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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[3 June 2019]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Human trafficking in State of Libya and Republic of Chad

Rising trend of Human Trafficking in Libya

As a result of the persistence of the political crisis in Libya, the escalation of impunity and the complete absence of state sovereignty, especially along the southern Libyan border, smuggling has flourished in this country in all its forms, the most dangerous of which is human smuggling and trafficking. However, smuggling was familiar in the western parts of the country, especially in the areas bordering Tunisia and the southern borders with Niger, Chad and Sudan, it has been escalated after the fall of the rule of Gaddafi and the absence of security control over the country. Sequentially, all roads have been opened for smuggling people, weapons and goods and others.

According to the Libyan government's reports and the reports of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the number of illegal immigrants in Libya is around 700,000, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa. This number does not include illegal immigrants who have been living in shelters that lack the most basic facilities for hosting.

A United Nations Committee of Experts has sent a report to the Security Council on the increase in human trafficking in Libya, as well as possible collusion between Libyan security forces and armed groups to tighten control over smuggling routes. The report referred to testimonies of Eritrean migrants detained in 2016 in Tripoli by elements of a special force under the Libyan Interior Ministry handed them back to smugglers for money. Four migrants from Bangladesh were detained in a government detention center in 2015, after being arrested by RADA Special Deterrence Forces in Tripoli, despite having valid work visas. Each of them paid \$ 300 to RADA Special Deterrence Forces and have been sent to another city from where they left, against their will, by sea to Europe.

The number of people killed in these crossings is estimated at more than 2,300. Most of them, especially Africans, come after collecting them in designated places. The smuggling gangs then transport them in boats on a perilous voyage. Human trafficking turns into a popular trade and a rich source of wealth for many of its people in Libya, and a constant concern for European countries on the other hand.¹

Several UN and non-UN reports have reported that some areas in Libya have become a market for the sale of human beings, mostly African migrants who have been victims of the extortion of smuggling gangs, confirming the involvement of militias and armed gangs in this activity². Maat affirms that the current situation in Libya will not help the implementation of decisions that deter human trafficking. The exceptional security situation in Libya today helps human trafficking gangs move even in Libyan ports. Therefore, Maat calls upon the international community to provide assistance in order to reduce this phenomenon.

Videos on social media have revealed that Libyan militias have enslaved and trafficked migrants of different nationalities. Migrants from Mali, who returned from Libya, have described what they were subjected to during their stay searching for a way to cross the Mediterranean Sea towards Europe,³ as akin to hell. they added that they have been subjected to physical and psychological torture and forced labor without mercy. They have been held for days without food and threatened with death every time they try to demand anything even defecating. Migrants confirm that Libyan militias are trafficking, smuggling and selling human beings without actions from the authorities to deter them. Militias

¹ عبد الباسط غبارة: مكافحة الهجرة غير الشرعية في ليبيا... ملف متجدد — بتاريخ: 4 ديسمبر 2017
<http://afrigatenews.net/node/173091>

² صورة "بيع العبيد" في سوق في ليبيا تثير غضب الاتحاد الافريقي، في سوق في ليبيا تثير غضب الاتحاد الافريقي، 19 نوفمبر 2017. BBC
<http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-42043232>

³ صورة "بيع العبيد" في سوق في ليبيا تثير غضب الاتحاد الافريقي، في سوق في ليبيا تثير غضب الاتحاد الافريقي، 19 نوفمبر 2017. BBC
<http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-42043232>

exploit the migrants' dream of reaching Europe, detaining, humiliating and selling them later in markets of those who pay more.⁴

Chad: the link in the Human Trafficking Chain

Chad is a source, transit and destination country for children subjected to forced labour and human trafficking. Human rights reports have reported that some terrorist organizations such as Boko Haram, currently known as the Islamic State of West Africa, are involved in child trafficking. The attacks carried out by Boko Haram in Lake Chad and concurrent government military operations have increased the number of internally displaced persons, who are vulnerable to human trafficking, numbering 76,225. Chad's civil security committees may have recruited and used children in armed conflict.⁵

This traffic has become widespread, consisting one of the world's most lucrative forms of traffic, as well as the trafficking in arms and drugs, which yields billions of dollars a year for criminal gangs as well as individuals who commit and facilitate this crime. The victims of such crime do not share some of this money, but suffer from exploitation, physical pain and trauma. Therefore, human trafficking differs from trafficking in arms and drugs in that humans become the commodity from which profits are derived. Despite the concerted efforts of the international community to combat this phenomenon with a series of international conventions to prevent and combat it in all its forms, this phenomenon persists in Chad, where people are subjected to numerous violations amounting to slavery, and has become a form of new global slavery.

