

EXTERNAL

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EXTRA 175/96

Fear of refoulement / Fear for safety

12 November 1996

SAUDI ARABIAKhaled Sulayman al-Musrati (Libyan), aged 29

Khalifa Mohammad al-Hajji (Libyan), aged 26

The two Libyan nationals named above are reported to be at imminent risk of being forcibly returned to Libya, where they would be at serious risk of human rights violations.

Khaled Sulayman al-Musrati and Khalifa Mohammad al-Hajji had been held without charge or trial in al-Ruwais Prison in Jeddah for nearly one year before they were taken, a few days ago, to a detention centre, also in Jeddah, with a view to forcibly returning them to Libya. According to reports received by Amnesty International, the two are being sought by the Libyan authorities because of their Islamist opposition activities. A Libyan official from the Libyan Embassy in Saudi Arabia reportedly visited them and provided them with passports and air fares to Egypt where they would be handed to the Libyan authorities.

Saudi Arabia has over the last few years 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.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, French, Arabic or your own language:

- expressing concern at reports that Khaled Sulayman al-Musrati and Khalifa Mohammad al-Hajji are to be 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 12 December 1996.