

Mohamed Eljahmi's speech at the international conference on democracy & security in Prague June 5-6, 2007

Thank you President Havel, President Aznar and Member of Knesset Sharansky for inviting me.

The role of dissidents can be a positive influence on society when their efforts are conducted in a peaceful way.

My brother Fathi Eljahmi is a Libyan dissident, who is incommunicado in Libya because he publicly offered a six-point program for healing Libya and defining its relations with the rest of the world.

He called for free speech, for free press, for rule of law and government accountability, for property rights, for free enterprise and for national reconciliation.

He was first detained in October of 2002. He was released on March 12, 2004 because U.S. Senator Joseph Biden urged Qadhafi to release him.

He was re-detained two weeks later because he continued calling for freedom in Libya.

Fathi has been held incommunicado since the last week of August 2006. He has been cut off from his family. He is in failing health.

My brother envisions a peaceful Libya where its government is for the people and by the people. Conversely, Qadhafi built his rule on terror, abuse of his people and meddling in the internal affairs of neighboring countries.

Qadhafi has not changed. In April of this year, he gave a speech where he praised the insurgency in Iraq and called the late U.S. President Reagan "deranged" and "mad." He started his speech with this Quranic verse:

"Against them make ready Your strength to the utmost Of your power, including Steeds of war, to strike terror Into (the hearts of) the enemies, Of Allah and your enemies, And others besides, whom Ye may not know, but whom Allah doth know"

In closing, the Irish Philosopher Edmund Burke said:

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

Qadhafi has distracted the free world with WMD and giving lip service to the global war on terror. Permanent behavioral change in Qadhafi will be achieved when the full-rights of political dissidents like my brother are restored.

Thank you.