

Report

Libya: Nationality, Registration and Documents

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This report is written by country analysts from Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. It covers topics that are relevant for status determination of Libyan and non-Libyan citizens whose asylum claims are based on the situation in Libya. The target audience is case workers/officers within the decision-making authorities handling asylum claims as well as policy makers in the four countries.

The report is based on carefully selected and referenced sources of information. To the extent possible and unless otherwise stated, all information presented, except for undisputed or obvious facts, has been cross-checked.

While the information contained in this report has been researched, evaluated and analysed with utmost care, this document does not claim to be exhaustive, neither is it conclusive as to the determination or merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

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The research for this report was finalised in November 2014 and any event or development that has taken place after this date is not included in the report.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report is a result of a cooperation project between the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) in Belgium, the Country of Origin Information Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands, the Office for Country Information and Language Analysis (OCILA) of the Ministry of Security and Justice in the Netherlands, Landinfo in Norway and Lifos in Sweden.

The purpose of the project is to present information on the current situation in Libya on selected topics, and is intended to serve the information needs for the assessment of asylum and immigration cases, as well as issues concerning the return of rejected applicants to Libya.

The topics in focus are described in six different reports:

- Security Situation
- Vulnerable Groups
- Militias, Tribes and Islamists
- Judiciary and Security Sector
- Nationality, Registration and Documents

Some issues will be covered in more than one report, as they are interrelated and necessary for the context.¹ In the reports we make use of a transcription scheme for words and names from Arabic to English.²

Since the end of the former regime, there has been much focus on the political development and the security situation in the country, reflected both in media coverage and reports and commentaries published by think tanks, NGO's, aid agencies and other actors. However, despite a large flow of information coming out of Libya, there is a substantial lack of systematic reporting on most issues. When writing reports on the situation in Libya, the main challenge is to identify patterns in the plethora of anecdotal information. An additional challenge when reporting on issues that concern immigration and asylum authorities in European countries, is that these issues do not necessarily receive a lot of coverage at all, not even from other actors with a focus on the human rights situation.

The project mainly relies on written information from open sources. Additional information was gathered through contact with expert sources on Libya during the autumn of 2014. All quoted sources are provided in the sourced list. Some sources have asked to remain anonymous for reasons of security.

The reporting period is 1 October 2013 until 1 December 2014.

This report aims to provide information regarding the Libyan nationality, various kinds of registration procedures with the Libyan authorities concerning civil status and the personal documents that are most important for Libyan citizens throughout life.

Chapter two focuses on nationality issues. Chapter three concerns the national database as well as various civil registration procedures. A number of documents and the procedures to obtain them are described in chapter four. Chapter five (or annex) displays images of several personal Libyan documents and explains their content.

¹ Cross references between the project reports will refer to *Libya: Security Situation*, *Libya: Vulnerable Groups*, *Libya: Militias, Tribes and Islamists*, *Libya: Judiciary and Security Sector* and *Libya: Nationality, Registration and Documents*.

² Sada, Sada transliteration system for Arabic, no date.

The information for this report was mainly gathered from open sources (see section 6.1 Written Sources). In addition, interviews were conducted with different kinds of Libya(-n) experts and also with Libyan authorities (see section 6.2 Oral Sources).

2. NATIONALITY

In May 2010 'Law number (24) on The Libyan Nationality' was adopted.³ This law is currently still in force.

2.1 Right to Nationality

Article 2 of the Nationality Law stipulates that:

Every person with regular residency in Libya since 7 October 1951, without any other foreign nationality, is considered Libyan if one of the following conditions is applicable to him/her:

- He/she is born in Libya
- He/she is born outside Libya but one of his/her parents is born in Libya
- He/she is born outside Libya but resided regularly in Libya for a period not less than 10 years before 07/10/1951

Article 3 adds that a person is also considered Libyan if

- He/she is born in Libya to a Libyan father
- He/she is born outside Libya to a Libyan father
- He/she is born in Libya to a Libyan mother and a father that either has an unknown nationality or who's stateless. Or his/her parents are unknown

2.2 Renunciation and Loss of Nationality

No articles in the Libyan Nationality Law concern renunciation of Libyan nationality.

The Nationality Law states that a Libyan citizen can lose his/her nationality if he/she obtains a foreign nationality without prior permission of the Libyan authorities.⁴ Further information on how to obtain permission from the authorities is not provided in the law and has not been found elsewhere.

Also, obtaining the Libyan nationality based on false information, forged documents and/or withholding relevant information concerning one's nationality is one of the reasons mentioned that could lead to revoking the Libyan nationality by the authorities.⁵ Furthermore, if a father loses his Libyan nationality, consequently so do his children.⁶ What happens if the mother is Libyan as well and how this relates to the last bullet under article 3, as mentioned in the section above, remains unclear.

³ Law Number (24) for 2010/1378 on the Libyan Nationality, 28 May 2010.

⁴ Law Number (24) for 2010/1378 on the Libyan Nationality, 28 May 2010, art. 5.

⁵ Law Number (24) for 2010/1378 on the Libyan Nationality, 28 May 2010, art. 12-13.

⁶ Law Number (24) for 2010/1378 on the Libyan Nationality, 28 May 2010, art. 12; Open Society Institute (OSI), *Citizenship Law in Africa: A Comparative Study – Updates and corrections*, 21 December 2010.

Article 13 of the Nationality Law states two more reasons for Libyan nationality to be revoked: 1) if within ten years of obtaining nationality the person has acted against the interests of Libya, 2) if the person within those ten years has resided outside Libya for reasons that were not approved by the authorities. Possible reasons that could be approved or disapproved of are not listed in the law.

2.3 Reacquisition of Nationality

According to article 8 of the Law on Nationality, it is possible to reacquire the Libyan nationality for a person who obtained nationality of the country he/she emigrated to. The person needs to submit documents that prove his/her Libyan origin.

Article 7 lists the following conditions for establishing Libyan origin:

- Proof of Libyan origin depends on authenticated documents
- Libyan authorities will issue a decision on the needed documents to prove Libyan origin; witness testimonies are not considered proof.
- The applicant for Libyan nationality must be registered in the registry of Libyan authorities in the country that he immigrated to and resided in.

More information on the exact procedure to reacquire Libyan nationality has not been found.

2.4 Dual Nationality

It is legally possible for Libyans to have dual nationality. The Nationality Law stipulates that a Libyan citizen can obtain permission from the Libyan government to acquire a foreign nationality.⁷ No articles in the Nationality Law concern renunciation of Libyan nationality. Article 11 might be interpreted as a possibility for dual nationality for children of a Libyan mother who is married to a non-Libyan father.⁸

Dual nationality is in fact very common in Libya. Many ministers and other influential people are dual nationals. One source speaks of tens of thousands of dual nationals who were forced to flee Libya during the Qadhafi regime because they faced persecution.⁹

Currently there seems to be a national discussion regarding the position in post-Qadhafi Libya of those Libyans who do have dual nationality.¹⁰ The discussion is about whether or not dual nationals should be allowed to acquire important positions. In August 2014 a law was passed by the National Congress that disallows people with dual nationality to hold the position of speaker of congress or that of his deputy. Also, members of Congress with non-Libyan spouses cannot occupy high posts, according to the new law. Congress wishes to extend this law to include government officials and officials in the near future.¹¹

⁷ Law Number (24) for 2010/1378 On The Libyan Nationality, 28 May 2010, art. 5; Migration Policy Centre, *Migration Profile Libya*, June 2013.

⁸ The translation of article 11 reads: "Children of Libyan women from none Libyan nationals could have the Libyan nationality. The executive rules govern the implementation of this section to be issued."; Law Number (24) for 2010/1378 On The Libyan Nationality, 28 May 2010, art. 11.

⁹ The Tripoli Post, *Opinion: Libya's dual divide: Ex-patriates Aren't Welcome in the "New Libya"*, 28 January 2012.

¹⁰ The Tripoli Post, *Opinion: Libya's dual divide: Ex-patriates Aren't Welcome in the "New Libya"*, 28 January 2012.

¹¹ Libya Herald, *Dual nationality law narrows choices for the next prime minister*, 13 August 2012; The Tripoli Post, *Opinion: Libya's dual divide: Ex-patriates Aren't Welcome in the "New Libya"*, 28 January 2012.

One source mentions that dual Libyan-American nationals may not enter or leave Libya on their U.S. passports and must obtain a Libyan travel document before travelling to Libya. This automatically means that the local authorities will treat them as Libyans despite their other nationality.¹² It seems likely that the same goes for people with other than American nationalities, but no information was found to corroborate this.

2.5 Right for Libyan Women to Pass on Nationality

According to article 3 of the Nationality Law, a Libyan mother can only pass on her nationality to her child if the child is born in Libya and the father's nationality is either unknown or he is stateless. This article in fact excludes children of Libyan mothers and non-Libyan fathers from Libyan citizenship.¹³ This, however, seems to contradict article 11 which states that the children of a Libyan mother who is married to a non-Libyan can obtain Libyan nationality. No information has been found on what happens in a situation like this in practise.

It remains ambiguous what the actual rights of Libyan women are regarding the possibility to pass on their nationality to their children if their husbands are not Libyan. Different sources have different interpretations of these articles.¹⁴ No information regarding the actual implementation of these articles has been found. This seems to support the suggestion by one media source that the Ministry of Interior is so far refusing to put the law in this regard into practise.¹⁵

2.6 Mixed Marriages

2.6.1 Libyan Men with Foreign Spouses

Libyan men can get married to non-Libyan women without restrictions.¹⁶ Their children are automatically considered Libyan.¹⁷ This is even the case if they are born abroad and never obtained a Libyan birth certificate or passport, according to one source.¹⁸

Foreign women married to Libyan men can apply for Libyan nationality when they have been married for more than two years.¹⁹ Several sources mention that foreign women (used to) have to renounce their nationality before acquiring the Libyan one.²⁰

¹² The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), *Libya 2014 Crime and Safety Report*, 30 April 2014, p. 5.

