

FACTSHEET

Libya: Crimes against humanity committed since 2016 – rights probe:

UN-appointed independent human rights investigators on Monday said there are grounds to believe that Libyan authorities and armed militia groups have been responsible for “a wide array” of war crimes, and crimes against humanity in recent years. ([See the full reports: https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1135052?fbclid=IwAR1UtmfTH9kFswvrQHQfs8tPuz5mdQKAZYtt7XKI BxhfTTRYLA_Z48TtoiY_aem_th_ARI3zW2dBUteTiiZkSwfZbN-8-oSBnLJBOISrfMigwm42ZkWdsZYDx1m86Nq3X9Nuul](https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1135052?fbclid=IwAR1UtmfTH9kFswvrQHQfs8tPuz5mdQKAZYtt7XKI BxhfTTRYLA_Z48TtoiY_aem_th_ARI3zW2dBUteTiiZkSwfZbN-8-oSBnLJBOISrfMigwm42ZkWdsZYDx1m86Nq3X9Nuul))

Gargaresh under attack:

Unlawful lethal force and mass arrests in unprecedented crackdown on refugees.

Libyan security forces and militias in Tripoli used unlawful lethal force and other violence in an unprecedented roundup of over 5,000 men, women and children from Sub-Saharan Africa and hold them in horrid conditions where torture and sexual abuse were rampant.

On 1 October, armed men from militias and security forces affiliated with Libya’s Interior Ministry violently broke into homes and temporary shelters in the Gargaresh area in Tripoli, home to a sizable population of refugees and migrants, firing rounds of live ammunition, damaging belongings and stealing valuables. Terrified migrants and refugees, including several registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), were then transferred to detention centres in Tripoli, where they were denied regular and confidential access to UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies and subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. (See

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/10/libya-unlawful-lethal-force-and-mass-arrests-in-unprecedented-migrant-crackdown/>)

The formation of Refugees in Libya.

Since the 1st of October 2021, the day that Libyan police and military forces came to our homes in the Gargaresh neighborhood and took ruthless, grave, and merciless crackdowns and mass raids against us. Thousands were arbitrarily arrested and detained in inhumane concentration camps.

The day after, we came as individuals and gathered at the UNHCR headquarters. Here we understood we had no other choice than to start organizing ourselves.

We raised our voices and the voices of the voiceless refugees who have been constantly silenced. We started this Movement under the name REFUGEES IN LIBYA because we believe that whoever leaves home is a refugee regardless of the reasons. ([See our political manifesto https://www.refugeesinlibya.org/manifesto](https://www.refugeesinlibya.org/manifesto))

Riots in Al-Mabani detention camp:

On October 8, at least six people were [killed](#) and more than 24 injured as thousands of detainees attempted to escape from the overcrowded detention center known as Ghot Shaal, or al-Mabani. (See

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/22/thousands-migrants-and-refugees-plead-to-be-evacuated-from-libya>)

The sit-in continued for months as we were at the point of no return. Amnesty said refugees and asylum seekers camped outside the UNHCR facility have been attacked and harassed multiple times by armed groups who “know there will be no accountability and they can abduct and kill with impunity”.

The UNHCR said it suspended operations at the Community Day Centre citing unrest, which it attributed to “a number of individuals in the group preventing others from accessing the site for help”. (See <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/26/refugees-in-libya-long-for-safety-protests-continue>)

The sit-in was violently evicted.

On January 10, Libyan militias and security forces opened fire as they moved in to disperse a months-long sit-in by more than 2,000 asylum seekers outside a United Nations compound in Tripoli, many of whom had been violently evicted from their homes in [October during raids in the western town of Gargaresh](#). The Norwegian Refugee Council and the International Rescue Committee said more than 600 people were detained in the raid.

“This is the culmination of a disastrous situation that has deteriorated” since the mass detention of migrants in October, said Dax Roque, the NRC’s Libya director. (See <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/10/libya-security-forces-violently-break-up-migrant-protest>)

The UNHCR and its unfair treatment towards its Refugees.

250 Refugees and asylum seekers who were exercising their rights to freedom of assembly have been arbitrarily detained in Ainzra since the 10th of January 2022.

Many of them have been exploited, extorted and enslaved as they are forced to carry out construction works of new prisons cells and the houses of individual personnels active at the facility.

