

Recipient: President Barack Obama

Letter: Dear President Obama,

My best wishes to you and your family for 2016!

My name is Obok Okello Akway. I am a 25-year-old Anuak man, originally from Gambella, Ethiopia. Following the 2003 massacre of the Anuak people, I had to flee my home with my younger sister. After spending half of our lives as refugees in Kenya, my sister and I are proud to call the United States our home since November 2013.

I am writing to follow-up on a letter that I originally mailed to you in July 2015, to ask you to help secure the freedom of my father, Okello Akway Ochalla, a political prisoner in Ethiopia since March 2014.

In 2003, my father was the governor of Gambella – a region where the Ethiopian government is responsible for mass human rights violations and forced displacements of locals – when the massacre took place. He fled the country and eventually found asylum in Norway.

Speaking out against the ongoing repression of the Anuak people made my father a target of the Ethiopian regime. In March 2014, while visiting family and friends in South Sudan, my father was kidnapped and taken to Ethiopia, where he was imprisoned and charged under its harsh anti-terrorism law – all because he voiced his concerns about the actions of the Ethiopian government.

The law my father was charged under is the focus of a new report released this week by two US-based organizations, the Oakland Institute and the Environmental Defender Law Center. The report clearly shows that Ethiopia's 2009 anti-terrorism law violates international human rights and is a tool to stifle free speech and political freedoms in the country. The law has been used to lock up countless innocent people – from journalists, bloggers, and even artists, to student protesters and anyone critical of the Ethiopian Government, including my father.

These times are not good in Ethiopia. As you know, over the past month, student

protests in Oromia have been met with extreme violence, with over 140 killed by Ethiopian security forces. Anyone who speaks out against the government is labeled a terrorist and jailed.

My father's trial will resume on January 26, 2016. His lawyer has put forward a strong defense, and the only evidence used against my father is a confession obtained after his solitary confinement in Ethiopia's Maekelawi prison, a place known for torture. I know that my father has endured numerous beatings and solitary confinement in the nearly two years since he was unlawfully detained and renditioned from South Sudan.

President Obama, you are a man of justice and great influence – as a leader of great morality who promotes peace and justice around the world, and as the leader of one of Ethiopia's most important allies. This is why I am turning again to you now, with the hope that you will intervene and help secure my father's freedom. My greatest wish for the New Year is for him to be free and with his family.

In honor of your trip to Ethiopia last summer, the government released numerous political prisoners. I call on you now to wield your influence, and help bring my father home.

May courage be upon you.

Obok Okello Akway

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Anuradha Mittal	Oakland, CA	2016-01-25	I am signing since its about time to end the misuse of Ethiopia's Anti-Terrorism Law
Frederic Mousseau	oakland, CA	2016-01-25	Free Okello Ochalla and stop land grabbing in Ethiopia! Land to the people!
Joshua Klemm	Takoma Park, MD	2016-01-25	the US must support indigenous rights in Ethiopia
pat moore	charlotte, NC	2016-01-25	This is a human being who needs our help
Netsnet Yibeltal	Adds Abeba, Ethiopia	2016-01-25	United States, a key ally and donor of Ethiopia, can use its partnership, as it has in the past, to free her father.
Stephen Purcell	Mountain View, CA	2016-01-25	Let's stand for justice.
kiya dirbaba	trondheim, Norway	2016-01-25	Okello Akway Ochalla is political prisoner who kidnapped by Ethiopian security. help us to release from Ethiopian prison.
Kenneth Ruby	Salem, NH	2016-01-25	Human rights should be considered universal by all. It doesn't matter where you were born, or what category you are in; you are human first, and have a fundamental right to express your opinion.
Bilala Tola	San Leandro, CA	2016-01-25	Ethiopia uses a draconian anti-terrorism law designed to criminalize any peaceful dissent, including anyone who defends his/her property.
Akefete Ebrahim Mamo	Nairobi, Kenya	2016-01-25	Justice seekers are not terrorists.
Kadir Omer	Columbus, OH	2016-01-25	Kadiromer
Mimi Torban	Laurel, MD	2016-01-25	Mr. Okello is an innocent person
Thomas Webb	Spokane, WA	2016-01-25	The usual suspects who are inextricably opposed to human rights in any form appear to be at work again. Please intervene on behalf of Mr. Ochalla!
Samuel Berhanu	Minneapolis, MN	2016-01-25	I believe this innocent individual and other like him need to be released.
Hugh Lee	Wicklow, Ireland	2016-01-25	Anyone who speaks up for human rights needs our total support
Meskerem Teferra	Pleasant Hill, CA	2016-01-25	The Ethiopian anti-terrorism law is unjustly being indiscriminately used to suppress free-speech and Democratic opposition in the country.
Regasa chala	stockholm, Sweden	2016-01-25	Free Okello Akway Ochalla
TESFAYE MOTI DEMISSIE	Swansea, United Kingdom	2016-01-25	To support Mr Okello Akway Ochalla a Norwegian citizen kidnapped bt TPLF force & renditioned to ETH in 2014 accused as terrorist for defending indogenous rihts, he has been langushing in jail for nearly two years
Boona Orma	Seattle, WA	2016-01-25	I'm in favor of releasing all prisoners in Ethiopia. Everyone who in jail in Ethiopia prisoner are 100% personal because the people of that country's are ver very kind people. You will never ever see any Ethiopian citizen from all type of religion and tribes who join any Terrorist organization. Ethiopian or Oromiyan country has most peaceful citizen in the Wolrd. Wether Christian or Muslim, you will never see any Oromiya or Ethiopian citizen who want to join Terrorist organization nor want to harm any human bin. TPLF is selfish government and they actual gangster government not ligament government and US need to STOP supporting Terrorist government who killed and torture their citizens. Can you believe Military personnel kill student and rapping 9 years old daughter in front of their parent? You will find that only in Ethiopia and Obama administration knows that and yet they failed to do anything. US and European money destroying Ethiopian citizens every day and every hour in Ethiopia.
Fayiso Dube	South St. Paul, MN	2016-01-25	No ,democracy in ethiopia, that why people normal people just suffering by the regime

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Asefa Areda	Silver Spring, MD	2016-01-25	Your father and all political prisoners in #Ethiopia deserve freedom!
bona tufa	jimma, Ethiopia	2016-01-25	free onkello
gemedatosi	Saint Paul, MN	2016-01-25	I want the world to show the injustice , and genocide performed in ethiopia by tigre ethenic mafia group called ethiopian goverment
Matthias Burkhalter	Basel, Switzerland	2016-01-25	Freedom is a fundamental right
Ibsa Kededa	Tucker, GA	2016-01-25	Ethiopian government is known for its human right abuse and extra judicial killing
Gemechis Duressa	Finfinne, Ethiopia	2016-01-25	Join Me in Asking President Obama to Wield His Influence, and Help Bring My Father Home!
Obsaa Abdalhalim	Columbus, OH	2016-01-25	I hope your father makes it to America! God bless the Anuak people and may God free us all of all tyranny.
Sanyii Koo	Bethesda, MD	2016-01-25	Mr. Okello Akway Ochall's kidnapping and imprisonment by Ethiopian security froces is illegal and a violation of safe passage across international routes. Mr. Obama please ask US allay Ethiopia to unconditional and immediate release of Mr. Okello Akway Ochall.
Mathias Gudina	Newport, MN	2016-01-25	Human rights does matter!
Keneni Kebede	Australia	2016-01-25	Release mr. Okello
bj gar	oslo, Norway	2016-01-25	Justice for innocent citizens.
Awal Adam	Memphis, TN	2016-01-25	I am Ethiopia just like him. And both us has a lot of thing in common I pray for him and his family whith forgetting the innocent Oromo students been killed by woyanes .
Beka Woyya	Winnipeg, Canada	2016-01-25	human right abuse in Ethiopia is well known
Brian Hicks	Oakland, CA	2016-01-25	The injustice done to this man is intolerable. In addition, acceptance of his accusation and arrest allows governments to use accusations of 'terrorism' to cover for detaining people who are simply speaking out against government injustice. Also intolerable.
Mark Ojulu	Mankato, MN	2016-01-25	Am signing this pettions because of humanity it's right thing to do.
ojulu Lero	Silver Spring, MD	2016-01-25	This man is not a terrorist and have never a terrorist decent family who fall in a wrong hands of the Ethiopian government who's terrorizing it's own people in the name of terrorist.
Fikiru Gari	Lancaster, PA	2016-01-25	Stand for justice
Elias Wondmagegn Zebene	Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom	2016-01-25	Because I understand that Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla is not legally detained and tortured by the Ethiopian Government !
Omot Omot	Spokane, WA	2016-01-25	Freedom for all
Burnis Tuck	Fresno, CA	2016-01-26	This man should not be in jail. Defending indigenous rights in Ethiopia should not be seen as a terrorist act. Ethiopia is way out of line!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
seife gebrye	Arlington, VA	2016-01-26	I am signing this petition because ,I really have known the nature of the so_called the Ethiopian government since it took power 24 years ago.this fascist style government well known by the Anguak massacre,the Bedeno genocide ,the 1997 election related killing and recently,the peaceful oromo protestant extermination and the mass arrest of journalist and opposition political party leaders.I believe the kidnap and arrest of this young man father is politically motivated and illegal.so ,president Obama, so far you did nothing to help to flourish a real Democracy in our country than supporting and empowering the brutal regime in Ethiopia.Mr president please do the right thing and help this young man father, journalists ,religious and political leaders as well the Ethiopian people free from the state sponsor terrorist government
Joan Peters	Menlo Park, CA	2016-01-26	I know the Anuak people from having worked in Ethiopia. They are a peaceful people. I also know about Maekelawi prison, a place known for torture for many years. The severe torture of this man could certainly have elicited a false confession. Make the Ethiopian government, which receives millions of US dollars frequently, release him!!!
Meer Akway	Spokane, WA	2016-01-26	I'm signing because I want my father to be free
Dika Edin	Columbus, OH	2016-01-26	I know that what he said true,
Solomon Woldie	Borås, Sweden	2016-01-26	I am signing this is because to support the innocent man who is locked up in one of "TPLF"'s dominated prisons in Ethiopia and be released immediately and unconditionally.
Feyera Sobokssa	Washington, DC	2016-01-26	I know that the Gambella people are one of the most marginalized nations and nationalities in the Ethiopian Empire. I also know about the massacred Anuaks in Gambella and about the land grab that is going on in the area. I heard the testimony of Obang Meto at the U.S. Congress representing the Oromo Studies Association (OSA). I have also read and heard about the unjust detention of this person and I believe that he must be free to join his family.
Adebabay Mellese	Inglewood, CA	2016-01-26	I do not in current government of Ethiopia. Imprison people labeling who challenge the government is a terrorist.
Betty Jembere	Woodbridge, VA	2016-01-26	I believe in human rights! It is my responsibility to speak for the people who are voiceless and live under tyranny. As, a tax payer and citizen, I want my president- Pr. Obama to evaluate the terrorism policy in Ethiopia. I have no doubt and objection that the interest of the United States of America has to come first. And, most of us will die for that. However, the United States shouldn't funding the Ethiopian Government while that fund has be using to violate rights of Ethiopian people. The people in Ethiopia are dealing with a lot. Ethiopians has no freedom of speech. The government represents only one tribe Tigray. Mr. President as you go through your pocket and pick the Ethiopian Optic cross, remember that they are people being arrested, jailed, tortured by the government every day. I am sure you will take action before you leave office and you don't want to see Ethiopia go down because the government always think that America will say I got your back. Thank you for being a wonderful President.!
Dweentina Paac	Moose Jaw, Canada	2016-01-26	To free is dad so they could be back together again, and none should not be put in jail for something he or she did not do its not right

