

UA 185/98

Possible prisoners of conscience / Fear of torture /Legal conLIBYA **Mohammad Faraj Al-Qallal**, aged 39**Dr Salem Bu-Hanek**, Head of the Chemistry Dept-University of Qar Younes in
Benghazi, aged 40**Kamal Al-Wash**, aged 36**Fawzi Bu-Ktef**, engineer, aged 45**Faysal Mohammad Al-Safi**, engineer, aged 42**Dr Rajab Amhammed Al-Jarroushi**, university lecturer (Benghazi), aged 43,**Dr Sulayman 'Ali Al-Khatroush**, Head of the civil engineering Dept (University
of Benghazi), aged 43**Dr 'Abdallah Ahmad 'Izzeddin**, University lecturer (Tripoli), aged 47**'Abd al-Rahman 'Abd al-Majid Al-Dibani**, medical doctor,
aged 32**Fawzi Wanis Al-Qaddafi**, oil engineer, aged 45**Ahmad Jaballah Al-Maghrebi**, agricultural engineer, aged
33**AND Scores of others**

There are grave concerns for scores of people, mainly professionals, whose whereabouts remain unknown since a wave of arrests began in early June 1998. There are fears they may be at risk of torture.

Those arrested, including the above-named, were mostly taken by security forces from their homes at night. They include university lecturers, engineers, medical doctors and civil servants. The arrests took place in a number of major cities, particularly Benghazi in northeast Libya. The majority are reportedly suspected of supporting or sympathizing with the *Libyan Islamic Group*, an underground non-violent Islamist movement similar to the Muslim Brothers in other Middle Eastern countries. Scores of others fled the country but family members left behind are said to be under constant harassment from the security forces.

The exact reasons behind this latest wave of arrests are not known but, according to some reports, those arrested, particularly the university lecturers, were said to have been suspected of being the main advocates for political change in a country where the government is experiencing increasing underground opposition.

Mohammad Faraj Al-Qallal, married with five children, is an executive in a printing house in Benghazi and a graduate from the Institute of Administrative Sciences in Benghazi. He was reportedly arrested from his house on 5 June by a number of masked plain-clothes security men. He was not given any reason for his arrest and, since 1 July, his family reportedly do not know where he is detained.

Ahmad Jaballah Al-Maghrebi was said to have been arrested near the Egypt-Libya border while trying to flee the country with his family. He was reportedly beaten in front of his family by the security men carrying out the arrest. The family subsequently returned to their Benghazi home.

Dr 'Abdallah Ahmad 'Izzeddin was reportedly arrested while he was giving a lecture at the nuclear engineering department in Qar Younes University in Benghazi.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since the beginning of 1995 there have been numerous sporadic armed clashes between the Libyan security forces and members of armed Islamist groups, including the *Islamic Fighting Group*. These have mostly taken place in north eastern Libya.

Thousands of suspected Islamists are said to have been arrested in the last few years, most of whom are still believed to be held without charge or trial.

Torture is routinely applied to detainees during interrogation to extract confessions. Methods include beatings (including falaqa-beating on the soles of the feet), hanging by the wrists from a ceiling or a high window, being suspended from a pole inserted between the knees and elbows, electric shocks, burning with cigarettes and attacks by aggressive dogs causing serious bite wounds. Psychological torture and ill-treatment include death threats and threats of abuse against the prisoner and his family, particularly female relatives.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/E-mails/express/airmail letters in Arabic, English, French or your own language:

- seeking assurances that the above-named people, and scores of others arrested in the current wave of arrests, are being humanely treated in accordance with international human rights standards including being granted access to lawyers and relatives;
- seeking information as to the exact reasons for their arrest;
- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of any detainee who is being held solely for the non-violent expression of their conscientiously held beliefs;
- calling for the whereabouts of all those detained to be made known to their families.

APPEALS TO:

His Excellency Mu'ammara al-Gaddafi

Leader of the Revolution

Office of the Leader of the Revolution

Tripoli

Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Telegrams: Colonel al-Gaddafi, Tripoli, Libya

Telexes: 70 0901 20162 ALKHASU LY

E-mails: jamahir@peg.apc.org

Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir

Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation

Tripoli

Great Socialist People's Arab Jamahiriya

Telegrams: Excellency al-Muntasir, Foreign Liaison Bureau, Tripoli, Libya

Salutation: Your Excellency

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

Telegrams: Excellency al-Zanati, General People's Congress, Tripoli, Libya.
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES 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 12 August 1998.