Killing of Al Jazeera journalist condemned

Amnesty International has today condemned the killing of Al Jazeera cameraman Ali Hassan Al Jaber in Libya and warned of a campaign of attacks and harassment on journalists.

"It appears that the Al Jazeera team was brutally and deliberately targeted to stop its efforts to reveal the truth about what is happening in Libya," said Malcolm Smart, Amnesty International's Middle East and North Africa Director.

"Coming so soon after three BBC reporters were detained, tortured and subjected to mock executions by Colonel al-Gaddafi's forces, this latest killing shows the risks that journalists are facing in Libya as they try to report the facts from the front line," said Malcolm Smart.

"It is essential that this killing is investigated as part of the UN Human Rights Council's investigation into the situation in Libya. Those responsible for the killing of Ali Hassan Al Jaber must be held accountable for their actions."

Ali Hassan Al Jaber, a Qatari national born in 1955, was killed after being ambushed near Benghazi. A colleague travelling with him was also injured. An Al Jazeera reporter in Benghazi said Ali Hassan Al Jaber was hit by three shots and was wounded through the heart.

Ghaith Abdul Ahmad, a journalist working for the British paper The Guardian, has not been heard from since 6 March. A Brazilian journalist travelling with him was released from detention in Tripoli on 10 March.

"Ghaith Abdul Ahmad and all those detained like him simply for reporting the facts must be released immediately and unconditionally," said Malcolm Smart.