

Dawit Isaak (m)

Adoption Status: Not Adopted

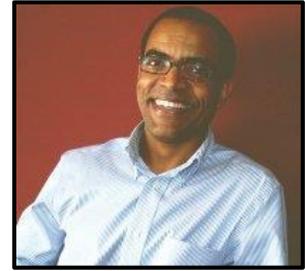
Country: Eritrea

Occupation: Writer and journalist with dual Swedish and Eritrean nationality.

Detained Since: September 2001

Charges: No formal charges

Sentence: 14 years imprisonment



Additional: Issak was detained alongside ten other independent journalists and eleven politicians, ostensibly for demanding democratic reforms in a series of letters to President Isayas Afewerki. He is the only Swedish citizen currently being held as a prisoner of conscience. In April 2002, the Committee to Protect Journalists reported that Isaak had been hospitalized after being tortured; the Eritrean government denied that he'd been tortured but refused to allow any visitors. In 2005, he was released for two days before being re-imprisoned while on his way to hospital. In 2009, four of Sweden's biggest newspapers featured Isaak's case on their front pages and launched a petition for his release but, the Eritrean president dismissed the issue during a TV interview later that year saying, "We will not have any trial and we will not free him." There have been rumors that Isaak died in prison but no official confirmation has been received.

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