

# URGENT ACTION

## SUFI SHEIKH RELEASED AFTER OVER A YEAR IN PRISON

On 28 March 2025, 79-year-old Sufi Sheikh Muftah Al-Amin Al-Biju was released after spending 13 months in prison. His arbitrary detention was part of a larger crackdown against Sufis, a Muslim group, by armed groups allied to the self-proclaimed Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF), in de facto control of eastern Libya.

**NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.**

79-year-old Sufi Sheikh Muftah Al-Amin Al-Biju (hereafter Sheikh Al-Biju) had been forcibly disappeared following his arbitrary arrest from his home in Benghazi on 4 February 2024 by armed men affiliated with a group allied to the LAAF. Sheikh Al-Biju's detention was part of a larger crackdown targeting Sufis not espousing the Madkhali Salafi ideology to which many powerful LAAF allied armed groups adhere.

After over a year of enforced disappearance, Sheikh Al-Biju was released from detention in eastern Libya on 28 March 2025. Amnesty International welcomes his release but stresses that it does not undo the harm caused, especially given his age and fragile health.

According to a source familiar with the case who spoke to Amnesty International, Sheikh Al-Biju had been detained in Gernada prison, near the eastern city of al-Bayda, which is notorious for rampant abuses. A month prior to his release, Amnesty International learnt that he had been transferred to al-Kweifiyah Prison complex in Benghazi.

Supporters around the world campaigned for Sheikh Al-Biju's release by sending letters to the Libyan authorities.

Amnesty International will continue to campaign for the release of those arbitrarily detained solely for exercising their human rights, including freedom of religion. Amnesty International will also continue to urge the LAAF to allow independent monitors unfettered and unannounced access to Gernada and other prisons and detention facilities under its control in eastern and southern Libya.

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Sheikh Muftah Al-Amin Al-Biju (he/him).

**THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 12/25.**

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde19/9001/2025/en/>.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**

