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RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS NOW

Shengo is pleased to hear about the release of five political prisoners , Habtamu Ayalew, Daniel Shibeshai, Abraham Desta , Yeshiwas Assefa and Abreham Selomon.

It is to be remembered that above mentioned political prisoners were incarcerated for over 12 months because of their political beliefs.

While we are pleased with the release of the five prisoners, we continue to be concerned that too many other political prisoners continue to languish in jails. We are also concerned that a renewed and widespread arrest and harassment of members and supporters of the opposition continues to take place in many parts of the country.

Shengo urges the government to halt any and all forms of harassment and detention immediately, release all political prisoners without any precondition and respect human and democratic rights of every Ethiopian.

As we have repeatedly stated, the complex issues facing our country could not be addressed with more repression, denial of rights or with sporadic release of political prisoners who should not have been arrested in the first place. Such action will only bring further and extreme reaction. The way forward is respecting the rights of all citizens and creating the conditions for sustained peace through an all inclusive national dialogue and reconciliation.

Shengo