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Seif Salim	Australia	2016-01-26	As Ethiopian born American, I'm very ashamed of what my country is doing its own citizens. The thugs of the ruling party (TPLF) is torturing the rest of Ethiopian ethnic group and oppressing them for the over two decades. There's no freedom of speech and expression and the government's anti-terrorism law violates basic human rights... It's about time people in oromia region decide to take this matter into their hand and get rid of this regim and I stand with this young man to bring his father home.
Dida abera	jimma, Ethiopia	2016-01-26	i am signing because of human right issue
Kufa Dekamo	Springfield, VA	2016-01-26	I am asking president Obama to use his influence to stop killing of Oromo children
Elias Negera	Finfinnee, Ethiopia	2016-01-26	I am against the murderous and fascist regime of TPLF's act of jailing, kidnapping and torturing its citizens for the reason of demanding their rights in a democratic way.
Eyob Messafint	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	2016-01-26	Free Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla, a prisoner of conscience..
Hailu Serbessa	AddissAbaba, Ethiopia	2016-01-26	Mr Okello should be free
Kimo Opiew	Indianapolis, IN	2016-01-26	I'm sign this because of Okello Akway!
Samuel Yadatta	Reynoldsburg, OH	2016-01-26	Human Rights needs to be respected.
Aynalem Netsere	Addis Ababa	2016-01-26	I'm signing because... I believe that this man has detained not since he has involved in any terrorism act. Rather, he has detained since he become against the wish of EPRDF and started to speak the unlawful act of EPRDF on Ethiopian people, specially the agnwak people
Morcen Ojwok Omot	Tønder, Denmark	2016-01-26	Okelo is a hero, if they don,t release him, his vision will not die but his vision will move forward. I am the chairman who leads his party members in juba. when we were arrested, no one person was afraid or frighten of security forces.
Romanwork Abate	Kansas City, MO	2016-01-26	I am asking President Obama to grun President Obama to help released this yang man father to be released mr president I geve my voice to you so many Ethiopian too to day I am asking to hear our voices for voice less Who is in jail by Ethiopian Government
Getachew Fitretu	Addison Ababa, Ethiopia	2016-01-26	Because of human rights violations, tribes freedom, pushes against the tribes and their land, freedom of speech, and freedom of movement and election
Ameha Mekonnen	Addis Abeba, Ethiopia	2016-01-26	Mr. Okello was president of the Gambela region and he has witnesses people massacred but was helpless to prevent it. After having been severely pushed to struggle for the rights of his people, sadly he is now facing terrorism charge
Tola Dingeta	harar, Ethiopia	2016-01-26	am signe coz ethiopia still have thousands of poeple detained with out reason those must be immediately released if true democracy present.
Abbaa Gadaa Oromoo Abbaa Gadaa	Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	2016-01-26	Oromo Protests
Dorcas Brown	Spokane, WA	2016-01-26	I'm signing because it feels sad and unfair.
agwa nyigwo	Minneapolis, MN	2016-01-26	Good tool, many can hear your voice and concerns.
Peter Kanyandago	Mbarara, Uganda	2016-01-26	I am concerned about the rights minorities
genevieve Mousseau	France	2016-01-26	pour lutter contre ces injustices envers des hommes qui ne sont pas des terroristes
Mihretu Asress	Cardiff, United Kingdom	2016-01-27	I'm signing this because I care about him
Ermias Atnafu	AA, Ethiopia	2016-01-27	the government is using the terrorism law to attack , arrest put in jail, citizens who they think are against their interest.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Burka Dula	Portland, OR	2016-01-27	I am tired of watching atrocity by Ethiopian government if USA really stand for democracy my president please help poor Ethiopian people Thanks
Ryan Holmes	San Francisco, CA	2016-01-27	Liberating the voices of truth and justice to defend the values of community and cooperation is the only way to a better world! Free Mr. Okello!
Tefera Selassie	los angeles, CA	2016-01-27	I am signing this because a man is languishing in woyane jail without due process of the law not to mention that he was abducted illegally.
berisso kebede	edmonton, Canada	2016-01-27	Release him. Ethiopian regime is dictator
Mo'aa Abbaa	Finfinnee (Addis Ababa), Ethiopia	2016-01-27	Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla is one of countless facing Ethiopian governments unjust impunity against anybody standing for the justice and truth, with policy: GET RID-OFF IF THEY WON'T GET ALONG!!
Gonfa Koricho	Fort Morgan, CO	2016-01-27	The dictator regime in Ethiopia unlawfully arrested many innocent people. Please President Obama help, let justice be served .
Genet Abdi	london, United Kingdom	2016-01-27	Am signing this petitions because of humanity it's right thing to do. Mark Ojulu, Mankato,
Colleen Purcell	New York, NY	2016-01-27	Anti-terrorism laws should not be used to silence those who stand up for their community and fight for accountability from their governments. Mr. Okello is a hero, not someone who deserves to be taken from his family and imprisoned.
Tolera Aga	Montgomery, AL	2016-01-27	Free all political prisoners! Ethiopia government is the killer! They stifle the voice of people by labeling terrorist name. The government itself is a terrorist. Stop killing oromo people, students and free all political prisoners
Abaneh Shumet	San Jose, CA	2016-01-27	To free a Kello akway
Galashe umer	bahadar	2016-01-27	I'm signing because... (optional)
Ann Leonard	Berkeley, CA	2016-01-28	I believe in human rights.
Austin Njuguna	Nairobi, Kenya	2016-01-28	Obok Okello Akway was my classmate
Abdi Elias	Alexandria, VA	2016-01-28	Because it's true and I know that the Ethiopian gov. Is dictator
Dawa Oboya	Australia	2016-01-28	Data
Njaru Philip	Kumba,SWR, Cameroon	2016-01-28	I am signing because I am very concerned about the protection of the fundamental human rights of Mr.Okello and I urgently urge the US President Obama to contact the Ethiopian authorities to ensure that Justice prevails in this case.
Gilo Agwa	Dubuque, IA	2016-01-28	I am signing this document because I knew Okello and saw him talking to people (Anuaks) in Gambella town to calm down and not to pay back
Gashaw Gebre	Alexandria, VA	2016-01-29	I want to see Mr. Ochalla Free.He is the voice for the Anauk people who are victim of TPLF's tyranny.
Aschalew Haile	Alexandria, VA	2016-01-29	Free Mr. Okello Akway, he did nothing wrong. It is TPLF who is killing hundreds of innocent Ethiopians.
mohamed sheka	seattle, WA	2016-01-29	Free political prisoners
Girma Yadete	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	2016-01-29	I'm supporting this idea.
Abuya Obo	Minneapolis, MN	2016-01-29	Mr okelo should be free
Teame Gebremedihin	Oslo, Norway	2016-01-29	I fight against injustice.
Wondem Kebede	Las Vegas, NV	2016-01-29	Ethiopian GOVERNMENT is a terrorist organization. They put people in jail for no reason.
Ghidey Zeratsion	Skedsmo, Norway	2016-01-29	I am demanding the immediate release of Mr. Okello while condemning the kidnapping.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Aregawi Berhe	The Hague, Netherlands	2016-01-29	Injustice on one is injustice on every one. We shall fight it where ever!
Darrel Rodekuhr	Akeley, MN	2016-01-29	Injustice needs correcting wherever it be found.
Jane Devine	Elkton, MD	2016-01-29	I'm signing this petition because Okello AK way Ochalla needs to be released from prison.
Kerry Walker	Jasper, TN	2016-01-29	Read my work..The Dawn of Intelligence..free on SlideShare
Wanda Willey Halpin	Milbridge, ME	2016-01-29	Mr. Ochalla has been robbed of two years from his life. Speaking out against bad treatment of indigenous people is not terrorism.
Ashenafi Robe	Kiev, Ukraine	2016-01-29	I am signing because I believe that Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla is innocent , he is not terrorist, he is Human Right activist rather than politician, currently he is suffring by the TPLF/EPDRF fascist regime security service.
John Transue	Falls Church, VA	2016-01-29	This appears to be an extreme violation of civil rights. The U.S. should try to gain freedom of this man.
Baati Ayana	Lancaster, PA	2016-01-29	Every signature counts!
Sylvia Hart	Eugene, OR	2016-01-29	Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla is an honorable man who spoke out for the Anuak people. He should not be punished for this. He should not have been abducted from Norway and imprisoned in Ethiopia. In the name of international law and human rights, please release this man and allow him to return to his family abroad.
Anne Sadovsky	Dallas, TX	2016-01-29	unfair deportations and arrests need to stop!
Kim Jordan	Cary, NC	2016-01-29	Earth champions work for the good of all. Please help Okello Ochalla.
Mattie Shaw	Seattle, WA	2016-01-29	It is my hope the President will help.
jeffrey schroeder	Grand Rapids, MN	2016-01-29	Mr. Obama, this man is suffering for defending freedoms that most Americans hold dear. Please use whatever influence you wield with Ethiopia to convince their government that repressive tactics should have no place there. Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla should be released and returned to his new home in Norway.
Charles Halpern	Berkeley, CA	2016-01-29	This is how the U.S. should be exerting its power - to defend justice around the world.
Hana Mekete	Ashdod, Israel	2016-01-29	Freedom to Mr. OKELLO AKWAY OCHALLA, he is a Political Prisoner in Ethiopia!!
joshua pucci	richmond, VA	2016-01-29	Please make good decisions.
Angelease Rosa	Philadelphia, PA	2016-01-29	Petitioning President Barack Obama Join Me in Asking President Obama to Wield His Influence, and Help Bring The Father Home!
Nancy Gittleman	Amherst, MA	2016-01-29	He is a political prisoner who must be released
Sharafdin Siddig	Spokane, WA	2016-01-29	Justices for Mr. Okello
genevieve herring	cathedral city, CA	2016-01-29	President Obama. Won't you please help this man. Can't you use your influence to help get his father to safety? God bless America Genevieve
Carl S Bjurstedt	Grøa, Norway	2016-01-29	I'm signing also because I'm ashamed for the lack of action from Norwegian authorities to free a fellow citizen, and the almost absolute silence on this case in Norwegian media.
Dana Richmond	Fremont, CA	2016-01-29	I will sign this

