



ETUC (CES) - EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION
ICFTU (CISL) - INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS

Brussels, 14 November 2005

By Fax: 02 640 90 76

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

Re: Death sentence on Palestinian and Bulgarian medical workers

Dear Mr. President,

We wrote to you on 14 May last year expressing shock and dismay at the news that six Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor had been condemned to death on 6 May 2004 by the Criminal Court of Benghazi for allegedly having deliberately spread the HIV/AIDS virus in the "Al-Fatih" hospital of Benghazi.

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) 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.

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 tomorrow 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,

John Monks
Secretary General ETUC

Guy Ryder
Secretary General ICFTU