Qatar's role in increasing Human Trafficking

Qatar is supporting a number of armed groups in both Libya and Chad, which are involved in trafficking in human beings, which led the Government of Chad to take a decision on 23 August 2017 to close the Qatari Embassy in the capital N'Djamena,⁶ justifying this step as a result of "The continued involvement of the State of Qatar in attempts to destabilize Chad, starting from Libya." Moreover, France has called upon Qatar to stop funding the rebel leader in N'Djamena. Human rights reports have indicated that these groups, supported by Qatar, are involved in trafficking in human beings and recruiting children and mercenaries to launch attacks on sites inside Libya and Chad. This has been demonstrated by the attempts of these groups to control over commercial and oil ports to facilitate the smuggling and recruitment of migrants, as happened in Libya's Oil Crescent, which has lost 850 thousand barrels of crude oil per day, before the army forces re-control it.

Although the identity of the parties supporting the mercenaries is not revealed, Libyan military sources said that hundreds of Chadian armed opposition members supported by Qatar and active in the Libyan territories participated in the attack along with Libyan militias supported by Qatar too, such as Benghazi Defense Brigades the Derna Mujahideen Shura Council. The Chadian opposition forces have made promises to support the militias of these groups, which called on the armed forces to address these groups supported by Qatar.⁷

Qatar provides a part of the funding of these groups, and the other parts of this funding are through the smuggling of oil products from Libya to African countries, drug trafficking, and even human trafficking, which is more dangerous, under the auspices and protection of

⁴ www.alaraby.co.uk موقع العربي الجديد/26 نوفمبر 2017-خديجة الطيب: هكذا استعبدتهم الميليشيات في ليبيا

⁵ تقرير المراقبة الخاص بنشاد، فيما يتعلق بقضية الاتجار بالبشر، ويمكن قراءة التقرير كاملاً من خلال الرابط التالي: <http://cutt.us/bgaAi>

⁶ بحيرة تشاد .. الشاهد على إذلال الإرهاب القطري على يد فرنسا، م منشور على موقع صوت الأمة بتاريخ 17 مارس 2019، ويمكن قراءة المقال كاملاً من خلال الرابط التالي: <http://cutt.us/vsk3r>

⁷ الحبيب الأسود، المرتزقة في ليبيا والدعم القطري المشبوه، م منشور على بوابة أفريقيا، بتاريخ 19 يوليو 2018، ويمكن قراءة المقال كاملاً من خلال الرابط التالي: <http://cutt.us/qCPUD>

militant groups. Which turned into a source of livelihood and funding, helping these groups in the resettlement of terrorist elements in the south⁸.

Recommendations

Finally, Maat affirms that human trafficking has become a form of contemporary slavery, and that governments, society and international bodies are unable to address the problem at its root. Which is the reason for the worsening of these situations, especially as there are thousands of women, men and children driven by their deteriorating economic conditions, natural disasters and crises, or simply the desire to improve their living conditions, to be subjected to human trafficking and exploitation by criminal gangs. Accordingly, Maat recommends the following:

To enforce the international conventions that call for combating the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings and to provide material and technical support to governments in order to combat and eliminate this phenomenon.

To adopt a long-term global strategy in the context of counter-terrorism and extremism, to ensure the ultimate elimination of human trafficking and international action to stop the causes of such a phenomenon.

The Human Rights Council has taken serious steps towards state sponsors of terrorism in order to curb the incursion of mercenaries and to cut off the supply and supply of mercenaries to eliminate human trafficking, not just issuing condemnations or issuing verbal warnings that do not produce concrete results on the ground.

The international community and UN agencies should punish countries that support armed militias involved in human trafficking, conduct further investigations into Qatar's support for terrorist groups in Libya and Chad, hold all those responsible for human rights violations resulting from such support to accountability and impose international sanctions on them.

To resolve the dispute in Libya and to hand over power to a unified government in order to ensure control of Libyan borders and ports, to combat armed militias involved in human trafficking, to expand training of the Libyan Coast Guard to reduce illegal migration and to adopt plans that upgrade the Libyan immigration detention centers and enable the Libyan security forces to control militia-controlled positions.

⁸ المصدر السابق نفسه.