

Advocacy dossier

Abdel Monem Al-Marimi

عبد المنعم المريمي

Died in custody **Libya**

Abdel Monem Al-Marimi was a protest organiser in western Libya who called for the Government of National Unity to step down. He was seized by the Internal Security Agency on 30 June 2025 and died on 4 July 2025 after a fall inside the Attorney General's office; no findings of the investigation have been published.

01

The case at a glance

Abdel Monem Al-Marimi was a protest organiser in western Libya who called for the Government of National Unity to step down. He was seized by the Internal Security Agency on 30 June 2025 and died on 4 July 2025 after a fall inside the Attorney General's office; no findings of the investigation have been published.

Status	Arrested	Country
Died in custody	**30 Jun 2025**	**Libya**

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Order a full, independent, and impartial investigation into the killing of Abdel Monem Al-Marimi, with timely public reporting on findings.

02 Identify and prosecute those responsible, both the direct perpetrators and any state officials who ordered, enabled, or covered up the killing.

03 Provide effective reparation to the family of Abdel Monem Al-Marimi.

04 Take immediate steps to protect other defenders working in the same field from similar attacks.

02

How the case unfolded

30 June 2025

Abduction

Seized by the Internal Security Agency in Surman

According to the UN Support Mission in Libya, Abdel Monem Al-Marimi was seized by the Internal Security Agency in Surman, west of Tripoli. His car was later found abandoned with his two young daughters inside. The local security directorate first announced that he had been abducted by unknown persons; the Attorney General's office later confirmed that he was held by the Internal Security Agency, which is affiliated with the Government of National Unity.

3 July 2025

Interrogation

Referred to the Attorney General's office and questioned

The Internal Security Agency referred him to the Attorney General's office on 3 July 2025, according to the UN mission. The office said it received the case papers that day and questioned him, and that he denied the accusations. The Internal Security Agency later described him as a suspect without specifying any charge.

3 July 2025

Release order

Prosecution says it ordered his release

The Attorney General's office said that after the questioning the investigator ordered his release, and that he was waiting for relatives to collect him. The Internal Security Agency later stated that the prosecution had instead extended his detention. The two accounts have not been reconciled publicly.

3 July 2025

Medical emergency

Critically injured in a fall inside the prosecution building

The Attorney General's office said that while waiting he went through a gap in an internal stairwell and fell to the ground floor, and that he was taken to hospital. The office said it was reviewing surveillance footage. Al-Marsad reported that doctors recorded bleeding in the brain, skull and spinal fractures and a deep coma.

4 July 2025

Death in custody

Dies of his injuries in Tripoli

Abdel Monem Al-Marimi died on 4 July 2025 at a clinic in Tripoli from the injuries he sustained at the Attorney General's office. The UN mission said he died in custody under circumstances yet to be clarified. The Internal Security Agency said he had died after being transferred out of its custody and denied any legal or operational responsibility.

5 July 2025

Other act

UN mission calls for an independent investigation; protests follow

The UN Support Mission in Libya called for a transparent and independent investigation into his arbitrary detention, the allegations of torture and the circumstances of his death, and condemned threats, harassment and arbitrary arrests of politically active Libyans. Protesters closed main roads in Tripoli and Zawiya. His family postponed his burial and asked for a neutral and credible forensic investigation.

6 July 2025

Investigation opened

Attorney General sets out an investigation into the death

The Attorney General's office published an account of its inquiry supported by surveillance footage. According to Al-Marsad, the South Tripoli prosecutor ordered forensic doctors to re-examine the scene, carry out a full autopsy, look for signs of violence between 30 June and 3 July and test samples for drugs, and said the inquiry would also cover the legality of his arrest and his treatment in detention. No findings have been made public.

24 July 2025

Other act

UN-led working group cites his death in a pattern of deaths in custody

The co-chairs of the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Working Group (UNSMIL, the Netherlands and Switzerland) cited his death on 4 July 2025 as one of the recent deaths in custody pointing to a wider pattern of abuse. They noted 19 deaths in custody documented by UNSMIL between March 2024 and July 2025, and that none had led to accountability, and urged independent investigations.