¹³ Access to Justice and Institutional Development in Libya (AJIDIL) Research Project / Van Vollenhoven Instituut (Leiden University The Netherlands), *Searching for justice in Post-Gaddafi Libya*, July 2013, p. 116; Human Rights Watch, *A Revolution for All Women's Rights in the New Libya*, 1 May 2013, p. 31.

¹⁴ Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Step Ahead for Women on Nationality Rights*, 2 September 2010; Human Rights Watch, *A Revolution for All Women's Rights in the New Libya*, 1 May 2013, p. 31; Open Society Institute (OSI), *Citizenship Law in Africa: A Comparative Study – Updates and corrections*, 21 December 2010; US Department of State, *2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Libya*, 27 February 2014, p. 25; Libya Herald, *Law 24, citizenship legislation still waiting to happen*, 30 June 2013; The Advocates for Human Rights and Mobilising for Rights Associates, *LIBYA Stakeholder Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review 22nd Session of the Working Group on the UPR Human Rights Council April–May 2015*, September 2014.

¹⁵ Libya Herald, *Law 24, citizenship legislation still waiting to happen*, 30 June 2013.

¹⁶ US Department of State, *2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Libya*, 27 February 2014, p. 25.

¹⁷ *Law Number (24) for 2010/1378 On The Libyan Nationality*, 28 May 2010, art. 2-4.

¹⁸ The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), *Libya 2014 Crime and Safety Report*, 30 April 2014, p. 5.

¹⁹ *Law Number (24) for 2010/1378 On The Libyan Nationality*, 28 May 2010, art. 10.

Palestinian women married to Libyan men can also acquire Libyan nationality (unlike Palestinian men married to Libyan women).²¹

2.6.2 Libyan Women with Foreign Spouses

Libyan women must obtain permission from the government to marry non-Libyan men, according to one source. It also states that they are often confronted with difficulties and harassment when trying to get the permission.²² Information on the procedure of obtaining the government permission has not been found.

In 2013 the grand mufti, Sheikh Sadeq al-Ghariani, issued a fatwa against Libyan women marrying foreigners, claiming the foreigners married Libyan women and made them convert to other religions. The Ministry of Social Affairs endorsed the fatwa by suspending issuance of marriage licences.²³ Suspension of the marriage licences is meant to be a temporary measure until proper laws and regulations are in place. No information was found regarding cancellation of it which suggests there are still no marriage licences issued until today.

The previous nationality law and its amendments made it possible for Libyan women to marry foreigners without losing their Libyan nationality, but they could not pass it on to their children, according to Human Rights Watch.²⁴ This made it impossible for these families to obtain the official documentation they needed to gain access to state services like medical care, subsidized food and allowances the state would grant after a child was born.²⁵

As stated above, Libyan women cannot pass their nationality on to their husbands, and it remains unclear whether or not they can give their children Libyan nationality. Palestinian men are specifically mentioned in the Nationality law as being unable to obtain Libyan nationality even if they are married to Libyan women.²⁶

3. REGISTRATION

3.1 National Database

In February 2013 the Libyan government announced the plan to build a new national information infrastructure or database, the National Identity Number System (NID). The system is said to be based on the new National Identity Number, which in turn is

²⁰ MPC, *Migration Profile Libya*, June 2013, p. 10; *Nationality Act 1980, Law number (18) for the year 1980*, 6 December 1980, art. 5c.

²¹ *Law Number (24) for 2010/1378 On The Libyan Nationality*, 28 May 2010, article 9.

²² US Department of State, *2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Libya*, 27 February 2014, p. 25.

²³ Al-Monitor, *Women's rights still lacking in Libya*, 25 November 2013; Libya Herald, *Ban Libyan women from marrying foreigners: Grand Mufti*, 31 March 2013; Libya Herald, *Government backs Mufti's call for foreign marriage ban*, 14 April 2013.

²⁴ Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Step Ahead for Women on Nationality Rights*, 2 September 2010.

²⁵ Freedom House, *Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa: Progress Amid Resistance – Libya*, 2010; Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Step Ahead for Women on Nationality Rights*, 2 September 2010; Libya Herald, *Law 24, citizenship legislation still waiting to happen*, 30 June 2013.

²⁶ *Law Number (24) for 2010/1378 On The Libyan Nationality*, 28 May 2010, art. 9.

based on records of approximately 400 offices of the Civil Registry Authority across the country.²⁷

Each municipality has its civil registration office where birth, marriage, divorce and death must be registered. The civil registry records are known to consist of many unauthenticated family books and records. The Libya Herald has published a few articles that mentions the bad state of civil registry records as a reason for the newspaper's scepticism about the new system.²⁸

In February 2013 it was announced that the system was completed and that all civil registry offices in the country were interlinked by computer.²⁹ The NID is meant to simplify the application procedures for obtaining civil registry documents for all citizens, and to help reduce fraud in regards to benefits, allowances and issuance of documents.³⁰

With this system citizens should also be able to inquire about their personal details from any civil registration office in the country as well as from banks and other (state) institutions.³¹ Based on this new system, passports and other documents such as driver's licences and identity cards can be issued.³²

The Libyan authorities seem determined to improve the databases and archives of the Civil Registry Authority. The issuance of the electronic passport, the national identity number and a newly announced Family Smart Card to replace the current family book are considered part of the improvements on a national level.³³

The NID is linked to Libya's border control points, according to deputy minister Al-Gadi. This way the system can monitor all border control points. It will also provide for all foreigners arriving in Libya to have their photos taken (and registered) upon arrival. Patrols can easily check the central database on the status of foreigners by text message. All Libyan embassies abroad are to be linked to the system.³⁴ No information was found to confirm if embassies have indeed been linked to the system. A recent tweet, however, shows and describes how passport control for foreigners at Mitiga airport is performed at a desk in the middle of a hall where registration is done

²⁷ Libya Herald, *Libya's national ID number and e-passport projects*, 19 February 2013; Libya Herald, *Libya's new biometric passport officially revealed*, 8 February 2013; Libya Herald, *"The new National Identity Number has been issued to over 6 million Libyans": Deputy Prime Minister Abdulsalam Al-Gadi*, 8 February 2013; Security Document World, *Libya set for biometric passports*, 11 February 2013.

²⁸ Libya Herald, *Identity numbers department to come under direct Cabinet control*, 2 March 2012; Libya Herald, *Libya's national ID number and e-passport projects*, 19 February 2013.

²⁹ Libya Herald, *Libya's new biometric passport officially revealed*, 8 February 2013; Libya Herald, *"The new National Identity Number has been issued to over 6 million Libyans": Deputy Prime Minister Abdulsalam Al-Gadi*, 8 February 2013.

³⁰ Foreign Policy, *Libya takes steps to fight corruption*, 28 May 2013.

³¹ Libya Herald, *"The new National Identity Number has been issued to over 6 million Libyans": Deputy Prime Minister Abdulsalam Al-Gadi*, 8 February 2013; Libyan Government, website for the National Number Project, *The objectives of the national number*.

³² BiometricUpdate.com, *Libya unveils biometric passport*, 11 February 2013; Foreign Policy, *Libya takes steps to fight corruption*, 28 May 2013; Libya Herald, *"The new National Identity Number has been issued to over 6 million Libyans": Deputy Prime Minister Abdulsalam Al-Gadi*, 8 February 2013.

³³ Libya Herald, *Civil Registry to introduce "Family Smart Card"*, 22 November 2014.

³⁴ Libya Herald, *Libya's new biometric passport officially revealed*, 8 February 2013.

manually.³⁵ One source who had been to the Libyan-Egyptian border in November 2014 had observed that no official authorities were in sight at all.³⁶

3.2 Access to Registration and Documents

According to Libyan authorities, everyone is registered at birth. Most people are born in a hospital where births are registered automatically.³⁷ Only when a person is registered at a civil registry office he/she can apply for documentation.

However, in the Qadhafi era it was close to impossible for nomadic minorities in the south of the country like the Amazigh, Tuareg and Tebu to obtain citizenship, even if they were born in the country and had proof thereof.³⁸ Many Tebu had their citizenship revoked by Qadhafi.³⁹ Having no proper documentation meant for example that they were denied access to health care and education. The post-Qadhafi governments are said to treat them in equally negative terms, however, these days they are fighting for their right to reacquire their nationality or to obtain it for the first time.⁴⁰

Displaced people and Libyan women married to foreigners have limited or no access at all to certain documentation, which denies them access to certain state allowances, subsidized food and the right to vote for example.⁴¹

3.3 Cross-checking of Information

In May 2013 Libyan authorities stated that the new National Identity Numbers (NINs) were only issued to those whose papers at the civil registry were completely in order. Any inconsistency in for example name or date of birth would delay the process and the NIN would not be issued until it was all sorted.⁴²

Documents are normally checked by the municipalities when someone applies for a passport from abroad. It seems logical that the municipality would crosscheck the different documents in case someone applies for his/her NIN as well. According to one source, however, the NINs were assigned based on the records of civil registration offices, and the physical presence of the concerned citizen was not requested.⁴³

³⁵ Jawad, R., *Passport control Maitiga airport 4 foreigners is a desk in mid of hall-'immigration official' records manually #libya*, 31 August 2014.

³⁶ Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014.

³⁷ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014; Hospital registration is not the same as registration with the civil registry's office. See also section 3.7 for more detailed information.