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Kelly Shugart	Sanford, FL	2016-01-30	I believe Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla should be free and returned to his family. This is a situation where there isn't substantial evidence to know whether or not he is a terrorist which should classify him as a non-terrorist. This is a classic system flaw that must be fixed in order to free innocent people.
Evelyn Rivera	Cloutierville, LA	2016-01-30	No human should be held against there will
ngathe bongo	Rochester, MN	2016-01-30	i believe in the rule of law.
Tolosa Mamuye Tadesse	Netherlands	2016-01-30	The terrorist law in Ethiopia is deliberately used to attack anyone who is a threat to their political power which has been resulted to severe crack down on human rights particularly on opposition groups.
Jey Iyadurai	Toronto, Canada	2016-01-30	Freedom of Humanity first, and the Ruling violators need to be Taken to justice. No Human Rights Activist shall be harmed in the world.
Rietgi Chapari	Australia	2016-01-30	Am signing because his dad needs to be back home with his family
Ryback Lomboy	Bedford, TX	2016-01-30	I'm signing because I do not understand why an innocent man can be punished so unjustly in a foreign land.
Banti Hundarraa	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	2016-01-30	I request American Government to force Ethiopian government to amend the anti terrorism law and the immediate release of this gentleman.
Banti Hundarraa	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	2016-01-30	I request American Government to force Ethiopian government to amend the anti terrorism law and the immediate release of this gentleman.
obok akway	Spokane, WA	2016-01-30	I want him to be free
rich landini	missouls, MT	2016-01-30	I hope this helps. The USA isn't kind or loving. We are cruel and selfish.
carol ONeil	Chicago, IL	2016-01-31	I feel for this man and his family. He is being tortured for defending the rights of his people. Please help President Obama
John Frankhauser	Spokane, WA	2016-01-31	I have been aware of Okello's plight for a long time and I deeply desire justice for him.
Mary Frankhauser	Spokane, WA	2016-01-31	I long to see justice on behalf of Obok's father and others who are unjustly imprisoned.
asiged ayalew	Australia	2016-01-31	pleas help him fathre to be free from ethiopa persen
Collins Makewa	Nairobi Kenya	2016-01-31	I'm signing because i want the cry of a friend and a classmate came true , am really consernd about u Bro , all will be will
Churchill Mukoyani	Mombasa, Kenya	2016-01-31	I belive in Akway Obok
pep alvin	thika, Kenya	2016-01-31	Free world
Abdul Rahman Iddrisu	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	2016-01-31	I'm signing this because I know and believe its the absokute truth. I'm a Ghanaian living and working in Ethiopia for the past two yrs and these has actually been the acts of the Ethiopian gov't against anyone who dares to voice out a negative comment abt its gov't. Democracy is being mocked here. No livery for the people. The county has a prison yard known by its people as the 'Political Prison'. Help free this man everyone.
Sisay Chala	Germany	2016-01-31	Ich unterschreibe, weil Äthiopiens ihre "Anti-Terror-Gesetz" als Instrument, um grundlegende Menschenrechte verletzen - um die eigene Bevölkerung zu terrorisieren - nutzt.
Omer Agoligan	Djougou, Benin	2016-01-31	Je signe pour la liberté de parole de tout Homme
Melissa Moore	Berkeley, CA	2016-01-31	Okello Ochalla is an innocent man and should be released by Ethiopian authorities immediately. His arrest and detention is harassment aimed at silencing opposition--foreign governments such as Norway and the United States must take a stand to protect defenders of indigenous rights.
Shyam Pandya	Cary, NC	2016-01-31	No one should be separated from their dad

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Morketo Bonko	Minneapolis, MN	2016-01-31	I'm sign b/c free oromo students and all ethiopia politics leader.
Jose Nava	Marietta, GA	2016-01-31	His father needs to be released
Ana Areas-Fodor	Danville, VA	2016-01-31	I hope my signing helps your father.
Liam Tarver	Baton Rouge, LA	2016-01-31	Fathers are important.
Virginia French	Wichita, KS	2016-01-31	I believe that it is the duty of the strong to help the weak. In Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla's case, he has acted with bravery for the rights of people to live not in fear. His captors used their evil means to quiet him by doing all but the final killing of him. President Obama, you are a remarkably intelligent man. Please use the means you have available or the influence you have to free this innocent man. With regards,
Teresa Costa	Hollywood, FL	2016-01-31	Bring him home.
Jerry Liebermann	Seattle, WA	2016-01-31	The human rights of this man have been abused
Meghana. Mahale	Issaquah, WA	2016-01-31	I think your father should be freed
Rudy Marin	San Fernando, CA	2016-01-31	I'm signing because this man should come home now! We can't leave him there!
Anand Chiluka	Broomfield, CO	2016-01-31	Please help this person .
Denny Bissell	Pryor, OK	2016-01-31	Your father was in one of the hardest positions, to be in. He was like the one of the good cells in a battle against a cancer that was growing far too fast. Thank God he's alive. If Obama will try to do anything I hope he will try to do this.
Susan Fitzmaurice	West Bloomfield, MI	2016-01-31	Freedom of speech id one of America's most honored rights.
Dakota Karns	Kansas City, MO	2016-01-31	Do what's right.
Jodell Gabriel	Machesney Park, IL	2016-01-31	Correcting this injustice is the right thing to do. We need to stand with justice free Mr. Ochalla.
Alex Parga	Miami Beach, FL	2016-01-31	I will like to help
Margaret Rennie	Olympia, WA	2016-01-31	I don't sign every petition but those that strike me from the letter of those requesting I believe in prayer and justice. I believe this is an important request.
Brachton Malek	Turlock, CA	2016-01-31	These kids need their father back.
Donna Jones	Tampa, FL	2016-01-31	We traded terrorist for our people, if our country men are heals everything should be done to bring them home
Leslie lester	Cartersville, GA	2016-01-31	He hasn't done anything wrong needs to brought back home to the USA ASAP
Michele Greene, JD, LLM	Wilmington, DE	2016-01-31	Whoever speaks out against injustice is the hope of the future.
M E	Alexandria, LA	2016-01-31	I'm signing because it's the right thing to do.
rita johnson	Seattle, WA	2016-01-31	Please look into this issue and give yr voice and concern on treatment
Andria Detweiler	Bremen, IN	2016-01-31	He is wrongly imprisoned for speaking up for his people as a governor should.
Abdulkadir Sahle	Renton, WA	2016-01-31	USA think 2 times to be Ethiopia
Ronald Nuckles	Virginia Beach, VA	2016-01-31	I believe in the right of peoples freedom of speach. No government should have the power to stifle the truth.
marj anderson	conway, AR	2016-01-31	human rights violations
Laurel McGillivray	Kirkland, WA	2016-01-31	It is a just cause
Dennis Kuduzovic	Sandy, UT	2016-01-31	I thought it said help free my dad, Obama. lol

