

Prime Minister
Hailemariam Desalegn
P.O. Box 1031
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Dear Prime Minister:

Allow me to turn to you on behalf of Amnesty International Czech Republic and express my deep concern over the case of journalist Eskinder Nega, who was arrested in September 2011 for criticising the government in his speeches and articles. Eskinder Nega was charged with “preparing and encouraging acts of terrorism” and was sentenced to 18 years in prison.

Amnesty International considers Eskinder Nega to be a prisoner of conscience, sentenced only for having exercised his right to freedom of speech.

In the light of the above described, I respectfully urge you, Prime Minister, to ensure that:

- Eskinder Nega be immediately and unconditionally released , and
- Attacks and persecution of journalists, human rights activists and other citizens in Ethiopia be stopped.

In the spirit of respect for the basic values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity, I call on you, Prime Minister, to respect human rights not only in the case of Mr. Eskinder Nega mentioned in this letter, but also all others unjustly imprisoned or persecuted in Ethiopia.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Yours sincerely