³⁸ Aljazeera, *Libya's Tebu tribe hopes for lasting peace*, 3 December 2012; FT Magazine, *Libya's badlands*, 10 January 2014; IRIN News, *Analysis: Libyan minority rights at a crossroads*, 24 May 2012.

³⁹ Aljazeera, *Libya's Tebu tribe hopes for lasting peace*, 3 December 2012.

⁴⁰ Aljazeera, *Libya's Tebu tribe hopes for lasting peace*, 3 December 2012; Elle.Horeya, *Tabu protesting at Sarir oil field, blocking road btw Kufra & Ojelah. Demand national ID number ie. #Libya citizenship*, 23 November 2013; FT Magazine, *Libya's badlands*, 10 January 2014.

⁴¹ Freedom House, *Women's Rights in the Middle East and North Africa: Progress Amid Resistance – Libya*, 2010; IRIN News, *Analysis: Libyan minority rights at a crossroads*, 24 May 2012.

⁴² Libya Herald, *New ID numbers "issued to over 80 percent of population"*, 6 May 2013.

⁴³ Libya Herald, *"The new National Identity Number has been issued to over 6 million Libyans": Deputy Prime Minister Abdulsalam Al-Gadi*, 8 February 2013.

3.4 Corruption, Falsification and Repercussions

The previous regime is known to have had major problems with identity fraud, nepotism and corruption.⁴⁴ Documents at the time hardly had any security features, if any at all, and they were usually handwritten.⁴⁵ Information on the subject of fraud and corruption, in particular regarding civil registration and the obtaining of documents is scarce. One source mentions hearing of reports that the Libyan authorities did issue genuine documents with false information, possibly for a fee. It would also have been possible to have (family) connections arrange for documents this way. Still, according to the same source, Libya was not a centre for production of false documents at that time.⁴⁶

Family books were often forged during the Qadhafi era.⁴⁷ A plan announced in November 2014 by the Civil Registry Authority to replace the current family books with a “Family Smart Card” is part of a wider initiative to reduce fraud, duplication and corruption. This, together with issuance of the national identity number should reduce identity and nationality fraud as well as the fraudulent collecting of duplicate salaries and state benefits and allowances.⁴⁸ One source mentions reports of government officials hinting at abuse of the system coming from within.⁴⁹

Shortly before the fall of the Qadhafi regime in 2011 thousands of Libyan identity cards and passports were distributed by the regime to non-Libyans. This was supposedly done in an attempt to gain numerical and military support in its final days.⁵⁰

Even though the law stipulates criminal penalties for corruption by officials – stipulations are general and not specifically targeting registration and documentation – no effective implementation has been noticed. On the contrary, government corruption was regularly reported and there are no indications that it has been reduced, according to several oral sources.⁵¹ Libya has an anti-corruption commission with two hundred employees, according to one media source, but it is considered ineffective by diplomats and activists. The source continues that the country has become even more corrupt since the fall of Qadhafi.⁵² Whether corruption occurs in regards to registration or obtaining documents is not specifically mentioned by this media source.

Corruption is indeed still rampant, mainly at top-levels, according to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). It is unclear what the scale of corruption is at lower levels, for instance amongst individual civil servants, judges, lawyers etc. A positive side-effect of corruption is that at least it ensures to a degree that certain documents are available, even if you have to acquire them through corrupt channels.⁵³

⁴⁴ Libya Herald, *Identity numbers department to come under direct Cabinet control*, 2 March 2012.

⁴⁵ US Embassy Tripoli, *Fraud summary – Tripoli – September 2009*, 30 September 2009, p. 1.

⁴⁶ US Embassy Tripoli, *Fraud summary – Tripoli – September 2009*, 30 September 2009, p. 1.

⁴⁷ Libya Herald, *Identity numbers department to come under direct Cabinet control*, 2 March 2012.

⁴⁸ Foreign Policy, *Libya takes steps to fight corruption*, 28 May 2013; Libya Herald, *Civil Registry to introduce “Family Smart Card”*, 22 November 2014.

⁴⁹ Foreign Policy, *Libya takes steps to fight corruption*, 28 May 2013.

⁵⁰ Libya Herald, *Identity numbers department to come under direct Cabinet control*, 2 March 2012.

⁵¹ Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014; US Department of State, *2013 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Libya*, 27 February 2014, p. 21.; UNSMIL, telephone interview, 12 November 2014.

⁵² Financial Times, *Insider takes on fight against corruption in Libya*, 22 December 2013.

⁵³ UNSMIL, telephone interview, 12 November 2014.

Transparency International ranks Libya on the 166th place (out of 175 countries) in its Corruption Perceptions Index for 2014 which studies how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be.⁵⁴ According to their Global Corruption Barometer for 2013, forty eight percent of respondents in Libya indicated that they consider public officials and civil servants to be corrupt/extremely corrupt. Fifty three percent admitted paying bribes to registry and permit services.⁵⁵

A different source states that less cases concerning corruption reach the courts now compared to the Qadhafi days. Corruption in the public administration is currently not followed up in court although prosecutors are said to collect evidence of the cases as an inventory for possible cases in the future.⁵⁶

With illegal migration to Europe from Libya currently at a peak, false Libyan documentation is reportedly available on the market for migrants. Prices in November 2013 were said to be approximately 150 Libyan dinar for an identity card, 1,000 Libyan dinar for a passport and a driving licence would cost approximately 70 Libyan dinar.⁵⁷

There have been a few reports in the media regarding people getting arrested with forged Libyan passports, both old and new style, and also forged Libyan visa in several countries.⁵⁸ Libyan authorities are said to have confirmed that the new Libyan passports caught were in fact counterfeit. As a result of forged documents that were detected in Morocco, the Moroccan authorities have set visa requirements for Libyans because they consider the passport situation in Libya a danger to the security of Northern African countries.⁵⁹ No further information was found on these cases. This is not the first time that the Libyan government has confirmed that many fraudulent passports are in circulation, especially outside Libya.⁶⁰

3.5 Destruction of Archives

No civil registration or immigration archives have been destroyed or lost since 2011, according to the Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands.⁶¹ No written sources were found to corroborate this.

⁵⁴ Transparency International, *Corruption by Country/Territory – Libya 2014*, no date.

⁵⁵ Transparency International, *Global Corruption Barometer 2013*, no date.

⁵⁶ Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014.

⁵⁷ Altai Consulting (for UNHCR), *Mixed Migration: Libya at the Crossroads – Mapping of Migration Routes from Africa to Europe and Drivers of Migration in Post-revolution Libya*, November 2013, p.50-51; According to xe.com, the mentioned prices converted to EUR at the exchange rate of November 2013 would be 1.63 Libyan dinar to 1 euro.

⁵⁸ Libya Herald, *161 Egyptians caught with forged entry visas*, 18 May 2014; Libya Herald, *Libyan passport "chaos" forced visa demand: Moroccan official*, 13 February 2014; Libya Herald, *Suspected passport forgers arrested in Egypt*, 24 March 2013; The Tripoli Post, *Police in Libya Detain Six Qataris Travelling with Libyan Passports*, 22 February 2014.

⁵⁹ Libya Herald, *Libyan passport "chaos" forced visa demand: Moroccan official*, 13 February 2014.

⁶⁰ Libya Herald, *"In a few weeks security will be fine and companies will be back"-Prime Minister Ali Zeidan*, 31 January 2014.

⁶¹ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

3.6 Registration of Religious Affiliation

A person declares his/her religious affiliation for it to be registered by Libyan authorities. Religious affiliation is included in several Libyan documents like the birth and death certificates, but also on application forms for identity cards and passports. The space behind 'religion' on the application form is open (no tick off boxes with a set number of fixed categories), but in principle applicants are expected to declare either Islam, Christianity or Judaism.⁶²

Religious affiliation does not appear on passports and identity cards. The information, however, is stored on the chip in the new documents, and is visible to those checking the documents with proper equipment.⁶³

3.7 Birth Registration

Birth registration must be done at a civil registry office of the municipality where the child is born within ten days after birth, as stipulated in law 36 of 1968 on Civil Status.⁶⁴ Delayed registration is punishable by fine, according to the law.⁶⁵

The Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands provided the following information on (requirements for) birth registration in and outside Libya.⁶⁶

3.7.1 Procedure to Register a Birth in Libya

Hospital registration is done automatically when a child is born there. Still, newborns must be registered at the civil registration office of the local municipality as well.

- Register where; at the civil registry office of the municipality of residence
- To submit;
 - A statement from the hospital where the child was born: all other information (about the parents) is already in the registry system, according to a Libyan source. According to a Libyan government website, a vaccination card for the newborn and the family book is to be submitted as well.⁶⁷
 - If a child is born outside a hospital, a statement from the 'community health' should be brought.⁶⁸
- Fee: for free⁶⁹

Registration is to be done in person by the father or someone else close to the family. A mother can also register her own child if she brings her family book.⁷⁰ The

⁶² Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

⁶³ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

⁶⁴ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 18-19; The original law in Arabic is included in the list of written sources in section 6.1.

⁶⁵ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 52.

⁶⁶ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

⁶⁷ Libyan Government, Civil Status Authority, *Birth registration*, 25 June 2014.

⁶⁸ Libyan Government, Civil Status Authority, *Birth registration*, 25 June 2014.

⁶⁹ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 22.

⁷⁰ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 22; Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

Law on Civil Status outlines who, in addition to the mother and father, are allowed to register a birth.⁷¹

3.7.2 Procedure to Register a Birth Abroad

The birth of Libyan citizens abroad must also be reported within ten days.⁷²

- Register where; at the Libyan embassy
- To submit;
 - Passports of both parents
 - Original marriage contract of the parents or original family book
 - Original birth certificate of the country of residence and legalisation

The information, accompanied by a cover letter from the embassy, is sent to the civil registration office in Libya where it will be registered in the records of the municipality where the parents originates from.⁷³

Regarding a child born abroad, article 24 of the law only specifies a few exceptional situations and who is responsible for registration in those cases.

