



# COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI

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DA VENIAM SCRIPTIS QUORUM NON GLORIA NOBIS  
CAUSA, SED UTILITAS OFFICIUMQUE FUIT

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His Excellency Mu'ammar al-Gaddafi

Leader of the Revolution

Office of the Leader of the Revolution

Tripoli

Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

LIBYA

Your Excellency,

The Collegium Ramazzini is an international academic society that examines critical issues in occupational and environmental medicine. The Collegium is dedicated to the prevention of disease and the promotion of health. The Collegium derives its name from Bernardino Ramazzini, the father of occupational medicine, a professor of medicine of the Universities of Modena and Padua in the late 1600s and the early 1700s. The Collegium is comprised of 180 physicians and scientists from 30 countries, each of whom is elected to membership. The Collegium is independent of commercial interests.

The Collegium Ramazzini has become aware of the case of five Bulgarian nurses (Valentin Manolova Siropulo, Kristiana Malinova Valcheva, Nasya Stojcheva Nenova, Valya Georgieva Cherveniyashka and Snezhanka Ivanova Dimitrova and a Palestinian doctor (Ashraf Ahmad Jum'a) now on trial for their lives in a Libyan court. The Tripoli Six have now been imprisoned for seven years. They were arrested in 1998 on charges they deliberately infected over 400 children with HIV. They were subsequently tried and sentenced to death by firing squad, a sentence overturned by the Libyan Supreme Court pending retrial.

November 8, 2006



In the interval the scientific evidence has been examined by an international team of some of the foremost HIV scientists in the world, including the co-discoverer of the virus, Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Institut Pasteur in Paris. The children are now being treated in Rome by a team that includes Dr Vittorio Colizzi. Drs. Montagnier and Colizzi have concluded on the basis of a detailed investigation, that the evidence against these international health workers does not support the charges against them and that it is likely the children were infected by contaminated blood products and needles. This is, as you know, a common way for HIV to spread.

Unfortunately the Court barred the introduction of this highly relevant scientific evidence. The Fellows of the Collegium Ramazzini, meeting in Council at their headquarters in Carpi, Italy on October 28, 2006, resolved to write you of their deep concern over the way scientific evidence has been ignored in this case call on the appropriate authorities to allow an independent, international scientific panel to make a similar review.

The Collegium believes this is absolutely necessary if the trial is to be fair and justice done. We join many other scientific groups and scientists in this and trust the appropriate authorities will do what is needed to assure justice in this tragic case and safeguard the integrity of the Libyan judicial system in the eyes of the world.

Signed, on behalf of the Fellows of the Collegium Ramazzini,

Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc

President of the Collegium Ramazzini

<http://www.collegiumramazzini.org/>