Mexican photographer: Libya is a market for human trafficking; not only a rout to Europe.  

By Dr Abubakar Ahmed

The Mexican photographer Narciso Contreras', in an interview with the Le Point magazine, France, said, Libya is suffering from a very dreadful situation, especially in presence of the war between different groups fighting for control of the country, taking advantage of the great weakness of state institutions, due to the backdrop of the political divide between two rival governments in each of the capital Tripoli and Tobruk.

It appears that the work he has done and documented through-it the suffering of the “dreamers to immigrate” to Europe, was very difficult, because of the deteriorating situation in the country, saying that the issue of human trafficking is only part of the crisis that Libya is suffering from at all levels.

Narciso stressed that it was important to distinguish between Libya as a transit point, and Libya as a market for human trafficking, explaining that he often hear about Libya as an important transit point for migrants heading to the European coasts.

He said that those who are descended mostly from sub-Saharan African countries, fall victims in the hands of armed “militia”, or victims of smugglers to Europe on the other hand.

Explaining that they are being trafficked between the mafia of human trafficking, stressing that they (immigrants) lack the authority to take any decision on the subject of deportation to Europe.

He pointed out that there are about 3 million immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers from Africa in Libya that are not included in official statistics, and explained that as they set foot on Libyan territory- their future is wrapped in mystery, and they lose the ability to manage their own faith, and become like an item waiting to be sold, and they lose all their rights, as they become a toy in the hands of people-smuggling networks towards the European countries.
A Libyan human rights Commission: 252 civilians dead due to the clashes in November

On 30th November 2016, The National Committee for Human Rights in Libya recorded 252 deaths of civilians that were targeted as a result of the hostilities across the country, during the month of November; calling on international organizations to provide immediate assistance to the victims.

In its report, the Commission made clear that it documented the targeting of civilian facilities, which broke out in the 17 of this month (November), violent incidents and armed clashes in Sabha, between Awdad-Islayman and Al-Qaddadfa tribe, in which the indiscriminate firing of heavy weapons led to the targeting of densely populated neighbourhoods. Also, on November 26, a school next to the Jala'a hospital in Benghazi was targeted by a terrorist operation, through a suicide bombing.

The National Commission expressed its great displeasure of what it called a “continued state of suspicious silence” from the international community, the head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Criminal Court, on the suffering of the civilians in Libya.

The Libyan Organisation for Human Rights: calls on everyone to assume its responsibilities toward prisoners and detainees

- Libyan Organization for Human Rights appealed to all international missions in Libya, as well as all international organizations and government agencies in the country, for the need to carry their responsibilities towards the suffering of the prisoners and detainees and families who have been taken as human shields by the dominant terrorist group in Ganfouda zone, to avoid strikes by the armed forces (National Libyan Army) who have been advancing from all directions.
- The organization added in their statement that according to information leaks by those groups (terrorist groups in Ganfouda) on their way to commit genocide against these innocent people.
CHILD SOLDIERS IN MOSUL

ISIS has positioned armed kids in Mosul City, to give impression of control over its last stronghold in Iraq in face of the “Liberation Campaign”.

ISIS is known to organising training camps for children since June 2014, training them on using light weapons, suicide missions and helping with day-to-day work in the streets of Mosul.

The Fallout from Mosul

By Steven Devine

It’s hardly a secret that over the past several weeks there has been an intensive push to oust ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) from its last remaining overt holdout of Mosul, Iraq. At its greatest expanse, ISIL managed to flood large areas of Northern and Western Iraq, flowing over into Eastern and Western Syria. Like many taps left on to the point of overflow, trickling drops of radicalisation were able to seep onwards, pooling together they created large channels from central Iraq, to the Turkish border. Slowly receding as all floods do, it has left destruction amongst the areas it had swallowed, and forced populations to flee.

As fundamental radicalisation has become the terror of our time, ISIL has been a nightmare turned reality; an organised and functioning group able to go beyond a guerrilla existence, annexing swathes of land. Its organised command and control structure has allowed it to act almost as a governed nation. In this ISIL has managed to go beyond other radical factions. The rolling back of this group is undoubtedly a positive step, although the worry is that they will inevitably filter out, back into guerrillas; under some other guise, if not the black flag of ISIL. The other side of this is how it is viewed in the western world. We see headlines perpetuating the fear of terrorism being exported. We sadly do also see this put into reality, with the attacks in France, Belgium, Germany, and The United States. We don’t however always get to see the impacts of this fundamental radicalism at its source.

From Mosul alone there are reportedly around 74,000 displaced persons, with over 1,000,000 more thought to remain in areas still under the control of ISIL. Camps have been set up for those fleeing, and have been estimated to have been able to provide refuge for 80%. A pressing issue however is the fact that many are effectively detained within these camps, as investigations are made to those who may have, or have had links to ISIL. Males are separated and screened by Police investigation units. Effectively registering these masses of refugees is difficult with over 1000 seeking access to camps daily. It is common that people have to be turned away by the guards. The security issue is such that even those who have a possible place to go to, be it family, or an existing home that hasn’t been destroyed; are prevented from doing so.

A key issue is faced in dealing with these volumes of people; particularly, in the face of plummeting temperatures. Despite the desert environment, Northern Iraq is known for less than habitable conditions in the winter months. A casing point being the two SAS troopers who died of hypothermia during the 1991 Gulf War. It’s startling that conditions that would prove fatal for physically robust soldiers, are also endured by those who’ve been wearied by months of siege conditions. Inevitably this places a far larger strain on the need for supplies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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with a growing need for materials providing heating and warmth. It is taking the combined efforts of several aid charities and organisations to address these needs. The Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) have worked to provide material support; delivering stoves, fuel, and blankets. Further providing food and healthcare.