Raids on Refugees and Migrants houses

- 08-01-2023 Units of 128th Reinforced Brigade raided migrant’s houses in Harawa area and forcibly arrested 30 persons including minors.
- 24-01-2023 Police raided a migrant's house in Al-Wahishi area, Benghazi and forcibly arrested 28 persons, 10 women and 18 men of Egyptian nationals.
- 06-02-2023 Sabil Al-Salam border protection Battalion Raided Migrant’s houses in Tazarbo and forcibly arrested 120 persons, amongst them 20 women and children who were later sold to human traffickers by the security forces.
- 02-03-2023 Units of Western Region Support Forces raided migrant’s houses in Sabratha and forcibly arrested 50 persons including women and children.
- 03.04-2023 The DCIM raided Migrant’s house in Ajdabiya and forcibly arrested 289 persons including women and children who were arbitrarily stopped and picked from public places.
- 04-05-2023 The DCIM jointly with Stability Support Apparatus raided Migrant’s house in Al-Falah Area, Tripoli and forcibly arrested over 217 persons including 28 children.
- 19-04-2023 Police raided Migrant’s house in Bouatni area, Benghazi and forcibly arrested 8 persons.

- 05-05-2023 Units of Western Military Region raided Migrant's houses in the Wadi Al-Hay area and forcibly arrested 40 persons including women and children.
- 06-05-2023 The Stability Support Apparatus of the notorious militia groups in Libya raided refugees and migrant's houses in Zamzam valley and forcibly arrested over 100 persons, amongst them 25 women and 7 children.
- 07-05-2023 Al-Batnan CID raided Migrant's houses in the Ashbelia area, Tobrouk and forcibly arrested 44 persons including 13 women and 9 children.
- 08-05-2023 Units of 221st Battalion raided migrant's houses in Al-Lithi area, Benghazi and forcibly arrested 170 persons of Bangladeshi and Pakistani nationals including minor childrens.
- 10-11-05-2023 DCIM raided migrant's houses in Benghazi neighborhoods and forcibly arrested over 600 persons including women and children and later were subsequently transferred to Qanfoudah detention camp.
- 13-05 and 14-05-2023 CID Western Border Region Raided Migrant's houses in Zuwara and forcibly arrested over 490 persons including families, women and children, some of them were subsequently transferred to Ainzara detention camp.
- 15-05-2023 Units of Counter Terrorist Forces (AL-Wusta Detachment) raided Migrant's houses in Ajdabiya and forcibly arrested 29 persons, mostly minors of Egyptian nationals.
- 25-06-2023 Units of Infantry Brigade Jointly with Libyan Special Naval Forces Raided migrant's houses in Ajdabiya and forcibly arrested over 600 persons including hundreds of women and dozens of children.

Detention facilities in Libya

- Ainzara is holding a number of 3670 detainees, 430 women, 114 children.
- Tobrouk is holding over 4300 detainees with over 90 women and an undisclosed number of minor children.
- Al-Marj is holding a number 213 detainees, 27 women, 58 minor children.
- Talmitha is holding a number of 320 detainees with an undisclosed number of women and minor children.
- Qanfoudah is holding a number of 2740 including hundreds of women and minor children.
- Al-Maya is holding a number of 3270 detainees with over 300 women and 216 minor children.
- Sahat is holding a number of 360 detainees mostly women and children.
- Sirte is holding a number of 700 detainees, 83 women and 32 minors.
- Sabha detention center is holding a number of 320 detainees, children and women.
- Kufra detention center is holding a number of 440 detainees, 62 women and 45 minors.
- Triq al seka is holding a number of 1360 detainees with an undisclosed number of women and minors children.
- Zliten 330 detainees, 44 women and 13 children
- Osama prison Al-Zawiya is holding a number of 2360 detainees including women and children.

Pullbacks and Push-Backs on the mediterranean Sea

- 08.02.2023 Libyan Special Naval Forces forcibly intercepted and captured over 400 persons off the coast of Tobrouk and all were returned to Libya under gunpoint.
- 09.03.2023 The Tunisian National Guards forcibly intercepted 42 different boats on the mediterranean sea and a number of 1509 persons were pulled back under gunpoint followed by arbitrary detention.
- 22/23.03.2023 the Tunisian National Guards forcibly intercepted 30 boats on the Mediterranean Sea and arrested 2134 persons who were later pulled back to Tunisia under gunpoint.

- 27.04.2023 Patrol boats of coast Security Al-Maya detachment forcibly intercepted 3 boats on the Mediterranean Sea and pulled 473 persons back to Libya under gunpoint and all were systematically detained.
- 01.05.2023 Al-Maya Coast Security intercepted a boat carrying 370 persons, including women and children and pulled them back to Libya under gunpoint.
- 28.05.2023 The Libyan Naval Special Forces forcibly intercepted a boat with over

Landborder expulsions and deportations.

