

URGENT ACTION

ARTIST'S DISAPPEARANCE MUST BE INVESTIGATED

Ethiopian human rights defender, photographer, and videographer, **Filmon Gebrehiwot Hagos (33)**, has not been seen since August 10, 2025. On the same day, his family filed a complaint at the local police station and later at the General Sub-City Police Station, but over one year on, and the authorities have yet to publicly announce any investigations initiated or underway into his disappearance. The Ethiopian authorities must urgently carry out an effective, independent, thorough, and transparent investigation into the enforced disappearance of **Filmon Gebrehiwot Hagos** and immediately reveal his fate and whereabouts.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 85.26**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

**Tigray Regional President
Debretsion Gebremichael**

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/gebremichael.debretsion/>

Send a copy of your letter to the address below

**CC: Ethiopian Embassy in the United States
Ambassador Binalf Andualem Ashenef**

3506 International Drive, NW

Washington, D.C. 20008

Email: ethiopia@ethiopianembassy.org

Dear Debretsion Gebremichael,

I am concerned about the enforced disappearance of human rights defender **Filmon Gebrehiwot Hagos** who appears to have been targeted for his human rights work.

Filmon Gebrehiwot Hagos is a photographer, videographer, and owner of Filari Film Production (Filari) in Tigray, Ethiopia's capital. On August 10, 2025, he disappeared from Adihawusi, Mekelle, Tigray on his way home from work traveling on a bajaja taxi. His wife called him when he did not arrive home and his phone rang several times but was ultimately unreachable. There have been no confirmed sightings of him since. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown, raising serious concerns that he has been subjected to enforced disappearance.

No official explanation has been provided by the authorities about who may be responsible for his disappearance or where Filmon Gebrehiwot Hagos may be held if in custody. However, there are concerns that he may have been targeted in connection with his work which involved documenting the impact of the Tigray conflict between 2020-2022 including human rights violations.

These enforced disappearances constitute a clear infringement upon their entitlement to freedom of expression and press freedom, as safeguarded by both regional and international human rights conventions, of which Ethiopia is a state party to.

I call on you to take all necessary steps to ensure an effective, independent, thorough, and transparent investigation is immediately carried out into the enforced disappearance of Filmon Gebrehiwot Hagos. If he is in custody of the Tigrayan authorities, I urge you to ensure that his whereabouts are immediately disclosed and that he is released immediately and unconditionally.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Filmon Gebrehiwot Hagos is a husband and father of two children. He is the owner of Filari Film Production (Filari) and is known for his videography of weddings, films, music videos, news coverage, and photoshoots. Shortly before his enforced disappearance, it is alleged that he was working on documenting the effects of the war, recording interviews with survivors of sexual violence, and carrying out other post-war documentation activities.

Filmon's case constitutes a violation of the rights to freedom of expression, including press freedom, as well as the right to liberty and security of the person. It underscores the ongoing risks faced by journalists and others who monitor, document, investigate, and report on gross human rights violations, in a context marked by limited prospects for justice and accountability. The case also reflects a broader crackdown on civic space and the absence of effective pathways to accountability for serious abuses.

Ethiopia has a long-documented pattern of enforced disappearances, especially in relation to the 2020-2025 war in Tigray region. The 2021 Joint Ethiopia Human Rights Commission–Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [report](#) is the strongest evidence base documenting enforced disappearances in Tigray.

The recent [reports](#) also indicate an alarming rise in abductions and enforced disappearances in Tigray. The right to freedom of expression and association must be respected and protected at all times.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: March 1, 2027

NAME AND PRONOUN: Filmon Gebrehiwot Hagos (He/Him)