

**EXTERNAL**

**AI Index: MDE 19/02/95**

**UA 215/95 Fear of torture / Possible unlawful killings 11 September 1995**

**LIBYAMass arrests in Benghazi, Darna and al-Baydha**

Dozens of suspected Islamists are reported to have been arrested following violent clashes between the security forces and armed Islamist groups in Benghazi on 6 September 1995. Amnesty International fears that the detainees, whose whereabouts remain unknown, may be at risk of torture while held incommunicado.

According to reports, the clashes began when a policeman killed a taxi driver in Benghazi after an argument. Up to 30 people were reported killed during the clashes. Amnesty International is concerned that some may have been unlawfully killed by the security forces. Mass arrests of suspected Islamists were then carried out in Benghazi and in other coastal areas, including Darna, Tubruq and al-Baydha in Eastern Libya.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Similar violent clashes between security forces and armed opposition groups took place in Benghazi in June 1995 when at least 10 people were reportedly killed.

All opposition political activities, including the non-violent expression of conscientiously-held beliefs, are strictly banned by law in Libya. The punishment for opposition political activities includes the death penalty and life imprisonment. Amnesty International's long-standing human rights concerns in Libya include arbitrary detention, unfair trials, torture, the death penalty and "disappearances".

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, Arabic or your own language:**

- seeking assurances that those arrested in Benghazi, Darna, Tubruq on or after 6 September 1995 are being humanely treated in accordance with international human rights standards;
- calling for the whereabouts of all those detained to be made known to their families, and for the detainees to be granted immediate access to lawyers and relatives;
- calling for the detainees to be immediately and unconditionally released if they are not to be charged with recognized criminal offences;
- expressing concern at reports that the security forces may have carried out unlawful killings on 6 September in Benghazi;
- urging an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into these reports; calling for its methods and conclusions to be made public, and for any member of the security forces found responsible for human rights violations to be brought to justice.

**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  
**Telegrams: Colonel al-Gaddafi, Tripoli, Libya**  
**Telexes: 70 0901 20162 ALKHASU LY**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

2) 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: Foreign Secretary al-Muntasir, Tripoli, Libya**

**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

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

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 5 October 1995.