

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
Prime Minister  
Downing Street  
London SW1A 2AA

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

**RE: Andy Tsege**

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you in regards to my partner, British citizen Andy Tsege who is currently locked in an Ethiopian prison under illegal death sentence. Today marks his third year in this dire situation and I have serious concerns about your government's approach towards his case.

It is absolutely shocking that three years later, I still cannot communicate with my partner. The last time my children heard their father's voice was in December 2014. I am still at a loss about how to explain to them why their dad can't come home. How can I tell them that their own country, their own Prime Minister has not called for his return? Instead of fighting the Ethiopian government on this together with you, I am still stuck fighting for the UK government to do the right thing.

I feel sad that I had to resort to standing as a candidate in your constituency in the general election in order to try to put Andy's case to you in person. I wanted to talk to you about it but I appreciated that you were too busy that evening, so I'm writing now, on the third anniversary of Andy's kidnap, to ask for a meeting in person. The Foreign Office and your Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson refuse to acknowledge that the minimal strategy they have pursued to date is leading nowhere except to guarantee Andy's slow death in custody.

The way Andy's case has been handled – or not handled - by your government makes me question what it means to be a British citizen, not just for Andy, who has been abandoned abroad on death row, but also for myself. I always assumed that in a situation like this, the UK Government would be on the side of its own citizen. Instead, the foreign office is not even trying to get him home. Andy is missing out on seeing his children grow up and our children are growing up without their father. The emotional strain on the whole family is almost unbearable.

I learnt in the last four weeks, on the doorsteps and the high streets of Maidenhead and Cookham, that I am not alone in my shock that your government is prepared to allow a foreign dictator to abduct one of its citizens and sentence them to death with no proper trial or chance of appeal. Your constituents told me that if only I had the chance to explain to you in person Andy's situation you would be bound to help secure his return home.

Now you are back in Downing Street, I am asking for that chance. I hope you will agree to meet with me and prove that the faith your constituents had in you is correct. Andy's plight is desperate, so I would be grateful for an hour of your time within the next month.

Kind Regards,

Yemi Hailemariam.