



Humanitarian Newsletter

April 2017

HUMANITARIAN NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

Libyan National Reconciliation Conference (NRCLibya) 20th May 2017



In effort to open dialogue between key Libyan figures within Britain, Alrassed International and Tamadon Foundation will be holding a conference on the 20th May. The aim of which to bring together those who may be able to begin to effect a change in the current situation in Libya.

As political infighting hampers progress towards any form of solidarity, there is a need to initiate talks between different parties. The main aim: How can Libyans in Britain assist movements towards national reconciliation within Libya? This before being put towards a wider audience involving international organisations in June.

We aim to bring together representatives from all sectors of Libyan society: academic, political, religious, and youth organisations. From there we intend to allow a forum from which opinions can be shared; working

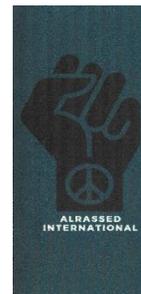
towards a constructive settlement of how a peaceful settlement may be initiated within Libya. The following conference will seek to

build on the first, drawing in more individuals from an international footing and allow a greater input.

The main factors faced are the divided nature of the Libyan people. As civil war continues to polarise the nation, those who live and operate outside of Libya often still possess strong affiliations with groups and organisations within Libya.

Many have legitimate grievances from past events and those that continue to this day. Before positive steps can be taken, some form of trust must be rebuilt between the peoples of Libya. This can only be achieved through open discussion.

We seek to enable an unbiased peace process that will lead to bringing to Libya's people. What is needed is a form of unifying factor that might allow all groups within Libya to work towards a common goal; ultimately, reconciliation. Without this further fighting seem inevitable, and the voices of the people will continue to be silenced with strong-arm approaches.



THE HUMANITARIAN & PEACEFUL CHANGE AWARD

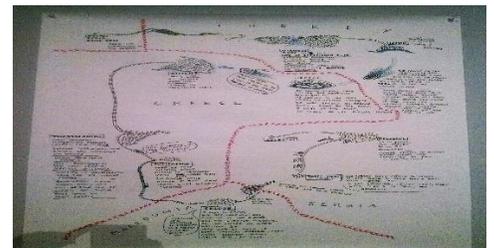
IS HEREBY AWARDED TO
THE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOCIAL COUNCIL OF BANI-WALID.
 IN RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION FOR YOUR MANY HOURS OF EFFORT AND HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS TO FREE THE PRISONERS AND CIVILIANS TRAPPED IN GANFOUDA CONFLICT ZONE, BENGHAZI - LIBYA.



Humanitarian & Peaceful Change Award

We at Alrassed international are hugely grateful for the efforts of the Social Council of Beni-Walid, and other groups like them ...

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Their Sea (The Baltic)

The Baltic centre for contemporary arts, Gateshead, UK is currently showing an exhibition focusing on ...

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Humanitarian & Peaceful Change Award

Alrassed International has the pleasure of issuing its very first award for Humanitarian & Peaceful Change. As part of our focus on highlighting human rights abuses and humanitarian needs, we also want to promote those who go to efforts to combat these issues. We believe it is vitally important that those who, like ourselves, seek to aid those in need through any means should be represented.

The members of the Committee Representatives of the Social Council of Beni-Walid have worked tirelessly to help though caught within the fighting areas in and around Benghazi, Libya. Freeing prisoners and providing humanitarian assistance to those effected.

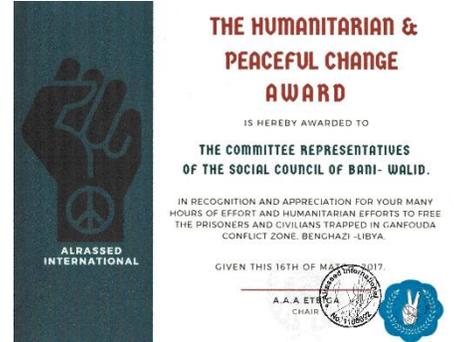
Their position can be a tenuous one, as political infighting and open conflict take away from any form of unifying power. The excerpt from the award reads:

In recognition and appreciation for your many hours of effort and contributions and humanitarian efforts to free the prisoners and civilians trapped in Ganfouda conflict zone, Benghazi –Libya.

These efforts, in which we had faith in, and we were certain from the beginning that you are the right people for this difficult task, as you have showed the wisdom, patience and love for good, and remained distanced from all parties away from any bickering or political polarisation.

We renew our gratitude and appreciation to you, you have completed your mission to the fullest.

We at Alrassed international are hugely grateful for the efforts of the Social Council of Beni-Walid, and other groups like them; helping to bring some form of order to chaos and assist those in dire need.



Picture of the Humanitarian & Peaceful Change Award

16th March 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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COUNTRY DIRECTOR, LIBYA



Picture of the official letter to the Committee

PICTURES FROM THE BALTIC CENTRE

Pictures taken from the Baltic on March 2017. by Steven Devine



Their Sea by Steven Devine

The Baltic centre for contemporary arts, Gateshead, UK is currently showing an exhibition focusing on the Mediterranean migrant crisis. Titled *Disappearance at sea - Mare Nostrum* (Latin for our sea), the artwork and exhibits focus on displaying the despair and often hopelessness faced by those making the journey across the sea.

A key piece involves virtual reality and sensory material to place the viewer in the position of a migrant, navigating their way through trials commonly faced by those in this situation for real. Amnesty International have worked with the staff of the Baltic Gallery; equipping them with the necessary background knowledge to understand the crisis better, helping to raise awareness and understanding of the situation.

