

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 61/00

Forcible return / Fear of torture or ill-treatment  
21 July 2000

**LIBYA/PAKISTAN**      **Youssef Khalifa, aged 35**  
                              **'Abdessalam Musa Muhammad, aged mid-30s**  
                              **Two others, known as Nugaid and Al-Khattab**

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Pakistan has forcibly returned four Libyan nationals, two of whom had sought asylum, as suspected Islamist sympathisers. Their whereabouts are now unknown. Others forcibly returned to Libya have been tortured and killed by the security forces.

Youssef Khalifa and 'Abdessalam Musa Muhammad's appeals for asylum were still under consideration when they were deported. Youssef Khalifah, whose wife and children are still in Pakistan, had applied to the UNHCR for asylum in February 2000, and no decision had yet been reached on his case. 'Abdessalam Musa Muhammad applied for asylum in August 1999. He was rejected in the first instance, but the UNHCR later decided to keep his application under consideration. Both men were reportedly arrested in Peshawar on about 10 June. They were taken from there to the capital, Islamabad and flown from there to Libya.

Nugaid (a pseudonym) was legally resident in Peshawar, where he worked for an association for the revival of Islamic heritage. Al-Khattab (also a pseudonym) worked for the same association. Both men have wives and children in Pakistan.

The Pakistani authorities have recently been deporting men, of various nationalities, whom they suspect of being sympathisers of Islamist groups.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International is concerned that an increasing number of Libyan nationals have been forcibly returned, or are at imminent risk of deportation, from various countries. Several suspected opponents of the Libyan government, especially members of or sympathisers with Islamist groups, have been forcibly returned to Libya in recent months. Amnesty International has learned that several people forcibly returned to Libya before now have been tortured and killed by the security forces.

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

To the Libyan authorities:

- asking for confirmation of reports that the four Libyan nationals named above have been returned to Libya, and asking to be told where they are now;
- seeking assurances that, if detained, all four are humanely treated and given regular access to lawyers of their own choosing and to their families;
- asking that they be released unless charged with a recognizably criminal offence.

To the Pakistani authorities:

- condemning the forcible return of the four men named above to Libya, where they are in danger of torture, ill-treatment and extrajudicial execution;
- urging them to seek assurances from the Libyan authorities that the four men's human rights will be respected.

**LIBYAN AUTHORITIES:**

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**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

His Excellency Muhammad Bilqasim al-Zawi

Secretary of the People's Committee for Justice and General Security

Secretariat of the People's Committee for Justice and General Security

Tripoli

Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

**Telegrams: Muhammad al-Zawi, Tripoli, Libya**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES:**

General Pervez Musharraf

Chief Executive

National Security Council

General Block, Pakistan Secretariat

Islamabad, Pakistan

**Telegrams: General Pervez Musharraf, Islamabad, Pakistan**

**Faxes: + 92 51 922 4768**

**Salutation: Dear Chief Executive**

Muhammad Shafiq

Governor of North West Frontier Province

Governor's House

Peshawar, Pakistan

**Telegrams: Muhammad Shafiq, Peshawar, Pakistan**

**Salutation: Dear Governor**

**COPIES TO:**

Mr Aziz Munshi

Minister for Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights

Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

Block SNR, Pakistan Secretariat

Islamabad, Pakistan

**Fax: + 92 51 921 5852**

and to diplomatic representatives of Libya and Pakistan accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 1 September 2000.