

Ethiopian monk said to be 114 years old survives coronavirus

June 28 2020



Centenarian Tilahun Woldemichael cries as he prays to God after spending weeks in hospital recovering from the coronavirus, at his house in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Saturday, June 27, 2020. The Ethiopian monk believed to be 114 years old has survived the coronavirus and was discharged from a hospital on Thursday, having received oxygen and dexamethasone, a cheap and widely available steroid that researchers in England have said reduced deaths by up to one third in severely ill hospitalized patients. (AP Photo/Mulugeta Ayene)

An Ethiopian Orthodox monk whose family says he is 114 years old has survived the coronavirus.

Tilahun Woldemichael was discharged from a hospital on Thursday after almost three weeks. He received oxygen and dexamethasone, a cheap and widely available steroid that researchers in England have said reduced deaths by up to one third in severely ill hospitalized patients.

Ethiopia's [health minister](#) has said the ministry recommends the emergency use of the drug for COVID-19 patients who require ventilation or oxygen.

Tilahun's grandson Biniam Leulseged said he has no [birth certificate](#) to prove the monk's age, but he showed a photo of him celebrating his 100th birthday.

"He was looking young back then, too," Biniam told The Associated Press on Saturday.

He said he was emotional when his grandfather was taken to the hospital but "I am very happy because we are together again."

Ethiopia has more than 5,200 confirmed cases of the virus.



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