

## VIOLATIONS OF MIGRANTS' RIGHTS IN LIBYA

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#### **Introduction**

- 1. Illegal Migration in Libya: Illegal migration in Libya has been present for decades, beginning in the 1970s and 1980s, when Libya was a destination for migrants seeking work and investment opportunities. However, following the imposition of international sanctions on Libya and due to the policies of the previous regime, Libya transformed into a transit area for migration across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. The crisis reached its peak after the Libyan revolution, where the absence of strong central authority, lack of security stability, chaos, and internal divisions created an active environment for smugglers and armed groups. These entities exploited the situation to engage in migrant smuggling activities, turning Libya into a central hub for illegal migration.
- 2. Geographical Factors: Libya's geographical features have significantly contributed to the growth of illegal migration. The country boasts vast expanses of desert and a long coastline along the Mediterranean Sea. This geography facilitates smuggling operations, with migrants often beginning their journey from Libya's southern borders, crossing the expansive Sahara Desert, where they face risks of getting lost, dehydration, and robberies by bandits. Upon reaching Libya, migrants encounter new challenges, including exploitation by smugglers and human trafficking, followed by the perilous crossing of the Mediterranean Sea in hopes of a better life. Given the harsh conditions in their home countries—marked by poverty, conflict, and political repression—migrants view their desperate journey as the only and best option. However, the reality is that crossing the desert and the Mediterranean involves severe risks and violations, with many migrants ending their journey with death in the desert or drowning in the sea.
- 3. Recent Findings and Statistics <sup>1</sup>: In mid-March 2024, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that Libyan forces discovered a mass grave containing at least 65 migrants in southwestern Libya. <sup>2</sup> The organization expressed shock and deep concern, noting that it is believed these migrants died while being smuggled through the desert. According to the Missing Migrants Project, at least 3,129 deaths and disappearances were recorded in 2023 along the Mediterranean Sea, making it the deadliest migration route.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Discovery of a Mass Grave Containing 65 Migrants in Libya - <u>https://mena.iom.int/ar/news/aktshaf-mgbrt-jmayt-tdm-65-jtht-</u> <u>Imhajryn-fy-lyby</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The International Organization for Migration Expresses Shock Over Discovery of Mass Grave in Libya - <u>https://news.un.org/ar/story/2024/03/1129481</u>

- 4. **European Union Policies**: European Union policies also contribute to the enhancement of violations against illegal migrants in Libya. Migrants find themselves trapped in horrific conditions due to policies aimed at preventing the flow of migrants to Europe. These policies involve cooperation with the Libyan coast guard to intercept migrants and forcibly return them to Libya, where they face the worst forms of treatment.
- 5. Calls for Policy Changes by Médecins Sans Frontières: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has called on the European Union and its member states to immediately suspend the financial and material support provided to the Libyan coast guard and to stop funding the forced return operations of people to Libya. Juan Matias, the representative for MSF's search and rescue operations, stated, "The European Union and its member states, blinded by a single goal of preventing people from reaching European shores, are deliberately supporting violent pushback operations and perpetuating the well-known abuses and horrific practices inflicted on migrants in Libya."<sup>3</sup>
- 6. Illegal Migration as a Major Challenge for Libya and the International Community: Illegal migration poses a significant challenge for Libya and the international community, especially amidst the security and political instability in Libya. Additionally, political tensions over migration issues have placed a burden on migrants, leading to severe violations that will be addressed in this report.
- 7. Report Aimed at Highlighting Violations against Illegal Migrants and Their Humanitarian Situation in Libya: This report aims to shed light on the violations faced by illegal migrants and their humanitarian conditions in Libya, as well as to review the impact of tensions between Libyan authorities and the international community on their lives and dignity. We will describe the situations of migrants

<sup>3</sup> Press Release - March 20, 2024 - The European Union Must End its Support for Disgraceful Violations in the Central Mediterranean Region - <u>https://www.msf.org/ar/%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-</u>

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residing inside detention centers, those living within the local community, and some storage facilities where migrants are kept before attempting to cross to Europe. Additionally, we will discuss the international and regional legal framework in Libya. This report relies on diverse sources, primarily direct accounts from migrants residing inside and outside detention centers and those working with them, obtained and documented directly by the team, as well as official reports from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, migration-related organizations, and agencies, and statements issued by Libyan authorities.

