30/03/2016	UNK
Asgedom, Yonathan		Male	Asmara 5th Police Station	September 2017	Religious activity
Teka, Daniel		Male	Asmara 5th Police Station	September 2017	Religious activity