

UA 193/01 Incommunicado detention / "disappearance", fear of forcible return 31 July 2001

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) / LIBYA

Ahmad Mohammad 'Ali 'Ak'ak, [m] aged 34
'Ali Bashir [m]
'Ali 'Amish [m]

The fate and whereabouts of three Libyan nationals remain unknown since their arrest by the UAE authorities. Amnesty International is concerned that should the three be forcibly returned to Libya they would be at risk of serious human rights violations.

On 3 July 2001, Ahmad Mohammad 'Ali 'Ak'ak was arrested at his home by members of *Amn al-Dawla* (State Security) in the Emirate of al-Sharjah. The reasons for his arrest are not known and nothing has been heard of him since.

Before his arrest, Ahmad Mohammad 'Ali 'Ak'ak worked as an *Imam* (religious leader) at al-Bayhaqi Mosque and as an accountant for a local company. He escaped from Libya in 1989 to avoid arrest because of his anti-government political and religious activities. He went to Saudi Arabia, Jordan and then to the UAE in September 1997. Ahmad Mohammad 'Ali 'Ak'ak is married and has three children.

'Ali Bashir, a father of eight children, was also said to have been arrested on 3 July while 'Ali 'Amish was reportedly arrested around May 2001. Amnesty International does not have any further information about 'Ali Bashir and 'Ali 'Amish.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Amnesty International is concerned that an increasing number of Libyan nationals have been forcibly returned, or are at imminent risk of deportation, from various countries. Several suspected opponents of the Libyan government, especially members of or sympathizers with Islamist groups, were forcibly returned to Libya during 2000. Several people who had been forcibly returned to Libya have reportedly been tortured and killed by the security forces.

In April 2001, the UAE authorities summarily deported Jaweed al-Ghossein, a Palestinian national, to the Palestinian Authority. He had not been informed that he was to be deported and had no opportunity to challenge his deportation order.

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

- requesting clarification of the reasons for the arrest and detention of Ahmad Mohammad 'Ali 'Ak'ak, 'Ali Bashir and 'Ali 'Amish;
- 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 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
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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
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PO Box 753 Abu Dhabi
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Salutation: Your Excellency

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 11 September 2001.