



Updates on refugees and asylum seekers

No improvements have been observed recently with regard to the conditions of refugees and asylum seekers in Libya. Refugees and asylum seekers continue to be detained on account of irregular entry to Libya. Some of them are in extremely vulnerable conditions having suffered either trauma or torture in their country of origin or during the journey to Libya. UNHCR continues to advocate the identification of alternatives to detention and access to protection for those fleeing persecution and in need of international protection.

Three missions to detention centres in West Libya were conducted in November. On 10 November UNHCR went to Garabouli detention centre where mainly women are detained. During this mission, two Eritrean minors were released following UNHCR intervention. On 11 November, UNHCR was in Al Khums where 224 Eritreans, 22 Somali and 5 Ethiopians were detained including approximately 20 irregular migrants from Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Egypt and Mali. Among UNHCR's persons of concern 20 were minors, 15 from Eritrea and 5 from Somalia. UNHCR observed that detention conditions are poor. Rooms are overcrowded and food and medical assistance are inadequate. Detainees also reported physical abuses by detention guards. During the mission, UNHCR distributed relief items to detainees including 300 blankets and hygiene items. On Monday 24 November, UNHCR was also in Sabrata detention centre where 104 persons were detained including Eritreans. 6 Eritreans are in the process of being released. Finally, in November UNHCR was informed by authorities in East Libya that 18 persons of concern were detained in Guanfooda detention centre in Benghazi.

In Tripoli UNHCR has observed an increase in the number of Sudanese from Darfur wishing to register with the office. This population includes both persons who registered previously with UNHCR as refugees in Chad and others who traveled directly from Sudan. All fled Darfur due to persecution. Some have injuries attributed to attacks, ill-treatment and torture in Darfur.

Syrian displacement

One of the main priorities of UNHCR's activities in Libya relates to the assistance to asylum seekers from Syria. Their conditions are difficult with many being unable to make ends meet. With mobile teams, UNHCR continues to travel throughout the country as far as Tobruk and Sabha to monitor protection needs, register asylum seekers and deliver assistance. On 3 November, UNHCR was in Zawiya to register and assist persons of concern from Syria. During this mission, UNHCR mobile team registered 45 individuals and delivered relief items to 10 families. Between 12-14 November, UNHCR conducted a mission to Sabha to register refugees from Syria in South Libya. This is the first time UNHCR has registered Syrians based in Sabha. Over 250 individuals were registered with UNHCR. As of 30 November, 15,898 Syrians were registered with UNHCR in Libya. UNHCR is also planning to reinforce registration activities in Misrata. To this effect, UNHCR met with representatives of the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) in Misrata to discuss ongoing collaboration. It was agreed that LRC would continue to host UNHCR for registration and that UNHCR would provide training in the LRC office in Misrata.

During the reporting period, UNHCR has received reports from Syrian asylum seekers stating that their passports were withheld by Libyan authorities. UNHCR is assisting the concerned individuals to provide assistance vis-à-vis authorities. In addition, UNHCR in Tripoli and Benghazi continues to assist Syrian families. In collaboration with its partner CESVI, UNHCR delivers cash-assistance to vulnerable families.

FARAWAY سوريا SYRIA البعيدة

UNHCR concludes the photo exhibition on Syrian refugees and announces the winner

On 2 November UNHCR inaugurated the photo exhibition "FarawaySyria" at the House of Culture in the Old Town in Tripoli. The winner of the photo contest for photographers in Libya is Ms. Nada Harib. The exhibition was intended to raise awareness on the plight of refugees and asylum seekers from Syria. The event curated by the Italian photo journalist Nancy Porsia was organised and funded by UNHCR in collaboration with the Italian Embassy, the Italian Institute of Culture and the Canadian Embassy. For more information and the video especially produced for the exhibition please see the website: <http://farawaysyria.org/>.

Vacancies at UNHCR Tripoli

UNHCR is recruiting for the following posts:

- **Senior Administrative Assistant** GL-5 (Fixed Term Appointment, 1 year, renewable).

<http://www.libyaninvestment.com/libya-jobs/124584-united-nation-high-commissionaire-for-refugees-senior-administrative-assistant-.html>

- **Senior Finance Assistant** GL-5 (Fixed Term Appointment, 1 year, renewable).

<http://www.libyaninvestment.com/libya-jobs/124585-united-nation-high-commissionaire-for-refugees-senior-finance-assistant-gl5.html>

- **Driver** GL-2 (Fixed Term Appointment, 1 year, renewable).

<http://www.libyaninvestment.com/libya-jobs/124589-united-nation-high-commissionaire-for-refugees-driver-gl2.html>

Telephone hot-lines for refugees

UNHCR can be reached on the following numbers:

Community Services:	091 712 7644
General queries / registration:	091 9897937
Emergencies / detention:	091 9897936
Syrians:	091 7129750
Benghazi hot-line:	092 3186819

Protection issues in focus

UNHCR conducts training in Sabha

Between 12-14 November, UNHCR convened a workshop for civil society organisations working on asylum and migration in Sabha. The training was delivered by UNHCR staff and focused on the principles of international protection. In particular, the following topics were covered: refugee definition, asylum in the international framework, UNHCR mandate, UNHCR services, mixed-migration in the Libyan context and asylum in relation to Shari'a. About 21 representatives from local organisations attended the workshop. The course was evaluated very positively by most participants.

University fee exemption for refugees

UNHCR contacted the Tripoli University about the university fee exemption for refugees and asylum seekers in line with the decision taken in 2008 by the Ministry of High Education. The office was informed that refugee students will be exempted from University fees. Authorities have already started implementing the decision. UNHCR welcomes this decision that guarantees a basic right of refugees in Libya.

Killing of IDP in Fellah site in Tripoli

Following allegations about the shooting of a Tawergha IDP in Tripoli, UNHCR contacted the community leader in the concerned IDP site. According to the information provided by the community leader, on Friday 15 November at 21:30 persons from Misrata entered the Fellah site in Tripoli in one car and some motorbikes. The group was carrying heavy weapons. After threatening the Tawerghans in the site they started shooting. One Tawergha IDP was injured though not seriously. The following morning, on Saturday 16 November, the same group from Misrata returned to the site and opened fire. On this second occasion, one Tawergha IDP was killed and two were injured. The persons injured were hospitalised.

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