One can only assume that in all other cases, birth registration abroad, like in Libya, can be done by the father or the mother, provided that she brings her family book.⁷⁴ Specifics regarding other people that can register a birth are mentioned in the Law on Civil Status.⁷⁵

3.7.3 Procedure to Register a Birth by Non-Libyans in Libya⁷⁶

- Register where; at their national embassy in Tripoli
- To submit;
 - Information regarding the birth, including name, date and place of birth, and full names of parents

The embassy will then make a formal request to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to obtain the birth certificate from the municipality, probably of their place of residence.

Further information has not been found.

3.8 Registration of Children Born Out of Wedlock

When asked about registration of children born out of wedlock, the Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands stated that this can be done through the court of the (nearest) municipality where the mother is residing. The mother or her family can request registration. The court will conduct an investigation regarding the whereabouts of the father and his (possible) refusal to recognise the child. When permission from the court

⁷¹ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 20.

⁷² DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 24.

⁷³ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

⁷⁴ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 22; Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

⁷⁵ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 20.

⁷⁶ US Department of State, *Libya Country Reciprocity Schedule*, no date.

is obtained to register the child, the mother must choose a name for which she will need to obtain a separate permission.⁷⁷

A Libyan law professor mentioned that in practise, in case a single woman gets pregnant, the baby will probably be sent to an orphanage to save the family from shame and disgrace.⁷⁸ People believe that children are supposed to be born within a marriage. It really depends on the family and the social surroundings of the family what will happen with the baby (and the mother). Perhaps the family will take care of the baby. Adoption is not allowed in Libya. According to the professor, the problem of how to register an orphan is a point of discussion in the country. The child needs a name which normally directly shows the lineage.⁷⁹

The Law on Civil Status stipulates that illegitimate children can be registered after a request is submitted to a designated committee. The committee is to estimate the age of the child and name it. Because a name in Libya normally directly shows the lineage, the name as chosen by the committee must be communicated on the announcement board of the municipality for seven days to give people a chance to object. If no one does, it will be officially recorded at the civil registry.⁸⁰

Libya's Grand Mufti al-Ghariani issued a statement in March 2013 in which he criticized the UN Commission on the Status of Women (among other things) for their stance on rights for children who are born out of wedlock. Even though he did not specifically mention illegitimate children, his references to Islamic principles and the integrity of a family clearly refer to children born out of wedlock.⁸¹

3.9 Registration of Unregistered Persons and Foundlings

Article 24 of the Civil Status Law stipulates that unregistered individuals can be registered at a civil registry office after a committee of five designated people has given its approval. The committee will verify that the person is not registered yet and also estimate his/her age, upon which the individual will get his/her own record at the civil registry's office.⁸²

The procedure to register a foundling is more or less the same as the one for unregistered individuals. In case of a foundling, however, depending on the situation, the police, tribal chief or mukhtar as well as a foster home willing to take in the child must notify the civil registry. Besides estimating the child's age the committee must also give the child a full name. Normally, a name in Libya shows direct lineage. How the name is to be chosen is not specified in the law. Once a name is chosen it will be communicated on the announcement board of the municipality for seven days. Anyone can object to the name, but if no one does, it will be officially recorded at the civil registry.⁸³

Once an unregistered child or foundling is registered a birth certificate will be issued to him/her. If the child is taken into care of a family it will (also) be included in their

⁷⁷ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

⁷⁸ Libyan law professor, meeting in the Netherlands, 29 September 2014.

⁷⁹ Libyan law professor, meeting in the Netherlands, 29 September 2014.

⁸⁰ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 25-28.

⁸¹ Al-Monitor, *Women's rights still lacking in Libya*, 25 November 2013; Libyan Dar al-Ifta, *Fatwa statement about the United Nations document on violence against women*, 17 March 2013.

⁸² DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 25.

⁸³ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 26, 28.

family book. If the child stays alone (or in an orphanage), it will (only) receive a birth certificate. These children will not receive a family book until they get married.⁸⁴

3.10 National Identity Number (NIN)

The Qadhafi regime, already in 2009, reportedly planned to implement a 'National Identity Number'. The plan at the time was to assign each citizen a number that is meant to identify the person throughout his/her entire life from the moment of birth registration.⁸⁵ To obtain the number Libyans had to go to designated offices in person to have a photograph taken and to hand in a DNA sample.⁸⁶ The system was never fully completed. According to one source, the criteria for the number was purely based on security.⁸⁷

After the fall of Qadhafi the new government rolled out a new National Identity Number Project in 2013. Deputy Prime Minister Al-Gadi stated they had started from zero.⁸⁸ Information regarding the differences with the former project has not been found.

The Libyan National Identity Number Department, which is in charge of the project, at first operated under direct control of the Ministry of Interior, Cabinet Office, and was later transferred to the Prime Minister's Office.⁸⁹

The first NINs were issued in 2013. The Libyan government announced in February 2013 that the NID system had been completed and over six million Libyans would be provided with their NINs later that year. Only a few months later, in May 2013, it was said that eighty percent of Libyans had been issued their NINs.⁹⁰

The NIN is only issued to Libyan citizens. Foreign residents in Libya have their residence permits registered, but it is unknown if their registration comes with an individual registration number.⁹¹

Libyan authorities used a website and a Facebook profile to communicate with Libyan citizens about the project.⁹² The website (in Arabic) comprehensively explains the NIN and its goals, importance and benefits. It also provides details on where to inquire about the national identity number either by telephone or electronically.

According to the website, the NIN is a unique reference number (non-recurring) that is used in a national database which contains relevant data on citizens, including criminal records, passport and identity card applications, as well as applications for public

⁸⁴ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

⁸⁵ Libya Herald, *"The new National Identity Number has been issued to over 6 million Libyans": Deputy Prime Minister Abdulsalam Al-Gadi*, 8 February 2013; US Embassy Tripoli, *Fraud summary – Tripoli – September 2009*, 30 September 2009, p. 4.

⁸⁶ Libya Herald, *Identity numbers department to come under direct Cabinet control*, 2 March 2012.

⁸⁷ Libya Herald, *"The new National Identity Number has been issued to over 6 million Libyans": Deputy Prime Minister Abdulsalam Al-Gadi*, 8 February 2013.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Libya Herald, *Identity numbers department to come under direct Cabinet control*, 2 March 2012; Libya Herald, *"The new National Identity Number has been issued to over 6 million Libyans": Deputy Prime Minister Abdulsalam Al-Gadi*, 8 February 2013.

⁹⁰ Libya Herald, *New ID numbers "issued to over 80 percent of population"*, 6 May 2013.

⁹¹ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

⁹² For the government website: www.nid.gov.ly where a link to the Facebook profile can be found.

health and education.⁹³ The numbers are associated with personal files based on data already registered by the civil registry offices.⁹⁴ As far as known, the number itself only reveals a person's 'position' in the family; a father's number always ends with 1, a mother's number with 2, the first child with 3 and so on.⁹⁵ Other than that, the number does not reflect information about the holder of the NIN, like for example a birth date, gender or place of registration.⁹⁶

The objectives of introducing the NIN as listed on the website include building a national information infrastructure and improving the quality of civil service provided to citizens by state institutions. Another goal is to decrease the level of (state salary) fraud in the country.⁹⁷ This is suggested to be a reason why some Libyans avoid obtaining their NIN. Reportedly many Libyans have been claiming duplicate state salaries or grants which remained unnoticed due to the chaos the country found/finds itself in.⁹⁸ Abuse of 'militia salaries', the revolutionaries' grant programme and medical treatments for war wounded abroad, are mentioned in this context.⁹⁹ Furthermore abuse of subsidised food was/is an issue.¹⁰⁰

3.10.1 Access to NIN

Since everyone is registered at birth (see section 3.7.1) everyone has (the right to) a NIN, the Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands stated.¹⁰¹ According to the embassy, it is not possible for any Libyan not to be in possession of a NIN.

One source mentions that many Libyans in the south and east do not have their national identity numbers yet due to insecurity in their parts of the country.¹⁰² Already during the Qadhafi era it was close to impossible for some minorities to register as Libyan citizens.¹⁰³

⁹³ Libyan Government, Civil Registry Authority, *The national number project – What is the national number?* (in Arabic), no date.

⁹⁴ Libya Herald, *Libya's national ID number and e-passport projects*, 19 February 2013; Security Document World, *Libya set for biometric passports*, 11 February 2013.

⁹⁵ It is unknown if a NIN is meant to remain unchanged for one person all his life.

⁹⁶ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

⁹⁷ Libya Herald, *New ID numbers "issued to over 80 percent of population"*, 6 May 2013; Libyan Government, *The objectives of the national number*.

⁹⁸ Reuters, *Libyan election to go ahead next week despite political chaos*, 18 June 2014.

⁹⁹ Libya Herald, *New ID numbers "issued to over 80 percent of population"*, 6 May 2013; Several tweets by Mohamed Eljarh, 13 August 2014.

¹⁰⁰ Libyan Public Policy Forum/Revenue Watch Institute, *Subsidies in Libya – A systematic Problem*, 4 February 2014.

¹⁰¹ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹⁰² Reuters, *Libyan election to go ahead next week despite political chaos*, 18 June 2014.

