

## Indelible Marks

The Libyan Human Rights Commission was founded in 1985, shortly after one of the most massive waves of Human Rights violations had occurred in Libya. It took more than three years for the Commission to begin gaining credible working relations with international Human Rights organizations. In February 1989, it emerged at the United Nations Human Rights Commission Conference in Geneva, and made a public appeal "intervention" (in U.N. terminology). When the appeal speech was delivered in cooperation with Federation Internationale des Droits de l'Homme, the hall was well attended by representatives of all governments of the world, including Libya. This momentous event made an indelible mark in the history of Libya and the United Nations. It was the first of its kind ever. Libyan Human Rights Commission continued its arduous task in the promotion of Human Rights in Libya. It took on a worldwide appeal in cooperation with Physicians for Human Rights in behalf of imprisoned physicians and medical professionals in Libya. The Commission attended the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria, June 93, coordinated by the European Community in cooperation with the United Nations. At this important Conference, the Commission made positive contributions and played an active role in NGO forums. It protested the participation by a Libyan governmental "Human Rights organization" vigorously and at the highest levels. On December 12, 1993, forty-eight hours after the disappearance of Mr. Mansour

see "Indelible" on page 3

## Symposium on Kikhia's disappearance...

On March 24, 1995 in cooperation with Georgetown University, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Libyan Human Rights Commission held a symposium focusing on the disappearance of Mr. Mansour R. Kikhia, a prominent Libyan Human Rights activist, former foreign minister, and Libya's permanent representative to the U.N. Mr. Kikhia disappeared in Cairo, Egypt on December 10, 1993

see "Symposium" on page 2



*Turbi, Barakat, Shattuck, Maksoud, and Aruri at Georgetown University*

## Request by Commission to meet Mubarak on Kikhia accepted...with Conditions

It is a coincidence... that the Honorable President Mubarak will be in town in just a few days. Libyan Human Rights Commission submitted at exactly 4:50 P.M. today (March 24, 1995), through the Egyptian Embassy in Washington, a request to meet with President Mubarak during his visit which will begin on April 2, 1995... to receive assurances from him that he is doing the best he can on behalf of Mr. Mansour Kikhia's family...A. Omar Turbi announced at the closing of the

symposium. Libyan Human Rights Commission's appeal for an audience with President Mubarak has concurrence of Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Lawyers Committee for Human Rights which participated at the symposium that was held at Georgetown University. The intent of the Commission in its request for a conference with President Hosni Mubarak is to express face to face, its grave concerns, and receive assurances of Mubarak's personal commitment to the disappearance case

see "Request" on page 3



**Symposium (from p. 1)**

Dr. Naser Aruri, a founding member of Arab Organization for Human Rights and Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts.

Over 150 attended, from the diplomatic communities in Washington, D.C. and New York, branches of the U.S. Government, Arab organizations (ADDC, NAAA, others) and many friends of Mr. Kikhia.

Dr. Amin El Huni, Director, Arab Affairs with Libyan Human Rights Commission remarked at the opening of the symposium, "Today marks 469 days since the alarming disappearance of Mr. Mansour Kikhia, a prominent Human Rights activist who devoted his life to promoting Human Rights in Libya and the Arab world..." Dr. El Huni set the tone for the symposium by emphasizing the essence of cooperation between Libyan Human Rights Commission, and Georgetown University, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies and cited that both the Commission and the Center hope to raise consciousness, show concern for Mansour's fate and health and demonstrate solidarity with him and his family. When Dr. Halim Barakat spoke on behalf of the Center, he surprised the audience by announcing the historical connection between Georgetown University and Kikhia. "Members of the Center have been very concerned about the disappearance of Mr. Kikhia... Mr. Kikhia is not only known to us personally, he also served as a member of our Advisory Council at a critical time... I have here with me a letter dated 10 October 1980 that Professor Michael Hudson, director of the Center then, wrote to Ambassador

Nations."

The letter reads as follows:

"I would like you to know, on behalf of all the members of the Executive Committee, that we have deeply valued your service to the Center and to Georgetown University during your tenure as a member of the Advisory Council. Dean Krogh and I especially are grateful for your participation and your wisdom in helping us conduct our affairs. The Executive Committee is reluctant to accept your offer to resign from the Advisory Council at this time. If you do not mind, we would like to wait for awhile before making a decision on your request."