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Michael Williams	Boston, MA	2016-01-31	Why not? If it was I imprisoned I would hope the least someone could do would be to sign a petition calling attention to my unjust imprisonment. I leave it in the hands of whatever God's may be!
Charles Holzner	Elmhurst, IL	2016-01-31	He needs our help
Lisa Vervena	Shoreview, MN	2016-01-31	Rendition and incarceration are for criminals, not activists!
Betty Norman	Charleston, SC	2016-01-31	Okello Ochalla should not be tried based solely on a "confession" obtained after being kidnapped and tortured. Defending indigenous rights is not terrorism.
Journalist eyob Bayssa	Houston, TX	2016-01-31	Free jal political human being respect human rights Ethiopia government Mr president Barack Obama please tell me Ethiopia government
Ron Gonella	Jackson Heights, NY	2016-01-31	I remember visiting the Anuak area during a visit to Gambella in 1967. Their subsequent fate at the hands of the Ethiopian govt was a human tragedy. Let's to correct the wrong now.
elsie dillard	Des Moines, WA	2016-01-31	This man should have his freedom.
jack levine	los angeles, CA	2016-01-31	As you know only too well, there are many countries in the world today which use anti-terrorism laws to silence any opposition. Egypt is one of the best known but Ethiopia is right up there with them. Please use your influence to free this man's father so that he may be spared the harsh treatment he has been experiencing and return to Norway. Thank you, Mr. President. Jack Levine
Natasha Harty	Cork, AL	2016-01-31	I believe this man is wrongly held
Daniel Grindstaff	McHenry, IL	2016-01-31	Ethiopia must be brought to a peaceful status
Lisa Adams	Sacramento, CA	2016-01-31	Do what is right and get him out.
rokeya begum	Brooklyn, NY	2016-01-31	he deserves to be home
Michelle Wright	Thousand Oaks, CA	2016-01-31	Every life matters.
Sylvia Yarborough	Columbia, SC	2016-01-31	□ My o
L N	San Francisco, CA	2016-01-31	Leadership requires courage, please show some.
Lynn Hodenfield	Brooklyn, NY	2016-01-31	Governments that violate international human rights laws must be held accountable. What's the point of having laws if they are not enforced when broken....
Peter Pollak	Elkridge, MD	2016-01-31	Although I doubt Mr. Obama can or will do anything and suggest the petitioner come up with a better plan, I'm signing.
Annabella Espinoza	West Sacramento, CA	2016-01-31	Everyone needs their dad....President Obama needs to do something.
Develone Aaron	Chicago, IL	2016-01-31	God told me to sign this, Mr. President, and I think he wants you to help out. Develone
Sibylle Barlow	Concord, MA	2016-01-31	This sounds extremely cruel and unfair. I hope it will not happen in the U.S., including Guantanamo.
Ezekiel Ellis	Hubbard, OH	2016-01-31	A family would do anything for each other
Martin Kalkowski	Omaha, NE	2016-01-31	We need to protect all citizens in our world.
Paula Camp	Amarillo, TX	2016-01-31	I believe that this is a just cause.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Stuart Chandler	Los Angeles, CA	2016-01-31	This man, Okello Akway Ochalla must be saved. This imprisonment can be easily ended with a work from you, Mr. Obama. This a classic case of suppression of a voice for freedom and security. What are you waiting for?
Donna Read	Denver, CO	2016-01-31	It is our duty to help those who support democracy in the face of oppressors.
Mildred Donoghue	Soap Lake, WA	2016-01-31	I voted for you twice, President Obama, and I have personally asked nothing of you in return, but I am asking you now to assist this son in securing the release of his father.
David Miller	Nashville, TN	2016-01-31	This is just plain wrong!
Dee Davis	Castro Valley, CA	2016-01-31	Ethiopia must be held accountable for its poor human rights record if the U.S. is to continue supporting the regime there.
Matthew Quinn Borocz	Fort Collins, CO	2016-01-31	I'm signing because it is the right thing to do.
ELIZABETH PUPILLO	Albany, NY	2016-01-31	I love my dad too! Hope this helps.
TERESA FINKE	CARSON,, CA	2016-01-31	Creo en el dolor de esta familia .
Royal Liu	Stafford, TX	2016-01-31	I hope your father arrives home in his birthday suit. God bless.
Aguma B Yadessa	Buford, GA	2016-01-31	I signING the petition for immediate release of Mr Ochela from the notorious dingion pression of the eoyane.
Kelli Snyder	McKinney, TX	2016-01-31	Please help free this innocent man.
Dennis Anderson	Pascoag, RI	2016-01-31	These unjust uncivilized regimes have to be stopped when they incarcerate innocent people.
Amanda Donohue	Evans Mills, NY	2016-01-31	People have the right to defend their culture and home. All rights should be protected.
anup pandey	austin, TX	2016-01-31	This is easy for Obama to do
Allen Bonilla	Miami, FL	2016-01-31	DK
Melissa Sturgis	Miami, FL	2016-01-31	Help bringf this guy hpome to his daughter.
Rachel Lavine	New York, NY	2016-01-31	One can only have a fair trial with a fair court and fair laws - if the Ethiopian government believes that it has a case against Mr. Ochalla he should be tried at the Hague - otherwise he should be unconditionally released.
Jeff Spencer	Ipswich, MA	2016-01-31	To bring a father home.
stephen sauber	Fort Wayne, IN	2016-01-31	I oppose totalitarian regimes, their oppressive governance, and their illegal, brutal practices,
Cheryl Candler	Potlatch, ID	2016-01-31	I sympathize
Bolaji Olagbegi	Arlington, TX	2016-01-31	It's not right.
Tim Bradshaw	NY, NY	2016-01-31	The rush to modernize, and industrialize, is no excuse for violating human rights and free speech.
Brian Augsbury	Costa Mesa, CA	2016-01-31	If this is True this is not right or human rights!:(
Jose Eric Cestero	Bayamon, PR	2016-01-31	I, as some of you might know, am against freedom advocates imprisonment. We Americans must make sure this is ended. So we have to meet this so unfair treatment with courage and strong resolution. Please Mr. Obama, we think the freedom of this freedom fighter is in your hands, help free him.
Eileen Berlin	New York, NY	2016-01-31	Eileen Berlin
Zoraida Cornejo M.D.	MOUNT PROSPECT, IL	2016-01-31	Mr.Okello Akway Ochalla, has Not committed any crime.
Yonas Deneke	Dallas, TX	2016-01-31	Because of Ethiopian government is kill a lot of people it is a terrorist government.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Gedewon Bussery	San Jose, CA	2016-01-31	Please help a family to get a father come home.
Susanne Hansen	Newbury Park, CA	2016-02-01	It's the right thing to do.
Iadonna hendrickson	Tulsa, OK	2016-02-01	God wasn't into slavery
Alice M Gatto	Southampton, PA	2016-02-01	No person should be imprisoned for voicing his or her opinions about human rights violations here or abroad.
Karen Hoke Van Luvender	tttt, NV	2016-02-01	I think his cause could have merit. I am believing this to be the truth but I am not well-versed in Ethiopian politics. I know our president has access to the best, so I am asking he turn his attention to this matter, and make a determination in honor of the character of who Americans are and who we wish to be.
paula zagarella	andover, MA	2016-02-01	We as Americans are lucky to have the freedom of speech. If we can use our influence to right an injustice, which stifles a voice decrying the mistreatment of a country's citizens, that is exactly what we should do.
Jeff Glanstein	wOODBOURNE, NY	2016-02-01	Good Luck, I don't have much faith in Obama, unless you have political clout.
Jane Ward	Lopez, WA	2016-02-01	I have been to Ethiopia, a wonderful country, and am aware of the government's terrible human rights record. Pressure from the United States is completely appropriate. Best of luck to your family.
Brandon Williams	Mason, OH	2016-02-01	Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla deserves his freedom. It is his human right.
Gianmarco Conegliano	Austin, TX	2016-02-01	We've been falsely charging too many innocent people as terrorists. Needs to stop.
Oromia Abdi	Snellville, GA	2016-02-01	Injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere. The Obama administration should put pressure on the Ethiopian TPLF regime to respect human rights. Thanks
Jane hazen	Cleveland Hts, OH	2016-02-01	Aaa
Rabia Rahaman	Brooklyn, NY	2016-02-01	Now, more than ever, the US needs to stand up for Human Rights everywhere.
Dennis Chittle	Davison, MI	2016-02-01	This father needs to get home to his family.
Dirk Bruehl	Salisbury, PA	2016-02-01	End all wars! Give refugees a safe home! End all poverty!
Ali Nasser	North Bergen, NJ	2016-02-01	The man is an innocent peace activist. We demand his release.
Ralph Wright	Patchogue, NY	2016-02-01	Having been to Ethiopia a number of times I love the people and the country. The US needs a more proactive foreign policy that speaks out against human rights violations. Speak out against the incarceration of Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla, former governor of Gambella Province.
Sam Mcgehee	Portland, OR	2016-02-01	I believe In the value of life and individual liberties.
Jemal Turbie	Lafayette, IN	2016-02-01	I share the same grievances. The Ethiopian regime is ruthless, butcher, and tyrant constituted by minority's Tigre (5%). They are colonizers and follow the policies to exterminate other ethnic groups such as the Oromo.
Min. W.D. Patterson	SEATTLE, WA	2016-02-01	I support justice
Michael Gonzales	reno, NV	2016-02-01	If the US government determines that this man is innocent, please support his release.
kevin Lieblang	Huntington Beach, CA	2016-02-01	It's the right thing to do
Birhanu Dekamo	Portland, OR	2016-02-01	Jestice for this person
farhat Ali	Coconut Creek, FL	2016-02-01	I believe in saving of innocent lives whether it be single ör myriads.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Valda DeDieu	Miami Bch, FL	2016-02-01	The letter, request and petition is reasonable.
Teshome Bayu	Seattle, WA	2016-02-01	I'm signing this petition because I'm a human being and think like one.As a human being, no matter who I'm, what ethnic group I belong to,political or religious groups I'm affiliated with,it always breaks my heart to see or hear children cry because their mothers or fathers are either killed or jailed by their own government. What a tragedy ! Your father's situation reminds of Andargachew Tsigie who was taken away from his children and wife against his will. Good luck.
Elena Smith	N/A, WI	2016-02-01	If you do anything in your last moments in office , using positive-effecting American principals to help American citizens quality of life better is it. This man was jailed for speaking out against a government regime , forced to give confession under extreme/life or death circumstances and last but not least kept from a family who loves him. So many lives are lost daily, and that doesn't mean necessarily in physical death. People are locked away for the rest of their lives and only ever see the sun through a window. If america boasts free speech as a given at birth human right , you should try and spread that message as our president . May courage be with you.
Elizabeth Salmon	Maryknoll, NY	2016-02-01	Our belief in FREEDOM for EVERY HUMAN BEING - IMPELLS US to continue to support what NEEDS TO BE DONE to "Bring about this FREEDOM FOR ALL"! How BLEST we are in the US to be able to LIVE IN FREEDOM. We ""THANK GOD DAILY" for this BLESSING OF FREEDOM and PRAY IT CAN "BE" FOR "ALL"! THANK YOU, PRESIDENT OBAMA FOR ALL YOU CAN DO - in this CASE!
Ted Greenwald	Kapaau, HI	2016-02-01	Mr. Okello deserves his freedom. Please use our economic and political influence to help secure his release.
Mohamed said	Seattle, WA	2016-02-01	To support the release of Okello Ochalla's father from prison in Ethiopia...
Dima Hordofa	Gimbi, Wollegga, Ethiopia	2016-02-01	B/c the injustice jail of Okloa.I ask predent Obama to interfer on the issue of tortur and jail of many Ethiopians in the Mahikalawi and Kaliti Jail.
stephanie bowers	chandler, AZ	2016-02-01	Injustice is a crime itself
John Browne	Vashon, WA	2016-02-01	This incarceration is a result of the "knee-jerk" reaction against people who are not overt "nationalists"... and also challenge the status quo where it needs challenging. The same thing happens here... like the woman in NY who is going to jail for photographing a protest at the air field where drone pilots are based. Please, exert some pressure! ^..^
Annie Ostrowski	West Palm Beach, FL	2016-02-01	I want to add my voice to this important human right to speak and be heard without fear of reprisals.
Jim de Cordova	Santa Monica, CA	2016-02-01	Mr Okello is plainly a good man, who chooses to use his life to help others. This is a man worth saving!
Karen Ball	Tifton, GA	2016-02-01	I believe in human rights. A man should not be imprisoned for speaking out of behalf of these human rights.
kim jones	wake forest, NC	2016-02-01	I am concerned with oppression no matter where it is.
Ogochi Nedosa	Irving, TX	2016-02-01	To defend human rights
Lana Lewis	Orlando, FL	2016-02-01	Please President Obama!! Help get this Father released and Back with his loved ones .
Aman Negesso	Saint Paul, MN	2016-02-01	I signed b/c I know Ethiopia government is kidnapping any other political party from all region or ethnic ,,,,

