Human rights defenders are exposed to continued harassment, arrest, torture and defamation and dismissal from work and the denial of freedom of movement, and the difficulty in obtaining legal recognition in their institutions and in some countries they either “disappear” or get killed.

This danger has been increasing in recent years, according to a report issued by the Victims Organisation for Human Rights, public awareness of the enormous danger faced by human rights defenders during their work and reflected a clear danger while defenders working in hostile conditions.

The civilian activists and human rights defenders, journalists and media workers in Libya, are at risk because of their political positions, their defence of human rights and the gathering of evidence of violations; therefore they face the aggression of militias and armed groups in Benghazi and Tripoli and other Libyan cities.

After the forces of “Fajar Libya” (The Dawn of Libya) militias entered the capital, they launched what is known as “the dawn of Libya”, Monday August 25 in Tripoli, which was a large-scale suppression on politicians, journalists, activists, security cadres and military, and all of who was proven “involvement” in supporting the Libyan Council of Representatives (parliament) what is also known as the Eastern Government, and a record of arrest cases aimed at the supporters of what is known as «operation dignity» in the west of Tripoli, such as Got-Alshall, Janzur and Duraibi etc.

**List of Human Rights Defenders who have been subject to violation**

In Tripoli, the fate of some of its activists are still vague, such as the well-known Abdul-muz Bannon, who was kidnapped in mysterious circumstances and his fate is unknown until today. Also civil activist Ansar Alhsairy known for her participation in humanitarian and aid work has been kidnapped and killed; her body was found along with her aunt in the outskirts of the capital.

Afaf Rezzig political activist, who is long known for standing against the militias and was a candidate for The House of Representatives came under direct threats and her car and her mother’s house were burned, which forced her to leave the capital, and migration out of Libya.

The List continues, to see the full list please [click here](#).

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**Iraq: Civilians of Mosul between IS Control and Liberation**

Mosul is considered as one of the largest cities in the province of Nineveh in northern west of Iraq. About half the population in Nineveh which is estimated to be of 3.2 million live in the city of Mosul. They also belong to different ethnic groups such as Arab Sunnah, Kurd Sunnah, Turkman Sunnah, Christians, Yazidis, Shia Turkman and shabak.
Alrassed Condemns the Kidnapping of Libyan Journalists

Alrassed published its statement on the 8th of November 2016, expressing its deepest concerns that are clouded by the statistics that show the growing numbers of violations against the choices and rights of journalists, writers and activists in the areas of human rights, Media, and law in Libya.

As Alrassed follows up with the families and colleagues of journalists and writers who were kidnapped by the religious militia in the Libyan capital; and the last of them; Abdulwahab Alalem, who was arrested last Thursday (3rd November 2016) without any formal procedure and before a month, of odd reasons the writer Jabber Zain by force known as “Deterrence Authority” (Kuat Al-Rada) in the capital Tripoli; which accused them of contemplating the religion and liberalism, which means “atheism”, by the views of this militia group. This accusation is life-threatening and may result in death.

Alrassed International Statement on the continued arrest of Libyan journalists

- Strongly condemns all kidnappings and forced disappearances and interrogations under duress and torture in order to coerce people to dispute what they believe
- Deplores what the gangs, militias and armed groups in their different forms, beliefs and names; from the violation against the sanctity of the people and spreading fear and horror in the hearts of prisoners and their families and their colleagues, threatening them also in the case of reporting abductions or speaking of them, and the resulting fear and silence can have a real danger on the lives and health of the abductees.
- Noting That Alrassed International illustrates that they bear the official agencies in the Government of National Accord, and the “Deterrence Authority” (Kuat Al-Rada) militia forces, led by “Abdul Rauf Karh”, the FULL RESPONSIBILITY for the physical and mental health of the abductees who have not committed a crime, that requires their arrest, as well as accusing them of charges and possibly punishments without providing minimum guarantees and the rights of displaying in front of a Public trial and the right to access a lawyer to defend them, and the parents right to visit and assure them.

Read the full Report [here](#)
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.

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Civilians of Mosul between IS Control and Liberation

Mosul is considered as one of the largest cities in the province of Nineveh in northern west of Iraq. About half the population in Nineveh which is estimated to be of 3.2 million live in the city of Mosul. They also belong to different ethnic groups such as Arab Sunnah, Kurd Sunnah, Turkman Sunnah, Christians, Yazidis, Shia Turkman and shabak.

