

3 July 1998

Further information on UA 380/97 (MDE 23/17/97, 3 December 1997) and follow-up (MDE 23/02/98 23 March 1998) - Fear of refoulement / Fear for safety

SAUDI ARABIA/LIBYA' Amer al-J'ayed, aged 31
'Aysha al-Barqawi, (F), aged 29
Khayri al-Feitouri Nasrat, aged 32
Khayria 'Abdallah Nasrat, (f), aged 30
Mahmoud al-Feitouri, aged 32
Hamida al-Wa'ir, aged 26, wife of above and their son Youssef, aged about 19 months
'Abd al-Karim al-Zawi, aged 27

And at least 22 others

Amnesty International has recently learned of the forcible return, believed to have taken place around two months ago, of the above-named and at least 22 other Libyan nationals to Libya, where there is grave concern they may face serious human rights violations.

The forcible repatriation occurred despite the following statement, issued on 6 January 1998 by the Saudi Arabian ambassador in Brussels in response to appeals that "...no one has been handed over to the Libyan authorities, nor has there been any measure taken in this regard..."

The Libyan nationals, who include women and children, had been held in the al-Ruwais prison in Jeddah without trial since December 1995. They were among scores of Islamists and foreign nationals arrested in the aftermath of the bombing of the Saudi Arabian National Guard training centre in Riyadh in November 1995.

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

To the Saudi Arabian government:

- expressing grave concern that Saudi Arabia has returned the 30 above-named Libyan nationals to Libya where they are at risk of serious human rights violations;
- requesting that other nationals, including Libyans still on Saudi territory, are not forcibly returned to countries where they may face serious human rights violation, in accordance with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

To the Libyan Government

- urging the Libyan authorities to reveal the whereabouts of the 30 above-named Libyan nationals recently returned from Saudi Arabia, to ensure that they are treated humanely and that they are given access to their relatives and lawyers.
- urging the Libyan authorities to release the 30 above-mentioned people if they are not charged with any recognizable criminal offence and promptly given a fair trial.

APPEALS TO:

(Saudi Arabian Government)

The Custodian of the Two Holy Shrines

His Majesty King Fahd bin 'Abdul-'Aziz
Office of H.M. The King
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Telegrams: King Fahd, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Salutation: Your Majesty

(Libyan Government)

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

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Saudi Arabia and Libya accredited to your country.

Please note the following e-mail addresses for Saudi embassies
USA: TheAmbassador@12023374084.iddd.tpc.int
EUROPE: TheAmbassador@441719173255.iddd.tpc.int
REST OF WORLD: TheAmbassador@31703630348.iddd.tpc.int

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 August 1998.