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Kam McCallum-Gesher	Richmond, CA	2016-02-01	I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia, so the story breaks my heart. Please help secure his release.
Alanna Markle	Morgantown, WV	2016-02-01	I support the enforcement of human rights in nations that benefit from US foreign aid.
Mary Bowman	Nevada, IA	2016-02-01	To secure the release of an innocent man protesting for human rights in Ethiopia.
Tiana Thompson	Marrero, LA	2016-02-01	He deserves to be with his family
daning Rivera	Queens, NY	2016-02-01	We should help bring his father home now
susan morton	Lilburn, GA	2016-02-01	I want President Obama to help free this man!
Lisa Blood	Scottsdale, AZ	2016-02-01	I would want it done if it was my father.
ann crawford	westwood, NJ	2016-02-01	I do not believe in torture and imprisonment for leaving a homeland where beliefs differ and then kidnapping the person of differing beliefs and returning him to his original homeland against his will.
Faraz Asim	Australia	2016-02-01	..
Ivan DelValle	Montgomery, AL	2016-02-01	Every life matters
R. Santiago	Bradenton, FL	2016-02-01	Please help secure Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla's freedom so he can be reunited with his loving family. Thank you!
kibru Fekadu	addis ababa, Ethiopia	2016-02-01	i'm signing here to free Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla
Clifford Meyer	Modesto, CA	2016-02-01	Having both of my parents dead 4 years apart mother was last in 2007 and I would give anything to have them back. So I can understand why this young man is requesting assistance from you as you have been working with the injustices of the US Congress for two terms. If this individual is in fact a Norwegian citizen who had been working to increase the rights and treatment of the indigenous rights of those being massacred and repressed. We stand of rights and freedoms so if we are going to get involved in other countries we need to help. Perhaps you could contact Norway a country that Mr. Ochalla had found refuge in after the massacres. Also the terrorists are the Ethiopian Government agents that captured him while he was visiting family and friends in South Sudan. Also it might be more leverage if the United Nations Council would get involved in helping to resolve this issue. Just a suggestion and NO, I'm not trying to tell you how to do your job but as a past local Union Officer for the Letter Carriers I have found that often if you can get someone else involved that can apply assistance based upon a different plane it helps. No one should be kidnapped while visiting family and friends in another Country.
+Thomas H. Hooker Jr., M.S., L.P.C., D.Div.	Garland, TX	2016-02-01	My father, Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla, is a Norwegian citizen who was kidnapped by the Ethiopian Security Forces and renditioned to Ethiopia in March 2014. Wrongly charged as a terrorist for defending indigenous rights, he has been languishing in jail for nearly two years. United States, a key ally and donor of Ethiopia, can use its partnership, as it has in the past, to free my father. PLEASE JOIN ME TODAY IN ASKING PRESIDENT OBAMA TO WIELD HIS INFLUENCE, AND HELP BRING MY FATHER HOME! Beloved and Honored President Barack Obama, I join in this young man's request for aid to get his father back home.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Carl Kurz	ROXBURY CROSSING, MA	2016-02-01	Human right are essential for the stability and welfare of all people. Oppression against one person or a group of persons is Oppression against us all. Please use your influence to free this man and require Ethiopia to end it's Oppression of indigenous people inside their country
David Scheffel	Saratoga Springs, NY	2016-02-01	If it were your father wouldn't you want everyone who reads this to sign and give you some sense of hope?
Ebrahim ulu	Houston, TX	2016-02-01	Because the Ethiopia government abuses everyone to sustain their political gain. I believe and has a sense of such mass murder, mass arrest, and mass killing are common for citizens of the Gembella, Oromia, Ahmara, Ogden, etc these days. I hope TPOUS will send strong message to safe many Ethiopian people like his father.
Alexandra Sammons	Anniston, AL	2016-02-01	This man is an American citizen and deserves to be brought home. He did not commit a crime and if people who have may committed crimes in foreign countries can come home then why can't a man who was kidnapped?
Neil Samuels	Fort Lee, NJ	2016-02-01	This heinous torture and imprisonment of Mr. Ochalla cannot stand acknowledged unacknowledged. His release is imperative as well as crimes against humanity by the Ethiopian regime!
Christian Capers	Dublin, OH	2016-02-01	Let's help bring this man home!
Sue Sutton	St. Marys, OH	2016-02-01	PRESIDENT OBAMA: I strongly urge you to do the right thing in this case! Many, many people will certainly see YOU as A TRUE HERO!! Please open your heart, and let this case be part OF YOUR LEGACY long after you leave office! THANK YOU IN ADVANCE PRESIDENT OBAMA!!!
Kalifa Kadiro	Cordova, TN	2016-02-01	I am signing because I m from same country and this is true what I have seen it on my own eyes,
SANDEEP SINGH	Ceres, CA	2016-02-01	I CARE.
Agneta Billings	Manistique, MI	2016-02-01	I care
Joseph Moon	Brownsville, KY	2016-02-01	I hope he becomes freed no innocent man should be held captive.
Tina Osuocha	Madison, WI	2016-02-01	Freedom of speach is what we need in Africa ,eventually is what the citizens of African lacks as soon as the rulers are elected the president s becomes a monsters is terrible.pkease help this man
Douglas Brown	Saline, MI	2016-02-01	This seems a terrible injustice that needs to be rectified.
Melinda Pratt	Tucson, AZ	2016-02-01	Humanitarian aid is NEVER a crime!
Tiruneh Bonni	Westbrook, ME	2016-02-01	I am signing this petition because I know that Ethiopian government is known for unjustly jailing, torturing and killing innocent citizens who oppose the government dictatorial actions. So, President, please help this young man to get back his father.
Sarah Berry	New Haven, CT	2016-02-01	He should be allowed to return to Norway.
Eric Zacharias	Cologne, MN	2016-02-01	Beneath this is the covert operation to steal and sell valuable oil assets to the Chinese. See other reasons cited by his father at http://gambelatoday.com/blog/2016/01/17/okello-akway-defends-self-in-court-accuses-eprdf-regime-of-terror/
Abiy Lemma	San Jose, CA	2016-02-01	Mr. Okello Akway has to be free
Darla Dumaplin	Scottsdale, AZ	2016-02-01	I am moved by this humble, well written letter and I truly hope that Our President or someone else of sufficient influence is similarly moved to action to see to the relief and freedom of this man.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
rosie doherty	duxbury, MA	2016-02-01	Because we should not judge people because of they skin or kidnapped them for no reason
J. David Baxter	Salt Lake City, UT	2016-02-01	I believe in political freedom for everyone. He should be allowed to live and work in Norway if he desires to.
Sam Felty	Tucson, AZ	2016-02-01	It is the right thing to do. Justice for all.
Jimmy kreutzer	arlington, VA	2016-02-01	Fuck the repressive government! help this man out, if you can.
Kimberly Dalton	New Baltimore, MI	2016-02-01	Free him now
SEMIR SALEH	BRONX, NY	2016-02-01	Any nation that we provide military aid-- should at least be true to certain values. Oppressive regimes that we support get away with too much injustice.
Nichelle Bricker	Sullivan, IL	2016-02-01	I want to
Paula Adkinson	Atlanta, GA	2016-02-01	Please help this man.
Kathy Maschal Walsh	Livermore, CA	2016-02-01	I am concerned about what I see as a increasing propensity of governments around the world to label as a terrorist anyone who disagrees with government policy.
Robert Fulton	Baker, CA	2016-02-01	Hope your family gets justice.
Mrs. J V - Cañez	Glendale, AZ	2016-02-01	Barack Obama my president keep on keepin on come on let's get this guy out of prison I believe in you I know what you do is right for us so let's save her dad okay and for all those out there look at my words start standing up for what we believe in what this guy is been charged with is so wrong let's stand up for what is right peace and blessings to you all Mrs Cañez
Humayun Khan	Hoffman Estates, IL	2016-02-01	We ought to promote human dignity and kinship.
Leonard Linfante	Newark, NJ	2016-02-01	If Valid i think is a flagrent disregard for Human Rights, of wich our country is built on !!!!
Abdulaziz Ibrahim	Stone Mountain, GA	2016-02-01	Ethiopian Government is known for its repression and abuse against its own people,trying to fool the world in the name of fighting terrorism.even a 5yr old child protestor in Ethiopia is a terrorist..
James Marshall	Detroit, MI	2016-02-01	Wow! This really should have been taken care of automatically. Shame on our government.
Jaalannee Huresae	La Mesa, CA	2016-02-01	Innocent
Joanne Hegg	Mitchell, SD	2016-02-01	We need to help this good man
Hina Ali	Howell, NJ	2016-02-01	To free the mans wife
Shiferaw Gurmu	Takoma Park, MD	2016-02-02	Ethiopian Gov. Kidnapping is like hobby They lie to Western and all wold Known Ethiopian as ok Government but? Pls World check ur policy before worst come to Ethiopian like sunami
Rodolfo Mendez	Metairie, LA	2016-02-02	It is fair