In June 2014, the Islamic state (IS) took over the Mosul and the outlying districts and small villages surrounding the city imposing radical sharia rules. Minorities migrated out of Mosul suburbs while people of the city opted to stay since all the other neighbouring cities were already under the control of IS apart from Kurdistan (Erbil and Duhook) since June 2014. Fleeing people specifically Arabs from Mosul who wanted to settle in Kurdish cities had to face complicated restrictions and dire living conditions imposed by the government of Kurdistan.

The next phase then followed and people of Mosul found themselves held as captives in their own city, men were not allowed to shave their beards or smoke cigarettes and must dress according to sharia. Women were covered in black veils and were not allowed to leave their houses unless accompanied by men. Anyone who tries to escape the city would either be brutally punished or sentenced to death. Few weeks later, the international coalition forces and the Iraqi army bombed locations were IS were mainly situated. University of Mosul and the city hospital were among the places that were bombarded and this has led to destruction of the city infrastructure further complicating the situation. The Iraqi government then made a an abrupt decision of not paying salaries for employees which caused living costs to raise inflicting an additional burden on the people of the Mosul who had already made the difficult decision of staying in the city. Suffering continued in the absence of proper health services and now the IS became even more offensive imposing radical sharia ruling, arresting and executing hundreds of civilians who used to work for the Iraqi government.

Last month, October 2016, the general commander of Iraqi armed forces Prime Minister Haider Alabadi announced the launch of military operations to liberate Mosul with the participation of Iraqi forces, Kurds Peshmerga, and Shia militias, Al-Hashad Al-Shaabi known as popular mobilization. Military operations, also, received consultation and support from international coalition air forces. Since then, the safety of the people of Mosul (1.5million) was and stil a major concern in particular when crossings out of the city for people fleeing the fight were not secured. The IS raised their tactics by using civilians as human shields and attacking Iraqi forces through suicidal jihadist who sometimes dress as civilians, this in many incidents has caused confusion and lead to innocents deaths. A CNN video emerged last week where a taxi driver was shot and killed in cold blood by the Iraqi forces and so, the civilians of Mosul being in the middle of a battlefield face death from all sides, from IS, the Iraqi forces and through air strikes by the coalition forces.

Due to the other conflicts in the region whether in Syria or Iraq between Turkey, Iran, Russia and other countries, the city of Mosul became the focus of the interest
because of many geopolitical reasons and the fears of the demographic changes that might affect the security and stability of the city and the area in general after beating IS. These conflicts either external by Iran and Turkey as they both trying to play a major role in Syria and Iraq or internal by Kurdistan government who want to seize the opportunity of the Iraqi government being in a weak position and expand their proposed state. The current situation raise a real fear that the city will not be secure and stable even after liberation from IS and not expected to return and regain the same borders that existed before June 2014.

Therefore, the Iraqi government as well as the international humanitarian organizations need to play a vital role in securing places with proper infrastructure for the civilians whom expected to flee from Mosul and provide urgent humanitarian and medical aid and work very closely with the Iraqi forces to prevent any arrests of civilians, torture and revenge that might take place, the same way as it happened in Falluja.

More effort and support would be needed later to rebuild the city and reconstruction of the infrastructures to help people return to their houses. There will be a huge demand for social and psychological efforts to achieve historical reconciliation and restoration of civil peace and build confidence among all of the diverse groups of Mosul people.

The UN presented an alarming report on the victims of the conflict in Libya in just one month

By Dr Abubakar Ahmed

United Nations Support Mission in Libya issued its monthly report on civilian casualties during the month of October.

The report stated that the UNSMIL documented during the period from October 1 to October 31, the occurrence of 102 civilian casualties, including 29 deaths and 73 were injured during the conflicts that took place in Libya.

Among the victims, 7 children died, 13 were injured and three women have been killed and 6 infected wounds, and 19 men were killed and injured 33 wounded; also wounded 21 people, but their age and situation is unknown.

Civilian casualties

The majority of the deaths occurred due to shelling (9 deaths and 30 were injured), air strikes (8 deaths and 22 were injured), indiscriminate/discriminate shooting (three deaths), then an unknown explosion (4 deaths and 18 were injured); and the remnants of war explosives (one was injured). However, it was not possible to verify the reasons that led in one case to the death of five and injuring two injured.

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya documented 19 deaths and 64 injuries in Benghazi;

5 deaths, and two cases of injuries in Alzawyia; 2 deaths and six were injured in Tripoli; and one dead and one wounded in Derna; the case of one death in Sirte; and the case of one death in Surman.

Civilian facilities

In October 15, air attacks struck the electrical power station in the Derna. Alzawya hospital became unable to operate on October 28, because where it bordering area in which the spin of hostilities.

