

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST TORTURED AND AT RISK OF EXPULSION

Jabir Zain, an activist residing in Libya, continues to be detained in an unknown location over 100 days following his enforced disappearance by a militia in Tripoli. According to his family, who have been unable to speak with him since his abduction, he has been tortured in detention and is facing expulsion to Sudan.

On the evening of 25 September 2016, **Jabir Zain** and three of his friends were abducted as they left a seminar on women's rights held by an NGO at a popular café in the Gergarish suburb of Tripoli, Libya. Hours following the abduction, Jabir's friends were released, but he remained detained in an unknown location. It appears that Jabir was targeted due to his activism, particularly through Facebook, where he regularly advocates for women's rights and posts opinions on topics deemed controversial in Libyan society.

The Tripoli-based militia responsible for his abduction, nominally operates under the authority of the Ministry of Interior and has its base in the Fernaj district of Tripoli. They accuse Jabir of atheism, moral indecency and collaborating with foreign NGOs among other charges, according to information obtained by his family. Following repeated attempts to gain access to his apparent place of detention, Jabir's family met members of the militia at their base on 10 October. They reiterated the accusations against Jabir and informed the family that they would be holding him for further investigations culminating in his deportation, as he is a Sudanese national.

At the militia's request, Jabir's family returned to the base on 12 October, meeting with the same individuals. They informed the family that there had in fact been an error, and that they were not holding Jabir, but another man with a similar name. Believing this information to be false, Jabir's family continues to search for him with concerns growing for his safety after they received information that he had been beaten and tortured. His whereabouts and well-being continue to be unknown, with recent information received by his family indicating that he may now be held by the al-Radaa force in Tripoli – which also operates under the Ministry of Interior.

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

- Urging the Libyan authorities in Tripoli to immediately disclose Jabir Zain's whereabouts and ensure access to his family and lawyer without delay;
- Calling for him to be released unless he is charged with a recognisable criminal offence and tried in proceedings that respect international fair trial standards;
- Calling on the authorities in Tripoli to protect Jabir Zain from further torture or other ill-treatment, to investigate allegations that he has been tortured and to bring those responsible to justice in fair trials.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 21 FEBRUARY 2017:

Minister of Interior

Mr. Al-Aref Al-Khoja

Ministry of Interior

Tripoli, Libya

Fax: +218 21 480 3645

+218 21 444 2997 (keep trying)

(Fax is the only reliable communication method; please do not send letters)

Salutation: Your Excellency

General Prosecutor

Mr Ibrahim Masoud Ali

Office of the General Prosecutor

Court Complex

Tripoli, Libya

Fax: +218 21 360 7951

Email: info@lago.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

Jabir Zain is a 29-year-old Sudanese national who studied, worked and resided in Tripoli, Libya. He was active in civil society initiatives, attending and participating in a number of events promoting dialogue and greater awareness of people's rights in Libyan society. He was particularly active on Facebook where he would often post opinions on the current state of affairs in Libya, including women's rights, abductions, torture, the targeted killing of journalists and activists, and the role of religion in public life.

He was abducted on 25 September 2016 at around 19:00, alongside three of his friends, as he was leaving the 'At Home' seafront café in the Gergarish suburb of Tripoli. He had been attending a seminar on women's rights in society at the café. Four hours after they had been abducted, his three friends were released, while Jabir remained detained in an unknown location.

On 27 September, Jabir's family and friends began to search for him, attempting to obtain information from their contacts and through intermediaries. These contacts informed the family that Jabir was being held by a Tripoli-based militia nominally under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, with its base in the Fernaj district of Tripoli. Intermediaries were also able to visit and meet with members of the militia at their base on behalf of Jabir's family, informing them that a series of accusations had been made against Jabir. The militia accused him of being an atheist, a political activist working with a number of organizations internally and externally and receiving funds from them, moral indecency, and other charges.

On 10 October, members of Jabir's family were able to visit the militia's base, meeting two individuals involved in questioning him. When asked about what would happen next to Jabir, they responded that "the investigations and procedures will conclude and he will be deported from Libya because he is a foreigner". The family presented a bag with clothes for Jabir before leaving. Two days later they were summoned to the militia's base and were given back the bag of clothes, explaining that the individual they'd given the bag to said that he had no family in Libya. They then went on to inform the family that there had been an error altogether, and that Jabir was in fact not the individual they had detained and to whom the accusations had been attributed. They suggested that Jabir was being held in other prisons - which the family believe is an apparent attempt to misdirect them from his actual whereabouts.

On 24 December Jabir's family were told by their sources that Jabir would be transferred to al-Radaa Brigade or that he may have been transferred to the Intelligence Agency and that he would be deported to Sudan. His family have not been able to speak with him since his abduction.