Name	Location	Date	Comment
RW Butler	Olympia, WA	2016-02-02	<p>I love knowing that my Country has the power and desire to rescue those who have been taken captive wrongfully, and that we back our global desires with actions! Please, Mr. President, send our Country to rescue the father of this young man who has unashamedly and with an obvious aura of humility, delivered his request to you. Our Country can, and I hope, become the answer for this man's desire for his father and his family!</p> <p>I look forward to follow this story until its conclusion via our news.</p> <p>Thank you, Mr. President for your time in considering my support to assist the desires of the young man who contacted you originally, in the matter of making his father's freedom a reality, by invoking the power of our country's heart towards the injustices of those who are weak and are unable to embrace justice in their own lives. May The United States gain the reputation of being The People who will not stand by without taking action on those who wish to insert themselves into the lives and beliefs of citizens from around our planet who become victims of The Nations who seek out those who are weak and are without protection from their own Governments.</p> <p>Let's demonstrate that our nation is 'The Friend' of all Nations whenever we are needed!</p> <p>Thank you once more, and may your final days as President be blessed and historically represent you as The Great Man you are attempting to be regardless of those who rise against your every word, your decisions, and your hopes for those you lead and represent. You deserve a break from those crazies! I've got your back here in Civilian-Land, Sir!</p>
Posr Posr	New York, NY	2016-02-02	Freedom to criticize government is a necessary tool against tyranny
Amara Thayer	Corvallis, OR	2016-02-02	Please release this man.
Gashaye Furno	Hyattsville, MD	2016-02-02	I'm signing this because I know Ethiopian government is dictator and I want the political prisoners to be freed.
Max Obuszewski	Baltimore, MD	2016-02-02	Ethiopia is a dictatorship and a human rights disaster. The president should demand Okello's release, and end any relationship with the dictatorship.
Lamont Banks	Colorado Springs, CO	2016-02-02	Because silence is the same as those that administer Injustice.
Diana Diaz	NYC, NY	2016-02-02	We should help our Americans where ever they are
christine donohue	ny, NY	2016-02-02	Everyone should have freedom of speech .opinions and views about the way things are are not terrorism.as long as he wasn't plotting or threatening anyone he should be free.just because you don't agree with things dosrnt make you an enemy.i have yet to see a politician and another agree or the classic reporter etc.. We all have ideas thoughts and feelings about life.that's really not fair to be punished for why not debate what was this man's cause? Is he the victim? Is this justice?
JAMES DANIELS	Missoula, MT	2016-02-02	It is the right thing to do.
Lucky Mangat	India	2016-02-02	Agree
Lucky Mangat	India	2016-02-02	As I am Sikh is helping on this topic
Cynthia davies	Ballwin, MO	2016-02-02	Because everyone deserves justice
Isatu Sheku	Greenbelt, MD	2016-02-02	I'm signing because this gentleman will soon become a statistic like so many who have been wrongfully detained, maimed and killed because there is no freedom of speech; neither the Constiitution nor the Rule of Law is uphold and the constitution is easily manipulated to suit the government of the day. You are an automatic enemy of the regime when you stand up for the truth. Help our people oh God as many parts of Africa remains corrupt through and through!
Teba Arukol	Kampala, Uganda	2016-02-02	Indigenous people have a right to belong, be heard and a right to freedom of expression.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Clare Nowlan	Red Bank, NJ	2016-02-02	Please help this man get back to his family in Norway.
abebe galate	Minneapolis, MN	2016-02-02	Free from jail Mr okello
Peter Seiler	Alpharetta, GA	2016-02-02	I have been to Ethiopia many times. It is a warring country. This man should be released from jail immediately and sent back to his home country!
Victoria Houston	Kansas City, MO	2016-02-02	My LORD JESUS CHRIST says Hebrews 13:3 Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.
Alem Gizaw	Hyattsville, MD	2016-02-03	I'm signing this petition because kidnap and rendition become a normal practice by the most repressive regime in Ethiopia. This practice requires the regime to spend MILLIONS of dollar that could be spend somewhere else. The regimes action is more egregious especially today - when the government is supposed to be focused on alleviating the over 15 million people suffering in drought and starvation.
Messele Aneki	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	2016-02-03	Human being is free to live!
okock ogatu	Ethiopi, Ethiopia	2016-02-03	I signed because I want my uncle to be free.
okock ogatu	Ethiopi, Ethiopia	2016-02-03	I want my uncle to be free
Martina Angella	Kampala, Uganda	2016-02-03	I am signing this because I am very much passionate about human rights.I want to see a world where people's rights are protected.
Elizabeth Terlinden	Pasadena, CA	2016-02-03	Political prisoners deserve to be free
jay perry	League City, TX	2016-02-03	cause i care!!!
Yealem Metsat	Kampala, Norway	2016-02-03	I'm signing because, his jail is illegal indeed!
janet bernson	sherman oaks, CA	2016-02-03	Let's free this innocent man.
Destiny Vera	Pasadena, TX	2016-02-03	I'm signing because we all deserve the right of being with together with our family.
Clara Loyola	New York, NY	2016-02-04	I care and is the right thing to give support to others no matter the color race or believes.
Jessy Wu	Bristol, United Kingdom	2016-02-04	Everyone has a right to happiness and freedom. We have no right however to take those things from people
Bobbi Tolosa	Los Angeles, CA	2016-02-04	No one should be unjustly imprisoned, this man deserves justice
thomas rustin	Nine Mile Falls, WA	2016-02-04	Justice isn't always what the judicial system says it is.
Carla Riemer	Eagle River, WI	2016-02-04	No country should be allowed to kidnap the citizen of another country.
David Deng	Juba, South Sudan	2016-02-05	Free Okello!
sheryl berberich	Sioux City, IA	2016-02-05	We are asking President Obama to please use his influence in the freedom of Okella Akway.Thank you
Jane Baldwin	Glen Ellen, CA	2016-02-05	Demand that the government of Ethiopia respect the human rights of all Ethiopian's. Release Mr. Okello!
Mohammed Abubaker	Toronto, Canada	2016-02-05	I m signing to support you to support your father
Gizat Assefa	Dallas, TX	2016-02-06	TPLF/EPRDF government of Ethiopia must released all political conscience prisoner in Ethiopia.
levan chipashvili	tbilisi, Georgia	2016-02-06	because I know how it is to be the victim of injustice sistem and to be prisoned for nothing
sura kenasa	addis abeba, Ethiopia	2016-02-06	PLEASE SUPPORT US IN FIGHTING AGAINST TYRANNY GOVERNMENT!!
Efrm Kets	Baltimore, MD	2016-02-06	Oboko okele