Other casualties

While on October 27, 10 bodies were found handcuffed and shot in the garbage dump in Shebnah neighbourhood – Benghazi; which is under the control of the Libyan National Army. This comes in the wake of a similar incident occurred in July 2016 where they found 16 bodies that had signs of torture and were shot in Laithi area in Benghazi.

However, the UNSMIL seems to do very less when it comes to identifying events in Tripoli, in which Alrassed has documented series of violation by the many militias operating in the capital, against journalists and activists. The report also failed to mention anything on the violations taking place in the city of Sirte, and the deliberate destruction of civilian property and facilities; along with number of violations, in which Alrassed has documented in its report “Addressing the humanitarian situation in Sirte”.

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COUNTRY DIRECTOR, LIBYA
East Libya Government denies the human rights abuses in Amnesty International Report

1. The Libyan House of Representatives (Eastern Government) have rejected the claims made in an Amnesty International (AI) report accusing the Libyan National Army of shelling of civilians trapped in the residential district of Ganfouda area in Benghazi.

2. In a workshop organised by the Foreign Media Authority (FMA) and the Libyan National Army (LNA) spokesman Colonel Ahmed Mismari. FMA head Arish Saeed said the report was “fabricated” by Amnesty International, “thought to be an unbiased party in dealing with international matters”.

3. The Amnesty report titled; “Libya: Civilians trapped in Benghazi in desperate conditions as fighting encroaches”; published on the 30th of September 2016; was urging conflicting parties to assist a safe passage for the civilians trapped in Ganfouda. “Time is running out for civilians in Ganfouda, who are being left to die trapped by the fighting. While bombs and shells continue to rain down on them, civilians are struggling to survive on rotten food and dirty water.” Said Magdalena Mughrabi, Deputy Director of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Amnesty International.

4. The report claimed that Amnesty got more than 130 Libyan families and hundreds of foreign national’s testimonies, who are trapped for months in the residential district of Ganfouda. The report then accused what it called “General Khalifa Haftar’s forces” (known as: Libyan National Army); for blocking the roads, and food, water and electricity being cut off from entering Ganfouda.

5. As evidence, the report took some statements from “civilians from Ganfouda”, mentioning only their first names: Waleed, Mohamed, Samir, Hassan and Khadija. However, the report then claims that the lack of a phone signal in Ganfouda, made it difficult for those trapped to make contact with the outside world.

6. The report then expressed the concerns of Amnesty in regards to the “130 detainees who were abducted by the armed group Ansar al-Sharia in 2014 and are also trapped under fire in Benghazi.” Adding that; as many as 20 detainees may have been killed in airstrikes, with photos of their dead bodies shared online.

7. LNA spokesman Colonel Ahmed Mismari said that the Libyan National Army was in contact with families and foreign workers trapped inside Ganfouda and had offered them a safe passage out. Adding that the Libyan National Army dropped leaflets and that they made coordination with the Red Crescent society; and where calling for Human rights and aid organisations for cooperation to assist civilians trapped in the residential district of Ganfouda.

8. The problem, he said, was not with the LNA, but with the extremist groups and their families who refused to leave and who were using the other families as human shields. The basic problem was that the “extremist terrorist groups reject the safe exit of civilians”, he stated.

9. Again the report by Amnesty stated the same – “estimated 130 detainees who were abducted by the armed group Ansar al-Sharia in 2014 and are also trapped under fire in Benghazi. However, they accused the LNA of blocking the entry roads to the residential district of Ganfouda.

The report seemed to lack some evident; we would advised that Amnesty should of made contact with the responsible Authorities in East Libya and got their comments before making a conclusion.

In a realistic and safeguarding point of view it is accurate that the LNA blocked the entry (not the evacuation) of civilians to Ganfouda (a hostile and dangerous place). It is also confirmed by Amnesty report that 130 residents trapped in Ganfouda, are trapped by Ansar Al-Sharia in Ganfouda area. (Are they the same 130 families they got testimonies from?).

Moreover, we would ask more caution from the Eastern Government in Libya; and to put in more efforts to protect the life of the residents and coordinate a safe passage for them to evacuate the area (as their first priority).
25 bodies found off the Libyan Coast

Alrassed International - Medicines sans Frontiers:

The organisation announced << Medicines sans Frontiers>> they found 25 bodies of migrants on board of a boat off the Libyan coast, on Wednesday 26th October 2016.

AFP quoted; that the organization has rescued other migrants in the Mediterranean, near the Libya shores, on Tuesday.

With this figure, the death toll of those who tried to cross into Europe via the sea has risen to 68 deaths and 30 missing during the Week.

The Italian Coast Guard announced on 24th October that it has saved nearly 2200 migrants in the centre of the Mediterranean during the 21 rescue operation, and they have recovered 16 bodies.

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.