

PUBLIC

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3 September 2001

Further information on UA 193/01 (MDE 25/003/2001, 31 July 2001) - Incommunicado detention/ "disappearance", fear of forcible return

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)/ LIBYA

Ahmad Mohammad 'Ali 'Ak'ak [m]

'Ali Bashir [m]

'Ali 'Amish [m]

New names

'Abdullah Abu al-Qasim al-Ghazal [m], aged 39

Ahmad Ramadhan Hussain Qanud [m], aged 36

Two more Libyan nationals have been arrested by the UAE authorities. Their fate and whereabouts are unknown and Amnesty International is concerned for their safety should they be forcibly returned to Libya, as they would be at risk of serious human rights violations.

On 31 August, 'Abdullah Abu al-Qasim al-Ghazal was arrested at his local mosque in 'Ajman. Following his arrest, five men and one woman, believed to be members of *Amn al-Dawla* (State Security), reportedly searched his house and asked his wife for his passport. They refused to give her any information about the reasons for his arrest or his whereabouts. 'Abdullah Abu al-Qasim al-Ghazal, left Libya in 1989 to avoid arrest because of his religious activities. He went to Syria where he took up religious studies in Damascus, and travelled to the UAE in 1997. 'Abdullah Abu al-Qasim al-Ghazal is a father of four children and worked as an accountant at a local company in Dubai.

Ahmad Ramadhan Hussain Qanud was also arrested on 31 August at his local mosque in the Emirate of al-Sharjah. His house was reportedly searched before he was taken to an unknown destination. Before his arrest he worked as an *Imam* (religious leader) and had fled Libya around 1993. He went to Saudi Arabia where he remained until he travelled to the UAE in 1997. Ahmad Ramadhan Hussain Qanud is married and has two children.

There is still no information about the fate of Ahmad Mohammad 'Ali 'Ak'ak, 'Ali Bashir and 'Ali 'Amish, and there are reports that more Libyan nationals have been arrested in the UAE.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals in English, Arabic or your own language:

- requesting clarification of the reasons for the arrest and detention of 'Abdullah Abu al-Qasim al-Ghazal and Ahmad Ramadhan Hussain Qanud;
- requesting that they be given access to relatives, lawyers of their own choosing and medical care as necessary;
- urging their immediate release if they are not to be charged with a recognizable criminal offence;
- urging that 'Abdullah Abu al-Qasim al-Ghazal, Ahmad Ramadhan Hussain Qanud, Ahmad Mohammad 'Ali 'Ak'ak, 'Ali Bashir and 'Ali 'Amish should not be forcibly returned to Libya.

APPEALS TO:

President

His Highness
al-Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates
Ruler of Abu Dhabi
Manhal Palace
PO Box 280, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Telexes: 22220 PALACE EM
Telegrams: President Al-Nahyan, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Salutation: Your Highness

Minister of Interior

His Excellency
General Dr Mohammad Saeed al-Badi
Minister of Interior
PO Box 398
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Faxes: +971 2 4414938
Telegrams: Interior Minister, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Justice & Islamic Affairs

His Excellency Mohammad Nukhairah al-Dhahiri
Minister of Justice & Islamic Affairs
Ministry of Justice & Islamic Affairs
PO Box 753 Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates
Telegrams: Justice Minister, Abu Dhabi, UAE
Faxes: + 971 4 282 5557
email: mojia@uae.gov.ae
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of the United Arab Emirates accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 October 2001