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Derege Girma	Las Vegas, NV	2016-02-06	The ethnocentric criminals who claim to be leaders in Ethiopia have jailed more journalists and opposition leaders, religious leaders, and any one that is opposed to their hateful, bias, corrupt, and murderous philosophy and action! This man is one of the many victims of injustice who is in anguish in their torturous prison for standing up for his people who are being ethnically cleansed by these war criminals while they work on their tramped up charges!
alock nyigow	Spokane, WA	2016-02-07	we need freedom for Mr. Okello our leader.
Eyob Solomon	Gothenburg, Sweden	2016-02-07	I'm signing because his arrest, and the way he is being treated ever since is a crime against humanity!!
Bungire Opothi	Dayton, OH	2016-02-07	I believe that our human rights should be taken away because we all humans
ASEFA WAKJIRA	San Anselmo, CA	2016-02-08	I'm human being
Getaneh Genanew	Hyattsville, MD	2016-02-08	I am signing this petition because his cause is my cause.
Rosemary Otto	Spokane, WA	2016-02-08	To support this family who live in my community and are part of my church and to support the persecuted t Anuak people.
Dennis Beemer	Spokane, WA	2016-02-08	Obok is a member of my church, and I believe his Father has been wrongfully imprisoned for political purposes. Please honor his Petition!
Steven Baird	Cheney, WA	2016-02-08	An injustice has occurred.
Kim Johnson	Spokane, WA	2016-02-08	We are a country of human rights!
john Akway	Nairobi, Kenya	2016-02-08	I'm signing because... (i want my governor who was accused falsely by the government of Ethiopia to be free) in a pure democracy, there is always justice .
Elizabeth Oyieko	Siaya, Kenya	2016-02-09	A father just needs his freedom to look after his Children.
Elsbeth Otto	Bishop, CA	2016-02-09	I stand with the Anuak people who have suffered so much persecution. Obok deserves to have his father brought home!
Abshir Shuceyb	mogadishu, Somalia	2016-02-09	I feel sorry of that and i belive that Ethopian government Charges a lot of people for no reason that is anti Human freedom
Judith Kempston	Spokane, WA	2016-02-09	It is the right thing to do.
Fikeru Bedaso	Saint Paul, MN	2016-02-10	Free Okello Ochalla!!!
Girma Asrat	ambo, Ethiopia	2016-02-10	This person is not a terrorist.
Abram Hostetter	Charlottesville, VA	2016-02-10	All modern nations must tolerate freedom of expression.
Don Garcia	Fort Garland, CO	2016-02-10	Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. MLK
Peter Hason	Riverside, CA	2016-02-10	I'm signing because a righteous man needs his freedom back.
tiffany faust	new orleans, LA	2016-02-10	It's the right thing to do.
Megan Monter	El Cajon, CA	2016-02-10	I would want my dad home
Rose Willis	New York, NY	2016-02-10	This is horrible..
david cowie	COLUMBIA, MD	2016-02-10	It seems reasonable to do so
Jennifer Waterman	West Burlington, IA	2016-02-10	This is inhumane!
uldis roze	douglaston, NY	2016-02-10	Justice should prevail everywhere.
Robin Poe	Lebanon, OH	2016-02-10	I hope this isn't too late. I saw trial was Jan 26
Ricky SCOTT	Long Beach, CA	2016-02-10	keep relations with ethiopia good...
sherri schneider	Minneapolis, MN	2016-02-10	That is so sad. Anyone who has the power to help, should.
Veronica Crofoot	Louisville, KY	2016-02-10	President Obama, please help free Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Jan Jewell	Stillwater, OK	2016-02-11	I am signing because time may be running out for this young man's father and he should not be imprisoned and especially not be tortured for speaking out for his people.
Ellie Viale	Fountain Valley, CA	2016-02-11	Mr. President Obama, Please help to bring back Mr. Okello. His family is desperate. Thank you Mr. President, I know you will help. Blessings!
Derek Patterson	Houston, TX	2016-02-11	Im signing because its the right thing to do...
Harold Onyeukwu	Baltimore, MD	2016-02-11	I'm signing because we cannot fold our hands and allow oppressive regimes to reign supreme in Africa. I am equally lending my voice in pleading with the leader of the free world, President Obama, to intervene and facilitate the reunion of Okello Akway Ochalla with his family.
Juhie Sylvain	Chicago, IL	2016-02-11	I would want someone to rescue me from my nightmare in an Ethiopian jail too
William Looney	Silverdale, WA	2016-02-11	We would want others to do this for our Loved Ones...The Golden Rule!
RT Middleton	Casa Grande, AZ	2016-02-11	Mr Presdent I would hope you could have the facts checked on this issue ,and if true use united states influence to rectify this travesty thanks RT PS-I voted for you both times
Charles Burgess	Richland, WA	2016-02-11	This matter should be investigated and, if unjust, the rendition and trial of this man should be opposed by the United States.
Thomasine Hardesty	Columbus, OH	2016-02-11	Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla was acting with compassion for justice for the people of Ethiopia. Now his daughter is pleading for mercy for her father and that is what any loving daughter would do. Mr. President please hear her cry today.
Susan Buki	Medford, MA	2016-02-11	Our government needs to defend human rights and use influence to protect innocent people.
Eric Simoneau	Arlington, MA	2016-02-11	Let him be free.
Huei-Yi Pan	San Antonio, TX	2016-02-11	This daughter needs her Dad!!!
Gregg Shepherd	Chelsea, MA	2016-02-11	If this is a good man, and all I have to do is sign this to help, I will. I will say however, it says "...as you have heard...student protests met with violence..." This is the first news I've heard from Ethiopia since I was told to bring food to my school to send to them when I was a kid. I don't think anyone has any idea what's happening over there. I'm sure we only hear what we are meant to unfortunately. I hope this man gets his freedom.
Michelle Moreno	Castro Valley, CA	2016-02-11	We must be the change we wish to see.
Rishika Randev	Ashburn, VA	2016-02-11	This man is innocent and he is a father; his son is asking for him to be given his basic right to freedom as a human. His father has suffered so much just for raising his voice against human rights violations, an action that is noble and courageous, not deserving of torture and imprisonment. Mr. Okello Akway's father must be freed!
Elizabeth Minor	Edmond, OK	2016-02-11	Free this man!
John Keita	Federalsburg, MD	2016-02-11	I love seeing girls fighting for their father. Besides, everybody needs freedom Mr.president, please help bring her father home.
Berissa Kabeto	Houston, TX	2016-02-11	be frre fromprison
Larae Coley	dover, DE	2016-02-11	"Injustice ANYWHERE, is a threat to justice EVERYWHERE." "The only thing required for evil to triumph, is for good men to do NOTHING."

