**A Report on the list of issues in Libya**

**Submitted by:** Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights

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**Introduction**

Over the past five years, human trafficking operations have been prevalent across Libya. Between the government’s inability to counter the alarmingly increasing phenomenon and its complicity at times, and the armed terrorist groups trafficking in persons, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights would like to refer to this issue that relates, in one way or another, to many of the rights stipulated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

**First: The most prominent violations of human trafficking in Libya**

Libya is the main gateway for migrants seeking to reach Europe by sea, with more than 150,000 people taking this route in just three years from 2015 to 2017. As of December 2018, at least 66,345 migrants have been documented in 100 municipalities in the country. Libya continues to be the main transit point of departure for migrants, including unaccompanied minors crossing the Mediterranean from North Africa. However, the number of departures from Libya to Italy decreased dramatically during 2018[[1]](#footnote-1). All this has led to an increase in human trafficking in Libya, in addition to possible collusion between Libyan forces and armed groups to tighten control over smuggling routes. Indeed, Libya has become a transit for migrants.[[2]](#footnote-2)

In November 2017, CNN published an investigation and a video tape showing smugglers in Libya auctioning migrants off as slaves. the average price of a slave ranges from 400 to 800 Libyan dinars.[[3]](#footnote-3) After the publication of this investigation, the government of the State party quickly condemned the trafficking in human beings, saying that: “It has opened an investigation into what the CNN published.”[[4]](#footnote-4) However, the issue was not only a denunciation and condemnation, and these markets continued to operate on the Libyan territory.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Slaves who try to flee are shot dead, or left in the desert, to die slowly. For example, it was reported that more than 15 immigrants from East Africa were shot dead and dozens others fell injured in May 2018, while 100 immigrants were trying to escape from a secret prison run by smugglers near Bani Walid town in northwestern Libya. Only 25 people survived and others were seriously injured, most of them adolescents from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia, whom were held for long periods of up to three years, and they said that they had been sold several times in the area around "Bani Walid" and the nearby town of "Nessma". They were held, among approximately 140 other immigrants from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia, by a smuggler called "Musa Diab”.[[6]](#footnote-6)

Maat for Peace wishes to point out the need to investigate the existence of public centers in "Al-Qatrun", "Sabha" and "Jarhi". These centers facilitate the sale of tribal gangs that have relations with African countries deep in Chad and Nigeria, and have a complex network of workers in the field of smuggling to secure the arrival of people through private routes, allowing them to move between Libya and these countries.

The operations of smuggling migrants begins after they entered Libya from Sebha, 650 kilometers south of the capital, Tripoli, and then they are distributed in 3 directions; The first to the city of Misurata, the second to Khums, and the third to Misurata and the coastal town of Zuwara. The "Fezzan" region is also one of the most famous regions for smuggling migrants, drugs and weapons. Therefore, some armed groups inside Libya tried to control the border crossings. This led to an armed struggle between "the infidels" and "Sebha" citizens.

In March 2020, the Military Intelligence Unit monitored a market for buying and selling illegal immigrants in a desert area that belongs to the city of “Idre” located in southwest Libya. One of the main centers for transit of immigrants. The process starts from behind the borders of Libya, where smuggling gangs belonging to the “Tabu” tribe transport migrants from the Niger State by car designated for that purpose and enter them into Libya with an amount of $ 500 on each migrant, and upon their arrival in the city of Sebha, specifically the headquarters of the Indian company, they are handed over to another group from the “Al-Magarha” tribe to distribute them to camps and warehouses. Before they are assembled in a yard about 6 km from the center of “Idre” and sold to Libyan mediators who, after purchasing them, carry out a screening process for the migrants, and the strong-built are being transferred to be used as mercenaries to fight in the ranks of the Government of National Accord forces. As for those who are not fit for this will be transported to be smuggled into Europe.[[7]](#footnote-7)

It is worth noting that there are many reports that indicated government authorities' cooperation with smugglers and human traffickers, and this is confirmed by the emergence of Abd al-Rahman al-Milad, known as the “kingpin of Libya's human trafficking”, who is being pursued by the Libyan Attorney General office and put on the UN Security Council sanctions list for trafficking charges, leads the battles against the Libyan army forces, inside the capital, Tripoli, in April 2019.[[8]](#footnote-8)

**Recommendations**

Maat for Peace recommends that committee members seek clarification from the government of the State party about:

* The decision it has taken with regard to amending the Libyan law on human trafficking, to directly address forced labor.
* And how to activate the proactive approach so that the government can protect trafficking victims.
* And what it has done to pursue and dismantle the organized crime gangs involved in human trafficking.
1. 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report”, USA Department of State, June 2019, available at: <https://bit.ly/2xYST5w> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Migrants from west Africa being ‘sold in Libyan slave markets’”, The Guardian, 10 Apr 2017, available at: <https://bit.ly/3dprsSJ> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Migrants being sold as slaves in Libya”, CNN, Nov 14, 2017, available at: <https://youtu.be/2S2qtGisT34> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. محاسن أصرف، " الاتجار بالبشر: ليبيا تعود إلى القرون الوسطى" إضاءات، 01/12/2017، على الرابط التالي: <https://bit.ly/2UdD1EZ> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. ويجدر الإشارة إلى أنه وفقًا لبعثة المنظمة الدولية للهجرة إلى ليبيا، فإن المهاجرين يباعون بما يتراوح بين 200 و500 دولار ويحتجزون لشهرين أو ثلاثة أشهر في المتوسط. ومعظمهم من نيجيريا والسنغال وغامبيا. ويستخدم أغلب المهاجرين كعمالة يومية في البناء والزراعة، بعضهم يتقاضى أجرًا والبعض الآخر يعمل بالسخرة. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. تجار البشر في ليبيا: القتل ثمن الفرار"، الجزيرة ، 26/5/2018، على الرابط التالي: <https://bit.ly/2JexJmg> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. منية غانمي، " سوق لبيع المهاجرين جنوب ليبيا.."، العربية نت، 19 مارس 2020، على الرابط التالي: <https://bit.ly/2QKJ5ma> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. يعمل قائد حرس السواحل التابع لحكومة الوفاق بمدينة الزاوية ـ مع مجموعة من المسلحين، التابعين لكتيبة القيادي شعبان هدية المكني بـ"أبو عبيدة الزاوي"، المحسوب على الجماعة الليبية المقاتلة، التي يترأسها عبد الحكيم بلحاج المقيم في تركيا، بالقرب من مطار طرابلس العالمي، للتفاصيل انظر: " زعيم عصابة تهريب بشر يقود معارك طرابلس ضد الجيش"، العربية نت، 08 أبريل 2019، على الرابط التالي: <https://bit.ly/3agnYzT> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)