

PUBLIC

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13 February 2008

UA 41/08 Possible enforced disappearance/ possible prisoners of conscience/ fear of torture or ill-treatment

LIBYA Jum'a Boufayed (m)  
Abdelrahman al-Qateewy (m)

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Jum'a Boufayed and Abdelrahman al-Qateewy have not been seen since February 2007, when they were part of a group planning a peaceful demonstration. The rest of this group are currently on trial and appeared in court for the seventh time on 12 February 2008. However, the two men named above were neither presented in court with them yesterday nor on any previous occasion. Furthermore, their names have never been mentioned in court by the judge.

Amnesty International believes that they may be prisoners of conscience, detained solely for the non-violent exercise of their right to freedom of expression, and that they are at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

The group had been planning a demonstration on 17 February 2007, to mark the anniversary of a protest in the city of Benghazi, in which at least 12 people died and many were injured as a result of a police attack.

Jum'a Boufayed was arrested on 16 February 2007 at his family home in the town of Gheryan, a few hours after his brother Idriss Boufayed had been arrested. Both brothers were involved in organizing the event. Abdelrahman al-Qateewy, a medical student, was another member of the group planning the demonstration. He had taken on the task of designing and making the banners to be used.

A few hours after his brother had been arrested, Jum'a Boufayed gave a media interview over the phone in which he described how a group of armed men had come to the family home and had broken down the door when nobody answered, taking his brother away. In the interview, Jum'a Boufayed also said that he feared he too would soon be arrested for revealing this information over the phone. On 18 February, Jum'a Boufayed was reportedly taken back to the family house to pick up his mobile and computer and that was the last time he was seen.

Idriss Boufayed is currently being tried, along with 11 others who were involved in planning the demonstration. They have been charged with vaguely worded offences including "attempting to overthrow the political system", "possession of weapons and explosives with the intention of carrying out subversive activities" and "communication with enemy powers." Reports indicated that all were held incommunicado for prolonged periods after their arrest and that at least two of them were tortured. Trial proceedings, which began in June 2007, were transferred to the new State Security Court after it was established in August 2007 to try individuals accused of offences against state security and unauthorized political activities.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic, English or your own language:**

- expressing grave concern at reports of the enforced disappearance of Jum'a Boufayed and Abdelrahman al-Qateewy and calling upon the authorities to immediately reveal their whereabouts
- urging the authorities to ensure that Jum'a Boufayed and Abdelrahman al-Qateewy are being treated humanely and that they are given immediate access to lawyers of their own choosing, to medical treatment and to their families.
- pointing out that they appear to have been detained solely for acts which involved the non-violent exercise of their right to freedom of expression, and that they may therefore be prisoners of conscience who should be released immediately and unconditionally.

**APPEALS TO:**

Head of State

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Gaddafi

Office of the Leader of the Revolution, Tripoli, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Justice Minister

Mustafa Abdeljalil

Secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice,

Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Justice

Tripoli, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

**Email:** secretary@aladel.gov.ly

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**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES TO:**

The Gaddafi Development Foundation

Saif al-Islam al-Gaddafi

President, The Gaddafi Development Foundation

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Tripoli, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

**Email: info@gaddaficharity.org**

and to diplomatic representatives of Libya accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 March 2008.