¹⁰³ Aljazeera, *Libya's Tebu tribe hopes for lasting peace*, 3 December 2012; Elle.Horeya, *Tabu protesting at Sarir oil field, blocking road btw Kufra & Ojelah. Demand national ID number ie. #Libya citizenship*, 23 November 2013; FT Magazine, *Libya's badlands*, 10 January 2014; IRIN News, *Analysis: Libyan minority rights at a crossroads*, 24 May 2012, see also section 3.2

3.10.2 Procedure

Nowadays children are automatically issued a NIN upon birth registration.¹⁰⁴ When the NIN was first introduced in 2013 there were several options of how to obtain it:¹⁰⁵

1. Online: go to the project website and enter the (personal) registration number (from their registration with the municipality in Libya) and year of birth.¹⁰⁶ After having done so a personal national identity number will appear on the computer screen. Many Libyans print the certificate as it appears on screen and carry it with them to use for administrative purposes.¹⁰⁷
2. By sms: send an sms with the (personal) registration number (from their registration with the municipality in Libya) and year of birth to a designated telephone number. After having done so a personal national identity number will appear on the telephone screen.¹⁰⁸
3. By phone: supply the (personal) registration number (from their registration with the municipality in Libya) and year of birth and hear what the national identity number is.¹⁰⁹
4. Through the civil registry office: Employees of the civil registry will follow one of the procedures described above. By registering through the civil registry office people get a copy that is signed and stamped by the registry.¹¹⁰

Libyans abroad have to be registered with Libyan authorities in their country of residence to obtain their NIN.¹¹¹

3.11 Registration of Marriage

The Law on Civil Status stipulates that, within seven days after issuance, competent authorities or court registrars must submit marriage documents to the civil registry secretary of the jurisdiction in which the marriage took place. The local civil registry office will register the marriage in their records. If one spouse or both spouses are registered at another municipality, this municipality will be notified of the marriage by the civil registry's office.¹¹²

The Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands stated that both marriage and marriage contract must be drawn up by a certified marriage official of the court. The official has

¹⁰⁴ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹⁰⁵ Libya Herald, *New ID numbers "issued to over 80 percent of population"*, 6 May 2013.

¹⁰⁶ The personal registration number is the person's own personal number of registration at the civil registry as recorded in the family book; Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹⁰⁷ Libyan Government, website for the National Number Project, *Inquire about the national number*, 2013; Libyan law professor, meeting in the Netherlands, 29 September 2014.

¹⁰⁸ Libyan Government, website for the National Number Project, *Inquire about the national number*, 2013; Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹⁰⁹ Libya Herald, *New ID numbers "issued to over 80 percent of population"*, 6 May 2013.

¹¹⁰ Libyan law professor, meeting in the Netherlands, 29 September 2014.

¹¹¹ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹¹² DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 29-31.

his own register and he will give both spouses an original marriage contract (so two originals are issued) for civil registration.¹¹³

Law and practice can be inconsistent. No further information was found regarding execution of the law in practise. The information below which was retrieved from a government website suggests people do in practise register at the civil registry themselves.

3.11.1 Requirements to Register a Marriage of a Libyan Man to a Libyan Woman

On the website of the Libyan government there is no information available regarding the procedure or requirements for marriage registration between two Libyans.

The Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, however, stated that the procedure is the same as the one for a Libyan man/woman marrying a non-Libyan man/woman. The specific requirements for non-Libyans do not apply..¹¹⁴

Documents to submit include:

- Family Book in which the Libyan citizen is registered
- Marriage contract certified by an authorized Libyan marriage official

No further information was found regarding the procedure.

3.11.2 Requirements to Register a Marriage of a Libyan Man to a Non-Libyan Woman

The government website provides the following information regarding registration of marriages between Libyan men and non-Libyan women: ¹¹⁵

Required documents for registration:

- Family Book in which the Libyan citizen is registered
- Marriage contract certified by an authorized Libyan marriage official
- Approval of Social Affairs
- Declaration of conversion of wife to Islam if she was not a Muslim ¹¹⁶
- Registration of the wife in the foreign registration records of the civil registry
- A copy of the passport of the wife
- 4 photographs size 6x4
- Fee 22 dinar

3.11.3 Requirements to Register a Marriage of a Libyan Woman to a Non-Libyan Man

The government website provides the following information regarding registration of marriages between Libyan women and non-Libyan men: ¹¹⁷

¹¹³ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹¹⁴ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

¹¹⁵ Libyan Government, *Marriage Libyan man to non-Libyan woman*, 26 June 2014.

¹¹⁶ Why this is listed as a requirement is unclear. It is unnecessary according to Islamic principles, and the Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands stated never having heard of such a requirement; Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

¹¹⁷ Libyan Government, *Marriage Libyan woman to non-Libyan man*, 26 June 2014.

Required documents for registration:

- Family Book in which the Libyan wife is registered
- Marriage contract certified by an authorized Libyan marriage official
- Approval of Social Affairs
- Declaration of conversion of husband to Islam if he was not a Muslim
- Passport photo foreign spouse
- Fee is not mentioned

The website further mentions that a family document No. 14 for foreigners will be issued for the husband and not a family book.¹¹⁸

3.12 Registration of Divorce

On the government website which supplies information on requirements for various kinds of registrations at civil registry offices, no information regarding procedures or requirements for registration of divorce was found.

The Law on Civil Status describes the procedure for divorce in the exact same articles as the ones on marriage registration.¹¹⁹ Therefore, according to the law, competent authorities or court registrars must submit divorce documents they draw up within seven days after issuance to the civil registry secretary of the jurisdiction in which the divorce took place. The local civil registry office will register the divorce in their records. If one spouse or both spouses are registered at another municipality, this municipality will be notified of the divorce by the civil registry's office.

The Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands stated that the couple must have a divorce certificate drawn up by a certified official of the court together with a document that registers a financial agreement that includes for example alimony. After having obtained these documents, the couple goes to the civil registry office of their place of residence to have the divorce registered in the records.¹²⁰

Law and practice can be inconsistent. No further information was found regarding execution of the law in practise.

According to a UN CEDAW report:¹²¹

- A divorce shall occur with the consent of the husband and wife in the presence thereof or their attorneys who have been granted special power of attorney.
- A divorce that occurs with the consent of the husband and wife shall be documented before the competent court.

¹¹⁸ More information on 'family document No. 14 for foreigners' has not been found.

¹¹⁹ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 29-31.

¹²⁰ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

¹²¹ UN CEDAW, *Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - Combined second, third, fourth and fifth periodic reports of States parties - Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*, CEDAW/C/LBY/5, 4 December 2008, p. 37; the law in Arabic (*Law No. 10 of 1984 on Provisions Concerning Marriage, Divorce, and the Effects Thereof*) is included under in the list of written sources (section 6.1), a translation of this law was not found.

- If the two parties do not agree to the divorce, each shall be entitled to request the granting of a divorce decree from the special court, according to the articles in effect.

3.13 Registration of Death

The Civil Status law No. 36 of 1968 stipulates in fourteen articles how to register a death (in different circumstances).¹²²

The death of a Libyan citizen in Libya or abroad must be registered within 24 hours at an office of the civil registry, a health office, a hospital, a doctor or a consul. Exceeding the specified timeframe is punishable by fine, with a maximum of 50 Libyan dinar.¹²³

The law specifies who should report the death, for example the direct family members of the deceased, a doctor or the person in charge of the location where the death occurred.¹²⁴ There is a specific form to register a death that must be drawn up twice: one original and one copy. Both forms must be signed by the person reporting the death. After initial notification the death and the identity of the deceased must be confirmed by either the civil registry office, mukhtar or tribal chief depending on the situation. A death certificate and burial permit are issued after procedures are completed. This will take longer in case of complications like suspicion of an unnatural death. Two copies of the death certificate will be filed at the civil registry's office and an original is given to the person concerned.¹²⁵

If a death is not registered within a year it can still be registered upon approval by the committee designated to consider registration requests.¹²⁶

A Libyan government website provides the following information regarding registration of death in a family book.¹²⁷

The civil Registry Authority distinguishes between two kinds of deaths:

1) Natural Death; a person's death is a natural death if he/she dies of old age or illness

2) Unnatural Death

- death caused by getting shot
- death caused by a knife or any other sharp tool
- death caused by food poisoning or drug
- death caused by drowning
- death caused by burning
- death caused by hanging
- death caused by choking

Requirements to register a natural death:

- Report from the doctor who confirmed the death

¹²² DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 32-45.

¹²³ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 52.

¹²⁴ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 34.

¹²⁵ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 32-45.

¹²⁶ DCAF, *Unofficial translation of Law No. (36) of 1968 on Civil Status*, art. 25 and 45.

¹²⁷ Libyan Government, *Documents required for registration of a case of death in a family book*, 26 June 2014.

Requirements to register an unnatural death:

- Report from the doctor who confirmed the death
- Report of the Court or the Public Prosecution

4. DOCUMENTS

4.1 National Identity Number Card (NIN card)

In the future Libyan citizens can apply for a 'NIN card' with a NIN. Its issuance is currently still delayed.¹²⁸

The NIN card will be issued to people upon request and it should contain all information of the bearer; not only (full) name, place and date of birth but also colour of the eyes/hair, blood group, driver's licence number and even DNA information. When someone applies for the card, an iris scan is made and a DNA swab is taken.¹²⁹ The specifications of the new card should make falsification or tampering with personal information (of others) very difficult.¹³⁰

The NIN card must not be confused with the personal identity card. The NIN card can - in the future - be issued to persons at any age, while the identity card is only issued to persons from the age of 16 and onwards. The NIN card will eventually serve as a breeder document to be submitted when applying for a (personal) identity card, other official documents and state services.¹³¹

4.2 Family Book

The Libyan family book is mentioned by several sources as the most important document and the main proof of citizenship for Libyans.¹³² The document contains all information on birth, death, marriage and divorce of the members of a household. Everyone is listed in the family book of his/her parents until they get married.