- 01.01.2023-07.04.2023 The DCIM in Tobrouk deported 1079 persons including women and children.
- 17-02-2023 The DCIM deported 53 persons from Shahat detention center back to Egypt.
- 23.03.2023 The DCIM in Benghazi deported 104 persons to Egypt via Emsaid border crossing.
- 25-02-2023 The DCIM deported 5 Bangladeshi Nationals from Al-Marj detention center.
- 27.02.2023 The DCIM desert patrols deported over land borders 117 persons back to Sudan, amongst them women and children.
- 09.03.2023 The DCIM in Tripoli deported 125 persons to Egypt via Emsaid land border crossing
- 06.04.2023 The DCIM deported 17 persons from Tobrouk, 4 women and 4 children back to Egypt over the land border of Emsaid crossing point.
- 11.04.2023 The Police via Mitiga airport deported an undisclosed number of women and children to Tunisia and Egypt.
- 12.04.2023 The DCIM deported 21 Egyptian women and children from Qanfoudah detention center over Emsaid land border crossing.
- 09.05.2023 The DCIM in Tripoli deported 169 Chadian nationals over land border crossings in Kufra.
- 14.05.2023 The DCIM deported via land border of Emsaid 24 women and children.
- 15.5.2023 The DCIM deported 150 persons from Tripoli to Egypt over land border crossing.

Known Perpetrators:

- [head of the Stability Support Apparatus, Abdul Ghani al-Kikli](#)
- [Abdel-Rahman Al-Milad](#)
- [Sheikh Abdulrauf Kara](#)
- [Osama Al Kuni Ibrahim](#)
- [Mohamed al-Khoja](#)
- [Emad Trabelsi, Interior Minister of Libya's Government of National Unity](#)
- [Libya's prime minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh](#)
- [Khalifa Belqasim Haftar](#)
- [Libyan Foreign Minister Najla Mangoush](#)

The demands of Refugees in Libya:

- Evacuations to lands of safety where our rights will be protected and respected.
- Justice and equality among refugees and asylum seekers who are registered with the UNHCR in Libya.
- The abolishment of funding of the Libyan coast guards who have constantly and forcibly intercepted refugees fleeing the Libyan hell and brought them to Libya where all atrocities befall them.
- The closure of all detention centers across Libya, which are fully funded by the Italian and European Union authorities.

- The authorities should bring the perpetrators to justice who have shot and killed our brothers and sisters both in and out of the detention centers.
- The Libyan authorities to stop arbitrarily detaining persons of concern to the office of UNHCR.
- To call on Libya to sign and ratify the constitution of the 1951 Genève Refugee convention.

NOTE:

With our UNFAIRAGENCY.ORG campaign, we added and rephrased our current demands and they are as follows:

- To take responsibility for all the people on the move detained in Ain Zara as well as within all other detention camps in Libya and to ensure their immediate release.
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- To promote community-based alternatives to detention and to provide humane and dignified reception and living conditions for refugees in Libya and elsewhere until resettlement is possible.
- To guarantee all people on the move in Libya and elsewhere have access to a fair and transparent refugee status determination process, as it is the legal procedure that represents the first step towards the granting of international protection.
- To ensure justice and equal access to rights among all refugees in Libya, independent of criteria of vulnerability, nationality, age, sexuality or gender.
- To repeatedly call on safe countries to increase resettlement quotas and to accelerate and ease evacuation procedures.
- To engage in exchange and sincere dialogue with "Refugees in Libya" and other grassroots networks on the ground and to recognise them as equal negotiation partners.
- To facilitate access to humanitarian and legal aid services in Libya and elsewhere and to regain from the suspension of its services at all time.
- To create transparency and to openly communicate their own limitations rather than upholding false expectations.
- To cease any collaboration with criminal structures and to put clear rights-based conditions on cooperations with Libyan government actors.
- To call on the Libyan government to sign and ratify the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol in order to create a legal basis for refugee protection within the country.
- To clearly and openly condemn the European externalisation politics and to resist being abused for the EU isolationist policies.
- To advocate for the end of violent pullbacks, pushbacks, and all other organised practices of border violence.

Recommendations to states and the UN bodies:

Here are some recommendations for states and the UN bodies to improve the situation of refugees in Libya:

1. Pressure the Libyan government to improve conditions for refugees: States and UN bodies should use diplomatic channels to push the Libyan government to provide better protection for refugees, including access to basic services and protection from violence.

2. Strengthening international cooperation and coordination on refugees protection, including through the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and other international organizations.

Overall , any memorandum with Libya should prioritize the protection of human rights and the well-being of refugees and other vulnerable populations.

3. Increase humanitarian aid: The UN and other aid organizations should increase their support for refugees in Libya, including providing food, water, shelter, and medical care.

4. Encourage resettlement: Countries should increase their quotas for resettlement of refugees from Libya and provide more funding for this effort.

5. Address root causes of displacement: Long-term solutions are needed to address the root causes of displacement in Libya, including conflict and economic instability. States and international organizations should work to promote peace and stability in the region.

6. Improve search and rescue efforts: The UN and other organizations should work to improve search and rescue efforts for refugees attempting to cross the Mediterranean, and provide more support for those who are rescued.

7. Hold human traffickers accountable: The Libyan government and international community should work together to investigate and prosecute human traffickers who exploit refugees in Libya.

8. Protect refugees from detention and abuse: The UN and other organizations should work to prevent refugees from being detained and abused by Libyan authorities, and provide support and protection for those who are released.