



Philip Hammond

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
United Kingdom

Brussels, 24 July 2014

Subject: Detention of Andargachew Tsige in Ethiopia

Dear Mr. Hammond,

Further to my letter of July 3rd 2014 to your predecessor, Mr. William Hague, I hereby wish to request further information on the situation of Andargachew Tsige, a British citizen and major Ethiopian opposition leader whom I personally know, who was detained and extradited to Ethiopia by Yemeni authorities earlier this month.

Mr. Tsige's detention in Ethiopia means that his life and physical integrity are in great danger. He is reported to have been tortured and under other ill-treatment in Ethiopia, where political detainees are frequently tortured in order to extract information and confessions. His incommunicado detention in an unknown location increases this risk. In 2009, he was convicted in absentia on charges related to an aborted coup attempt and was sentenced to death.

I would like to request information on the efforts undertaken by the UK to secure the release of Mr. Tsige and to ensure that he is not subject to further ill treatment. I am aware that the ICRC is following the case of Mr. Tsige and is certainly providing the British Government with information on his condition. I urge you, as well, to do the utmost to ensure, through all diplomatic means, the release and the highest possible protection of Mr. Tsige in Ethiopia and his return to the United Kingdom as soon as possible.

Best regards,

Ana Gomes
Member of the European Parliament