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Debra Watson	Austin, TX	2016-02-11	His father sounds like a good honorable man who needs our help.
Rachel Hershey	Geneseo, NY	2016-02-11	No one should be punished for doing good. We must fight these injustices
Hanain Fazal	Gainesville, FL	2016-02-11	I'm signing because injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Just imagine how much help you would want from others if your family member was wrongfully imprisoned.
Leslie Rotureau	Lutz, FL	2016-02-11	Mr. Akway, I hope that signing this petition helps your father, Your family is in my prayers.
Deborah Shaw, Phd	Key Largo, FL	2016-02-11	Please help this brave man.
Shree Shah	South Plainfield, NJ	2016-02-11	It's right
Isabel Valensia	Houston, TX	2016-02-11	We must stand for whats right
abdikarim nur	Houston, TX	2016-02-11	To be free Mr.Okello Akway Ochalla from Ethiopia prison .
Patricia Rodino	Arlington Heights, IL	2016-02-11	He needs to be freed!
Rachel Rao	Miami, FL	2016-02-11	I know another Ethiopian whose father was disappeared by the government. This cannot go on.
Zigmia Bayonet-Diaz	Arlington, VA	2016-02-11	I'm with you a 100% & as the granddaughter of a political prisoner... My heart feels your pain and will keep you all in my prayers. I'm 1st generation Cuban, Dominican and Haitian American, so I know the struggle and it's quite a painful but very real situation.
leticia montoya	Deer Park, TX	2016-02-11	Today for you, tomorrow for me.
Lynda Addington	Helena, MT	2016-02-11	Human rights issues are rampant around the world and need to be taken more seriously - dealt with more timely and penalized appropriately.
Jeremiah O	Baltimore, MD	2016-02-11	Please take into account Obok's letter and use your influence as President of the US to get him freed. People who simply speak out for the right to voice protest against inhuman governments shouldn't be subject to torture and worse.
Barbara Kalbach	Dexter, IA	2016-02-11	This man is being held after being kidnapped with trumped up charges. His jailing is unjust and the United States should use its influence to return him to his family.
Roberta goodell	Minneapolis, MN	2016-02-11	He needs to be replaced. His kidnappers are going to burn in Hell for what they are doing. Release this innocent man. Karma is a terrible thing. Who knows, maybe the kidnappers will have a family member that gets kidnapped too. And when they do, they better not cry about it.
Suzanne Llewellyn	Walnut Creek, CA	2016-02-11	I believe the United States should be a beacon of hope for people around the world.
Getachew Begashaw	Hoffman Estates, IL	2016-02-11	It's an outright violation of human rights for the Ethiopian government to kidnap Mr. Ochalla and subjecting hime torture and deprivation. Such rogue government, supported by the US Government, is causing so much suffering and abuse against the Ethiopian people. I, a law abiding, tax paying, and voting American citizen, demand that my government stops being an accomplice in oppressing the Ethiopian people and uses its influence to get Mr. Ochalla released immediately.
kevin rath	oakland, CA	2016-02-11	I am sick of governments of all sorts detaining people for defending their rights and protecting nature. Governments need to listen to indigenous people who see and understand things that governments don't.
Brandie Blakely	Tulsa, OK	2016-02-11	I am for human rights!

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Bruce Campbell	Los Angeles, CA	2016-02-11	This incarcerated fellow apparently is a fine man who speaks out against abuses perpetrated on the Anuak people. He deserves to be free and secure from violence. Thank you.
Vittorio Perroni	Whitby On, Canada	2016-02-11	we live in an aristocratic society and it is a shame We must go to the top executive officer for something that is our natural right . Obama will not listen to a caring son , shame on him ; he needs a multitude of potential voters before he does anything . I joined the thousands before Me ; let's see the thousands after Me . Let's free HIS Father and all the Fathers and let's have real democracy , where in voice must have the power of thousands !
jerry rosario	chennai, MS	2016-02-11	i am signing because kidnapping is a condemnable crime today
Russ French	Harrisville, NH	2016-02-11	For the love of Jesus, please bring this man to his family and take appropriate action against the brutality of the Ethiopian government.
Vina Nguyen	Garden Grove, CA	2016-02-11	It's the right thing to do
Kendra Stuckey	Hammond, IN	2016-02-11	Two years in a jail for false charges?? Release this innocent man immediately. That is only right. Pursue punishment towards those involved in his kidnapping and wrongful charges.
Zadie Krissoff	Leonardtown, MD	2016-02-12	I cannot say I know what it is to be like to not have a father, nor would I wish that upon anyone. To jail an innocent man is a true crime, but to set him free is an act of true heroism.
andrew muller	Australia	2016-02-12	human rights are universal
Cherri yale	Rutherford, NJ	2016-02-12	this man deserves to be home with his family
dachaas oliiyaad	harar, Ethiopia	2016-02-12	release all political prisoned leader and people
Michelle Christians	Eugene, OR	2016-02-12	Because terrorism hates freedom, and freedom hates terrorism!
Malkia Bektemba	Salem, NJ	2016-02-13	FREE HIS FATHER!
Lola Frederick	Spokane, WA	2016-02-13	I pray President Obama can resolve this situation and return your father home. Godspeed.
Tonya Stevens	Bozeman, MT	2016-02-13	I feel this man has been unjustly detained.
Ojulu Obang	Calgary, Canada	2016-02-14	To free Okello akway
Shekure Sherefa	Winnipeg, Canada	2016-02-14	I am a firm believer of justice and freedom for all
Quintin Curtis	Las Vegas, NV	2016-02-14	A must. Governments cannot be allowed to get away with kidnapping.
Paul Reeves	Bossier City, LA	2016-02-14	No one should be held prisoner for false charges.
Dr Paul Lewis	West Haven, CT	2016-02-14	I'm signing this petition "Because it's the right thing to do."
Janeah Thomas	Elmira, NY	2016-02-14	Save the innocent!
OSVALDO CORONA	Pcia Buenos Aires, AR	2016-02-15	NOBODY IS THE OWNER OF NOBODY. MAN BORN FREE AND SHALL REMAIN FREE.
BARBARA WHITE WHITE	EAST ORANGE, NJ	2016-02-15	Kidnapping, free speech, human rights.
Caleara DeCembly	Toledo, OH	2016-02-15	If not me, who might not be there for me should I find myself in need of an advocate.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Lily Marie	Rough and Ready, CA	2016-02-16	Dear President Obama, I am signing the petition because I heard about the Land grabs in Ethiopia on KPFA radio. Mr. Okello Akway Ochalla is a hero, he stand for the human rights needs to defended from corrupt governments that are puppets for the global corporations. If human right are not respected in all countries of the world, then none of us is safe from corporate oppression. Please use your influence free Mr. Ochalla.
Shanee Rodell	Palo alto, CA	2016-02-16	I believe in justice!!! Let this man go!
Solomon Kebede	Australia	2016-02-17	Ethiopia has become a land of few and a prison for millions.
okock ogatu	Ethiopi, Ethiopia	2016-02-17	I want my uncle to be free .
Teresa Hinebaugh	Asheville, NC	2016-02-17	No human should be punished for speaking up for human rights. Help free this man Mr. President. Every life matters and if you have the power, it is a crime not to use it to save an innocent man.
Solomon Alefe	Australia	2016-02-18	I m signing I want Father to join his son
Virginia O'Mara	Nashua, NH	2016-02-18	Mr. President, On the strength of the information in this petition, it appears that a terrible miscarriage of justice has occurred. Please use your influence to help this man.
jack Slattery	Pawling, NY	2016-02-21	We need to get this man home
Amy Harlib	New York, NY	2016-02-21	STOP A TERRIBLE INJUSTICE!
Carlina Smith	Albany, GA	2016-02-22	Every life is precious... if Obama can help, he should.... he has helped more for less....
Mo Bajtal	Shrub Oak, NY	2016-02-25	Obama
Austin Liu	San Francisco, CA	2016-02-25	This man has been treated unjustly. Those in power need to help right this wrong.
Rahima Abdullah	Wyncote, PA	2016-02-26	Justice for all of the fathers of America especially those who can't fight for themselves.
Dr. Admasu Tucho	Philadelphia, PA	2016-02-26	I petition for the immediate and unconditional release of Mr. Okello.
Emma Hoermann	Harleysville, PA	2016-02-27	Bring this innocent person home.
Joyce Carpenter	Rice Lake, WI	2016-02-27	It shouldn't be a difficult decision. Stop the suffering. Help it's man get out of prison.
Nick Greinert	Round Rock, TX	2016-02-28	We need everyone so that we may fix this world. Especially brave people that are willing to stand against inequality like your father!
Catherine Morrissey	Tyrone, PA	2016-03-01	Animals don't deserved to be abused!
Fikre Chere	Las Vegas, NV	2016-03-01	The man is innocent.
Fritz Hilpert	München, HI	2016-03-01	I will help
Alexis Iqbal	Los Alamitos, CA	2016-03-01	Because it's the right thing to do.
Brian Stusalitus	Sarasota, FL	2016-03-01	Love all people.
Robbie Cabral	Honolulu, HI	2016-03-01	We all have to do our part in the world to fight for our freedoms!
Rosalyn D'Amico	Thousand Oaks,, CA	2016-03-01	I am a proud American citizen - proud because I dwell in a country who has always had a heart for justice for all the politically oppressed unfairly accused peoples of the world. God bless America and my she always do the "right thing" when it comes to those imprisoned unfairly.
Brian Larson	Cassville, WI	2016-03-01	If this is accurate I think we owe our Knorwegian friends a hand.

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Karen Pittenger	Arvada, CO	2016-03-01	Injustice is simply far too costly to our souls, our time, energy and economy. Let this fellow go!
Marga Sukessaa	Saint Paul, MN	2016-03-02	I am signing b/c of Ethiopian government is killing Oromo students & kidnapping a lot of people in different areas
Dolores Dean	Wixom, MI	2016-03-02	Human rights