03

The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: more than 16 months after Abdel Monem Al-Marimi died following his detention by the Internal Security Agency in Tripoli, no findings of the Attorney General's investigation or of an autopsy have been made public, and no one has been held to account.

Background and Work

Abdel Monem Al-Marimi was a political activist and protest organiser in western Libya. Agence France-Presse described him as a well-known government critic who took part in regular protests calling for the removal of Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah, and The New Arab described him as a prominent organiser of anti-government protests. Al-Araby Al-Jadeed reported that he used social media to call for continued demonstrations against the Government of National Unity.

He was the nephew of Abu Agila Masoud Al-Marimi, a former Libyan intelligence officer whom the United States accuses of involvement in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. The Government of National Unity handed Abu Agila Masoud to the United States in December 2022. Abdel Monem Al-Marimi spoke out repeatedly against the handover, which he described as a betrayal of national sovereignty. Al-Marsad, a Libyan outlet, reported that he was a poet and artist from Tripoli who had not been politically active before his uncle's extradition, and that government-aligned outlets accused him of treason while anonymous audio messages threatened him with death or imprisonment.

The Abduction

On 30 June 2025 he was seized in Surman, west of Tripoli. His car was found abandoned with his two young daughters inside. The local security directorate first announced that he had been abducted by unknown persons. The Attorney General's office later confirmed that he was being held by the Internal Security Agency, which is affiliated with the Government of National Unity, and the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) described the arrest as a kidnapping. According to Al-Marsad, officers intercepted his car and detained him in front of his children.

The Internal Security Agency referred him to the Attorney General's office on 3 July 2025. The Agency later described him as a suspect without naming a charge. Al-Marsad reported that the file accused him of demonstrating without a permit and of collaborating with an Egyptian national, who turned out to be a journalist who had interviewed him; this account has not been confirmed by other outlets.

Detention Conditions and Health

The Attorney General's office said that after he was questioned on 3 July 2025 the investigator ordered his release, and that while he was waiting for his family he went through a gap between the staircases and fell to the ground floor. He was taken to hospital with critical injuries. Al-Marsad reported that doctors recorded bleeding in the brain, fractures of the skull and spine and a deep coma. He died at a clinic in Tripoli on 4 July 2025.

The Internal Security Agency gave a different account. It said he had died on the premises of the Public Prosecution after being transferred out of its

custody, that the prosecution had extended his detention, and that it bore no legal or operational responsibility. A close friend, the civil activist Ahmed Al-Jarari, told The New Arab that the family suspected he had been tortured in detention. UNSMIL called for the investigation to cover the allegations of torture.

Legal Proceedings

The Attorney General's office said it was reviewing surveillance footage and later published an account of its inquiry. According to Al-Marsad, the family and defence lawyers were allowed to view the footage, and the South Tripoli prosecutor ordered forensic doctors to re-examine the scene, carry out a full autopsy, look for signs of violence between 30 June and 3 July, and test samples for drugs. The inquiry was also to examine the legality of his arrest and his treatment from capture until the fall. His family postponed his burial and asked for a neutral and credible forensic investigation. No results of the investigation or of the autopsy have been published.

International Response

On 5 July 2025 UNSMIL said that he had died under circumstances yet to be clarified and called for a transparent and independent investigation into his arbitrary detention, the allegations of torture and the circumstances of his death. It also condemned threats, harassment and arbitrary arrests of politically active Libyans. Protesters closed main roads in Tripoli and Zawiya and called on the government to step down.

On 24 July 2025 the co-chairs of the International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Working Group, UNSMIL, the Netherlands and Switzerland, cited his death as one of a series of recent deaths in custody that point to a wider pattern of abuse. They noted that UNSMIL had documented 19 deaths in custody between March 2024 and July 2025, that none had led to accountability, and urged independent investigations.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/abdel-monem-al-marimi/

HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement is a non-governmental organisation documenting the situation of human rights defenders in the Middle East and North Africa. This file is based on the public record of the case in the defenders archive. To report an error: archive@humena.org