



Libya: Thousands of Refugees in Life-Threatening

HRLHA Urgent Action

September 24, 2013

For Immediate Release

The Human Rights League of the Horn of Africa (HRLHA) has learnt through its correspondents that hundreds of thousands of refugees in Libya, most of whom were from the Horn of African countries such as Ethiopian and Eritrea, are in a very dangerous situation after they were evicted from their original refugee camps in Benghazi, Libya where they stayed for the past three years. The eviction took place following the infiltration and assault of the refugees by who were described as workers of the Libyan Red Crescent on the 13th of September, 2013. The assault included beating and stabbings by knives. Those who broke out of the shelters to run away from the assaults were met with Libyan armed forces that were stationed around the camps prior to the starting of the assault. Then, the refugees were forced out of the camp on allegations that they attempted to instigate disturbances in the city, and taken to remote area known as Alshatti.

According to HRLHA correspondents, about 500 refugees are now held in what was known to be a private detention centre in Alshatti located on Sahara Desert border with no adequate supply of basic necessities. HRLHA has also learnt that the very adverse weather condition at Alshatti has worsened the situation to the refugees. Even two expecting women who delivered after arriving in Alshatti and their newly born infants were not treated differently. The fact that the refugees are now held in isolation where they are not visited by international agencies like the UN High Commission for Refugees and the ICRC until this Urgent Action is documented, as they used to when they were sheltered in Benghazi, added to the very unfriendly living condition has raised their frustrations. The refugees who were contacted by HRLHA also mention that there have been detachments and disconnections among refugees who had acquaintances and/or relationships with each other. Most of the refugees who were taken to Alshatti are originally from Ethiopia and Eritrea, HRLHA correspondents have added.

The HRLHA managed to obtain the names of the following 33 refugees:

No	Name	Country of origin
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1	Foad Kasim	Ethiopian, Oromo,
2	Abdi Nagassa	Ethiopia, Oromo
3	Derje Gezahegn	Ethiopia, Amhara
4	Dereje Tefera	Ethiopia, Amhara
5	Abdulhamid Abdurahiman	Ethiopia, Oromo
6	Nuredin Haji	Ethiopia, Oromo
7	Mulatu Kassa	Ethiopia, Amhara
8	Abdurahiman Jailan	Ethiopia, Oromo
9	Aman Amid	Ethiopia, Oromo
10	Nahom Gebre Mariam	Eritrea
11	Hani Gebre Nugus	Ertrea
12	Umar Mohamed	Ertrea
13	Wubshet Tesfaye	Ethiopia, Amhara
14	Abdi Husein	Ethiopia, Oromo
15	Mohamed Lencho	Ethiopia, Oromo
16	Husein Abdulkadir	Ethiopia, Oromo
17	Wazir Awol	Ethiopia, Oromo
18	Husein Ahmed	Ethiopia, Oromo
19	Amadu Tesema	Ethiopia. Amhara
20	Tekie Girmay	Eritrea
21	Abdulmohamed Nur	Ertirea

22	Naigzi Goyitom	Eritrea
23	Nigusu Abriham	Eritrea
24	Saladin Mohamed	Eritrea
25	Mohamed Sale	Eritrea
26	Abel Tadesse	Ethiopia, Amhara
27	Gemed Fikadu	Ethiopia, Amhara
28	Yusuf Tahir	Ethiopia, Oromo
29	Abduzamed Mohamed	Ethiopia, Oromo
30	Aliyi Haji	Ethiopia, Oromo
31	Awol Adam	Ethiopia, Oromo
32	Selemon Desta	Ethiopia, Amhara
33	Kedir Mohamed	Ethiopia, Oromo

HRLHA is highly concerned about the safety and future fates of those asylum seekers and refugees in such an isolated and disconnected socio-political environment. Therefore, HRLHA calls up on the Libyan Government, first of all to ensure the safety and well being of the refugees and asylum seekers by providing full protection against any kind of attacks from any side or angle and allow access to the new location to the representatives of regional and international UN and humanitarian agencies as well as media organizations so that they could receive all the supports they need especially to bring their refugee lives to an end.

The HRLHA also urges all national, regional and international human rights groups, donor countries and organizations to join hands in putting pressure on the Libyan government so that it abides by the international norms, the 1951 International Convention of the refugees and asylum seekers and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights article 14 (1) “ Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.”

Recommendation:

Please send appeals to the Libyan Government, concerned Libyan officials and to diplomatic representatives of Libya who are accredited to your country as swiftly as possible, in English, in Berber or Libyan Arabic Language, or in your own language expressing:

Your concern regarding the mistreatment of asylum seekers and refugees in Libya and they should be treated according to the 1951 International Convention of the refugees and asylum seekers and other international norms of refugee and asylum seekers rights.

Appeal to:

1. His Excellency Dr. Ali Zidan Prime Minister of Libya

Tel: +218(21) 444 3700, Fax: +218 (21) 360 0889

2. His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Abdul-Aziz Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Libya

Tel: 22 - 2921 340 21 218

Copied To:

- ❖ UNHCR main office Geneva, Switzerland.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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Suisse. telephone number: +41 22 739 8111

- ❖ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Palais Wilson , 52 rue des Pâquis

CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland Telephone: +41 22 917 9656

Mail: civilsocietyunit@ohchr.org

- ❖ African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

48 Kairaba Avenue, P.O.Box 673, Banjul, The Gambia.

Tel: (220) 4392 962 , 4372070, 4377721 – 23

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- ❖ Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights Council of Europe

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