



**PUBLIC SERVICES  
INTERNATIONAL**

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## **PSI Calls for the Immediate Release of Dr. Daniel Fentaneh and All Detained Ethiopian Health Workers**

Public Services International (PSI), the global voice of over 30 million public service workers across the world, stands with the Ethiopian Health Professionals Movement in their struggle for decent work, including adequate remuneration, improved working conditions and social dialogue. We demand the immediate and unconditional release of Dr. Daniel Fentaneh and all health workers arrested for exercising their fundamental rights.

We are outraged by the arrest and continued detention of Dr. Daniel Fentaneh, a leader in the Ethiopian Health Professionals Movement. His arrest, along with the detention of many other health workers over the past weeks, is an attack on the right of all workers in Ethiopia to organize, speak out, and to demand their rights.

For weeks, thousands of health workers across Ethiopia have taken part in peaceful strike actions to draw attention to unbearable conditions in the public health sector. The workers' grievances are clear and legitimate: staffing shortages, undignified pay that cannot feed a family, and the daily collapse of the public health system. These health professionals, who serve under difficult and precarious conditions, chose dialogue but the government refused that path and chose repression.

PSI calls on the Ethiopian government to immediately and unconditionally release Dr. Daniel Fentaneh and all detained health workers. We demand an end to the crackdown on organized workers, especially voices in the health sector.

Ethiopia has ratified important international labour conventions, including ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, and Convention 98 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining. We ask that the Ethiopian government stands by its commitments to the people of Ethiopia as expressed in its ratification of the ILO Convention.

Instead of targeting workers, the government must focus its energy where it is truly needed: invest in public health, enter honest negotiations, and meet the just demands of the health workforce. The government must stop treating its health workers as enemies.

We demand the immediate release of Dr. Daniel Fentaneh, and all detained health workers.

Respect labour rights and invest in public health.

**Daniel OBERKO**

PSI Regional Secretary for Africa and Arab countries

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Public Services International is a Global Union Federation of more than 700 trade unions representing 30 million workers in 154 countries. We bring their voices to the UN, ILO, WHO and other regional and global organisations. We defend trade union and workers' rights and fight for universal access to quality public services.

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