

ORAL QUESTION H-0849/03
for Question Time at the part-session in February 2004
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Lennart Sacrédeus
to the Council

Subject: Dawit Isaac, journalist missing in Eritrea

In September 2001, the Eritrean Government banned independent newspapers. Ten journalists, including Dawit Isaac, were imprisoned. Dawit Isaac is both a Swedish and an Eritrean citizen and was one of the founders of Setit, Eritrea's first private newspaper.

The government in Eritrea refuses to say where Dawit and the others are. According to the Eritrean Government, he is being held in custody for reasons of national security. Dawit Isaac has not yet been allowed to meet representatives of the Swedish authorities and there is growing concern that he is not alive.

In what way is the Council prepared to exert pressure on the Eritrean Government to ensure that the fate of Dawit Isaac, an EU citizen, is clarified and his family and Swedish authorities are allowed to meet him?

Tabled: 18.12.2003
sv