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EGYPT: INVESTIGATIONS SHOULD BE MADE PUBLIC ON SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF "DISAPPEARANCE" OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

On the second anniversary of the "disappearance" of Mansur Kikhiya -- and on International Human Rights Day -- Amnesty International is calling on the Egyptian Government to make public the investigation into his abduction.

"Two years have now elapsed since Mansur Kikhiya "disappeared" in Cairo. Why have the Egyptian authorities still not made the outcome of their investigation public?" Amnesty International said today.

"We fear that Mansur Kikhiya may have been abducted by agents of the Libyan Government."

Mansur Kikhiya, a prominent Libyan human rights activist and the Secretary General of the National Libyan Alliance, an opposition group based abroad, went missing on 10 December 1993 from al-Safir Hotel in Cairo. He was attending a conference held by the Arab Organization for Human Rights. Immediately after his "disappearance", the Egyptian authorities stated they had launched an investigation.

In July 1995 two Amnesty delegates met with the head of the Human Rights Unit within the Public Prosecutor's Office in Egypt and raised the case of Mansur Kikhiya with him. They were told that the investigation was completed and Egypt had nothing to do with his "disappearance", without giving any further details on how the investigation was carried out or the procedures and outcome that followed.

"We have repeatedly asked the Egyptian authorities to make public the results of the investigation, as well as asking the Libyan Government for information about Mansur Kikhiya's whereabouts, but we still have not had any reply from either government," Amnesty International said.

Baha Kikhiya, Mansur's wife, has been campaigning to find out the whereabouts of her husband. At the end of October 1995 she went to Libya and met with Libyan Government officials, including the Minister of Justice, who told her that the Libyan Government was in contact with the Egyptian authorities to find out about the fate of Mansur.

In June 1994 Baha Kikhiya went to Libya and met with Colonel Mu'ammr al-Gaddafi, the Leader of the Revolution, who told her that "Mansur is my friend, I respect him very much and he is a human rights advocator. We will endeavour to look for him inside and outside the country".

In April 1995 Baha Kikhiya was invited by the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights to receive on behalf of her husband, a human rights prize. Before she went to Egypt she contacted the authorities asking for protection. She was told "not to come to Egypt and if she came she would be responsible for her safety".

Amnesty International opposes the practice of enforced "disappearance" as a form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

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