

P R O F O C A

**Professional Foreign Correspondents Association
of Sweden**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**137 JOURNALISTS WHO DIED
IN THE LINE OF DUTY DURING
2009, WILL BE HONOURED IN
SWEDEN**

Stockholm, Sweden, May 25, 2010.

137 journalists, from 33 countries, who died in the line of duty during 2009, will be honoured in the capital of Sweden by PROFOCA (Professional Foreign Correspondents Association) during the celebration of the seventh Stockholm Journalists Memorial.

The service will be conducted at the Catholic Cathedral in Stockholm by representatives of the Catholic, Swedish and Russian Orthodox churches, with the presence of 28 ambassadors and/or councillors of the embassies of the affected countries, plus representatives of different organizations and journalists organizations.

During the Memorial, Francesco Alonzo, President of PROFOCA, will deliver words of praise for the Swedish journalists Dawit Isaak, who remains incarcerated in Eritrea since 2001 for his fight for freedom of speech and democracy in the African country. A white rose will be placed on the altar while attendants do a small pray for him in the hope that he will be free again quite soon.

The Memorial will be held on Wednesday, May 26, at the Catholic Cathedral in Stockholm, Sweden.

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On September 2001, Isaak was arrested in Eritrea by the government, together with other journalists. Not less than ten of the arrested journalists have died in prison. Swedish dailies, Aftonbladet, Dagens Nyheter, Expressen and Svenska Dagbladet, endorsed by the foreign media and private and political institutions, have fought during months on behalf of Dawit Isaak to make him a free man once again. We truly hope they will succeed one of these days. Fate of Dawit Isaak is still unknown. Will he be free again?

He wrote and published articles on the need for democracy and freedom of speech in Eritrea in the newspaper Setit. He has been tortured and incarcerated on and on and represents a true symbol of freedom of speech for all the journalists in the world.

No one knows for sure if Dawit Isaak is still alive or if he already perished in the hands of a totalitarian government whose lack of respect for the freedom of speech and democracy is worldwide known.

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