

EXTERNAL

AI Index: MDE 23/17/97

UA 380/97

Fear of refoulement / Fear for Safety

3 December 1997

SAUDI ARABIA 'Amer al-J'ayed (Libyan), aged 31

'Aysha al-Barqawi (F) (Libyan), aged 29

Khayri al-Feitouri Nasrat (Libyan), aged 32 and his wife

Khayria 'Abdallah Nasrat, aged 30

Mahmoud al-Feitouri (Libyan) aged, 32 his wife Hamida al-Wa'ir, aged 26 and their son Youssef, aged about 12 months

'Abd al-Karim al-Zawi (Libyan), aged 27

**And at least 22 others**

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Amnesty International has received reports that at least 31 Libyans, including the people mentioned above, may be at imminent risk of being forcibly returned to Libya, where they would could face serious human rights violations.

The 31, including women and children, have been held in the al-Ruwais Prison in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia without trial since December 1995. They are said to be Islamist opposition activists. They were among scores of Islamists, Saudi Arabians and foreign nationals, arrested in the aftermath of the bombing of the Saudi Arabian National Guard training centre in Riyadh in November 1995. Four people, all Saudi Arabians, were executed in May 1996 in connection with the bombing after a grossly unfair trial.

Over the last few years Saudi Arabia has forcibly returned dozens of people to a number of countries, including Libya and Egypt. In 1993 two Libyans, Saleh al-Shalwi and Nuri al-Jibani were reportedly forcibly returned by Saudi Arabia to Libya via Egypt. They are believed to be still held in Abu-Salim Prison in Tripoli. In 1996 Saudi Arabia returned at least six Egyptian nationals to Egypt where they were allegedly tortured upon arrival.

Amnesty International's concern about the people mentioned above are heightened by the fact that a large Libyan security delegation led by the Secretary of the People's General Committee for Public Security (Minister of Interior), Mohammad Hijazi, and which included the head of the Libyan External Security Service, visited Saudi Arabia recently and held talks on security issues with Saudi Arabian security officials.

Amnesty International opposes the forcible return of people to countries where they risk imprisonment as prisoners of conscience, torture, disappearance, or execution. Amnesty International's work is based on the internationally-recognized Principle of Non-refoulement which, as expressed in the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, prohibits the forcible return of any person to a country where she or he risks serious human rights violations.

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

-expressing concern at reports that at least 31 Libyan nationals are at risk of being forcibly returned to Libya and calling for this to be halted;

-calling for an end to the forcible return of any person to a country where they may risk serious human rights abuses, in accordance with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

**APPEALS TO:**

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**

Minister of Interior  
His Royal Highness  
Prince Naif bin 'Abdul-'Aziz  
Ministry of the Interior  
PO Box 2833  
Airport Road, Riyadh 11134  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
**Telegrams: Minister of the Interior, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**  
**Telexes: 404416**  
**Salutation: Your Royal Highness**

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
His Royal Highness  
Prince Saud al-Faisal bin 'Abdul 'Aziz  
Nasseriya Street, Riyadh 11124  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
**Telegrams: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**  
**Telexes: 405000**  
**Salutation: Your Royal Highness**

Minister of Justice  
His Excellency  
Dr. Abdullah bin Muhammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh  
Ministry of Justice  
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
**Telegrams: Minister of Justice, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**  
**Telexes: 405 980 MINJUS SJ**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

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

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