Every Libyan citizen is registered in his/her municipality of residence. In case of relocation one must inform the local civil registry office regarding the move. In case people move to another municipality, civil registry offices in both municipalities must be informed. Details regarding the relocation are recorded in the family book.¹³³

¹²⁸ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014; Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

¹²⁹ Libyan Government, website for the National Number Project, *The importance of the national number*; Libyan law professor, meeting in the Netherlands, 29 September 2014; Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014; Libyan law professor, meeting in the Netherlands, 29 September 2014.

¹³⁰ Libyan Government, website for the National Number Project, *The importance of the national number*.

¹³¹ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014; Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

¹³² UK Home Office, *Country Information and Guidance - Libya: Actual or perceived Gaddafi clan members/loyalists*, 19 August 2014; IRIN News, *Analysis: Libyan minority rights at a crossroads*, 24 May 2012; Open Democracy, *Libya: Identity and legitimisation still needs official paperwork*, 21 May 2012.

¹³³ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

When a couple marries both spouses must officially cancel registration in their respective parents' family books at the civil registration office of their municipality, upon which they can obtain their own family book.¹³⁴

In case a couple divorces this is also registered in the family book. After a divorce the (ex-)wife receives her own new family book. She will not be registered with her parents again.¹³⁵ The children are usually registered with the father. However,, it is also possible to register the children with their mother if mutually agreed upon by both parents.¹³⁶ It is unknown whether the children can be registered in both parents' family books

The Civil Registration Office of the municipality handles applications and issuance of family books. These offices sort under the Ministry of Interior.

In November 2014 Libya's Civil Registry Authority announced a plan to introduce the "Family Smart Card"(FSC) as a future replacement for the current family book.¹³⁷ In the FSC all data will be electronically stored. No further information on when issuance of the FSC is to be expected was found.

4.2.1 Use of the Family Book

The family book is used as proof of identity, nationality and as a birth certificate. Libyans also often use their family book instead of separate birth or marriage certificates since all these details are registered in the family book and it is considered a valid civil document.¹³⁸ It is the main supporting document to be submitted when applying for a passport for example. The Libyan authorities use the family book to determine who's eligible for allowances and benefits.¹³⁹

Non-Libyans and also Libyan women married to foreigners are unable to obtain family books. Members of minority communities who have not been able to register as Libyans are therefore not entitled to a family book either.¹⁴⁰ This means for example that they have no access to state services like medical care, subsidized food and financial support, as well as higher education, housing and health care.¹⁴¹ These families will therefore suffer more than others when food prices go up.¹⁴² Subsidized food that families can buy by showing their family book includes mainly wheat products, sugar, vegetable oil.¹⁴³

¹³⁴ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹³⁵ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹³⁶ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹³⁷ Libya Herald, *Civil Registry to introduce "Family Smart Card"*, 22 November 2014.

¹³⁸ US Embassy in Libya, *Fraud summary – Tripoli – September 2009*, 30 September 2009, p. 2.

¹³⁹ Libya Herald, *Civil Registry to introduce "Family Smart Card"*, 22 November 2014.

¹⁴⁰ See also 3.2.

¹⁴¹ Aljazeera, *Libya's Tebu tribe hopes for lasting peace*, 3 December 2012; IRIN News, *Analysis: Libyan minority rights at a crossroads*, 24 May 2012.

¹⁴² Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Step Ahead for Women on Nationality Rights*, 2 September 2010; Libya Herald, *Law 24, citizenship legislation still waiting to happen*, 30 June 2013.

¹⁴³ World Food Programme, *Rapid Markets Assessment: Eastern Libya*, August 15-23 2011; Libyan Public Policy Forum / Revenue Watch Institute, *Subsidies in Libya – A systematic Problem*, 4 February 2014.

Other than that, those without a family book or civil registry ID cannot register as voters in elections. For Libyans abroad a passport will suffice to vote.¹⁴⁴ In 2012 there was mention of the government allowing those with (only) other family documents, a driver's licence or a national identity card to register as voters as well.¹⁴⁵

4.2.2 Appearance and Content

The family book is green and it looks like the old passport. It has a unique number, is written entirely in Arabic and it does not have a certain period of validity. See a photo of the cover below.



Source: Identity and Document Investigation Unit, Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service

For images of the pages of the family book and its content, see annex in chapter 5.

4.2.3 Procedure to Obtain a Family book

A Libyan government website provides the following information:

- Apply where; the civil status department of the municipality
- To submit;¹⁴⁶
 - Request for annulations from family of origin for the marriage
 - Request for a family book
 - A copy of the marriage contract
 - Documentation of (administrative) transfer of the wife if she was living in a different area before marriage
 - Family book of both spouses' families
 - 4 personal photos of the husband and wife, 4 x 3 cm
 - Payment of the prescribed fees
- Pick up in person; not necessary

¹⁴⁴ International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), *Elections in Libya - July 7 General National Congress Elections - Frequently Asked Questions*, 28 June 2012, p. 5.

¹⁴⁵ IRIN News, *Analysis: Libyan minority rights at a crossroads*, 24 May 2012.

¹⁴⁶ Libyan Government, *Issuance of a family book*, 26 June 2014.

It is unknown if copies of documents can be submitted, or if original documents are required.

4.2.4 Procedure to Obtain Replacement for a Lost or Missing Family Book

In case of loss of the family book a duplicate can easily be obtained from The Civil Status Department, according to the Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands. To apply for duplicate family book, the applicant needs to fill out an application form and submit a police report (of loss/theft).¹⁴⁷

The Libyan Embassy stated that, apart from in Tripoli and Benghazi, where it might be difficult, it should not be a problem to file a police report in the rest of the country.¹⁴⁸

The information website of the Libyan government provides the following information:¹⁴⁹

To submit:

- Police report concerning the loss
- Circular of the police report of the loss to the competent authorities¹⁵⁰
- 4 photographs size 6 x 4 cm
- Fee: 52 dinar

It is unknown if copies of documents can be submitted, or if original documents are required.

4.2.5 Procedure to Obtain Replacement for a Damaged Family Book

The information website of the Libyan government provides the following information:¹⁵¹

To submit:

- Damaged family book
- 4 photographs size 6 x 4 cm
- Fee for an entire family book: 52 dinar, and for a partial family book: 22 dinar¹⁵²

4.2.6 Procedure to Obtain a Family Book for Divorced Women

The information website of the Libyan government provides the following information:¹⁵³

To submit:

- Final court ruling on divorce
- Family booklet in which she was registered

¹⁴⁷ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹⁴⁸ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹⁴⁹ Libyan Government, *Issuance replacement for lost/missing family book*, 26 June 2014 .

¹⁵⁰ No further information on what 'circular' exactly entails has been found.

¹⁵¹ Libyan Government, *Issuance replacement damaged family book*, 26 June 2014.

¹⁵² No information was found on what part of 'a partial family book' could be issued separately and why.

¹⁵³ Libyan Government, *Issuance family book for divorced women*, 26 June 2014.

- 4 photographs size 6 x 4 cm
- Fee: 22 dinar

It is unknown if copies of documents can be submitted, or if original documents are required.

After a divorce children are usually registered with the father (even though they will usually live with their mother). However, it is also possible to register the children with their mother if mutually agreed upon by both parents.¹⁵⁴

4.2.7 Procedure to Obtain a Family Book for a Widow

The information website of the Libyan government provides the following information:¹⁵⁵

To submit:

- The death certificate of the husband
- Family booklet in which he was registered
- 4 photographs size 6 x 4
- Fee: 22 dinar

It is unknown if copies of documents can be submitted, or if original documents are required.

4.3 Identity Card

The Identity Card Department, which sorts under the Passport Directorate within the Ministry of Interior, is responsible for issuing identity cards..¹⁵⁶

Currently, Libyan citizens can not apply for identity cards abroad. Applications must be submitted in person since a photo will be taken of the applicant.¹⁵⁷

From the age of 16 it is compulsory for Libyans to be able to identify themselves at all times. One Libyan source mentioned having to pay a fine because he applied for the identity card at the age of eighteen.¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁴ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹⁵⁵ Libyan Government, *Issuance family book for a widow*, 26 June 2014.

¹⁵⁶ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

¹⁵⁷ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹⁵⁸ Libyan law professor, meeting in the Netherlands, 29 September 2014.

4.3.1 Appearance and Content

The personal identity card is a laminated, green card of approximately 7 x 9 cm.



Source: Identity and Document Investigation Unit, Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service

For exact information on content of the identity card, see annex in chapter 5.

4.3.2 Procedure to Apply for an Identity Card

The Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands provided the following information.¹⁵⁹

- Apply where: Identity Cards Department of the Ministry of Interior
- To submit:
 - NIN
 - Birth certificate
 - Filled out application forms
 - 4 passport photos

There are no specific rules for women. They can apply for an identity card independently. No permission is needed from their husband or male relatives.¹⁶⁰

It is unknown if copies of documents can be submitted, or if original documents are required.

4.3.3 Procedure to Apply for Replacement of a Missing Identity Card

The Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands provided the following information.¹⁶¹

A police report on the lost or stolen identity card must be submitted upon application for a new one.

- Apply where: Identity Cards Department of the Ministry of Interior
- To submit:
 - Police report regarding the lost or stolen identity card

¹⁵⁹ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹⁶⁰ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹⁶¹ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

- NIN
- Birth certificate
- Filled out application forms
- 4 passport photos

There are no specific rules for women. They can apply for an identity card independently. No permission is needed from their husbands or male relatives.¹⁶²

It is unknown if copies of documents can be submitted, or if original documents are required.

4.3.4 Series

No information was found regarding specific serial numbers of identity cards and date of issue for different series of serial numbers.