The issues faced in providing shelter and supporting the displaced will continue long after ISIL has been diminished as a group able to expand its area of influence in a de jure sense. The management of those displaced will have to be maintained throughout the winter months, and likely well beyond this; it will take a significant amount of time to return entire settlements back to something akin to normality.

Italian Air force delivers medical supplies to Tripoli and Misurata

**By Dr Abubakar Ahmed**

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3. The Ambassador and the special envoy met Deputy Prime minister Maitig and the Foreign Minister - Mohamed al-Taher Siya; in which, they assured the support of Italy to the National Accord and the Presidential Council in Tripoli.

4. This is the 6th shipment of medicines made to Libya by the Italian Cooperation service (since the beginning of 2016) and it is worth a total of 2.5 million euros; as part of the support plan to the Tripoli Government (National Accord), to transport and treat Libyans injured while fighting Daesh in Libya.

5. This delivery is aimed to provide medical care to around 10,000 people for 3 months and special treatments to be given to 100 war-wounded people.

6. In Misurata, Ambassador Perrone and Special Envoy Starace were received by the local authorities, and met with the staff working at the Hippocrates Task Force Military Filed Hospital.

It is important to point-out that it was reported to Alrassed International that hospitals and medical centres in Sirte District was not given any support. The Military medical camps in Sirte provided treatment to members of the forces fighting Daesh, while civilian casualties have to travel to near cities to get treated.

There are around 20 health centres, these include, Al-sawawa, Bin-jawed, Abu-hadi, Wadi-Jaref. These centres are privately funded and looked after by the residents, and the lack of support from both governments (East and West) is inexcusable. We advise the support mission to urgently provide medical supplies to the medical centres and assist the civilians whom are also suffering from the fighting of Daesh in the city.
Stabilization Facility project for Libya receives $1m from the Republic of Korea.

According to UN sources: A generous contribution by the Korean government to the Stabilization Facility Project for Libya (SFL). An initiative of the Libyan Government of National Accord, and is delivered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and supported by the international community.

SFL which began in May 2016, aims to provide long humanitarian relief and improvements towards the infrastructure, schools and hospitals in Benghazi, Kikla and Obari.

Gust recently a Fire Engine was delivered to Kikla in western Libya. There are plans to deliver a number of ambulances to the cities of Benghazi, Kikla and Obari. Other planned deliveries will include garbage collecting trucks, power generators, and solar power installations to hospitals.

The project will also include quick interventions that seek to support the Libyan population through the provision of concrete improvements and peace dividends at the community level;

Which will be achieved through the rehabilitation of critical infrastructure, building the capacity of local authorities to address the needs of citizens and advancing local medication and conflict resolution processes. A number of international organizations have been implemented in order to deliver activities that are socio-political, and that strengthen existing 'social peace infrastructures' in the Libyan Community.

In addition to Benghazi, Kikla and Obari, the Facility is expected to begin assessments of people’s needs in Sirte and Sebha, bringing the total of potential beneficiaries to over one million.

The government of National Accord and its Limited Authority in Tripoli

The President of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Martin Kobler said the Presidential Council of the Government of National Accord, has limited authority in the city of Tripoli, despite its strong presence, and that “the Libyan people are frustrated by the slow progress of implementing the political agreement.”

Kobler also expressed, in his briefing to the UN Security Council on Tuesday (6th December) that the state institutions from the political agreement are operating largely below expectations, and the cooperation between these institutions remains rigid, in addition to the competition of the National Accord government with other governmental bodies, that disputes authority, he said.

Kobler said that the flow of arms shipments to Libya is still going on, considering it a violation of the law banning the supply of arms to Libya, hoping that the ban on “the supply of arms to Libya” remains in place and is applied; until Libyan a coherent and reliable Security architecture is formed.

The UNSMIL President; revealed that relations between the Presidential Council of the Government of Reconciliation and the Central Bank of Libya in Tripoli is rather tense; explaining that some of what he called those who oppose the political agreement have access to huge amounts of money without restrictions.

Martin Kobler said he was “extremely alarmed” by the clashes. “We are in contact with the parties on the ground to urge an immediate end to this fighting.”

Clashed between armed militia in Tripoli started on Thursday the 1st December; as armed groups started a heavy shootout including tanks and pic-up vehicles armed with heavy arterially.

Currently, the Government of National Accord is resistance from armed groups and other authority figures (which at some point described them as peaceful & allies) and is heavily criticized by the residents for their failed efforts in resolving this issue along with other issues (i.e. economic situation) concerning the public.

The violence is the latest setback for the U.N.-backed Government of National Accord, which is close to completing a full year since it was signed in the Moroccan city of Skhirat.
Sirte liberated, and residents fear return

After months of continues clashes the Misurata-led forces declared liberation of Sirte from IS. However; reports to Alrassed confirm that there is outgoing fights in Jiza and other parts of the city; the radical group (IS) may also have re-located in the outskirts south of the city.

Alrassed International spoke with displaced citizen from Sirte as they camped on its outskirts for months waiting to return to their homes. As they seemed unoptimistic about their return; we spoke with Hamza (a father of two children) he told us that “there is no hope, we don’t think that they have a solution to what happens after the liberation, my house is burned to the grounds as most of the properties in Sirte”. A number of pictures from the violent clashes in the city has been brought to Alrassed, which shows almost entire neighbourhoods crushed by the heavy bombing and airstikes.

A mayor for Sirte is to be elected on 12 December. The date has been chosen by the Central Committee for Municipal Council Elections (CCMCE). The city mayor is said to have proposed rehabilitation projects, with aims to return residents safe to their homes.

Alrassed 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.

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