African Humanitarian Action

AHA's Statement on the Passing of Mr. Tafese Belete

Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) extends its deepest condolences on the passing of veteran Ethiopian journalist Mr. Tafese Belete, whose distinguished career spanned national and international journalism as well as serving as AHA's Liaison in Geneva, Switzerland.

He served as a Senior Reporter with the Ethiopian News Agency in Addis Ababa, Dire Dawa, and Asmara, and later spent 17 years as an English-language journalist at the United Nations Office in Geneva, covering UN conferences, international organizations, diplomatic affairs, and major international developments. He also contributed in-depth reports to the Amharic service of the Voice of America.

Recognized for the accuracy, objectivity, clarity, speed, and depth of his reporting, he received the Golden Pen Award and was widely regarded as a journalist who helped modernize professional standards of Amharic news writing. He also authored a book in which he further contributed to the profession by sharing practical knowledge and experience with future generations of Ethiopian journalists.

Beyond his distinguished journalism career, Mr. Tafese Belete demonstrated a strong commitment to humanitarian and community services. During his years in Geneva, he supported AHA's humanitarian endeavors as a volunteer link with humanitarian organizations, NGOs, and UN system agencies. He also served in charitable organizations such as "*Iné-m le-Wogéne*" alongside his wife. He contributed to the establishment of the Ethiopian Mutual Aid Association, where he provided financial support, guidance, and encouragement to members. Through these efforts, he contributed to strengthening community-based support systems and organizations dedicated to helping others.

AHA honors Mr. Tafese Belete's enduring legacy as a journalist, communicator, and committed humanitarian and community organizer. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, friends, and all those mourning his passing. His dedication to journalism and service to others will be remembered with respect and gratitude.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

