

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 19/02/97

6 January 1997

Further information on UA 113/94 (MDE 19/03/94, 18 March 1994) and follow-ups (MDE 19/03/95, 21 September 1995; MDE 19/02/96, 14 February 1996) - Torture / Fear of execution

LIBYA Col. Miftah Qarrum al-Wirfalli
Major Ramadhan al-'Ayhuri
Major Khalil Salam Mohammad al-Jidiq
Col. Mostafa Abu al-Qassim Mas'ud al-Kikli
new names: Lt-Col. Sa'ad Saleh Farag
Major Mostafa Ihbayl al-Firjani
Dr Sa'ad Misbah al-'Amin al-Zubaydi
Sulayman Ghayth Miftah

The eight men named above were executed on 2 January 1997.

Libyan television stated that the eight - six senior army officers and two civilians - were executed after the Supreme Military Court upheld the sentences.

The men were reportedly charged with "passing defence secrets to foreign states [the United States of America]" and membership of "a banned organization linked to agents of foreign governments" - the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL), the main opposition group operating in exile.

The Court acquitted six other army officers, including Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammad al-Ghul and Flight-Captain Sadeq Shaqluf, and two civilians.

The people involved in this case were among dozens arrested in the aftermath of a rebellion by army units around the city of Misrata in October 1993 and held incommunicado in unknown locations. Three of those executed had appeared on television in March 1994 confessing to being US "spies" and that they had been recruited as US intelligence agents by members of the NFSL. They had allegedly been tortured into making these "confessions". Espionage and membership of an opposition group are both punishable by death in Libya.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Participants may send express/airmail letters in English, French, Arabic or in your own language:

- expressing deep concern at the executions of the eight men named above and reiterating unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- stating that your opposition to the death penalty is purely humanitarian and not politically motivated;
- urging the Libyan Government to work towards the abolition of the death penalty for all crimes.

APPEALS TO:

1) His Excellency Mu'ammarr al-Gaddafi
Leader of the Revolution
Office of the Leader of the Revolution
Tripoli
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) His Excellency
'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir
Secretary of the People's Committee

2

of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison
and International Cooperation
Tripoli
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Salutation: Your Excellency

3) His Excellency
Zanati Mohammad al-Zanati
Secretary of the General People's Congress
Secretariat of the General People's Congress
Tripoli
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Libya accredited to your country.