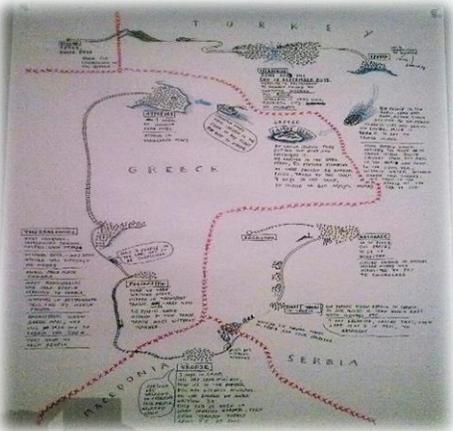
There are a number of pieces within the exhibition, each looking at different areas of the crisis and the impact it leaves on those who make the crossing. With the virtual reality experience placing the viewer in the shoes of a refugee.

Other video based pieces convey a strong sense of the boundlessness of being at sea; the sad futility of some voyages, and a sense of the unattainable.

One example being a boat that was left to drift amongst the currents of the Mediterranean for several days, unaided by nearby shipping vessels and aircraft; both military and civilian. The path of the boat is clearly charted over the several days; alongside the relevant positions of ships within the vicinity.

Perhaps most poignant are the hand drawn maps charting individual's passages from their respective origins. Dotted lines weave chaotic and disorganised routes across the countries across the affected areas on both the European, Middle Eastern and African sides of the sea.

Highlighting the highs and lows of their journeys. There's a crudeness to the maps that encapsulates the desperation of being forced to make these undertakings in overfilled, leaking dinghies; living off the grid and outside the law. A stark contrast to organised and planned package holidays and travels made via recognised airlines and cruise companies.



Inspiring and engaging international women

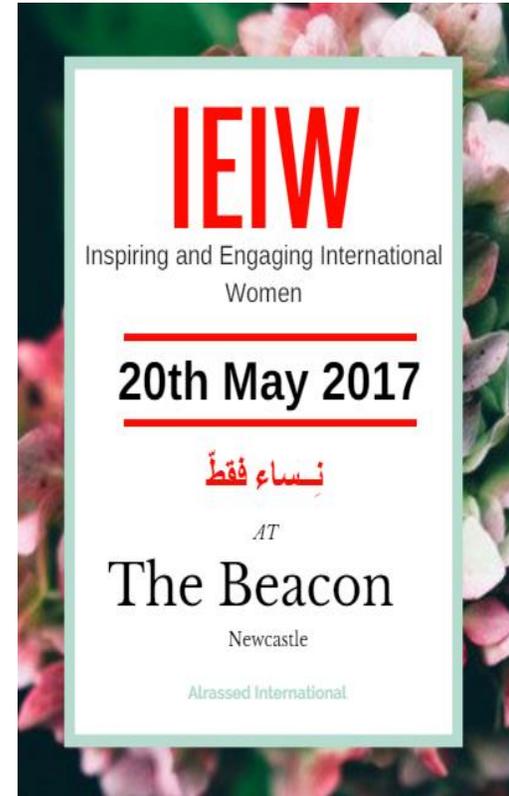
Alrassed International will be hosting an event on May 20th. The focus of this is to inspire and engage international women living in the North East, and from across the United Kingdom. Drawing from students, teachers, authors, journalists, as well as representatives from NGO's; and of course the wider public who are interested. The aim of the event is to engage with and encourage women from varying backgrounds to overcome language and cultural barriers. We'd like to assist women in becoming involved in different social sectors and help with employment opportunities; helping women become self-sufficient and gain economic independence.

A combination of students on international scholarships and refugees has seen a large number of foreign born families and individuals relocate to the North East. In some cases, men and children are able to integrate more readily than women. With children being placed into the UK education system, they're able to make friends, and get the hang of a brand new language as they mix with their peers.

Meanwhile men represent a large proportion of the student and working population. Similarly mixing with those around them. While many women are also part of this, they are often less well represented in the areas of study and employment; making it more difficult to engage and develop within what is often a vastly different society and culture. Alrassed International would like to help those who feel that they need help.

We will focus on women living in the North East, and have planned a series of language courses in both English and Arabic. And will use women who they themselves have overcome cultural and language barriers. We plan to do this in conjunction with Newcastle's West End Women and Girls Centres, and wish to provide interpreting and guiding facilities, hopefully leading to the empowerment of international women.

The ultimate goal: to allow women to fully integrate in terms of language and culture. Helping them find employment and take the fear out of what may be an alien society; regardless of race, religion, or background.



Libya: A portal of international crossings of illegal immigration

Tunis, a press conference was held on Saturday, May 6, 2017, on "Illegal migration across the Mediterranean" under the title "Together to Make a Better Tomorrow" organized by Mohammed Brahemi Center for Peace and Solidarity in cooperation with the Supreme Council of Libyan Tribes and Cities.

During the conference, mechanisms will be tackled to address the phenomenon of illegal migration across the Mediterranean, which was greatly exacerbated after 2011, following the collapse of the state in Libya and the collapse of its institutions, resulting in Libya becoming one of the most important international crossings of illegal immigration. According to a statement issued by the Brahemi Center for Peace and Solidarity.



Alrased International is a human rights monitor. Our aim is to raise awareness of abuses that take place within the Middle- East and North Africa regions. We currently have active campaigns focused on the displacement of people within Libya and Iraq.

Alrased International

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