



**EUROPEAN TRADE UNION
CONFEDERATION - ETUC (CES)**



**INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION
CONFEDERATION (ITUC)**

Brussels, 21 December 2006
JM/TJ/sw

H. E. Colonel Muammar Qaddafi
President
Republic of Libya
Tripoli
Libya

By Fax: 02 640 90 76

Re: Death sentence on Palestinian and Bulgarian medical workers

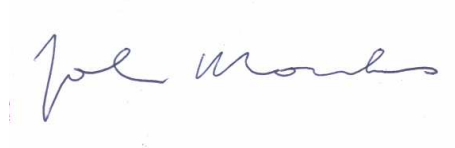
Dear Mr. President,

We wrote to you on 14 May 2004 and 14 November 2005 about the cases of the five Bulgarian nurses Kristiana Vulcheva, Nasya Nenova, Valentina Siropulo, Valya Cherveniyashka, Snezhana Dimitrova and one Palestinian doctor, Ashraf al-Haiui, facing the death sentence for allegedly having deliberately spread the HIV/AIDS virus in the “Al-Fatih” hospital of Benghazi. We are shocked and dismayed at the death penalty verdict handed down at yesterday’s retrial.

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) then expressed their deepest sympathy to all the Libyan families affected by the virus. We shared their loss and their need to understand how this tragedy occurred. We said, however, that unfairly punishing medical staff was not an answer to this very legitimate concern and would not help to tackle the real causes of this serious problem. International experts of the highest reputation have demonstrated that the virus spreading was due to in-hospital infection and preceded the date on which it is alleged that the infections began.

The international trade union movement remains extremely concerned that due justice has been denied to these medical workers. We understand that the Supreme Court of Libya will now consider the appeal against sentence of the medical staff. We again urge you, Mr. President, to ensure that basic human rights, dignity and international standards of justice will be extended to these workers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Monks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

John Monks
General Secretary
European Trade Union Confederation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Guy Ryder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Guy Ryder
General Secretary
International Trade Union
Confederation