



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Sources in Egypt close to the America Team for Freedom for Eritrea (www.FreeEritrea.org), have reported today that Egyptian authorities have rounded up 717 Eritrean Refugees with intention to deport them to Eritrea. Egyptian security forces reportedly employed the same tactic used earlier this year, when deporting hundreds back to Eritrea: they told the refugees that they would take their photographs in order to hand them over to the UNHCR.

According to reports obtained today directly from Egypt:

1. 450 of the refugees are jailed in a place called Berjia Alarabia, close to Alexandria. 45 of them are reported missing from the place and it is suspected that they have been taken to a separate cell;
2. 180 refugees were initially jailed in an underground prison in a military camp located in Aswan Shilan. However, 17 of them got an opportunity to go to Ethiopia, while the remaining 163 are still there;
3. 104 refugees are jailed in a place called Qnafir.

The America Team calls on all caring and humanitarian governmental and nongovernmental organizations to prevail on the Egyptian government to not deport these poor Eritreans to Eritrea, to an uncertain but cruel fate.