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15 July 2004

LBY42763.E

Libya: Muammar Qaddafi's family; whether his sons hold official positions, in particular his son al-Saedi Muammar (2003 - June 2004)

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Information on whether al Saedi (Saadi) Qaddafi has ever held an official government position could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

In a 7 July 2003 article, *APS Review Oil Market Trends* provided the following information on Libyan ruler Muammar Qaddafi's children:

According to the article, Qaddafi has seven sons including Saadi who, at 29, is a "football-mad, high-spending playboy." Saadi is a possible successor to his father and a rival to Mohamed, Qaddafi's eldest son from his first marriage. The article also reports that during a July 1996 soccer match, Saadi "persuaded" the referee to award a contested goal so that his team could win. Over 30 people died in the ensuing riots. Mohamed is Qaddafi's eldest son and a rival of Saadi's. Saif al-Islam, a rival of both Mohamed and Saadi, has been involved in Libyan foreign relations and is another possible successor to his father. Among Qaddafi's other sons are Khamis and Mu'tassim, both of whom are in the army; Mu'tassim was forced to flee to Egypt after angering his father by parading his troops around Libya. The APS article mentions another "high-profile" relative of Qaddafi's, Ahmad Qadhafaldam, a cousin who is involved in the country's intelligence service.

Saadi Qaddafi was described in a Reuters article as "the public face of Libya's 'soccer diplomacy'" (25 Aug. 2002). Saadi, who is reportedly worth US\$4 billion (UPI 5 May 2004) or approximately CDN\$5.3 billion (Bank of Canada 12 July 2004), has held various leadership positions in the world of soccer, including the vice-presidency of the Libyan Football Federation (Panapress 25 May 2003; UEFA 16 June 2003; IHT 12 May 2004), though he is considered the Federation's de-facto leader (Reuters 5 May 2004). As at June 2003, he was also president of the Libyan Olympic Committee (UEFA 16 June 2003), captain of Libya's national soccer team (BBC 16 June 2003), part owner of Italy's top team, Juventus (ibid.; UEFA 16 June 2003), and player for Italy's Perugia team (BBC 16 June 2003; IHT 12 May 2004). On 5 October 2003, Saadi tested positive for performance-enhancing steroids (UPI 5 Nov. 2003) for which he was later suspended, although he alleged that the drugs were used to help treat his back problems (AP 29 Jan. 2004). One source indicated that Saadi is also "an international striker, although he owes his occasional place in the Libyan national side more to his family ties than his ability" (Reuters 5 May 2004). Before joining Perugia, Saadi was apparently removed from a Libyan soccer team after the manager described him as "useless" (UPI 5 May 2004). The manager was promptly fired (ibid.).

Qaddafi's "favourite" son (APS Diplomat News Service 12 Apr. 2004), Saif al-Islam, has been involved in many diplomatic negotiations on behalf of Libya, including those with leaders of the United States (ibid.; *Journal Star* 28 Dec. 2003), France (*Al-Hayat* 10 Mar. 2004; *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* 28 May 2004), and Qatar (AFP 21 Mar. 2004; *Maroc Hebdo International* 24 Apr. 2004). Saif also played a part in diplomatic negotiations in the moving of five Bulgarian nurses (sentenced to death for allegedly infecting hundreds of Libyan children with HIV) to new accommodations (BTA 3 June 2004). One source indicated that Saif's father was training him in matters of the

government and had given him authority which, in certain respects, surpasses that of ministers (*El-Khabar* 8 June 2004).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

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Additional Sources Consulted

Internet sites, including: *Al-Ahram*, *Al-Fajral al-Jadeed*, European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI), *Middle East Times*, World News Connection (WNC).


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