#### Migrants residing within the local community

8. Libya is considered one of the main transit points for migrants on their way to Europe, fleeing wars and poverty in search of a better life. Due to long waiting periods or the need to secure the cost of the sea journey, migrants are forced to work within the local community. Because of their undocumented status, they often work in the informal sector for low wages and under harsh conditions. The informal market serves as a means of survival but frequently exposes migrants to torture, exploitation, and the risk of detention by Libyan authorities. For instance, after completing work, migrants may not receive their wages. They risk being reported to the authorities if they demand them, leading to their arrest and detention in facilities. Often, migrants reside in older neighborhoods and low-rent housing, living in groups. However, they are frequently subjected to assaults and robbery of their few possessions. They cannot seek help from authorities due to their undocumented status, which the state views as criminal. When they approach the police, they are often arrested and transferred to detention centers. Migrants endure numerous violations, including assaults, theft, violence, economic and sexual exploitation, and even abduction, blackmail, and rape. These widespread violations cannot be adequately documented due to their extent and severity.

**9**. The United Nations Fact-Finding Mission in March 2023 stated that it has evidence supporting the belief that a wide range of war crimes and sexual crimes have been committed against migrants in Libya and clarified that it will share the evidence with the International Criminal Court.<sup>4</sup>

**10**. In January 2024, an incident involving a Nigerian family residing in the Zuara area, 110 kilometers west of Tripoli, was documented. The incident involved an assault and rape of a Ghanaian family consisting of a 44-year-old husband, a 30-year-old wife, a 10-year-old son, and a 12-year-old daughter.<sup>5</sup> The father, Kofi, recounted, "Five armed civilians attacked our home at 4 a.m. while we were sleeping. They beat us,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Libya: United Nations Fact-Finding Mission Calls for Urgent Action to Address Deteriorating Human Rights Situation in its Final Report https://www.ohchr.org/ar/press-releases/2023/03/libya-urgent-action-needed-remedy-deteriorating-human-rights-situation-un

 $<sup>^{5}</sup>$  This incident was documented in the field by the team that prepared the report, recorded under reference LM001.

searched the house, and stole our belongings. The attackers were drunk and took turns assaulting our 12-year-old daughter. I couldn't stop them because they tied me and my wife up and threatened to kill us. After they fled, my wife began screaming, and migrant neighbors gathered around us. However, they advised us not to go to the police station because we lack legal residency, which would expose us to arrest and detention in centers where we would face further abuses and possibly deportation." "A group from civil society contacted us and encouraged me not to remain silent about my and my daughter's rights. However, I refused to go to the police station because I have no legal protection in Libya. My only request is to secure the cost of the journey to Europe across the Mediterranean. I do not want to stay here or return to my home country, as the conditions there are unbearable. I did not endure the hardships of crossing the desert only to be deported. We know the risks we face in Libya but hope to reach Europe."

**11**. **Migrants in Libya Endure Severe Torture:** Migrants in Libya suffer from the most horrific forms of torture, turning their lives into a daily nightmare. These practices occur in the absence of legal protection, exacerbating the suffering of those who fled to Libya to escape tragedies in their home countries, only to find themselves in a new hell. Such was the case for an Ethiopian migrant.

**12**. Migrants in Libya suffer from the most horrific forms of torture, turning their lives into a daily nightmare. These practices occur in the absence of legal protection, exacerbating the suffering of those who fled to Libya to escape tragedies in their home countries, only to find themselves in a new hell. Gidon Samuel, an architect from Ethiopia, is a living example of this. Samuel left his country in search of a better life, only to find himself in the grip of human traffickers and extortionists who demanded a ransom from his mother. When she was unable to pay, the kidnappers sent videos showing Gidon being brutally tortured and threatened to escalate the violence if the ransom was delayed. The mother sought help from local authorities, who informed her they could do nothing. Numerous similar videos have been published, documenting the extortion and torture that migrants in Libya endure, prompting the organization to appeal to the Libyan government for intervention.<sup>6</sup>