**Dr. Halim Barakat, a professor at Georgetown University, a novelist, a publisher of more than 18 books and numerous articles**

*on the Arab world, a founding member of Arab Organization for Human Rights.*

In recognition of Mr. Mansour R. Kikhia, on behalf of Libyan Human Rights Commission, A. Omar Turbi, "Fathi," Executive Director, and a founding member of the Commission spoke. In his speech, he echoed the sentiments expressed by Dr. El Huni and Dr. Brakat in raising consciousness, showing concern and demonstrating solidarity with Mansour and family. "Mansour Kikhia is a true Arab Institution that taught people around him how to debate and have a dialogue, always gave the benefit of the doubt to every one he deal with, his friends and enemies alike.

**"...the Commission and the Center hope to raise consciousness. Show concern for Mansour's fate and health and demonstrate solidarity with him and his family."**

—Dr. Amin El Huni

Kikhia in response to a letter in which he announced his retirement from his post as Libya's Representative to the United

States indicated that he preferred to attend Arab Organization for Human Rights Conference over CSIS's." Turbi

**"We ask accountability from both governments of Egypt and Libya..."** —Ambassador Clovis Maksoud

announced that Libyan Human Rights Commission has admitted Mr. Kikhia as an honorary member as of March 24, 1995 in response to a request by Mr. Kikhia to the Commission several years passed.

When Ambassador Maksoud spoke on the disappearance of Mr. Mansour Kikhia, he eloquently appealed and forcefully stressed to the Egyptian and Libyan regimes, "We ask accountability from both governments of Egypt and Libya..."

said Ambassador Maksoud, who knew Mansour intimately, "...Mansour is a great Arab humanist, present with us in our consciousness and in our conscience, he is the quintessential Arab democrat..... Mansour represented the humanist content of Arab nationalism...a Libyan by his territorial belonging, but ....son of an Arab nation ...came to the U.N. as its Ambassador, to affirm Libya's commitment to the Arab causes, to the authenticity of what Human Rights means. When that mission stumbled into a situation throughout the Arab world where people had to either pander to the regimes or to conspire against them, he provided the alternative.... We ask accountability from both governments of Egypt and Libya: to know where is he; what he is doing, and how's his health? He is a valuable asset for the future of Arab enlightenment and renaissance."



**Ambassador Maksoud was the permanent observer of the League of Arab States at the U.N., and his Chief Representative in the United States.**

Dr. Naser Aruri, a dynamic orator, spoke quite bluntly a charismatic figure that grabbed the attention of the audience. "Mansour is a dissident, but the environment in which he struggled is inhospitable to dissidents... Mansour's commitment to democratic forms of



government has clashed head-on with autocratic forms of government. The Arab world is unfortunately well endowed with autocracies. Irrespective of the type of government, pro-West or anti-West, presumed progressive, monarchical or republican, secular or fundamentalist,

***"Libyan Human Rights Commission and the Arab Organization for Human Rights are the very foundation for democracy and the promotion of Human Rights."***

*—John Shattuck, Asst. Sec. of State*

irrespective of all these dichotomies, the region is truly a disaster area in terms of Human Rights... We have numerous questions to raise, ...But in the absence of real answers, we must raise them again and again and again....none of them are beyond the capabilities of the security-minded governments, whether it is the Libyan government, the Egyptian government, or our own government here in the United States. Mansour is a Libyan national, but he is a U.S. resident who was due to be granted U.S. citizenship, and therefore, entitled to the rights of American nationals. He disappeared in Egypt, which granted him a visa and safe passage, hosted the conference, screened the conferees, kept tabs on their movements, and maintained permanent surveillance on Libyan dissidents in the country. It would be sheer folly to believe that Egypt has no answers to this mystery; In fact, Egypt has answers which are essential to the process of locating Mansour Kikhia. And these answers must be supplied to avoid what is called an obstruction of justice. Why did Egypt deny him a visa and later suddenly changed and expedited his trip? How could President Mubarak reconcile his denial of knowing anything about Mansour's whereabouts with the documented evidence about his security force's surveillance?

