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اللجنة القيادية المشتركة
الحزب الديمقراطي الارترى
الحركة الشعبية الارترية
حزب الشعب الارترى

JOINT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE
ERITREAN PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT
ERITREAN PEOPLE'S PARTY
ERITREAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Date: 17 December, 2009

Subject: Rescuing Eritrean Footballers in Kenya

H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres,
High Commissioner,
UNHCR, Geneva

Ms Marjon Kamara, Director,
UNHCR Bureau for Africa,

Mr. Alistair Boulton,
Senior Regional Legal Advisor for Africa

Dear Mr. Guterres,

This is another urgent appeal to you and your field colleagues to kindly use your good offices in support of 12 Eritrean footballers who are now stranded somewhere in Nairobi since last week after escaping a flight back to Isaias Afewerki's repressive rule in Eritrea. Finger-prints of the Eritrean footballers were taken by Kenyan authorities before the team members disappeared to hide within the city out of fear from the police and agents of the Eritrean regime. One of the 12 has reportedly succeeded to escape to a country neighbouring to Kenya.

Eritrean residents in Nairobi are reporting that Kenyan authorities are currently cooperating with agents of the Eritrean embassy in Kenya to locate and forcibly take those footballers back to Asmara, where they will face high risk to their lives.

Sir,

This quick memo, being addressed/emailed to you on behalf three Eritrean mainstream opposition parties in exile, requests you to kindly activate your regional officers to guarantee the personal safety of these helpless former footballers, now members of the ever growing number of Eritrean asylum seekers fleeing the cruel regime in Asmara. It

is anticipated that the said persons will come out of their hiding places if they could be guaranteed UNHCR protection for their safety.

Trusting your Excellency will take appropriate action without delay, I remain, Sir,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wolde-Yesus Ammar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

:
Wolde-Yesus Ammar, Chairman,
The Joint Leadership Committee of
The Eritrean Democratic Party,
The Eritrean People's Movement
The Eritrean People's Party