**13.** On the Economic Exploitation Faced by Migrants in Libya: The extent of the suffering faced by migrants in Libya daily due to economic exploitation is immeasurable. Among these migrants is Kofi, a 31-year-old from Ghana, who shared his experience with the local community. Kofi worked as a plasterer for seven years, and during his stay in Libya, he was robbed by armed men who intercepted him on his way home. They beat him, insulted him, and stole his money. When he went to the police station to file a complaint, they did not respond because he was not a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Refugees in Libya Organization: Tragic Story of a Young Ethiopian Migrant

citizen, leaving him feeling helpless. Kofi and other migrants frequently face racism and verbal abuse from the local community. Kofi said, "I endure all this to send money to my family. Last year, I was working on plastering a house, and when I finished, the homeowner kicked me out, claiming the work was poorly done and refused to pay me. I did not aspire to migrate to Europe, but the situation in Libya is like walking through a minefield; you never feel safe, and your life can end in tragedy and gruesome death at any moment. I fear the waves less than the armed men and the prolonged stay here."<sup>7</sup>

14. Migrants Living Within the Local Community: Migrants living within the local community are vulnerable to theft, verbal and physical violence from citizens, other migrants, and armed gangs. They have no means to report these crimes to the police due to fear of arrest and other violations. Strict laws deter them from reporting the crimes they suffer, encouraging perpetrators to target them. The environment of impunity and lack of accountability in Libya, coupled with the absence of a legal framework to protect migrants, has exacerbated violations against illegal migrants in the country. Migrants living within the local community find themselves caught between a rock and a hard place—facing threats and breaches on one side and the risk of arrest, indefinite detention, and involuntary deportation on the other.

#### **Migrants in Smuggling Warehouses**

**15.** Migrants in Smuggling Warehouses: Unofficial detention centers or "smuggling warehouses" are used by smugglers scattered along Libya's cities from the southern desert to the northern coast. In these warehouses, migrants are sold from one smuggler to another until they reach the Libyan coast. The conditions of these smuggling warehouses vary depending on the group managing them. Typically, migrants are divided into two categories: the first category consists of the poor who stay in dilapidated warehouses lacking the bare essentials of life, while the second category includes migrants with better financial means, who enjoy more comfortable living conditions, with necessities and better treatment. Illegal migrants are detained in these unofficial centers by smugglers and human traffickers before being smuggled across the Mediterranean to Europe. Armed gangs or trafficking networks manage these centers and are highly miserable, lacking primary humanitarian care. These centers are often overcrowded and lack cleanliness and necessities, where migrants are held long before their journey towards the sea begins.

**16**. Musa, of Ghanaian nationality,<sup>8</sup> was residing in one of the unofficial detention centers. He spoke about his experience: "We were treated like slaves, subjected to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> This incident was documented in the field by the team that prepared the report, recorded under reference LM001.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> This incident was documented in the field by the team that prepared the report, recorded under reference LM002.

beatings and insults initially. However, they were very kind when they communicated with us and gave us hope to escape from our severely impoverished country. The journey was arduous, starting from the desert road and moving from one house to another until we reached the coastal areas. Fortunately, I was not arrested by the authorities and arrived in the Zawiya area on the coast, where the trip was arranged with a group of smugglers for \$3000. When the amount was paid, the smugglers turned from humane to monstrous. We were transported to a storage facility where our numbers exceeded 200 people, and they treated us with severe brutality, forcing us to work in their farms and homes without any payment. Some women were assaulted, and they treated us like a group of ruthless gunmen, leaving us unable even to raise our voices. During my stay there, a fight broke out, resulting in three people being shot in the legs and more than three others disappearing without a trace. We were in a house of horrors, with no direction and no way to escape, but guarded by armed men who made life difficult for us. I escaped when I was taken to work in one of the homes there. Today, I work as a janitor in the Jamil area, reflecting on the journey and coordinating with reputable smugglers."9

**17**. Migrants in smuggling warehouses are subjected to verbal and physical violence. Sometimes, they are treated as commodities, being sold and trafficked. Many migrant women in Libyan smuggling warehouses are exploited, subjected to sexual assault, and often kidnapped, tortured, and extorted for ransom from their families for their release. The forced confinement imposed on migrants before their perilous journey prevents them from leaving the facility. Often, when a migrant falls ill, they are not provided with adequate healthcare. Food is also extremely scarce, limited to water and bread.