It is a well known fact that Mansour was driven across the Libyan border in a car belonging to a Libyan official, and that

the Egyptian Division of Criminal Investigations has reports of these movements. Why do these reports remain suppressed, The U.S. also bears a big responsibility as well. Egypt is the recipient of 6% of total U.S. foreign aid... The safety and welfare of Mansour Kikhia are not less important than the lives of the Lockerbie victims.

Yet, the entire Libyan nation is being unfairly subjected to collective punishment. We are seeking protection and safety for Mansour...the Clinton Administration is obligated to uphold that right... Only Washington can persuade Egypt these days to release the

information in its possession. It has the capability but it must also develop the will. I am glad that a top official in the Administration is with us tonight. I was privileged to have served with John Shattuck on the Board of Directors of Amnesty International....

His presence with us tonight provides eloquent testimony to his sincere concerns about Human Rights and the rights of the disappeared. We appeal to him to do his best in obtaining the release of information that is so vital for putting an end to the plight of Mansour Kikhia and his family...



**Dr. Nasser Aruri,** a professor at the University of Massachusetts, author, formerly a member of the Board of Amnesty International U.S.A, Middle East Watch, a

*founding member of Arab Organization for Human Rights, and a longtime friend of Mansour Kikhia. (continued on page 4...)*

**Indelible (from p.1)**  
Kikhia in Cairo, the Commission took the lead in communicating his alarming disappearance to the United Nations, and world governments. The Commission then worked closely with several prominent Human Rights groups to affect direct appeals to the Egyptian and Libyan regimes....❖

**Request (from p.1)**

of Mr. Kikhia. Upon conclusion of the symposium, Libyan Human Rights Commission expended further efforts in pursuit of the audience with Mubarak. On March 31, 1995, the Commission submitted to the Egyptian Embassy a list of specific persons that would be in attendance: Dr. Mary Gray, Chair of Amnesty Intl, USA; Joe Eldridge, Director, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights; Holly Burkhalter, Director, Human Rights Watch; Mr. A. Omar Turbi, and Dr. Amin El Huni of Libyan Human Rights Commission. Communications with the Embassy of Egypt in Washington, D.C. and diplomatic envoys of the Egyptian government informed the Commission that Mr. Mubarak's chief advisor Ambassador Osama El Baz acknowledges its request and proposes that members of Libyan Human Rights Commission could meet with President

***"It would be sheer folly to believe that Egypt has no answers to this mystery... These answers must be supplied to avoid what is called an obstruction of justice." — Dr. Nasser Aruri***

Mubarak in Egypt and not in Washington as the Commission originally requested. Such a meeting would be conditioned on the exclusion of Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. Subsequently, the Commission issued a press release (widely published) on the progress of the request, stating its firm position with regard to the exclusion conditions of the meeting set by El Baz.

On April 24, 1995, the Commission dispatched a third request to El Baz seeking to firm up an agenda for the meeting with Mubarak. Instead, on April 26, it received an invitation via phone from El Baz's office in Cairo to meet with him. No agenda for Mubarak was offered... The Commission continues to assert its request through El Baz in Cairo and Egyptian Embassy in Washington (another letter dated May 3, 1995) reminding them to "honor" the promise made to the Commission nearly 2 months ago....❖



## Symposium (from p.3)

"I'm privileged ...to be here tonight with a number of very distinguished former colleagues, Naseer Aruri..... Dr. Clovis Maktoud, .... and Omar Turbi who had those very kind remarks.... I had the honor of meeting Mr. Kikha in Cairo in December of 1993, just several days before he disappeared.... I have a very personal testimony....At the time that I met

*"We will reap the fruits of our efforts...when Libyan Human Rights Commission will be allowed to meet as it is meeting tonight in Tripoli or Benghazi."*

—John Shattuck, Asst. Sec. of State

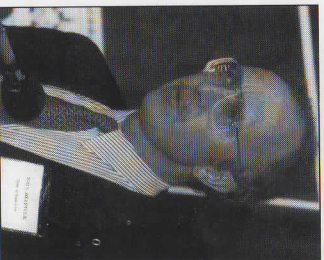
Mansour Kikha....the Arab Organization for Human Rights was holding its annual meeting in Cairo, and Mansour Kikha and other members from other countries were in attendance....He made a very striking impression on me.... We discussed, he and I and others at lunch, the obstacles and opportunities for the promotion of Human Rights and democratic values in the Arab world. Human Rights advocates in the Arab world are finally beginning to find their voices. After listening to such forceful advocates as Mansour Kikha, a man of integrity who resigned his post as Libya's Representative to the United Nations to protest his country's Human Rights record ..... We believe that there will come a time when we will have him again in our midst.

