

His Excellency
Isayas Afewerki
President of the State of Eritrea
c/o Embassy of the State of Eritrea
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for taking the liberty of drawing your attention to the fate of two pastors in your country. The 75-year-old Girmay Araya and the 74-year-old Samuel Okbamichael from the “Full Gospel Church” were arrested by security forces in Asmara at the end of July 2021. Both pastors are already retired, but still occasionally conduct services in their church, for example at funerals or weddings.

According to the information available to me, they are currently held at the “Central Criminal Investigation Center” Wengel Mermera. Nothing is known about their current state of health, their whereabouts, any charges against them or a possible trial.

Therefore, dear Mr. President, I humbly beseech you to advocate the immediate release of these two pastors and to ensure that information about their current condition is made available.

I would respectfully remind Your Excellency of the fact that the State of Eritrea has ratified “The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights” (ICCPR) in 2002, and that this covenant includes freedom of religion.

Most respectfully,