**18**. David Yambay, Director of Refugee Affairs in Libya, spoke to Migrant News about extortion. He stated, "Human traffickers have brutally beaten three men and two women. The victims, believed to be held captive in Bani Walid, about 200 kilometers from Tripoli, are pleading for help. New images provide evidence of the violations faced by migrants in Libya. <sup>10</sup>" In other videos from the same source, "Refugees in Libya," these migrants are shown being tortured and starved by human traffickers. These incidents likely occurred in Bani Walid, approximately 200 kilometers south of Tripoli. One video features a frail Eritrean young man (named Netanel Shemass), wearing a cross around his neck and handcuffed. In a terrified voice, he pleads for help, saying in Tigrinya, "I have been in Libya for four months, and I have no one to help me." The traffickers demand \$7,500 (about 7,000 euros) for his release. There are also images of a man with bloody wounds. David Yambay, <sup>11</sup> Director of Refugee

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> This incident was documented in the field by the team that prepared the report, recorded under reference LM002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> "Libya: New Videos Show Migrants Being Tortured and Extorted" - <u>https://archive.ph/6c49T#selection-1323.0-1329.4</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> David Yambio, Director of Refugee Affairs in Libya, speaks to Migrant News about extortion.

Affairs in Libya, said, "Traffickers do not use their phones; they take migrants' phones and contact us, making tracking them impossible. They demand ransom for the release of captives, a widespread practice in Libya." Yambay added, "They understand their prisoners have no families to turn to for help. That's how we received the first videos. They called us and filmed torture sessions." After a long and perilous journey filled with risks and violations from smugglers, local communities, and sometimes state elements, migrants embark on a sea journey in overcrowded rubber or wooden boats. If luck is on their side, they may reach their dream of reaching Europe. However, they often encounter harsh realities, facing interceptions by Libyan coastguards, failed smuggling attempts, and being returned to detention centers, starting over from scratch. Worst of all, sometimes boats malfunction, leading to the drowning of migrants.

**19**. The International Organization for Migration announced that 61 irregular migrants, including women and children, perished in a tragic boat sinking off the coast of Libya, according to a statement from their Libya office on their Twitter account last Saturday, in December 2023. The spokesperson for the International Organization for Migration's Mediterranean Coordination Office, Flavio Di Giacomo, explained that more than 2250 people lost their lives in the central Mediterranean Sea during 2023. Meanwhile, the International Organization for Migration reported that Libyan coastguards intercepted at least 2738 migrants and returned them to Libya since the beginning of 2024. The intercepted migrants were transferred to detention centers in Zawiya and Tripoli, and from then until March 2024, 95 migrants lost their lives on the Mediterranean Sea route. These media statements highlight the tragedy of migrants and European policies that exacerbate human rights violations against migration, as they do not contribute to resolving migrants' situations but rather complicate them further. Instead, these policies increase their exposure to danger and force them to live in harsh conditions inside detention centers, filled with risks, exploitation, and violence. Strict policies make their situation more difficult and trap them in an endless cycle without legal pathways out.

#### **Migrants residing in official detention centers:**

**20**. Official detention centers are facilities managed by Libyan authorities to detain irregular migrants who Libyan coastguards have apprehended during interceptions in the Mediterranean Sea or during search and raid operations on roads or neighborhoods known for having high numbers of irregular migrants. This includes storage centers for irregular migrants managed by the Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency. Upon apprehension, migrants are transferred to detention centers, often accompanied by violent operations and confiscation of property, including documents, money, and phones, which are not returned upon deportation or release. Libyan law criminalizes illegal entry into the country, with imprisonment

pending deportation, regardless of individual circumstances. Irregular migrants are held for long and indefinite periods without any opportunity to leave except through deportation to their home countries.

**21**. Visits by monitoring teams to some centers have revealed severe overcrowding, lack of ventilation, and absence of basic standards such as cleanliness and adequate sanitary facilities. Migrants are often forced to sleep on very thin mattresses, with shortages of beds and blankets, leading to exposure to severe cold and respiratory difficulties due to poor ventilation and overcrowding. Meals are reported to be insufficient and not nutritious enough, according to migrant testimonies, rendering the centers unsuitable for human habitation, exacerbating their suffering, and exposing them to health conditions such as skin and respiratory infections. Unauthorized migrants in these centers are subjected to violence by staff and suffer mistreatment, especially during waking hours, meal distributions, and confrontations. Additionally, children and adolescents are detained alongside adults without separation, and women in all centers are overseen by male staff without appropriate female supervision.

