

The observatory For the Respect of the Human Rights in Djibouti
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Press release

Mahmoud Ahmed Chehem (a Djiboutian National), Estifanos Solomon (Eritrean, a driver) and two Eritrean army officers left Assab (Eritrea) on December 26, 2004 for Obock (Djibouti) where they were detained by the Djiboutian army. Mahmoud Ahmed Chehem, born in Moulhoulé (Djibouti) and a Djibouti citizen requested to be allowed to come back to his country, while the three Eritreans asked for the political asylum.

The Djiboutian authorities without studying the request for political asylum and without taking account of Djiboutian citizenship of Mahmoud Ahmed Chehem, handed over the four persons to the Eritrean military officers on December 28, 2004 (two days after their arrival).

The four persons were held in secret places, and on May 17, 2005 they were executed by the Eritrean regime without charge or trial. Their families learned about this terrible news on September 7, 2007.

The observatory For the Respect of the Human Rights in Djibouti

- **Saddened by a scandalous action of Djiboutian regime for extraditing its own citizen as well as three Eritrean nationals who fled persecution with the knowledge that the four persons will face execution in Eritrea**
- **Strongly condemns extradition of Mahmoud Ahmed Chehem, Estifanos Solomon and two Eritrean army officers by the Djibouti government in contempt of the national laws of Djibouti (that prohibit extradition of Djibouti citizens) and international conventions (without considering political asylum request of three Eritrean nationals, and depriving them of all contact with the UNHCR in Djibouti).**
- **Condemns the barbaric executions of the four persons by the Eritrean regime and the gross violations of Human Rights in this country.**
- **URGES the International Community to put pressure on both the Eritrean and Djibouti governments to respect basic human rights and stop illegal extraditions and extra judicial executions**

THE OBSERVATORY (ORDHD)

S. BERNIER

Montreuil, September 20, 2007