

Press Release

Council of Europe Press Division

Ref: 806b06

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 25 60

Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 39 11

pressunit@coe.int

internet: www.coe.int/press



46 members

Albania

Andorra

Armenia

Austria

Azerbaijan

Belgium

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bulgaria

Croatia

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Denmark

Estonia

Finland

France

Georgia

Germany

Greece

Hungary

Iceland

Ireland

Italy

Latvia

Liechtenstein

Lithuania

Luxembourg

Malta

Moldova

Monaco

Netherlands

Norway

Poland

Portugal

Romania

Russia

San Marino

Serbia

Slovakia

Slovenia

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

"The former Yugoslav

Republic of
Macedonia"

Turkey

Ukraine

United Kingdom

Commissioner for Human Rights appalled by Libyan death sentence decision

Strasbourg, 19.12.2006 – Following today's Court ruling in Libya, Thomas Hammarberg, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, has made the following statement:

"The death sentences against five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor in Libya are totally unacceptable. The court has relied on "confessions" extracted under torture and threat of execution. I appeal to the Libyan authorities to review these unjust death sentences or grant an immediate pardon and then release the imprisoned foreigners."

"The court's decision seems to have completely ignored the evidence that the HIV virus had been present in the hospital prior to the arrival of the medical workers. The unfair trial procedures, the torture and now the death sentences constitute grave violations of agreed international standards of human rights, including those to which Libya is a party".

Le Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme consterné par la décision libyenne relative aux condamnations à mort

Strasbourg, 19.12.2006 - Suite à la décision de la Cour en Libye, Thomas Hammarberg, le Commissaire aux Droits de l'Homme du Conseil de l'Europe, a fait la déclaration suivante :

« Les condamnations à mort de cinq infirmières bulgares et d'un médecin palestinien sont totalement inacceptables. La cour s'est contentée de « confessions » obtenues sous la torture et la menace d'exécution. Je demande aux autorités libyennes de revoir ces injustes condamnations à mort ou de grâcier immédiatement et relâcher ces prisonniers étrangers.

La Cour semble avoir complètement ignoré la preuve de la présence du virus HIV au sein de l'hôpital avant l'arrivée de ce personnel médical. Le procès inéquitable, la torture et à présent les condamnations à mort constituent des violations graves des normes de protection des droits de l'homme internationalement reconnues, y compris de celles que la Libye s'est engagée à respecter. »

To receive our press releases by e-mail, contact : Council.of.Europe.Press@coe.int

A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 46 member states.