

# URGENT ACTION

## LIBYAN PROFESSOR AND FATHER OF FOUR ABDUCTED

**On 20 April, University professor and father of four Dr Salem Mohamed Beitelmal was kidnapped by local militias on the outskirts of Tripoli. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown as the family has not been able to reach him since.**

On the morning of 20 April, **Dr Salem Mohamed Beitelmal** was driving to the University of Tripoli, around 20 minutes' drive from his house, when he was abducted. Dr Salem Beitelmal is an engineering professor at the Department of Maritime Engineering and used to drive to work every day. However, he never made it that day. At around 10 am, the neighbours found his abandoned car and phone in a street not far from his home in Siyyad area, on the outskirts of Tripoli. The neighbours searched the car and the surroundings but could not find any trace of him and called the family to inform them that Dr Salem Beitelmal had gone missing.

The area where the abduction took place is under the control of several militias. Some of these militias operate nominally under the authority of the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence of the UN recognised Government of National Accord. Other militias are seemingly affiliated to either of the three factions struggling to gain power in the country. Following the abduction of Dr Salem Beitelmal, his family has tried relentlessly to identify his whereabouts by contacting the relevant authorities on the ground. However, all these attempts were unsuccessful. No group has claimed responsibility for the abduction and the family is still seeking to identify which militia is holding him.

Dr Salem Beitelmal, who is 68 year old, suffers from pre-existing health condition and requires continued medication. His family is concerned for his health and security.

A close family member told Amnesty International: "Our concern is for his health and safety. We call on all parties to act immediately and place all necessary pressure to ensure his quick and safe return to his family".

### **Please write immediately in Arabic, English or your own language:**

- Urging the Libyan authorities to ascertain and disclose the fate and whereabouts of Dr Salem Mohamed Beitelmal and ensure his safety;
- Calling on the Libyan authorities to immediately secure the release of Dr Salem Mohamed Beitelmal.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS 27 JUNE 2017 TO:**

Prime Minister of the Government

National Accord

Mr Fayez al-Sarraj

Government of National Accord

Tripoli, Libya

Facebook: @LibyanGovernment

Twitter: @FaiezSerraj / @GNAMedia

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Prime Minister of the Government

National Salvation

Mr Khalifa al-Ghawil

Government of National Salvation

Tripoli, Libya

Fax: + 218 21 362 0132

Facebook: @khalifaghweil

Twitter: @khalifa\_libyan

Email: tawasol@pm.gov.ly

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**And copies to:**

Minister of Defence

Mr Al-Mahdi Al-Barghathi

Ministry of Defence

Tripoli, Libya Fax: +218 21 480 0168

Email: info@defense.gov.ly

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR MAHMUD MOHAMMED NACUA Embassy of Libya, 15 Knightsbridge SW1X 7LY, 020 7201 8280, Fax 020 7245 0588, Telex 266767**

**Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dr Salem Beitelmal has been a lecturer at the University of Tripoli for over 20 years. As an engineer Dr Salem Beitelmal has worked extensively to help build the country while teaching new generations of engineers. Dr Salem Beitelmal is a longstanding member of the Union of Faculty Members. He is a well-loved professor amongst the students and a much appreciated academic within the faculty.

Libyan activists and journalists alike have identified abductions as one of the most harrowing realities of daily life in Libya today. According to media reports citing the Tripoli Criminal Investigations department of the Ministry of Interior there were at least 293 abductions between 15 December 2016 and 31 January 2017. Most abductions are carried out with the aim of extracting as high a ransom as possible from the families, or in some cases to negotiate an exchange of detainees. Abductions are also used as a tactic by militias to silence opponents, journalists, and human rights defenders who are critical of them.

Individuals have been targeted based on their perceived political or tribal affiliations or their occupation or apparent wealth, in order to extract sensitive information or hefty ransom sums. Rival armed groups and militias in Libya have been carrying out gross human rights abuses with near total impunity. Even those operating under the UN-backed government affiliated to the Ministry of Defence or under nominal control of the Ministry of Interior are not subjected to any effective supervision or control by the central authorities.

Under article 1 of the Libyan law No. 10 [2013] on the Criminalization of Torture, Enforced Disappearances and Discrimination, enforced disappearances are punishable with up to eight years in prison.

UA: 109/17 Index: MDE 19/6233/2017 Issue Date: 16 May 2017