



International Healthcare Worker Safety Center

October 25, 2006

Senator John Warner
225 Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Warner,

As your constituent and also as director of the International Healthcare Worker Safety Center at the University of Virginia, I write to express my grave concern about the plight of five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian physician who were arrested and charged, in 1999, with intentionally infecting more than 400 Libyan children with the AIDS virus. If sufficient international pressure is not brought to bear before October 31st, they stand to be executed by firing squad.

The six have been held in prison and subjected to torture for seven years, and were tried, convicted and sentenced to death by firing squad in 2004. That sentence was overturned by the Libyan Supreme Court and a second trial was ordered. Crucial testimony provided by Dr. Luc Montagnier, co-discoverer of the HIV virus, and a leading Italian virologist refuted the prosecution's case for intentional HIV transmission. The Montagnier report concluded that the infections were most likely the result of improper and unsafe infection control and injection practices. However, the evidence in Montagnier's report was thrown out of court by the Libyan government prosecutors. The six health workers have been left defenseless and are likely to be convicted a second time and, if so, sentenced to death. At this point, only a powerful international appeal stands between them and a firing squad.

I am making an urgent request that you, as our representative to the U.S. government, do all in your power to avert a humanitarian tragedy that would not be forgotten by the international healthcare and scientific communities. The Libyan government is poised to carry out a horrific act. Executions can never be rescinded. Such a humanitarian tragedy would stand forever as a sinister legacy of the Libyan government. The documentation of this situation and information on supporting the humanitarian appeals on behalf of these unfortunate six can be found at <http://declanbutler.info/blog/libya.htm>.

Thank you for your humanitarian concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janine Jagger".

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