Absender

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

President Isaias Afewerki   
Office of the President, PO Box 257   
Asmara  
ERITREA

**Dawit Isaak**

Dear President Afewerki,

I am gravely concerned about *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 risks having to spend yet another birthday – which is on 26 October – in prison. I therefore call on you to urgently disclose *Dawit Isaak*’s whereabouts and immediately and unconditionally release him. In the meantime, he must be allowed access to a lawyer and international observers and be provided with immediate medical attention.

Yours sincerely**,**