

TAKE ACTION

WRITE TO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF LIBYA IN YOUR COUNTRY:

Dear Ambassador,

I am writing to express my concern about ongoing human rights violations committed by armed militias in Libya.

I call on the Libyan authorities to rein in the armed militias, including to:

- Investigate and bring to justice militia members responsible for human rights abuses, including arbitrary detention, torture, extra-judicial executions, the forcible displacement of the Tawargha, the Mashashiya and other communities, and other human rights abuses;
- Take effective action to stop the repetition of such abuses;
- Ensure that communities displaced by militias, such as the Tawargha, are able to return home and are given adequate assistance to rebuild their lives, including compensation and assistance in reconstruction.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Amnesty International
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 0DW

Image © Amnesty
International

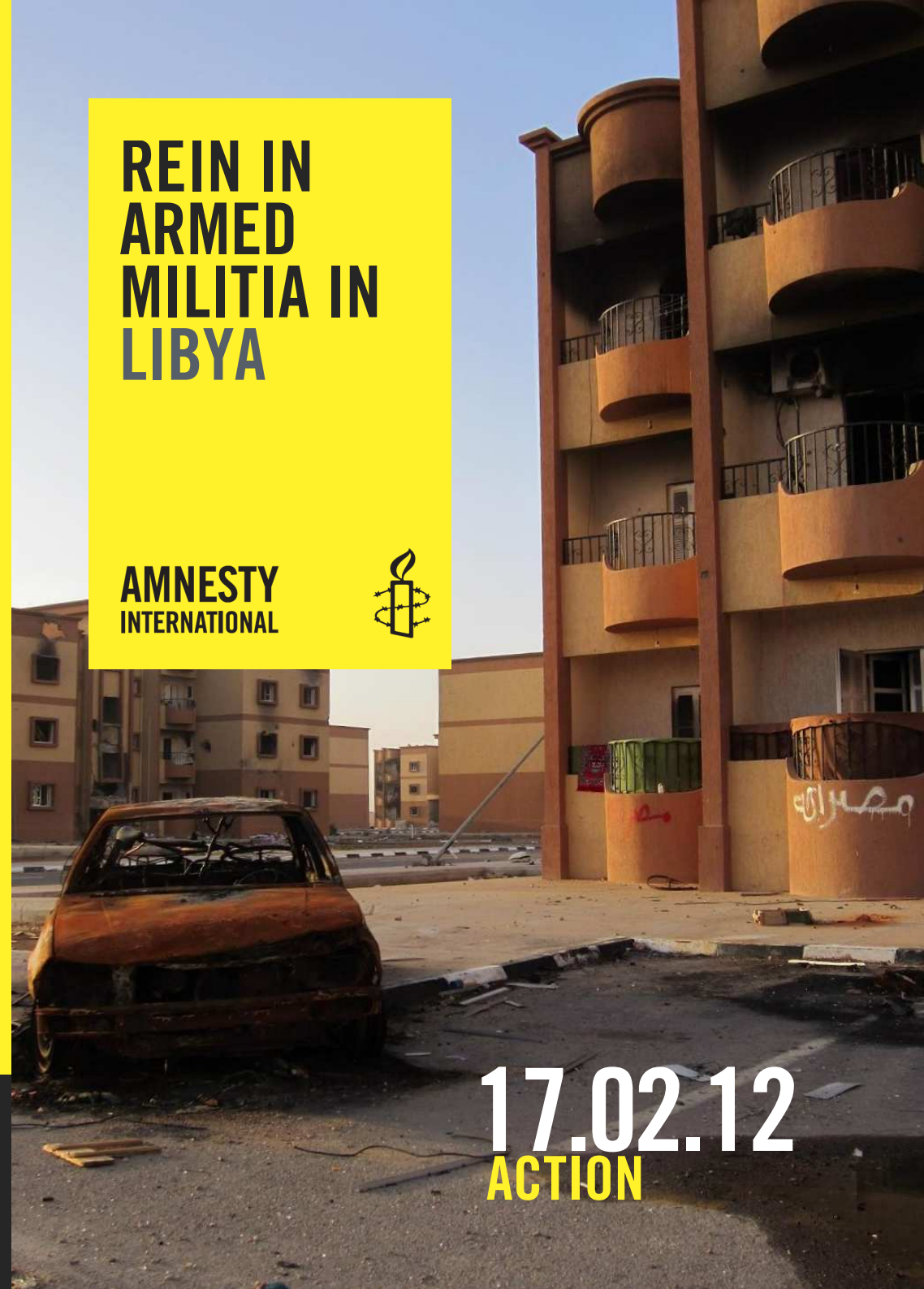
www.amnesty.org
February 2012

REIN IN ARMED MILITIA IN LIBYA

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



17.02.12
ACTION



**Many of the detainees
Amnesty International spoke
to in Libya were too scared to
speak about their torture.
Instead they just showed us
their wounds.**

The armed militias which fought Mu'ammr al-Gaddafi's repressive regime now threaten Libya's human rights hopes.

Libyans are trying to rebuild their lives after months of bloody conflict. However, armed militias are taking the law into their own hands – seeking out and exacting revenge against those they believe stayed loyal to al-Gaddafi or fought on his behalf.

Torture is rife. It is carried out by military and security entities, as well by a multitude of armed militias operating outside any legal framework and accountable to no one. Many detainees have died after being tortured. Several people interviewed by Amnesty International said they had confessed to crimes they had not committed just to end the torture.

Whole communities have also been targeted, like people from Tawargha, black Libyans who face revenge attacks after their town was used as a base by al-Gaddafi forces. The entire population of the town, some 30,000, have been forcibly displaced and are now stranded in makeshift camp all over Libya with no end in sight to their ordeal. The militia also continue to target Sub-African migrants and refugees.

So far, no one has been brought to justice for human rights violations, and survivors and the families of those who died have not received reparation. There have been no effective investigations into cases of torture and deaths in custody. Unless concrete actions are taken abuses won't stop.

Libya's new government faces many challenges as it rebuilds. The first must be to get control of the armed militias.