

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: MDE 19/019/2003**

**18 September 2003**

**Further Information on UA 227/03 (MDE 19/016/2003, 25 July 2003) and follow-ups (MDE 19/017/2003, 07 August 2003, MDE 19/015/2003, 15 September 2003) Forcible Return / Fear for Safety / Torture**

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

**Deceased:**                      **Binyam Abraha (m)**

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Eritrean national, Binyam Abraha, who was in his early 20s, died in custody on the night of 16-17 September. He had reportedly been detained in Libya for over a year and a half, apparently without charge or trial, after allegedly deserting from military conscription in Eritrea. Though he was seriously ill, he was denied access to medical care.

There are fears for the safety of the seven other Eritrean detainees named above, following the death of Binyam Abraha. Three of his fellow detainees, who protested to prison guards after his death were reportedly severely beaten and kicked. Michael Yemane was apparently wounded with a knife and Zacharias Michael Belay and Misghina Seyoum were reportedly placed in solitary confinement. The men are believed to be held in a detention centre near Janzour, approximately 30 kilometres from the capital Tripoli.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in Arabic or your own language:**

- calling for an independent and impartial inquiry into the reported death in custody of Binyam Abraha;
- expressing fear for the safety of the seven other Eritrean detainees named above, especially Michael Yemane who was reportedly wounded by a prison guard, as well as Zacharias Michael Belay and Misghina Seyoum, who are said to be held in solitary confinement;
- calling on the Libyan authorities to ensure the safety of the seven detainees and for them to be immediately released, unless they are to be charged with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the Libyan authorities to allow the seven detainees full access to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

**APPEALS TO:**

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 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.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 October 2003.