



Euro-Med Monitor  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Geneva, 13 May 2019

**Subject: Threats against Libyan Lawyer Warshfani**

**Mr. Michel Fors** UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders  
[urgent-action@ohchr.org](mailto:urgent-action@ohchr.org)

**Your Excellency,**

I am writing to you on behalf of The Euro-Med Monitor for Human Rights, which is a Geneva –based NGO to draw your attention to the case of a Libyan lawyer and human rights defender Almoaaz Sadek Warshfani, who has received serious death threats for his role in defending victims of civil war and torture, such detainees are held by the government without a legal foundation. Warshfani ran for his life and left Libya to Tunisia under the cover of the night. He is now in safer Tunisia, but he is still worried about his family who he had to leave behind as he took a dangerous trip to Tunisia through land.

**Mr. Michel Forst,**

Months ago, Mr. Warshfani who is a member of the Supreme Advisory Committee of the Libyan Judicial Association , started receiving serious death threats due to his focus on some cases of compensation filled against the Libyan government and militias resulting from human rights violations due to armed clashes that continuously take place in all cities of Libya. Mr.Forst requested the government to compensate the victims with their consent and knowledge. As a result of filing cases of compensation against the government for crimes of extrajudicial detention, enforced disappearance and impunity, he started receiving death threats.

The cases he brings before courts suggest that the government of Libya is responsible for the protection of people, both nationals and foreigners, and that it is responsible for violations committed against these people, either by the former regime or starting from February 2011, when the popular revolt against the former regime took place.

Geneva Office  
World Trade Center II  
Route de Pré-Bois 29,  
I-1215, Geneva.  
[info@euromedmonitor.org](mailto:info@euromedmonitor.org)

Palestine Office  
Gaza Strip, Gaza city  
+97 0 5999 80 625  
[Palestine@euromedmonitor.org](mailto:Palestine@euromedmonitor.org)  
Minaa St. Aburas building

Libya Office  
Libya  
+218911277889  
[Libya@euromedmonitor.org](mailto:Libya@euromedmonitor.org)  
Andalous St. - Tripoli 00218



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This also includes the crimes of assault against journalists and jurists and the crimes of recruiting children and minors in armed militias all over Libya.

The wife of Mr. Warshfani had to take an unpaid leave and his children had to drop from international schools they attended for years due to these threats.

He spoke of these violations to newspapers and radios. Consequently, he was kidnapped and released the following day under the condition he withdraws these cases from the courts.

Mr. Warshfani was told not to bring these cases to courts against the government and not to mention the word militias, whether in the press or at courts.

He was asked to speak to the media and deny that these armed groups are militias, but rather legitimate security bodies.

Moreover, Mr. Warshfani was also asked to deny that children and minors are being recruited in armed formations. He was given a short period of time to do so, otherwise he would be killed. To save his life, he promised his kidnappers that he would do all of this upon his release.

He took a decision to leave Libya and escape and take refuge in another country.

Two days later, his house was hit by a cane, perhaps as a reaction to delaying the implementation of the kidnappers' demands. He decided to leave the country immediately.

Upon the advice of some of his friends, he left Libya by land through the Ras Jadir border crossing with Tunisia under the cover of the night, yet without his family.

**The Euro-Med for Human Rights Monitor, in light of this death threat against a well-known human rights defender and lawyer in Libya, calls on Mr. Michel Forst, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, to pressure the Libyan authorities to stop violations against human rights defenders.**

**The Euro-Med calls on Mr. Forst to provide the needed protection to Mr. Warshfani and to allow his family to join him in Tunisia. The Geneva-based organization calls on Mr. Forst to speak to relevant authorities to make sure that those who kidnapped Mr. Warshfani are brought to justice.**

Please, accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest considerations.

  
Lama Jbarah

Executive Director, Euro-Med Monitor –Geneva

Geneva Office  
World Trade Center II  
Route de Pré-Bois 29,  
I-1215, Geneva.  
info@euromedmonitor.org

Palestine Office  
Gaza Strip, Gaza city  
+97 0 5999 80 625  
Palestine@euromedmonitor.org  
Minaa St. Aburas building

Libya Office  
Libya  
+218911277889  
Libya@euromedmonitor.org  
Andalous St. - Tripoli 00218