According to the Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, Libyan authorities have recently started issuing a new electronic identity card which contains a chip with information of the bearer, like the current passports. More information on the new identity cards was not found.¹⁶³

4.4 Passport

Since the Libyan authorities started issuing the current passports in 2014, Libyans can only apply for new passports in Libya.¹⁶⁴ Applications can be submitted at the Authority for Passports and Nationality which is a department of the Ministry of Interior.¹⁶⁵ The central database for passports is in Tripoli in the Salah Eddin neighbourhood. The passport office there was disconnected for months due to fierce fighting. Currently it seems to be operative, although to a limited extent.¹⁶⁶

Since last year, Libyan embassies abroad have declined receipt of passport applications, due to the fact that proper equipment for handling passport applications is not yet distributed to embassies. Therefore, embassies (in Europe at least) can only extend the validity of old passports.¹⁶⁷

The new biometric passport is based on the National Identity Number. Once the NID system was completed, the passport project could move forward. Printing of the passports, which is done by a German company, was delayed several times until the first new passports were finally issued, officially on the 1st of January 2014.¹⁶⁸

Libyans can apply for a new biometric passport once the validity of their old-type passport has expired.¹⁶⁹ Information about the bearer, like iris scans and finger prints, are all invisibly stored on a chip in the passport.¹⁷⁰

¹⁶² Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹⁶³ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

¹⁶⁴ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹⁶⁵ Algehit, N., Libyan legal expert, e-mail, 23 August 2014.

¹⁶⁶ Libyan law professor, meeting in the Netherlands, 29 September 2014.

¹⁶⁷ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014; Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹⁶⁸ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

¹⁶⁹ Libya Herald, *Libya's new biometric passport officially revealed*, 8 February 2013,

Regarding the validity of old passports a Libyan law professor stated:¹⁷¹

If obtained in Libya the old passport was valid for 8 years, divided over 3 periods:

- The first period had a validity of 4 years after which it could be extended
- For the second period with a validity of 2 years after which it could be extended
- For a third period with a (final) validity of 2 years.

If obtained outside Libya the old passport was valid for 8 years, divided over 3 periods:

- The first period had a validity of 2 years after which it could be extended
- For the second period with a validity of 4 years after which it could be extended
- For a third period with a (final) validity of 2 years.

By the end of 2018 all old-type passports should be out of circulation, according to the Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands.¹⁷²

4.4.1 Types, Appearance and Content

Old passports that are currently still valid have a green cover, they have no biometrics or machine-readable features and they barely have security features, if any at all. Information about the bearer is handwritten. According to one source, it is not unusual that the personal information is erroneous. The passport is said to be the only official government document at the time to have a handwritten English translation on one of the last pages.¹⁷³

In 2009 the passport agency started ‘correcting’ the last names of Libyan citizens in the sense that registration of family (or clan) names were compulsory from then on. Until then it was not unusual to use (grand-)father’s first name as a last name.¹⁷⁴

There are currently three types of passports issued by the State of Libya: citizen, diplomatic and special passports. The special passports which seem comparable with service passports are issued for example to family members of diplomats and non-diplomatic embassy staff members.¹⁷⁵

The three passports are very similar in the sense that they all have text in both Arabic and English, the same amount of numbered pages (48), the same inside colouring and design and each passport is personalized with the holders’ data using a laser method. They differ slightly in text, and the covers have different colours and different passport titles. Validity is 8 years. Citizen passports are blue, diplomatic passports are orange and special passports are black.¹⁷⁶ The passports have a gold crescent and star embossed on the cover.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁰ Libyan law professor, meeting in the Netherlands, 29 September 2014; Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 3 December 2014.

¹⁷¹ Libyan law professor, meeting in the Netherlands, 29 September 2014.

¹⁷² Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹⁷³ US Embassy in Libya, *Fraud summary – Tripoli – September 2009*, 30 September 2009, p. 4.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹⁷⁶ Vademecum, *Passport of the State of Libya*, 2013, p. 2.

¹⁷⁷ BiometricUpdate.com, *Libya unveils biometric passport*, 11 February 2013; Libya Herald, *Libya’s new biometric passport officially revealed*, 8 February 2013; Security Document World, *Libya set for biometric passports*, 11 February 2013.



Source: Vademecum, *Passport of the State of Libya*, 2013

Depending on the type of passport, a new one will be issued by the appropriate ministry, authority or consulate.¹⁷⁸

For images of the data page of a new passport and its content, see annex.

4.4.2 Procedure to Apply for a New Passport in Libya

The Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands provided the following information.¹⁷⁹

- Apply where: The passport office of the immigration service
- To submit in person: NIN (only)
Copies of other documents are not needed since they are all already in the system once someone has been given a national identity number.

The immigration service (for passports) and the municipalities (for other documents) now work closely together. Attempted fraud will therefore be noticed immediately, according to the source, because all documentation and information is already checked thoroughly before issuing the NIN.¹⁸⁰

- Length of procedure: unknown
- Costs: small fees, according to one Libyan source¹⁸¹
- Pick up does not have to be done in person

There are no specific rules for women; they can apply for a passport independently. No permission is needed from their husband or male relatives.¹⁸²

¹⁷⁸ Please note that currently embassies and consulates are not equipped yet to issue passport as mentioned in section 4.4; Vademecum, *Passport of the State of Libya*, 2013, p. 23.

¹⁷⁹ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹⁸⁰ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹⁸¹ Algehitia, N., Libyan legal expert, e-mail, 23 August 2014.

¹⁸² Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

4.4.3 Procedure to Apply for Replacement of an Old Passport in Libya

The Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands provided the following information.¹⁸³

The applicant must apply in person since biometric data (a photo and a thumb print) of the applicant will be taken and registered upon submitting the application.

- Apply where: The passport office of the immigration service
- To submit:
 - Old passport
 - NIN
- Pick up does not have to be done in person

There are no specific rules for women; they can apply for a replacement passport independently. No permission is needed from their husband or male relatives.¹⁸⁴

4.4.4 Procedure to Apply for Extension of the Validity of a Passport Abroad

The Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands provided the following information.¹⁸⁵

The application for extension of the validity of a passport has to be done in person, since a thumb print of the applicant will be taken and registered upon submitting the application. The authorities only consider applications from registered Libyans.

- Apply where; the Libyan embassy
- To submit:
 - The old passport
 - NIN
 - Filled out embassy application form
 - Copy family book or birth certificate
 - 2 passport photos
- Length of procedure: unknown
- Costs: € 15,- (in the Netherlands)
- Collecting the passport: After the application is filed the applicant gets a receipt which is needed to collect the passport later, not necessarily in person.

There are no specific rules for women; they can apply for an extension of the validity of the passport independently. No permission is needed from their husband or male relatives.¹⁸⁶

The NIN will not be registered in an old passport if it is renewed.¹⁸⁷

Verification of documents is done in Libya. Copies of documents are sent to Tripoli for verification. Passports are checked by the Libyan Immigration service and other

¹⁸³ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹⁸⁴ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹⁸⁵ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹⁸⁶ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, telephone interview, 27 November 2014.

¹⁸⁷ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

documents are checked by the municipalities.¹⁸⁸ No information was found on how the checking is done in practise.

No written information was found on how many times the validity of a passport can be extended, or if they usually are extended for a set period of time. A Libyan law professor stated that in specific cases the validity can be extended beyond the 8 years, for example in medical cases where treatment abroad is needed, or if the required documents for a new passport are not available at the time of application.¹⁸⁹

4.4.5 Series

No specific information was found regarding series of passports and during which periods the different passport series were issued.

A photo posted on Twitter shows six different types of Libyan passports reportedly from 1958 to 2014. The authenticity of the (passports in the) photo cannot be confirmed.¹⁹⁰



Source: <https://twitter.com/MushuThaLohari/status/449538985702871040/photo/1>

¹⁸⁸ Libyan Embassy in the Netherlands, meeting, 12 September 2014.

¹⁸⁹ Libyan law professor, meeting in the Netherlands, 29 September 2014.

¹⁹⁰ Heba K., *The evolution of the #Libya/n passport from 1958 till 2014*. [#history](#), 28 March 2014.

5. ANNEX

5.1 Content of a Family Book

The images below are from a family book that was issued in 2008.

Page 1 of a family book

1

2 رقم ورقة العائلة

3 تاريخ الاكتتاب

4 سند الاكتتاب

5 السجل المدني بـ

6 مستخرج رسمي من سجل المواليد لرأس العائلة

7 الاسم واللقب

8 الأب

9 الجد

10 اسم الأم بالكامل

11 جنسيتها

12 مكان الولادة

13 تاريخها: اليوم الشهر السنة

14 باخروف

15 مكان الإصدار

16 رقم الإصدار

17 تاريخ الإصدار

18 الموافق

19 جمهورية أمين السجل المدني

20 ملاحظات:

التعليق

1 - عند حدوث تغير أو تغيير في البيانات المدرجة في كتيب العائلة علي رب العائلة التقدم إلى أقرب سجل مدني بطلب إدراج ذلك التغير أو التغير خلال ثلاثين يوماً من حصوله.

2 - عند تعرض كتيب العائلة للتلف أو الضياع على صاحبه إبلاغ الجهة المختصة خلال مدة لا تزيد عن ثلاثين يوماً.

3 - يعد كتيب العائلة ملغي بحكم القانون في الأحوال الآتية:

- في حالة وفاة رب الأسرة.
- في حالة صدور كتيب عائلة بديلي.
- في حالة فقد رب العائلة للجنسية.
- في حالة الإدانة القضائية بإرتكاب أي من الأفعال المنصوص عليها بقانون اهربار كتيب العائلة.

