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Rebellion

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UN Alarm over Migrant Abuses in Libya



Sources: IPS [Forum: Migrants from African countries arriving in Libya seeking asylum or an opportunity to move to Europe are detained in unsanitary conditions by the Authorities in Tripoli, according to UN officials and humanitarian organizations. Guillaume Binet/MSF]

Thousands of migrants from other African countries have been detained by Libyan authorities this October and subjected to punishment, injury and even death, denounced the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in this Swiss city.

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"We are extremely concerned about the continued suffering of migrants and asylum seekers in Libya. They are experiencing a myriad of daily rapes and abuses at the hands of state and non-state actors," said OHCHR spokeswoman Marta Hurtado.

He said that this month more than 4,000 people, mostly from sub-Saharan African countries, have been detained "in appalling conditions" who are seeking asylum or an opportunity to cross the Mediterranean and migrate to Europe.

On 1 October, Libyan Interior Ministry personnel raided an informal settlement in Gergaresh, about 12 kilometres west of the capital, Tripoli, where hundreds of migrants and asylum-seekers live, including people registered with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

"Women, children and men were arrested and handcuffed. Security forces used unnecessary and disproportionate force to detain them, even shooting and beating those who resisted or tried to escape. At least one person was killed, five were injured and more than 4000 were detained," Hurtado said.

All detainees were transferred to the government-run Al Mabani detention centre in Tripoli and held in extremely overcrowded cells with little access to food or water.

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The next day, hundreds of migrants were transferred from al-Mabani to the Gheriyan detention centre, in equally unsanitary conditions, and on 6 October 500 migrants managed to escape, but were chased by guards who opened fire with live ammunition. Four people were killed and many others were injured.

El 8 de octubre se produjo otra fuga masiva del centro de Al Mabani. Los migrantes fueron perseguidos por agentes que les dispararon, hiriendo y matando a un número desconocido. Muchos otros fueron capturados por grupos armados paraestatales y llevados a centros de detención oficiales y no oficiales.

“Esta serie de eventos horribles durante un período de ocho días es solo el último ejemplo de la situación precaria, a veces letal, que enfrentan los migrantes y solicitantes de asilo en Libia”, expuso Hurtado.

Sostuvo que “son criminalizados únicamente por su estatus migratorio; son detenidos habitualmente en condiciones abominables; son objeto de extorsión y abuso con frecuencia y, en algunos casos, son asesinados”.

Acnudh instó a las autoridades libias a que “establezcan investigaciones rápidas, exhaustivas, imparciales e independientes sobre las denuncias de uso innecesario y desproporcionado de la fuerza, incluidas las denuncias de homicidios cometidos por las fuerzas de seguridad y los grupos armados afiliados”.

Hurtado pidió la liberación de todos los migrantes y solicitantes de asilo detenidos arbitrariamente, y que se ponga fin a las redadas masivas y a las expulsiones forzosas y deportaciones de migrantes en las que se violan los principios de debido proceso, no devolución y prohibición de la expulsión colectiva.

También Ellen van der Velden, responsable en Libia de la organización humanitaria Médicos Sin Fronteras, dijo que “en vez de aumentar el número de personas retenidas en los centros de detención, hay que parar las detenciones arbitrarias y cerrar estas instalaciones peligrosas e inhabitables”.

"Migrants and refugees are trapped in Libya, living in danger and have few options to flee, given that humanitarian flights have been unjustifiably suspended for the second time this year," van der Velden said.

The option of fleeing to Europe by crossing the Mediterranean Sea on the orders of human smugglers is also extremely risky, as hundreds of migrants die every year when the fragile boats that undertake this adventure sink.

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Source: <https://ipsnoticias.net/2021/10/alarma-en-la-onu-por-abusos-contra-migrantes-en-libia/>

