



President Issayas Afewerki
Office of the President
PO Box 257
Asmara
Eritrea

Stockholm, 24th of September 2012

Your Excellency,

The Swedish journalist Dawit Isaak has been imprisoned in Eritrea for eleven years, since September 23, 2001. Dawit Isaak has been held all these years without trial, despite the fact that Eritrean law forbids detention of a prisoner without charges for more than 30 days.

Freedom of expression is an inalienable part of Human Rights and the possibility for journalists, all over the world, to conduct their professional tasks without fear for their personal security, is a key factor to uphold it.

The Council of Nordic Trade Unions (NFS) urges Your Excellency, President of Eritrea, to order the immediate release of Dawit Isaak, who has been jailed simply for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

We also appeal to Your Excellency to release Dawit Isaak on humanitarian grounds. Dawit Isaak's health is precarious, and we urge the Eritrean government to let him go home to Sweden to re-join with his family and to receive medical treatment.

On behalf of the Nordic Trade Unions Congress,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lóa Brynjúlfsson', written over a faint, stylized graphic element.

Lóa Brynjúlfsson
General Secretary of the Council of Nordic Trade Unions

This statement was issued by the Nordic Trade Unions Congress on the 19th of September. The Council of Nordic Trade Unions (NFS) is a regional trade union confederation. Its members are the 16 national trade union confederations of the Nordic Countries and it represents nearly nine million members from blue collar, white collar and academic sectors in Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands