



[Eastern Libyan Forces Stage Mass Deportation of Migrants](#)

Forces in Eastern Libya have forcibly removed over 2,000 migrants with the majority holding Egyptian nationality. These deportations follow a recent uptrend in severe measures to prohibit illegal border crossings and occupation within the country. Libya serves as a hotspot for migration between the Middle East and Africa to Europe. A sequence of raids was conducted in Musaid and other Eastern Libyan areas, with some resulting in shootouts between traffickers and authorities. Of the 4,000 migrants found, over 2,000 were identified as Egyptian. These migrants were returned to about 2km from the Egyptian border and forced to re-enter on foot. Other migrants, holding nationalities from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sudan, and other states were relocated to Qanfouda detention center and are currently undergoing the deportation process.

Due to the influx of migrants within the country, this instance serves as just one example of the government's attempts to hinder migration to Europe. Following the raids, a harbor used for migrant traffic was destroyed by authorities. Boat travel is one of the primary methods of illegal migration, as most voyages are incredibly dangerous in attempts to complete travel to Europe. Crossing the Mediterranean Sea, often on ill-equipped boats and rafts, poses an immense threat for wrecks and drowning-related incidents. The primary immigration point, Italy, has seen an uptick in these attempts this year, mirroring both increased migration efforts and Libyan deterrence and deportation. As the UNHCR reports, Libyan crackdown efforts have resulted in the detention of 1,800 migrants in the past month. Accusations of abuse have become increasingly frequent in many of the detention centers. With Libya being home to almost half a million migrants total, both trafficking and apprehension appear to be simultaneously growing as deterrence efforts increase to counteract illegal border crossing, both being at the expense of migrant safety.

Libya and European Union nations have supported an increase in migrant deterrence and detention efforts. These have come under criticism from the United Nations in recent months for human rights violations committed. Many EU states, including Italy, have begun funding Libyan authority forces for coastguard training efforts in a crackdown on migrants that return them to detention centers within Libya, which the UN cites as the site of the violations. While the UN has regarded this support from European nations as "aiding and abetting" the infringement of migrants' human rights, an EU spokesperson regarded this support as training for security that upholds the rights of migrants in the process. However, with multiple accounts of physical and verbal violence within detention centers, the alternative solution of making the voyage across the Mediterranean holds equally as futile protection for migrants. In April of this year, dozens of deceased migrants were recovered off of the Libyan coast after a failed attempt to make the trek across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. With this adding to the total of over 500 migrant deaths from sea travel-related instances, the safety of refugees at all stages of the migration process remains in jeopardy.

With the continued funding from European powers for migrant deterrence and detention programs in conjunction with the pre-existing unsafe trafficking processes, the continued destruction of safe procedures and protections leaves the migrant in a threatened position from all perspectives. Without safe measures put in place within detention centers to prohibit and prosecute violations in addition to new avenues of safe migration, migrants are exposed to violence throughout the entire migration process. Many illegal trafficking work to maximize their profits subjecting the migrants to perilous conditions. As the continued destruction of safe migration options becomes mitigated, migrants are forced to turn to these avenues as their only opportunity of improving their condition, losing their autonomy within the greater situation at play. Being forced to adapt to more dangerous methods of travel and transportation, they are vulnerable to their preservation of self and life. With the increase in crackdowns such as the most recent in Eastern Libya, it is migrants who are inevitably stuck within their current condition, as the threat of violence and death appears upon every avenue.