Groups like the Libyan Human Rights Commission and the Arab Organization for Human Rights are the very foundation for democracy and the promotion of Human Rights.....We disagree with the argument that there is no room for civil and political rights until economic development had been achieved. Indeed, participation, openness, freedom of speech and association, these are the key elements of all the strongest market and free and

open economic development situations in the world today.

Tonight and on many nights and on all nights, we should hear their voices and we should salute them. The United States seeks to strengthen its ties with the courageous women and men around the world...However, in countries like Libya, these groups are outlawed or repressed... in my job, I find myself in a position of having to speak for those who are prevented by their governments from speaking for themselves. Tonight is such a night. In fact, that is what all of us are doing here tonight at Georgetown University. Libyan Human Rights Commission has organized this evening to call attention to the disappearance of Mansour Kikha. But it also gathered here to speak on behalf of all Libyan citizens who aspire to have a more humane government, but who are prevented by their government from speaking for themselves.

Tonight we are lending our collective voice to that of Mansour Kikha, who with many other Libyan citizens, would like to see a new Libya come into existence....We will reap the fruits of our efforts on that day when Libyan Human Rights Commission will be allowed to meet as it is meeting tonight in Tripoli or in Benghazi. Unfortunately, that day is not at hand. I want to thank Libyan Human Rights Commission for holding this event and for inviting me to speak to you here tonight on behalf of the United States.



**Mr. John Shattuck, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy and Human Rights spoke on behalf of the U.S. Government.**

"It is our duty to work hard for the release of Mr. Kikha...." Dr. A. Shaban.

President of Arab Organization for Human Rights in Britain remarked, who came from London for the symposium.

The symposium was concluded by Commission Executive Director Mr. Turbi, where he announced that Libyan Human Rights Commission in concurrence with major Human Rights organizations requested a meeting with Mubarak on Kikha (see "Request..." on page 1)

Two statements one by Mr. Mohamed Kikha, Mansour's brother and the other by Baha Kikha, his wife, were submitted to the Commission the night of the symposium. Unfortunately due to tight scheduling their statements along with a statement by Mr. Joe Eldridge, Director with Lawyers Committee for Human Rights were not presented.

"The most officially responsible...I met was Dr. El Baz. He promised, that Egypt would work diligently with Libya for the return of Mansour," said, Baha in

*I would like to emphasize that I enthusiastically endorse everything that is being done here tonight.*

—John Shattuck, Asst. Sec. of State

her statement. She goes on to explain her odyssey in search of information in Washington, Egypt and Libya.

Early May, Mrs. Baha Kikha's lawyer, Bill Rogers submitted the first legal request for information to Egypt. It was faxed to Ambassador El Baz. There has not been a reply yet...

"I am not worried about Mansour, we have news that he is alive and well. It is a delicate hostage situation" Mohamed Kikha declared. ❖



## Mrs. Kikhia's Word for the Symposium...

I am grateful to the organizers of this event and to all of you in attendance. Each of us tonight...has a role to play. And without all of our voices, the future is clearly less promising. In November, 1994, I submitted a Freedom of Information Act Request to eleven U.S. government agencies. This was the first legal act I've taken with my government. I went three times to Egypt to try and discover some clues to Mansour's disappearance. The most officially responsible of the people I met in Cairo was Dr. Osama El Baz. He promised that Egypt would work diligently with Libya to solve the problem and return Mansour to the safety of his family and friends. I went to Libya and met with Colonel Qaddafi who told me...that he had a strong feeling that Mansour is safe and sound and that he, Qaddafi, would work with "sister Egypt" to secure Mansour's freedom.



Mrs. Kikhia speaks with A. Omar Turbi

I am proud that my government officially took a very decisive position... Several weeks after Mansour's abduction, President Clinton wrote to Mubarak... We've met twice with the National Security Advisor, Anthony Lake. We had a short meeting with President Clinton. On a daily basis, we've been in contact with many U.S. government departments.

