

ADVOCACY DOSSIER

MANSOUR MOHAMED ATTI AL-MAGHRABI

منصور محمد عاطي المغربي

At liberty **Libya**

Mansour Mohamed Atti Al-Maghrabi produces "Shatt al-Hurriya," a satirical TV series about everyday life in Libya. Armed men abducted him in June 2021; two months later military authorities confirmed he was held in a General Command prison. He was released in April 2022.

HuMENA.

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Case reference HM-LY-2026-001

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THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Mansour Mohamed Atti Al-Maghrabi produces "Shatt al-Hurriya," a satirical TV series about everyday life in Libya. Armed men abducted him in June 2021; two months later military authorities confirmed he was held in a General Command prison. He was released in April 2022.

STATUS	**At liberty**
ARRESTED	**3 Jun 2021**
COUNTRY	**Libya**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Drop any charges that remain on record against Mansour Mohamed Atti Al-Maghrabi in connection with peaceful human rights work.

02 Confirm publicly that Mansour Mohamed Atti Al-Maghrabi faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case.

03 Guarantee that Mansour Mohamed Atti Al-Maghrabi can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal.

04 Provide effective remedy for the period of deprivation of liberty already served.

Latest updates on this case
Scan the code or visit:
https://humena.org/defenders/mansour-mohamed-atti-al-maghrabi/

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DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Arbitrary detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9
Denial of family visits	UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), Rule 58
Denial of legal counsel	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14(3)
Enforced disappearance	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, Article 2 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Articles 9, 16
Press freedom violation	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 19
Threats and intimidation	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12

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HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

3 June 2021

ABDUCTION

Abducted by armed men in central Ajdabiya

Armed men in three vehicles intercepted his car in the centre of Ajdabiya and took him to an undisclosed location. He headed the Red Crescent committee and the Civil Society Commission in the city, and had been repeatedly questioned about his activism by the Internal Security Agency beforehand.

5 August 2021

REAPPEARANCE IN CUSTODY

Forces confirm he is held in a prison under their control

Two months after the abduction, a commander of the 302 Brigade of the General Command confirmed that he was being held in one of its prisons, without giving the place or the legal basis.

2 April 2022

RELEASE

Released after about ten months in detention

He was released after about ten months held by forces in eastern Libya, without any acknowledged legal process. A military prosecution source said his tribe had mediated. The UN mission in Libya welcomed his release.

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THE FULL STORY

Background and Work

Mansour Mohamed Atti Al-Maghrabi is a journalist, blogger, and television producer based in Ajdabiya, a city in eastern Libya. He produced "Shatt al-Hurriya," a satirical comedy series that depicted everyday life in Libya under its competing governments and armed factions. The series used humour to comment on the frustrations and absurdities of life in a country without unified rule of law.

In addition to his media work, Mansour served as head of the Red Crescent Committee in Ajdabiya and led the Civil Society Commission in the city. These roles involved coordinating humanitarian assistance and facilitating civic engagement in a region controlled by the General Command of the Libyan Armed Forces, led by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar. His work placed him in contact with vulnerable communities and gave him visibility as a public figure who spoke about social conditions.

The Abduction

On 3 June 2021, armed men abducted Mansour in Ajdabiya. His family was not informed of the reasons for his detention, the identity of those who took him, or where he was being held. No arrest warrant was presented. No official statement was issued. For two months, his whereabouts remained unknown.

In August 2021, a commander in the 302 Brigade of the General Command of the Libyan Armed Forces confirmed that Mansour was detained in one of the General Command's prisons. The commander did not disclose the location of the facility, the legal basis for the detention, or whether Mansour had been charged with any offence.

Detention Conditions and Legal Status

No information was made public about the conditions in which Mansour was held. It is not known whether he was allowed contact with his family or access to a lawyer. He was never brought to trial. The detention in a military-controlled facility raised concerns about the application of civilian due-process protections, which are routinely denied to detainees held by armed groups in Libya.

The enforced disappearance lasted at least two months. During that period, Mansour's family had no means of verifying his wellbeing or challenging the legality of his detention. Even after the General Command confirmed his detention, no legal proceedings were documented. He was released in April 2022, after about ten months in detention.

Context: Media Freedom and Arbitrary Detention in Eastern Libya

Eastern Libya, under the control of the General Command of the Libyan Armed Forces, has seen repeated cases of journalists, satirists, and activists detained without charge and held in military prisons. Satirical commentary and critical media work are treated as security threats. Detention without judicial

oversight, enforced disappearance, and denial of legal counsel are common patterns in cases involving media workers and civil society organisers.

Mansour's role as a producer of satirical content and a leader in civil society made him visible and vulnerable. His detention illustrates the risks faced by those who document or reflect on life under military rule in Libya.

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SAMPLE LETTER

Copy it, adapt it and send it from your own address.

Your Excellency,

I am writing about the case of Mansour Mohamed Atti Al-Maghrabi, journalist, blogger, and producer of satirical television; head of Red Crescent Committee and Civil Society Commission in Ajdabiya in Libya, who has been released. I am writing to ask that the case be closed properly and that no further reprisal follows.

In brief: Mansour Mohamed Atti Al-Maghrabi produces "Shatt al-Hurriya," a satirical TV series about everyday life in Libya. Armed men abducted him in June 2021; two months later military authorities confirmed he was held in a General Command prison. He was released in April 2022.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Drop any charges that remain on record against Mansour Mohamed Atti Al-Maghrabi in connection with peaceful human rights work;
2. Confirm publicly that Mansour Mohamed Atti Al-Maghrabi faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case;
3. Guarantee that Mansour Mohamed Atti Al-Maghrabi can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal;
4. Provide effective remedy for the period of deprivation of liberty already served.

I will continue to follow this case until the record against Mansour Mohamed Atti Al-Maghrabi is cleared and no reprisal remains.

Respectfully,

[Your name]
[Your city, country]
9 November 2026