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Summary of stakeholders' submissions on Libya*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review and the outcome of the previous review.¹ It is a summary of 34 stakeholders' submissions² for the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations³ and cooperation with human rights mechanisms

2. A large number of organisations urged the government to ratify the core human rights treaties which Libya had not joined; including but not limited to, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.⁴

3. HRW recommended the government to ratify the Rome Statute and align national legislation with the treaty.⁵

4. ICAN urged the government to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as a matter of international urgency.⁶

5. JS5 encouraged the government to bolster international legal cooperation on accountability by enforcing ICC warrants and extradition requests.⁷

6. HRW also recommended lifting Libya's reservations to CEDAW.⁸

7. JS3 encouraged Libya to accept all outstanding visit requests of special procedures.⁹

8. CFJ called on the government to enhance its cooperation with international organizations, including UNHCR and IOM, to develop comprehensive protection programs

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



for migrants and to grant them access to all detention centers to ensure appropriate detention conditions.¹⁰

9. Alkarama recommended Libya to enhance collaboration with international bodies, including the ICC.¹¹

B. National human rights framework

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

10. UPR BCU recommended the government to amend Articles of the Penal Code to remove the provision of the death penalty and develop, in consultation with civil society and relevant regional bodies, a comprehensive action plan to formalise its moratorium, with a view to abolition, within the next four years.¹²

11. JS99 called on the government to amend Law No. 10 of 2013 to explicitly criminalize torture in full compliance with CAT Article 1, expanding liability to all perpetrators, including non-state armed groups and private actors operating outside custodial settings; and codify CAT Article 2(2) to prohibit torture under any circumstances, including emergencies, and nullify superior orders as a defence per CAT Article 2(3).¹³ HRW advised the government to revise the Penal Code to include a definition of torture in accordance with article 1 of the UN Convention against Torture.

12. JS5, JS4 and CIHRS also encouraged the government to repeal Law No. 19 of 2001, Law No. 80 of 1975, and any related provisions that arbitrarily restrict civil society.¹⁴

13. CFJ recommended the government to repeal or amend laws that criminalize peaceful expression, association, and assembly, ensuring compliance with Articles 19, 21, and 22 of the ICCPR.¹⁵

14. JS4 recommended adopting a law that guarantees the right to establish organizations through a simple notification system, protects organizations from arbitrary dissolution and interference by state and security agencies in their work, and guarantees organizations' access to funding or communication and cooperation with international and UN bodies.¹⁶

15. LFJL, JS11 and JS5 recommended to immediately repeal or amend laws that violate freedom of expression, including the Anti-Cybercrime Law (2022) and ensure online freedom of expression, in line with international human rights obligations.¹⁷

16. JS6 noted that repressive laws such as Law No. 5 of 2022 on Cybercrime, Law No. 3 of 2014 on Counterterrorism, and Articles 438–439 of the Penal Code were routinely used to arrest and prosecute journalists and media workers.¹⁸

17. HRW called on the government to incorporate international crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, torture, and enforced disappearance, into the Libyan Criminal Code, that are clearly defined according to international standards.¹⁹

18. Unvoices urged the government to establish a standard legal framework for migration that complies with international standards related to regulating migration and guaranteeing the rights of migrants, including irregular migrants.²⁰

19. AAD recommended the government to amend Law No. 24 of 2002 to lift the ban on the use of non-Arabic languages in official matters, and revise Law No. 24 of 2010 to ease nationality acquisition procedures for stateless Tebu and Tuareg populations.²¹

20. HRS stated that, in May 2024, the House of Representatives (HoR) enacted 'Law No. (6) of 2024 on the Criminalization of Sorcery, Witchcraft, Fortune-Telling, and Related Acts'. The law imposed penalties ranging from imprisonment and fines to execution. It defined the newly introduced crimes—sorcery, witchcraft, and fortune-telling—with broad and vague concepts, addressing actions that pertain more to the metaphysical world than to tangible actions.²² HRS called on the HoR to repeal this law.²³

21. ADF also recommended repealing or reviewing laws and policies that violate freedom of expression, including those criminalizing blasphemy, peaceful proselytism and other so-called "offenses against religion".²⁴