**22**. Fatima, from Sudan,<sup>12</sup> says she has been in the center for about a month. She was on a boat heading to Europe, but Tunisian coast guards apprehended her. She stayed in Tunisia for about three days without food and in wet clothes, and then they threw her into the desert on the Libyan border with about 70 other people. They continued their journey in the desert without water or food, with temperatures exceeding forty degrees Celsius, and it took hours before they reached the Libyan border protection unit. Two migrants were lost during this arduous journey. Fatima describes the conditions there as poor, lacking cleanliness and blankets. They sleep on very thin mattresses, and their numbers exceed the capacity of the place. She expresses her desire not to return to her country due to the war and only seeks to leave this place.

**23**. We did not address the aspect of worker treatment for safety reasons, but most international organizations witness all these violations. During their monitoring visits, they gathered numerous testimonies and evidence regarding these violations and the conditions experienced by undocumented migrants. Several reports have been issued about the environment in which migrants live. However, European countries insist on preventing interceptions of migrants crossing the Mediterranean to Europe, without concern for the risks of their return to Libya and the hardships they face there. It seems that Europe's main concern is halting the flow of migrants to its shores, as it continues to support Libyan coast guards for forced returns, disregarding the violations from which migrants fled. Therefore, European complicity is becoming evident even in resettlement, a stance rejected by the Libyan state.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> This incident was documented in the field by the team that prepared the report, recorded under reference LM003.

**24**. The Italian Ministry of Interior stated that the number of irregular migrants arriving on Italy's shores from the beginning of 2024 until March reached approximately 6,560. This represents a significant decrease of 67.1% compared to the previous period 2023.<sup>13</sup>

**25**. The Minister of Interior for the Government of National Unity, Emad al-Tarabulusi, stated that some countries and international organizations are seeking to settle migrants in Libya. He emphasized that the resettlement of migrants is wholly rejected, and Libya will not allow anyone to stay except according to the law and legislation.

26. The political conflict between the international community and Libyan authorities reflects significant complexities surrounding humanitarian issues. While the international community aims to reduce migrant flows to Europe, Libya faces immense internal challenges related to political stability and economic crisis. This directly impacts undocumented migrants who find themselves trapped between harsh realities in Libya and stringent international policies. The unjust policies adopted by transit and destination countries, lacking humanitarian foundations, will not halt migration. Instead, they will increase the number of victims falling prey to organized crime syndicates, smugglers, and traffickers, whose activities have significantly intensified due to weak policies.

#### Legal Framework

**27- International Law:** Libya is party to several fundamental international human rights treaties but is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocols. Instead, Libya ratified the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention, which addresses specific aspects of refugee issues in Africa and adopts the exact definition of a refugee as the 1951 Convention.

**28- Domestic Law:** Libyan law criminalizes illegal entry, residence, and exit from Libya without distinguishing between migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Law No. 6 of 1987 regulates the entry and residence of foreigners in Libya, imposing penalties including imprisonment and deportation for those entering or attempting to leave the country without a valid visa. This law was amended under Law No. 2 of 2004 to tighten visa issuance restrictions and punish "smuggling by any means." In 2010, Law No. 19 on Combating Illegal Migration was issued, which repealed previous provisions in case of inconsistency, allowing for the detention of illegal migrants and refugees in Libya pending deportation. These individuals face criminal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Libyan News Agency - A significant decrease in the number of migrants to Italy compared to last year, with most of them originating from Libya.- <u>https://lana.gov.ly/post.php?lang=ar&id=304036</u>

penalties, including imprisonment, forced labor, or fines of up to 1,000 Libyan Dinars under Article 11. The law also mandates humane treatment of migrants to preserve their dignity and rights, prohibiting the seizure of their funds and property under Article 10. Despite the temporary constitutional declaration in 2011 banning the extradition of refugees and asylum seekers, Libya still needs to implement a legal and practical asylum system. This means that asylum seekers and refugees in Libya face imprisonment under Law No. 19 of 2010 if they do not possess valid documents, including those rescued and disembarked on Libyan shores.

