President Isaias Afewerki
Office of the President

PO Box 257
Asmara
**ERITREA**

Dear President Afewerki

I am writing this letter because I am gravely concerned about the journalist Dawit Isaak, who was arrested in September 2001 and is since being held incommunicado by the Eritrean authorities who refuse to disclose his exact location or details of his health and well-being.

The arrest of the journalist and owner of the newspaper Setit occurred when in 2001, he was one of ten journalists to write to the Minister of Information protesting the general closure of Eritrea’s independent press. Dawit Isaak has reportedly been accused of being a "traitor" by the government, though he has never been charged or brought to trial. He is believed to be seriously ill.

He is being held in arbitrary and unlawful detention and I therefore call on you to urgently disclose Dawit Isaak’s whereabouts and the state of his health. His family deserves to know having spent more than two decades with the pain caused by his absence. Being a family man yourself you can understand the urgency expressed by his family in his release, please provide him with medical attention and access to a lawyer. As the President of Eritrea it is your duty to look after the well-being of your citizens so therefore allow this journalist to return to his loved ones remembering and honouring your own successful liberation of Eritrea from Ethiopia.

Yours sincerely