2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures

22. HRW recommended Libya to abolish the death penalty and declare an immediate moratorium on executions.²⁵ UPR BCU urged the government that, as long as the death penalty is in force, to ensure it complied with the ‘most serious crimes’ principle, under Article 6 ICCPR, restricting punishment to crimes of intentional killing only.²⁶

23. Alkarama also urged the government to establish an independent judicial mechanism to address impunity and ensure accountability for individuals responsible for human rights violations, including armed militias, while also enhancing cooperation with international bodies such as the ICC to ensure accountability for crimes committed.²⁷

24. Alkarama recommended Libya to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles and provide institutional support, including adequate human and financial resources, to the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights to enable them to effectively carry out their respective mandates.²⁸

25. JS99 urged Libya to establish a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) to monitor places of deprivation of liberty in Libya.²⁹

26. CIHRS recommended Libya to abolish the requirement for annual renewals and prior approval for foreign funding and projects.³⁰

C. Promotion and protection of human rights

1. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

Equality and non-discrimination

27. ICJ noted that forms of gender inequality and discriminatory practices towards women and girls included the male guardianship system, which obliged women to seek approval from their male guardian (father, husband, brother or son) to make decisions, including concerning marriage and travel.³¹

28. JS10 and HRS called on the authorities to revise the Libyan Nationality Law (Law Nr. (24) 2010) to end discrimination against Libyan women and their children and protect Libyans from arbitrary revocation of citizenship and bring the Nationality Law into conformity with Libya’s obligations under international human rights Law.³²

29. ICJ stated that Libya did not ensure “the equal right of men and women” nor did it adequately guarantee equal and effective protection against discrimination on the ground of gender.³³

30. ICJ recommended the government to adequately characterize Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women and girls and investigate them with a view to bringing those responsible to justice; and to adopt laws aimed protecting women from violence in accordance with international human rights law.³⁴

31. JS8 urged the government to guarantee freedom of expression regarding religion or belief, and cease targeting people of minority religions or beliefs for peaceful expressions including as expressed online.³⁵ JS8 further recommended to combat discrimination since religion or belief that violates the protections of the ICCPR, including such discrimination expressed through the media and online platforms.³⁶

Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

32. JS3 recommended Libya to adopt a de jure moratorium on executions and amend the law to ensure the death penalty applies only to the “most serious crimes,” as specified under Article 6(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.³⁷

33. JS3 urged the government to amend the law to ensure that no crime is subject to a mandatory death penalty and that courts may always consider evidence in mitigation to warrant a penalty other than death.³⁸

34. JS3 advised Libya to align detention conditions with the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules, by ensuring access to food, safe and clean water, adequate hygiene, and adequate medical care; and establish an independent body to investigate allegations of torture and other ill-treatment of persons in detention.³⁹

35. MAAT called on the government to ensure that prisons and detention centers are not used for torture and ill-treatment and conduct independent investigations into deaths in custody.⁴⁰

36. MAAT urged Libya to improve prison and detention center conditions by reducing overcrowding, improving health and food services, and strengthening independent oversight.⁴¹

37. JS5 called on Libya to ensure transparency regarding detainees' whereabouts, facilitating independent monitoring of detention facilities.⁴²

38. JS8 recommended the government to ensure that the right of all detained individuals, including prisoners of conscience, to be treated with humanity and respect for their dignity under Article 10 ICCPR is protected; release immediately and unconditionally individuals charged with or imprisoned under a death sentence for apostasy and drop the charges/set aside the convictions against them.⁴³

International humanitarian law

39. HIC observed that the abuses of the previous government and conflicts necessitated restorative transitional justice as a foundation for rebuilding the human rights treaty-bound state. The Transitional Justice and National Reconciliation Law (2012) and its replacement, the Transitional Justice Law (2013) (a.k.a. Law No. 29), aimed at reconciling accumulated grievances and remedying the causes of violations to guarantee their non-recurrence. However, HIC held that these laws lacked the minimal human rights criteria and were never applied.⁴⁴

