



## **Libya: Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 8 June 2011**

### **1. Consequences for people defacing Gaddafi posters in Libya.**

### **2. Information on arrests warrant's or summons in Libya**

A report by the *Guardian* under the heading 'Libya protests break out after Friday prayers' states:

"Security forces have used teargas and live ammunition to disperse hundreds of anti-government protesters who marched in Tripoli after Friday prayers, as Muammar Gaddafi's regime launched a fightback on several fronts.

Several hundred demonstrators gathered in Tajura, an area east of the capital, chanting: "Gaddafi is the enemy of God." (Guardian (4 March 2011) *Libya protests break out after Friday prayers – Peter Beaumont and Mark Tran*)

It also states:

"Protesters tore down posters of the Libyan leader and spraypainted walls with graffiti reading: "Down with Gaddafi" and "Tajura will dig your grave."

Scores of police cars descended on the area, forcing journalists from the scene, and at least one person was detained.

Soon after the march began, officers fired teargas at the crowd. The protesters scattered, but quickly regrouped before security forces fired live ammunition, scattering the protesters again. It was not immediately clear if the shots had been fired in the air or at the marchers.

"I am not afraid," one marcher told Associated Press. The 29-year-old said one of his relatives had been shot dead in protests a week ago – not by militias, but by a pro-Gaddafi infiltrator at the demonstrations. "There are many spies among us. But we want to show the world that we are not afraid," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of fears of retaliation." (ibid)

A report by the *United States Department of State* under the heading 'Arbitrary Arrest or Detention' states:

"The criminal code establishes procedures for pretrial detention and prohibits arbitrary arrest and detention, but the government did not observe these prohibitions. As in previous years, there were reports that security forces arbitrarily arrested and detained citizens. Security services detained individuals without formal charges and held them indefinitely without court convictions." (United States Department of State (8 April 2011) *2010 Human Rights Report: Libya*)

In a section titled 'Role of the Police and Security Apparatus' it states:

"The police and the ISO share responsibility for internal security. Armed forces and the External Security Service are responsible for external security. In practice it was unclear where authorities overlapped. Security forces were effective when combating internal and external threats against the regime. Security forces committed serious human rights abuses with impunity, including the lengthy extralegal detentions of political prisoners. They intimidated, harassed, and detained individuals without formal charges and held them indefinitely without court convictions, particularly in cases involving the political opposition. They regularly enjoyed impunity from criminal acts committed while performing their duties." (ibid)

A report by *Human Rights Watch* under the heading 'ICC Prosecutor Names First Suspects' states:

"(New York) - The International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor's request for arrest warrants for serious crimes in Libya is a first step in achieving justice, Human Rights Watch said. On May 16, 2011, the ICC prosecutor asked the judges of the court to issue arrest warrants for three suspects for crimes against humanity, including Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi." (Human Rights Watch (16 May 2011) *ICC Prosecutor Names First Suspects*)

It also states:

"Anti-government protests began in Libya's east on February 15, following the widespread pro-democracy protests that led to changes of government in neighboring Tunisia and Egypt. Libyan government security forces responded with arrests and attacks against peaceful demonstrators in the cities of Benghazi, Derna and Tobruk, and then in the capital, Tripoli, and some cities in the west. Human Rights Watch documented the arbitrary arrest and disappearance of scores of people, as well as cases in which government forces opened fire on peaceful protesters." (ibid)

Another report by *Human Rights Watch* under the heading 'At Least 370 Missing From Country's East' states:

"At least 370 Libyans from the east - civilians and suspected fighters - have gone missing, some of them last seen in government hands," said Peter Bouckaert, emergencies director at Human Rights Watch, currently working in eastern Libya. "Given the lack of information and Gaddafi's record with torture and killings, the families of these people fear the worst."

The Libyan government has released no information about the number or location of people it has arrested across the country since anti-government protests began on February 15 in eastern Libya and then devolved into heavy fighting between the government and armed opposition groups.

The Libyan authorities have the right to arrest suspected criminals and prosecute them for criminal offenses, Human Rights Watch said. But all detainees must be treated humanely and promptly charged or released. The families of arrested people have a right to know about their relative's location

and status.” (Human Rights Watch (30 March 2011) *At Least 370 Missing From Country's East*)

**References:**

Guardian (4 March 2011) *Libya protests break out after Friday prayers - Peter Beaumont and Mark Tran*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/mar/04/libya-protests-gaddafi-tripoli/print>

(Accessed 8 June 2011)

Human Rights Watch (16 May 2011) *ICC Prosecutor Names First Suspects*

[http://www.ecoi.net/local\\_link/160538/263929\\_en.html](http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/160538/263929_en.html)

(Accessed 8 June 2011)

Human Rights Watch (30 March 2011) *At Least 370 Missing From Country's East*

[http://www.ecoi.net/local\\_link/157634/259997\\_en.html](http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/157634/259997_en.html)

(Accessed 8 June 2011)

United States Department of State (8 April 2011) *2010 Human Rights Report: Libya*

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/nea/154467.htm>

(Accessed 8 June 2011)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

**Sources Consulted:**

Amnesty International

BBC News

Electronic Immigration Network (EIN)

European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI)

Human Rights Watch

IRIN News

Lexis Nexis

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

UNHCR Refworld

United States Congressional Research Service

United States Department of State