

PUBLIC

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15 September 2003

Further Information on UA 227/03 (MDE 19/016/2003, 25 July 2003) and follow-up (MDE 19/017/2003, 07 August 2003) - Forcible return / fear for safety / fear of torture

LIBYA
Zacharias Michael Belay (m)
Misghina Seyoum (m)
Mesfin Aman (m),
Rezene Eyassu (m),
Yonas Negussie (m)
Michael Yemane (m)
Abel Tekle (m)

New name: Binyam Abraha (m)

The Eritrean nationals named above are reportedly no longer at imminent risk of forcible deportation from Libya. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is taking up their case with the Libyan authorities.

The men, reportedly military conscripts who deserted the army after their period of service was extended indefinitely, remain in detention without charge or trial. They have been transferred from a prison in Gherian, near Jenduba town, to a prison in the capital Tripoli.

In addition to the seven Eritreans mentioned previously, Amnesty International has learnt of an eighth Eritrean, Binyam Abraha, who has been reportedly detained in Libya for over a year and a half without charge or trial. It is believed that he had also deserted from military conscription in Eritrea. He is now held in the same prison as the seven men. Binyam Abraha is said to be seriously ill and is reportedly not being given medical care in prison.

Zacharias Michael Belay, Misghina Seyoum, Mesfin Aman, Rezene Eyassu, Yonas Negussie, Michael Yemane and Abel Tekle were allegedly detained on 11 August 2002 while on their way to Europe. If returned to Eritrea, the men could face torture, secret and incommunicado detention without charge as well as possible extrajudicial execution.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. Amnesty International is asking for one round of appeals on behalf of Binyam Abraha, but will also be using other campaigning methods on his case. Please send a final round of appeals, to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or your own language:

- calling on the Libyan authorities to release the eight men named above immediately, unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the Libyan authorities to allow the eight Eritrean detainees full access to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- expressing serious concern for the health and wellbeing of Binyam Abraha, and calling for him to be given immediate access to all necessary medical treatment;
- calling on the authorities to respect their obligations under the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Refugees' Convention and international refugee law not to forcibly return anyone to a country where they would be at risk of facing grave human rights abuses.

APPEALS TO:

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

His Excellency Muhammad Ali al-Misrati
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 Misrati, Tripoli, Libya
Salutation: Your Excellency

His Excellency Abd al-Rahman Mohamed Shalgam
Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation
Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation
Tripoli
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Telegrams: Abd al-Rahman Mohamed Shalgam, Tripoli, Libya
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Dr. Muhammad 'Abduallah al-Harari
Secretary for Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the General Peoples' Congress
P.O. Box 84662
Tripoli
Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

and to diplomatic representatives of Libya accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.