So far, none of our efforts have yielded any official information from Egypt, Libya or the United States. ... On our own, we have learned a great deal, independently of any government..

I must call your attention to the plight of Jennifer Harbury, married to a Guatemalan fighter... who disappeared in Guatemala. For several years his wife searched for him... Yesterday, the media revealed that our government knew for several months what had happened to him. He had been killed quite some time ago. I want to prevent Mansour from sharing the fate of Jennifer's husband.

I am calling on you to help me encourage the U.S. government to do the following — before it is too late: (1) to provide documentation and answers to the Freedom of Information Act Request; (2) to insist to President Mubarak that Egypt release whatever findings it has gathered as a result of its official investigation of the circumstances of Mansour's abduction and current whereabouts; (3) to insist to President Mubarak that Egypt return Mansour's personal papers; (4) to insist to President Mubarak that the documentation we know exists in various official departments of the Egyptian government be shared immediately with the U.S. government; (5) to request of the United States that the Department of Justice send a team of investigators to Egypt to independently look into the many

questions we put forth in our Freedom of Information Act Request.

These requests should be made to: **Anthony Lake**, National Security Advisor (202-456-1111); **Secretary of State Christopher** (202-647-5291); and **Attorney General Janet Reno** (202-514-2001). I urge you to make this evening much more than just ceremonial. ♦

## Human Rights Watch receives award

Libyan Human Rights Commission has worked with several Human Rights organizations for the promotion of Human Rights in Libya. During the symposium Human Rights Watch was presented with an award from the Commission for its work on Libya and Mr. Kikhia, specifically Virginia Sherry who expended many hours and made arrangements to meet Libyan Ambassador to the U.N. on Kikhia's case. Holly Burkhalter, Director with Human Rights Watch received the award on behalf of the organization and spoke briefly (Physicians for Human Rights had received the previous award for its work in 1993):

"It is a great honor to be here and receive the award... Disappearances are the cruelest of all of the crimes that human beings know how to commit against one another...sort of a radioactive crime. It poisons and permeates and is cruel, not just to the immediate victim, but to the individual's wife and child and friends... Thus, a disappearance is a crime that has no end until the truth is known. I associate myself with our friends from Libyan Human Rights Commission.

"If tonight is an occasion to remember our friend, it is also an occasion to remember those that are responsible for his absence. As long as the questions go unanswered, the governments that have the answers and don't give them, the government of Egypt, the government of Libya, will be stigmatized and will be shamed because the radioactive poison that accompanies every disappearance also taints the international reputation and status of those governments responsible.

"So with that I say thank you again to our very good friends at Libyan Human Rights Commission. The award says that *This award is presented to Human Rights Watch in recognition and appreciation for diligent efforts for the advancement of Human Rights in Libya.*" ♦



Turbi and Yusef Bayou present award to Burkhalter with Human Rights Watch





## Symposium on Tape

The symposium on the disappearance of Mansour Kikhia held at Georgetown University on March 24, 1995 is AVAILABLE NOW IN ITS ENTIRETY ON VIDEO OR AUDIO CASSETTE.

With your annual support of Libyan Human Rights Commission's work, (individual=U\$10.00, institution=U\$25.00), you will receive:

- ✓ Symposium on Kikhia on Video or Audio
- ✓ Annual report on Human Rights violations in Libya (Amnesty's report, or other at Commission's discretion).
- ✓ Subscription to Libyan Human Rights Monitor

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Libyan Human Rights Commission is non-political, has no political agenda or affiliation, and was founded in 1985 to promote compliance with Human Rights in Libya. Libyan Human Rights Commission supports the work of the United Nations, Amnesty International, and other Human Rights organizations and hopes that the collective efforts of such organizations result in compliance with basic Human Rights in Libya, particularly those of the UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS and international conventions. Libyan Human Rights Commission probes into the condition and plight of Libyan detainees, conscience and political prisoners, has good working relationships with several Human Rights organizations, and submits reports on Human Rights abuses in Libya to the United National Human Rights Commission and Human Rights organizations. At the United Nations Human Rights Commission 45th session, Libyan Human Rights Commission made a formal INTERVENTION in Geneva, Switzerland which was simultaneously translated in all languages. Libyan Human Rights Commission made positive contributions to the "World Conference on Human Rights" held in Vienna, Austria June 14-25, 1993.

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