

# URGENT ACTION

## FOUR MEN HELD INCOMMUNICADO IN LIBYA

**Four men, Zeyad Ramadan, Ghazi Ramadan, Khaled Sury and another unnamed man, were arrested on 19 March in Tripoli, Libya. They are held incommunicado and as such are at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.**

At about 8pm on 19 March, a group of men believed to be Internal Security Agency officials, broke down the door of the house where **Zeyad** and **Ghazi Ramadan**, who are brothers, were living in Western Tripoli, according to relatives who live outside Libya. They arrested them, along with their two guests, father of four, Khaled Sury and another unnamed man. According to the information available to Amnesty International, after the arrest, the security officials remained at the home of the Ramadan brothers for around four hours; searching and confiscating a number of items including computers and documents.

The two brothers are both UK nationals and have been in Libya since late December 2010 working at a software company. It is unclear why the two men along with their guests, also businessmen, were arrested as they had no political affiliations and no role in anti-government protests according to their relatives.

Since the arrest, some of their relatives in Tripoli have made inquiries regarding their whereabouts, but have not been able to confirm where they are being held and for what reason.

Since unrest began in Libya in mid-February, many people have been subjected to enforced disappearance by forces loyal to Colonel Mu'ammr al-Gaddafi. From testimonies collected by Amnesty International from several former detainees who returned to eastern Libya, some of those detained have been subjected to torture or other ill-treatment. Before being released without charge, they have also been forced to sign "pledges" attesting that they will no longer engage in any actions that undermine the "reputation of the Great Jamahiriya [Libya]". The document – a copy of which has been obtained by Amnesty International- went on to state that failure to do so would amount to assuming "full responsibility" for the consequences.

### **PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in English, French, Arabic or your own language:**

- Call on the Libyan authorities to immediately reveal the whereabouts of the four men and the legal basis for their arrest; to ensure that they have immediate access to their families, lawyers and any medical assistance they might require; and to guarantee that they are protected from torture or other ill-treatment;
- Call on the Libyan authorities to release them without delay unless they have been charged with a recognizably criminal offence and will be tried in full conformity with the right to fair trial, including their right to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law and with guarantee of the right to adequate defence.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 MAY 2011 TO:**

#### Leader of the Revolution

Colonel Mu'ammr Al-Gaddafi  
Office of the Leader of the Revolution,  
Tripoli, Great Socialist People's Libyan  
Arab Jamahiriya

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

#### Gaddafi Development Foundation

#### Executive Director

El Fatah Tower, 5th Floor B No.57  
PO Box 1101, Tripoli  
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab  
Jamahiriya

Fax: +218 21 3350263

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.**

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Many people have been subjected to enforced disappearance by forces loyal to Colonel Mu'ammr al-Gaddafi since the current unrest began in Libya in mid-February 2011, including dozens who were arrested and detained in eastern Libya and are believed to have been transferred to the Tripoli area that are controlled by al-Gaddafi forces. Others have disappeared in Tripoli or other areas controlled by Colonel Mu'ammr al-Gaddafi. In Tripoli, even worshippers at a mosque are reported to have been detained for planning peaceful protests. On 4 March, eyewitnesses who managed to escape have told Amnesty International that plainclothes security officials loyal to Colonel al-Gaddafi detained some 150 people at a mosque in Mizran Street, Tripoli, to prevent them holding a peaceful protest after Friday prayers. Uniformed police officers are said to have warned the mosque congregation in advance to leave and so avoid arrest. It is unclear how many of those detained are still held, but the family of one man who was taken away by security officials has told Amnesty International that they have had no news of him or his whereabouts since then.

These detainees and disappeared persons are at grave risk of torture and other serious human rights abuses. The true number of those detained or disappeared is impossible to calculate as the authorities in Tripoli generally do not divulge information about people they are detaining and because many areas of the country are not accessible for independent reporting; indeed, a number of Libyan and international journalists have been detained and ill-treated for seeking to report from areas in which al-Gaddafi forces have carried out arrests and attacks against civilians, and some are also still missing and unaccounted for having been detained by al-Gaddafi forces

Gross and systematic human rights violations have been committed with total impunity throughout the more than 40 years of Colonel Mu'ammr al-Gaddafi's rule in Libya, including arbitrary arrest and detention without trial, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment, unfair trials and extrajudicial executions. The Libyan authorities have not tolerated dissent, including peaceful criticism of calls for change, and have routinely locked up those who have sought to exercise their right to freedom of expression.

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