#### **Recommendations**

29- To the Libyan authorities to enhance the rights and safety of migrants in Libya, the following recommendations can be made to the Libyan government, linking them to international laws and relevant conventions:

- Signing international agreements on migrant and refugee rights: The Libyan government should sign international agreements such as the 1951 Geneva Convention and its Optional Protocols, the International Labour Organization's Convention on Migrant Workers, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This will enhance legal protection for migrants and refugees and demonstrate commitment to international human rights standards.
- Developing a refugee system and international protection: A refugee system should be established by global standards, defining their rights and duties and ensuring access to identity verification procedures and humane treatment. This system should be transparent and effective in protecting individuals needing international protection.
- 3. Ensuring migrant rights in the judicial system: Enhance the judiciary's capacity to protect the rights of migrants and refugees by training judges and prosecutors in international humanitarian law and migration issues and ensuring fair and impartial judicial proceedings for all individuals.
- 4. Improving detention and reception conditions: Conditions in migrant detention centers and reception facilities should be improved in line with international standards of humanitarian care, ensuring cleanliness, adequate food, healthcare, and protection from assault and abuse.
- 5. Collaboration with civil society and international organizations: Strengthen cooperation with civil society organizations and international organizations concerned with human rights and migration to provide technical support and assistance in implementing programs and projects for migrants.
- 6. Legal training and awareness: Continuous training should be provided to government officials and legal professionals on international and national

obligations regarding migrant and refugee rights, enhancing understanding of their rights and available legal procedures.

- 7. Regular monitoring and evaluation: Regular reviews and evaluations of policies and programs related to migrants should be conducted to ensure compliance with international standards, commitment to human rights, and reduction of violations.
- 8. Updating national legislation: The Libyan government should update and amend national legislation to combat illegal migration by international human rights standards and migrant rights.
- International cooperation in combating illegal migration: Enhance collaboration between countries of origin, transit, and destination to combat human trafficking networks and illicit migration, exchanging information and expertise to ensure migrant safety and combat organized crime.
- 10. Public awareness and education: The Libyan government should enhance understanding and education among citizens and security personnel about migrant and refugee rights, the importance of respecting their dignity, and strengthening the legal system to protect them.

**30- To the United Nations organizations:** To enhance the rights and safety of migrants in Libya, the following recommendations can be made to the United Nations and its international organizations, linking them to international laws and relevant conventions on the rights of irregular migrants and refugees:

- Strengthening commitment to human rights agreements: The United Nations and its international organizations should support and encourage the Libyan government to sign and adhere to human rights agreements, such as the 1951 Geneva Convention and its Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Labour Organization's Convention on Migrant Workers.
- 2. Enhancing protection and assistance for migrants and refugees: International organizations should provide technical and financial support to enhance the protection system for migrants and refugees in Libya, including strengthening legal and administrative procedures to ensure their rights and safety.
- 3. Improving detention conditions: The United Nations and its international organizations should contribute to improving conditions in detention centers in Libya, ensuring compliance with international human rights standards and humanitarian care.
- 4. Promoting awareness and education: International organizations should raise awareness about the rights of migrants and refugees among the Libyan population and security personnel and provide necessary training for judges, lawyers, and police officers on compliance with international laws and human rights.

- 5. Regular monitoring and evaluation: The United Nations and its international organizations should conduct regular reviews and assessments of policies and programs related to migrants in Libya to ensure compliance with international standards and reduce violations.
- International cooperation in combating human trafficking: Enhance collaboration between the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union, and other countries to combat human trafficking networks and illegal migration and strengthen border controls to prevent illicit activities.
- Support for safety and security enhancement programs: International organizations can support programs that enhance the safety and security of migrants and refugees in Libya, including personal, legal, and social protection.
- Strengthening cooperation with civil society organizations: The United Nations should enhance collaboration with civil society organizations in Libya to support migrant and refugee rights and promote legal and rights awareness.

**31- To origin countries:** To enhance the rights and safety of migrants in Libya, the following recommendations can be made to countries of origin for migrants, linking them to international laws and relevant conventions on the rights of irregular migrants and refugees:

- Implementing fundamental reforms related to public freedoms and human rights: Origin countries should undertake reforms that enhance and ensure human rights within their territories. This effort will contribute to reducing the need for citizens to resort to illegal migration to Libya and other destinations.
- 2. Raising awareness about the dangers of illegal migration and targeting vulnerable groups: Governments of origin countries should enhance public awareness campaigns about the risks and harms associated with illegal migration, focusing on impoverished and vulnerable groups.
- 3. Combating human trafficking and illegal smuggling: Origin countries should strengthen cooperation with neighboring and transit countries like Libya to combat human trafficking networks and illicit smuggling. This collaboration aims to ensure the safety of migrants and mitigate these criminal activities.
- 4. Facilitating voluntary return and respecting human rights: Governments of origin countries should facilitate the voluntary return of citizens who wish to return to their countries, ensuring full respect for human rights and dignity.



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