محظورات

- لا يجوز إجراء أي تصحيح أو كشط أو إضافة للبيانات المدرجة بكتيب العائلة إلا من قبل الموظف المختص.
- لا يجوز الأمتناع عن إعطاء كتيب العائلة للمدرجين به للاستخدام في الأغراض القانونية المعد لها الكتيب.
- لا يجوز سحب كتيب العائلة أو التأخير به لأي غرض كان إلا من قبل السجل المدني المختص.

يترتب على ارتكاب أي من المحظورات أعلاه التعرض للمساءلة القانونية

Source: Identity and Document Investigation Unit, Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service

1. Personal photo in colour
2. Number of family document
3. Date of registration
4. Basis of registration ¹⁹¹
5. Civil registry in
6. 'Official extract from the birth registry of the head of the family'
7. Name and *laqab* ¹⁹²
8. (First name) Father
9. (First name) Grandfather
10. Full name of mother ¹⁹³
11. Her nationality
12. Place of birth

¹⁹¹ In this line it is registered what the basis is for someone's registration as a Libyan national. On several documents the information filled out in this place was: "Citizen by virtue of the law".

¹⁹² *Laqab* is similar to a surname.

¹⁹³ Information as found on different documents indicates that 'full name of mother' is generally understood as: first name of the mother, her father and her grandfather and *laqab*.

13. Date of birth: day, month, year
14. (Date of birth) in letters
15. Place of issue
16. Number of issue
17. Date of issue
18. Approved (by)
19. Signature of the civil registrar or the consul
20. Remarks

Page 2 and 3 of a family book

Source: Identity and Document Investigation Unit, Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service

- 21 Official extract of the marriage register of the head of the family
- 22 Full name of wife and her nationality
- 23 Date of marriage
- 24 Place and date of registration (at civil registry)
- 25 Registration number (at civil registry)
- 26 Signature of the civil registrar or the consul and stamp
- 27 Official extract from the divorce register of the head of the family
- 28 Full name of divorcee and her nationality
- 29 Place and date of registration (at divorce registry)
- 30 Registration number (at civil registry)
- 31 Signature of the civil registrar or the consul and stamp

5

47 رقم ورقة العائلة

48 السجل المدني بـ

49 سند الاكتمال

46

34 الإقامة

35 الانتقال والاكتمال

45 توقيع السجل المدني أو القنصل وختم

41 التسجيل

42 تاريخ التسجيل

43 رقم ورقة العائلة

44 السجل المدني

36 الانتقال

37 تاريخ

38 رقم ورقة العائلة

39 من

40 إلى

50 مستخرج رسمي من سجل واقعة الولادة

51 الاسم واللقب

52 الأب

53 الجد

54 اسم الأم بالكامل

55 جنسيتها

56 مكان الولادة

57 تاريخها: اليوم الشهر السنة

58 بالحروف

59 الصلة برب العائلة

60 الانتقال الفردي

61 تكملة أمهات السجل المملوك

62 مستخرج رسمي من سجل واقعة الوفاة

63 السجل المدني

64 الاسم واللقب

65 الأب

66 الجد

67 اسم الأم بالكامل

68 جنسيتها

69 مكان الوفاة

70 تاريخها: اليوم الشهر السنة

71 بالحروف

72 رقم سجل واقعة الوفاة

73 من

74 السنة

75 توقيع أمين السجل المدني أو القنصل

76 ملاحظات:

Source: Identity and Document Investigation Unit, Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service

- 34 Residency
- 35 Relocation and registration
- 36 Relocation
- 37 Date
- 38 Number of family document
- 39 From civil registry
- 40 To civil registry
- 41 Registration
- 42 Date of registration
- 43 Number family document
- 44 Civil registry
- 45 Signature of the civil registrar or the consul and stamp
- 46 Personal photo in colour ¹⁹⁴
- 47 Number family document
- 48 Civil registry in
- 49 Basis of registration ¹⁹⁵
- 50 Official extract of the birth register
- 51 Name and *laqab* ¹⁹⁶

¹⁹⁴ On this page the wife of the head of the family is registered.

¹⁹⁵ In this line it is registered what the basis is for the spouse's registration as a Libyan national. On several documents the information filled out in this place was: "Citizen since birth".

- 52 (First name) Father
- 53 (First name) Grandfather
- 54 Full name of mother ¹⁹⁷
- 55 Her nationality
- 56 Place of birth
- 57 Date of birth: day, month, year
- 58 (Date of birth) In letters
- 59 Relation to head of the family
- 60 Individual relocation
- 61 Signature of the civil registrar or the consul
- 62 Official extract of the death register
- 63 Civil registry in
- 64 Name and *laqab* ¹⁹⁸
- 65 (First name) Father
- 66 (First name) Grandfather
- 67 Full name of mother ¹⁹⁹
- 68 Her nationality
- 69 Place of death
- 70 Date of death: day, month, year
- 71 (Date of death) in letters
- 72 Number of death registration
- 73 (Arabic letter) S
- 74 Year
- 75 Signature of the civil registrar or the consul
- 76 Remarks

Page 6 – 44 of a family book

These pages are for registration of children. Each child has one page which contains the same information as page 4 with mother's information (see the image and its content above). On the top half of the page all data regarding birth are registered and the bottom half of the page is for registration of death.

Page 45 – 46 of a family book

These pages are for registration of "Remarks and follow-up regarding residence".

¹⁹⁶ *Laqab* is similar to a surname.

¹⁹⁷ Information as found on different documents indicates that 'full name of mother' is generally understood as: first name of the mother, her father and her grandfather and *laqab*.

¹⁹⁸ *Laqab* is similar to a surname.

¹⁹⁹ Information as found on different documents indicates that 'full name of mother' is generally understood as: first name of the mother, her father and her grandfather and *laqab*.

Page 44 – 45 of a family book

Page 44 (right) contains the following sections:

- رغم ورقة العائلة** (Family Card)
- السجل المدني** (Civil Registry)
- مسند الاكتساب** (Acquisition Record)
- تاريخ الاكتساب** (Date of Acquisition)
- مستخرج رسمي من سجل واقعة الولادة** (Official Extract from Birth Record)
- الاسم واللقب** (Name and Surname)
- الأب** (Father)
- الجد** (Grandfather)
- اسم الأم بالكامل** (Mother's Full Name)
- مكان الولادة** (Place of Birth)
- تاريخها: اليوم الشهر السنة** (Date: Day, Month, Year)
- بالخروف** (In Letters)
- الصلة برب العائلة** (Relationship to Family Head)
- الانتقال الفردي** (Individual Transfer)
- توقيع أمين السجل المدني أو القنصل** (Signature of Civil Registry Officer or Consul)
- مستخرج رسمي من سجل واقعة الوفاة** (Official Extract from Death Record)
- السجل المدني** (Civil Registry)
- الاسم واللقب** (Name and Surname)
- الأب** (Father)
- الجد** (Grandfather)
- اسم الأم بالكامل** (Mother's Full Name)
- مكان الوفاة** (Place of Death)
- تاريخها: اليوم الشهر السنة** (Date: Day, Month, Year)
- بالخروف** (In Letters)
- رقم سجل واقعة الوفاة** (Death Record Number)
- من** (From)
- السنة** (Year)
- توقيع أمين السجل المدني أو القنصل** (Signature of Civil Registry Officer or Consul)
- ملاحظات:** (Remarks)

Page 45 (left) contains the following section:

- ملاحظات ومتابعة خاصة بربط الإقامة** (Remarks and Follow-up regarding Residence Link)

Source: Identity and Document Investigation Unit, Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service

Page 47 – 48 of a family book

These pages are for registration of "Remarks and follow-up regarding decisions on corrections". No image is included because its lay-out is the same as page 45 (see image above).

5.2 Content of an Identity Card

The images below are from an identity card that was issued in 2000.

Front side

Fields on the identity card:

- الاسم (Name)
- اسم الأب (Father's Name)
- اسم الجد (Grandfather's Name)
- اللقب (Surname)
- اسم الأم (Mother's Name)
- مكان وتاريخ الميلاد (Place and Date of Birth)
- العنوان (Address)
- صفة (Rank/Grade)
- المهنة (Profession)
- توقيع ماعلا (Signature)
- (Circular stamp/seal)

Source: Identity and Document Investigation Unit, Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service

The following (personal) information on a card is filled out by hand:

- 1) (First) name
- 2) Father's (first) name
- 3) Grandfather's (first) name
- 4) *Laqab*²⁰⁰
- 5) Mother's name
- 6) Place and date of birth
- 7) Address
- 8) Blood group
- 9) Profession
- 10) Signature of the holder
- 11) Finger print

Backside



Source: Identity and Document Investigation Unit, Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service

- 12) Card number
- 13) Place and date of issue
- 14) Issuing authority
- 15) A figure filled out behind the (printed) Arabic letter M ²⁰¹

5.3 Content of a Passport

The image below is from a passport that was issued in 2014.

²⁰⁰ *Laqab* is similar to a surname.

²⁰¹ It is unknown what the number refers to (possibly the number for the office of the issuing authority).



From a Libyan source

This is an image of a new Libyan passport. The serial number of the passport is printed in the title page as well as on the passport data page which contains the following details:²⁰²

- 1) Type (of passport)
- 2) Country Code: LBY
- 3) Passport number
- 4) *Laqab* / Surname (in both Arabic and English)²⁰³
- 5) Given name
- 6) Sex
- 7) Date of birth
- 8) Place of birth
- 9) Date of issue
- 10) Nationality
- 11) Date of expiry
- 12) Signature of bearer
- 13) Issuing place
- 14) (black and white) photo of bearer
- 15) Photo of bearer + expiry date with chip

NIN and family book number are not (visibly) registered in the passport.

²⁰² Vademecum, *Passport of the State of Libya*, 2013, p.11 + 14.

²⁰³ *Laqab* is similar to 'surname'.

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