

Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/libya-journalist-arrested-in-tripoli-06-04-2011,39964.html>

Middle East & North Africa - Libya

Journalist arrested in Tripoli

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Reporters Without Borders has learned of the arrest on 16 March in Tripoli of **Lofti Ghars**, a journalist with joint Tunisian and Canadian citizenship who works for *Al-Alam* TV.

Ghars was reportedly detained by pro-Gaddafi forces as he arrived in Libya from Tunisia. Lofti Messaoudi, a Tunisian journalist working for *Al-Jazeera* who was released on 31 March, said he heard Ghars' voice while held in a Tripoli jail. Reporters Without Borders calls for his immediate release.

On 3 April, the Libyan authorities asked the *Daily Telegraph* reporter **Damien McElroy** to leave the country without giving any reason. US journalist [Michael Georgy](#) of the *Reuters* news agency was previously expelled on 30 March, again without explanation.

Three *Al-Jazeera* journalists who were arrested in early March – Mauritian reporter **Ahmed Vall Ould el-Dine**, Norwegian photographer **Ammar Al-Hamdane** and British photographer **Kamel Ataloua** – are still being held by pro-Gaddafi forces in the west of the country. A fourth *Al-Jazeera* journalist who was arrested at the same time, Tunisian [Lotfi Messaoudi](#), was released on 31 March.

Reporters Without Borders is also concerned about the whereabouts of Syrian journalist [Rana Akbani](#), who has not been heard of since her disappearance in the east of the country on 28 March. In a televised interview on *Al-Libya TV*, a presenter accused her of spying.
