

A COVERING LETTER
TO ALL
CONCERNED

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Overseas Development Aid
Norwegian Church Aid

Att. Information Department Head
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The enclosed article, which is a reply to Mr. Olafsson's article of February 13, is sent to Aftenposten for printing. After discussing Mr. Olafsson's series of articles and interviews (Aftenposten 26/11/84, 13/2/85, and Stavanger Aftenbladet 21/1/85) with former missionaries, as well as Ethiopians and Eritreans residing in Norway, it was suggested that a copy of this reply be sent to the Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Development Aid and the Norwegian Church Aid for information and action.

Our main concern is whatsoever Mr. Olafsson's view or belief is, he has trespassed his position as a diplomat and representative of the Norwegian Church Aid by giving one sided remarks and clearly taking side in a complex political dispute. We are taking this case very seriously since we believe it is incriminating and misinforming.

The author of the article is a former political refugee from Eritrea, now a Norwegian citizen. In this connection it is important for me to mention that Aftenposten reaches Addis Ababa, at least to Mr. Olafsson. And Mr. Olafsson's motive, or influence or may be commitment to the regime in Ethiopia, is unknown to us at this point of time. So to avoid any potential danger I have decided to avoid using my name as the author of the article. However, the name given is that of my 4-year old child, abbreviating the family name, so that if or when it reaches Ethiopia the authorities will be unable to make a reprisal on my family members living there.

I am confident that your respective offices will keep my name strictly confidential. I hope you understand the problems created by the lack of freedom of expression even being non-Ethiopian or living away from that country. I am nevertheless available for any discussion regarding this grave matter.

Best regards,

Emnetu Tesfay
Digranesv. 15
4000 Stavanger