

URGENT ACTION

MAN SEIZED IN LIBYA BROUGHT TO US COURT

A Libyan man who was seized by US forces in Libya on 29 October has been flown to the USA and appeared in federal court on 3 November.

On 29 October, US forces seized **Mustafa Muhammad Muftah al-Imam**, a Libyan national, in the area of Misurata, a coastal city in northwest Libya, and transferred him to a US ship. They transferred him to a plane and flew him to the USA. In a speech on 2 November, US Attorney General Jeff Sessions said that Mustafa al-Imam had been “apprehended overseas and is on his way to America to face justice.” On 3 November, officials brought Mustafa al-Imam to US District Court in Washington, DC. An arrest warrant filed in the court was signed on 3 November, and he was appointed a lawyer on that day. The next hearing on the case was set for 9 November.

Mustafa al-Imam is facing charges under a criminal complaint filed in US District Court in DC on 19 May 2015, which was unsealed on 31 October 2017. The charges relate to the attack on 11-12 September 2012 on the US Special Mission and Annex in Benghazi, resulting in the deaths of four US nationals, Ambassador Christopher Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty. The complaint charges Mustafa al-Imam with: “Killing a person in the course of an attack on a federal facility involving the use of a firearm and dangerous weapon and attempting and conspiring to do the same;” “Providing, attempting and conspiring to provide material support to terrorists resulting in death;” and “Discharging, brandishing, using, carrying and possession of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence.”

The lead charge is punishable by the death penalty. The US Attorney General has to authorize any pursuit of the death penalty in federal trials. In the case of another man seized by US forces in Libya in June 2014 and brought to the USA by ship, it was nearly two years before the prosecution announced on 10 May 2016 that it would not be seeking the death penalty against him. His trial in relation to the September 2002 attack on the US diplomatic compound Benghazi compound began in the DC District Court in October 2017.

No further action by the UA Network is requested at present. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 246/17. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/7373/2017/en/

Name: Mustafa Muhammad Muftah al-Imam

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 246/17 Index: AMR 51/7401/2017 Issue Date: 6 November 2017