

The Honorable Ali Aujali
Libyan Embassy
2600 Virginia Avenue N.W.
Suite 705
Washington, D.C. 20037



GROUP 356

January 15, 2008

Your Excellency:

I am dismayed that outspoken democracy advocate Fathi el-Jahmi continues to be detained for seeking peaceful political reforms in Libya. He was arrested in 2002 after calling for free speech and reforms during a conference in Tripoli. He was released in March 2004 before being arrested again weeks later after he repeated his call for democracy during a media interview.

The 66-year-old former provincial governor is believed held at a special facility of the Internal Security Agency on the outskirts of Tripoli, where he has reportedly been denied adequate treatment for a range of medical conditions, including diabetes and hypertension.

Amnesty International considers Fathi el-Jahmi to be a prisoner of conscience, who has been detained solely for the peaceful expression of his political views. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Libya is a party, states that everyone shall have the right to freedom of opinion and expressions. I urge your government to bring about his immediate and unconditional release.

Sincerely,