



### [UN Accuses EU of Supporting Groups Responsible for Crimes Against Humanity in Libya](#)

In the heart of North Africa's complex political landscape lies Libya, a nation plagued by continuing conflict and humanitarian crises. New evidence reveals that the European Union's support for Libyan forces may have inadvertently aided in the perpetuation of crimes against migrants and native Libyans, further exacerbating the already dire situation. This article seeks to analyze and expose the tangled web of complicity and human rights violations that have unfolded in Libya. UN inspectors have uncovered proof of crimes against humanity, including the enslavement of women, being perpetrated against both Libyans and migrants trapped in the country. The European Union has come under fire from investigators commissioned by the UN Human Rights Council for backing Libyan forces implicated in these heinous acts. The investigators express grave concern over the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in war-torn Libya, highlighting a myriad of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by both armed militia groups and state security personnel. Their comprehensive report, which concludes a nearly three-year fact-finding mission, is based on interviews with hundreds of individuals, including migrants and witnesses.

The investigators have collected over 2,800 pieces of evidence detailing widespread instances of arbitrary imprisonment, murder, torture, rape, enslavement, sexual slavery, extrajudicial killings, and forced disappearances. These findings confirm the rampant nature of such crimes within Libya's borders. In recent years, Libya has emerged as a major transit point for migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Africa, seeking passage to Europe. Human rights organizations and activists have long decried the appalling conditions these individuals face. According to the report, "there are reasonable grounds to believe that migrants across Libya are victims of crimes against humanity." The Libyan coast guard, which has received longstanding support from the EU, is singled out as particularly problematic. Investigator Chaloka Beyani explains that the EU's assistance to the Libyan coast guard in terms of pull-backs, pushbacks, and interceptions has led to human rights violations. Migrants should not be forced back to dangerous locations, yet the Libyan waters remain perilous for embarkation.

Although Beyani states that the EU's support has "helped and encouraged the conduct of the crimes," the European Union and its member states have not been found liable for war crimes. However, the troubling reality of the deprivation of liberty experienced by migrants and Libyan citizens across the nation remains a critical concern. The investigators discovered countless instances of human rights abuses in detention facilities throughout Libya. Detainees often suffered torture, solitary confinement, and were held incommunicado, all while being denied access to basic necessities, medical care, legal counsel, and communication with their families. The fear of retaliation, arrest, extortion, and distrust of the legal system has led the majority of survivors to refrain from filing official complaints. The findings of the investigation point to a concerted effort by Libyan authorities, particularly those in the security sector, to suppress civil society opposition. By restricting the rights to assembly, association, expression,

and belief, the authorities aim to enforce obedience, instill self-serving values, and punish criticism of their leadership.

In the wake of Muammar Gaddafi's fall in 2011, Libya has been left grappling with a devastating power vacuum, resulting in a nation fractured between opposing governments in the east and west. The humanitarian crisis that has ensued casts a dark shadow over the lives of countless innocent civilians, both native Libyans and migrants passing through. The harrowing consequences of this crisis are far-reaching, spilling over to neighboring countries and sending shockwaves throughout the international community. As the situation continues to spiral downward, the plight of the most vulnerable becomes increasingly dire. It is imperative that the international community not only reevaluates its support for Libyan forces but also takes a comprehensive approach to address the root causes of this crisis. This includes promoting political dialogue and reconciliation, supporting the establishment of stable governance, and investing in sustainable development initiatives that can help rebuild the nation's social fabric.

Moreover, the world must not turn a blind eye to the atrocities being committed in Libya. The international community has a moral obligation to hold those responsible for human rights abuses accountable and to ensure that justice is served. It is crucial to provide humanitarian aid and assistance to those affected by the crisis, including refugees and internally displaced persons, to help alleviate their suffering and provide hope for a brighter future. The humanitarian crisis engulfing Libya serves as a stark reminder of the fragility of peace, the importance of good governance, and the devastating consequences of unchecked violence. As the world bears witness to the ongoing human rights abuses and suffering endured by the most vulnerable, it is crucial that the international community takes decisive action to not only mitigate the current crisis but also lay the groundwork for a more stable, inclusive, and prosperous Libya. Only through collective effort and unwavering commitment can we hope to bring about a brighter future for all Libyans and contribute to the broader stability of the Middle East and North Africa.