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Amnesty International Libya expert available from London for interview around Libyan elections on 7 July

Amnesty International's Libya expert Diana Eltahawy is available for comment and interviews in English or Arabic around this week's historic elections in the country.

Amnesty International yesterday published a comprehensive new report showing how hundreds of armed militias have a "stranglehold" on Libya and are committing a string of human rights violations with impunity.

Diana Eltahawy can outline the findings from her recent visit to Libya (in May and June) when she visited places of detention run by the militia groups.

The militia groups (known as the *thuwwar*) are committing widespread human rights violations - including arbitrary arrests and detention, torture (including to death), unlawful killings and forcible displacement - which are casting a shadow over the country's first national elections since the fall of al-Gaddafi's government.

Amnesty International believes that Libya risks repeating the violations that led to last year's "17 February revolution" unless the winners of the elections make the establishment of the rule of law and respect for human rights their top priority.

For more information:

Diana Eltahawy outlines Amnesty's main concerns in this filmed interview:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6i-pTh6WAE&feature=youtu.be>

Amnesty's new report - *Libya: rule of law or rule of militias?* - is available at:

<http://amnesty.org/en/news/libya-militia-stranglehold-corrosive-rule-law-2012-07-04>

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