

His Excellency
Mr. Isayas Afewerki
President of the State of Eritrea
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Your Excellency

Please forgive me for taking the liberty of drawing your attention to the fate of the Eritrean Christian Dr. Kiflu Gebremeskel. This doctor of mathematics, who was the head of the Eritrean Evangelical Alliance, has been in prison for the last 18 years. He was arrested in a raid on his home in the Eritrean capital Asmara on May 23, 2004. Dr. Kiflu Gebremeskel was initially held at a police station. The police later transferred him to the "Wengel Mermera Central Criminal Investigation Interrogation Center" in Asmara.

It is not exactly known what this father of four children is accused of. So far, no court case has been brought against him. All that is known is that his church was declared as illegal, even though the church members merely exercised their right to freely and peacefully practice their religion.

I would respectfully remind Your Excellency of the fact that the State of Eritrea ratified "The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" (ICCPR) in the year 2002, and that this covenant includes freedom of religion.

Therefore, dear Mr. President, I humbly beseech you to advocate the immediate release of Dr. Kiflu Gebremeskel.

Most respectfully,