

ASSESSMENT TO REFER

ALIEN NUMBER: ~~30~~ [REDACTED] DATE: 10/09/12

NAME: ~~Anton~~ [REDACTED] ASYLUM OFFICER: ZAR 354

COUNTRY: Ethiopia REVIEWING SAO: ZAR 176 [Signature]

LOCATION: ZAR

(b)(5)

The applicant indicated that he is a 28 year-old male native and citizen of Ethiopia who entered the United States at Washington Dulles on 02/18/2012 and was inspected and admitted as a P3 until 06/30/2012.

The applicant was represented by Mr. Aragaw Mehari who prepared the asylum application. Mr. Habte Awalom served as the interpreter during the interview.

The applicant fears that he will be harmed by representatives of the government on account of his political opinion.

The applicant filed his asylum application on July 24, 2012 and established by clear and convincing evidence that such filing was within one year of his last date of arrival into the United States.

The applicant testified that he is a member of a five person band. In August 2009 the band was hired by Marina Club in the United Arab Emirates to perform. During its performances, the band played a song which is forbidden in Ethiopia. On November 26, 2011 the band played this song. An unknown man interrupted the performance by taking the stage and the microphone and stating that they should not play this song. A physical fight then ensued between this man and approximately 10 members of the audience. The band continued playing the song at the Marina Club Manager's direction because the band was under contract to perform the song. The following day, November 27, 2011, the applicant and two of his band members were met at their hotel by three EPRDF members who warned them not to play the song. The band continued playing this song during future concerts per the terms of their contract.

On December 6, 2011 the band returned to Ethiopia. On December 8, 2011 the applicant was arrested from his home and taken to Woreda 11 police station where he was repeatedly interrogated regarding his suspected political activities and affiliations and was further beaten. On December 10, 2011 government authorities searched the applicant's home discovering politically-charged poems and lyrics he had written. On December 14, 2011 the applicant was transferred to Woreda 2 police station where he was held until he was released on bail on January 20, 2012. The applicant was married on January 25, 2012 because this was the date he and his fiancé had previously set. His preparer for his US Visa, Mr. Allan Ebert, had commenced the visa application process

while the applicant was still living in UAE. The applicant subsequently learned that all of his fellow band members had been similarly arrested and detained in Ethiopia for playing this inflammatory song in the UAE. The applicant is presently residing with three of them in DC. They have not performed in the DC area since they have entered the U.S on February 18, 2012. They exited Ethiopia together the previous day, February 17, 2012. The applicant is afraid that he will be arrested and tortured if he returns to Ethiopia on account of an anti-government political opinion.