



FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF VICTIMS

ERITREA

Introduction

These victim profiles are illustrative of those in the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief Victims List database. Mandated by the amended International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, the Victims List documents individuals who are detained, imprisoned, tortured, disappeared, forced to renounce their faith, or subjected to house arrest due to their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy.

Religions of Individuals in Eritrea on the FoRB Victims List

Christian – Jehovah's Witness
Christian – Protestant
Christian – Orthodox



Letebrhan Tesfay

Religion: Christian - Jehovah's Witness
Arrested: September 27, 2024
Healthy Concerns: Elderly
Reason for Persecution: Religious activity

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

The Eritrean government has arrested and imprisoned Jehovah's Witnesses for their religious activities since October 1994 when the President revoked their citizenship for not participating in the 1993 national referendum. The state has been holding Witnesses for decades without charges or trial for refusing to serve in the military, which the government deems a criminal offense.



Mussie Ezaz

Religion: Christian - Protestant
Arrested: September 2007
Religious Leader: Yes
Reason for Persecution: Evangelism and church leadership

PROTESTANTS

Protestants are one of three Christian groups the Eritrean government officially recognizes. Officials, however, have disappeared or detained several religious leaders and members from unregistered Protestant denominations for their religious activities. The government's arbitrary enforcement of laws makes any type of regular and public practice of faith difficult.



Fitsum-Berhan Gebrenegus

Religion: Christian - Orthodox
Arrested: November 18, 2024
Religious Leader: Yes
Reason for Persecution: Religious activity and leadership

ORTHODOX

Though the government recognizes the Eritrean Tewahedo Orthodox Church, officials sometimes target EOC congregants and especially church leaders, if their religious activities are deemed detrimental to official party doctrine which promotes national citizenship above religious sectarianism. The government sees popular Orthodox priests as threats to its monopoly of power.



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NOT RELEASED

Andemeske Jigur
Bereket Habteyesus
Bokurezion Dawit
Daniel Teka
Emnet Weldai
Ermias Asgedom
Faiza Seid
Fitsum-Berhan Gebrenegus
Gebremedhin Gebregergis
Haile Naizghe
Henok Ghebru
Isaias Afeworki
Isak Tekle
Kdisti Tesfamichael
Kidane Weldou
Kiflay Tesfay
Kiflu Gebremeskel
Mardocai Estifanos
Mehari Tewolde
Meron Gebreselasie
Michael Gashazghi
Mikaal Taddesse
Milen Isaac
Mussie Ezaz
Rimon Yonas
Samuel Ghirmay
Samuol Dawit
Senait Birhane
Tekleab Mengisteab
Tesfazion Gebremichael
Tewoldemedhin Habtezion
Thomas Tesfagabir
Tigist Tekle
Wintana Shiwaseged
Yanet Yonas
Yoab Tekle
Yonas Tekeste
Yonatan Yonas
Yonathan Asgedom
Yosief Fessechaye

Daniel Meharizghi
Fikremariam Hagos Tsalim
Ghebru Berhane
Habtemariam Meraf Seyum
Hagos Woldemichael
Isaac Mogos
Kibreab Fissechaye
Liya Hidru
Mihretab Stefanos
Mussie Fessechaye
Negede Teklemariam
Paulos Eyasu
Tekle Gebrehiwet
Teklu Gebrehiwet
Tsegabirhan Berhe
Werede Kiros
Yoel Tsegezab
Yosief Tesfamariam

DIED IN CUSTODY

Abune Antonios

RELEASED

Abraham Habtom Gebremariam
Ambakom Tsegazeab
Araia Ghebremariam
Aron Abraha
Bemnet Fissechaye
Bereket Abraha Okba-gabr