# **URGENT ACTION**

# LIBYAN MP DISAPPEARED FOR OVER A YEAR

Member of the House of Representatives (Libya's parliament), Ibrahim al-Dersi, went missing on May 16, 2024, after he attended a parade held by the self-proclaimed Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF) in Benghazi, a city under their effective control. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown. In early May 2025, disturbing videos emerged on social media, showing Ibrahim al-Dersi shirtless in a dimly lit, confined space with concrete walls, bearing visible signs of torture. A heavy metal chain and large padlock were tied around his neck. The LAAF authorities must ensure that information about Ibrahim alDersi's fate and whereabouts is disclosed immediately. All those suspected of involvement in his enforced disappearance and torture, including high-ranking officers and commanders, must be brought to trial in fair proceedings.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- <u>Click here</u> to report your action(s) on **UA 58.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Field Marshall Khalifa Belqasim Haftar General Commander of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF)

https://www.facebook.com/MidiaGovLibyan https://www.facebook.com/LNAspox

#### Send a copy of your letter to the address below

CC: Libyan Embassy in the United States Chargé d'affaires Fadil Omar 2201 Wyoming Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008, Email: info@embassyoflibyadc.com

Dear Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the ongoing disappearance of Libyan member of the House of Representatives (Libya's parliament), **Ibrahim al-Dersi**, who went missing after attending a parade held by the Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF) in Benghazi. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown. Despite confirmation in July 2024 from the Internal Security Agency (ISA), operating under LAAF's command, that investigations into Ibrahim al-Dersi's disappearance were nearly complete, the agency has yet to make the results public.

In early May 2025, videos circulating on social media showed Ibrahim al-Dersi shirtless in a dimly lit, confined space with concrete walls, with visible signs of torture. A heavy metal chain and large padlock were fastened around his neck. In the videos, <u>authenticated</u> by the International Criminal Court's prosecutor's office, Ibrahim al-Dersi pleaded for his release with General Saddam Haftar, the effective leader of Tariq Ben Zeyad (TBZ).

Comments by the ISA in relation to the disappearance of Ibrahim al-Dersi raise serious concerns about the agency's investigations. One such instance is the agency's rushed <u>denial</u> of the authenticity of the leaked videos showing Ibrahim al-Dersi. Another is the provision of unfounded explanations for his disappearance, including allegations that he was abducted by foreign intelligence services.

I urge you to ensure that Ibrahim al-Dersi's fate and whereabouts are disclosed immediately. All those reasonably suspected of involvement in his disappearance and torture, including high-ranking officers and commanders, must be investigated and prosecuted in fair trials.

Yours sincerely,



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Ibrahim al-Dersi** is a member of the House of Representatives, Libya's parliament, for the Benghazi constituency. He is also the head of the Endowments and Islamic Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives. Shortly after the publication of the videos in May 2025, Libya Public Prosecutor's office launched an investigation into his disappearance.

Ibrahim al-Dersi's disappearance on May 16, 2024, is a stark reminder of abductions, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions perpetrated by security agencies and militias operating in areas under the control of LAAF, the de facto authority in eastern Libya. For instance, Amnesty International <u>documented</u> how the armed group Tariq Ben Zeyad (TBZ), one of the most powerful armed groups operating under LAAF, has been implicated since 2016 in abductions and enforced disappearances of political figures, activists, journalists, and other civilians. Those abducted by the TBZ were targeted for their actual or perceived opposition to the LAAF, including their criticism on social media of LAAF General Commander Khalifa Haftar or his son Saddam Haftar or their allies; their tribal or family affiliations; their political activism; their refusal to cooperate with the LAAF, their media work; and/or their participation in anti-LAAF protests.

Other militias in areas under LAAF's authority have been also implicated in abductions and enforced disappearance. For instance, on July 17, 2019, dozens of masked gunmen wearing army attire stormed MP <u>Siham Sergiwa</u>'s home in Benghazi, eastern Libya. The night before her abduction, Siham Sergiwa had publicly called for an end to the LAAF offensive in Tripoli. Eyewitnesses to Siham Sergiwa's abduction and photos examined by Amnesty International point to graffiti on the wall of her house as evidence that Awliya al-Dam, an armed brigade affiliated with the LAAF, was responsible. Siham Sergiwa's whereabouts remain unknown to the day.

On October 7, 2023, LAAF affiliates <u>took</u> hostage 36 women and 13 children from the al-Barghathi family. They were released after Al-Mahdi al-Barghathi, former Minister of Defense, and his son were taken into LAAF custody, along with 38 other al-Barghathi family members and supporters. The fate and whereabouts of at least 19 of them remain unknown, amid fears they may have been extrajudicially executed after being captured.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET**: Arabic, English, or your own language.

## PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: December 2, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Ibrahim al-Dersi (he/him).