40. HIC recommended that the transitional justice law and its implementation provide jurisdiction over crimes under international law, including enforced disappearance, rape and other forms of sexual violence, war crimes and crimes against humanity; and exclude amnesties, immunities and statutory limitations in prosecuting such crimes; guarantee the right to truth and public participation and provide full reparations to victims of human rights violations.⁴⁵

41. ICJ observed that Libya did not ensure the right to an effective remedy, especially for gross human rights violations; nor did it guarantee the rights to truth and to reparation, including restitution, compensation, satisfaction, rehabilitation and guarantees of non-repetition.⁴⁶

42. ICJ recommended the government to adopt a transitional justice legal framework that fully guarantees the independence, impartiality and competence of the transitional justice mechanisms, and provides for victims' right to an effective remedy and reparation, in accordance with international human rights law and standards.⁴⁷

43. HRW urged Libya to intensify efforts to clear landmines and unexploded ordnance, consistently fund mine clearance activities, and provide adequate payments for victims.⁴⁸

44. MAAT recommended the government to remove mines and remnants of war in cooperation with international bodies with expertise in this issue.⁴⁹

Human rights and counter-terrorism

45. HRW noted that the Libyan authorities have continued to enforce a repressive 2014 counterterrorism law, which provided up to life imprisonment for vaguely defined "terrorist" acts such as "harming national unity" without requiring evidence of violence.⁵⁰

46. JS6 and HRW urged the government to amend the Anti-Terrorism Law and prohibit trying civilians in military courts for matters of opinion or expression.⁵¹

47. JS6 urged that all detainees prosecuted under Anti-Terrorism Law No. 3 (2014) for having expressed opinions be released.⁵²

Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

48. AFA stated that the Public Prosecution frequently initiated investigations without allowing the accused's lawyer to participate or see evidence reports, delaying access to case files until court proceedings, where lawyers were often not able to attend the first stages of interrogations, leading to confessions obtained through mistreatment, including threats and violence.⁵³

49. JS11 urged Libya to conduct prompt, impartial and transparent investigations into attacks, threats, and killings of journalists, activists, and human rights defenders, holding perpetrators accountable and providing reparations for victims and their families.

50. AFA noted that, in Libya, interrogations typically occurred at prosecution headquarters or detention sites under specific circumstances, where lawyers encountered challenges in obtaining case documents.⁵⁴

51. AI noted that in eastern Libya, military courts had convicted and sentenced to prolonged imprisonment or the death penalty hundreds of civilians in secret and grossly unfair military trials, aimed at punishing real or perceived opponents and critics of the LAAF and affiliated armed groups. In Tripoli, court sessions had been held inside the Mitiga Prison, under the control of the abusive and unaccountable Deterrence Apparatus to Combat Terrorism and Organized Crime militia (known as Rada').⁵⁵

52. AFA also provided that, in Benghazi, numerous violations have emerged during arbitrary arrests and detention, including unlawful pre-trial detention in unofficial places, denial of lawyer access during interrogations, threats of violence, and torture during arrest and detention. Non-Arabic detainees lacked interpreters.⁵⁶

53. AFA recommended Libya to prevent interference from security institutions, including with judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, to ensure their integrity and independence.⁵⁷

54. HRW urged the government to conduct a comprehensive justice reform including by repealing and amending legislation that violates international conventions and laws; to ensure civilians are not tried in military courts, repealing Law no.4 of 2017; and abolishing all corporal punishment provisions in Libyan legislation.⁵⁸

55. HRW recommended the government to cooperate with the ICC, including by surrendering ICC fugitives on Libyan territory to the Court.⁵⁹

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life

56. JS6 stated that violations against journalists persisted throughout the reporting period. Many were charged under Laws No. 5 (2022) and No. 3 (2014), which served as legal cover for these actions.⁶⁰

57. JS2 called on Libya to immediately cease the use of lethal force.⁶¹

58. HRF and JS6 called on the government to cease the systematic detention and intimidation of activists, journalists, and dissidents who criticize the competing regimes and de facto authorities.⁶²

59. JS1 advised establishing independent mechanisms to investigate attacks against journalists and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.⁶³

60. LFJL urged to expedite the adoption of a comprehensive framework guaranteeing freedom of association, involving CSOs in the legislative process, providing for transparency, and fairness in the registration of CSOs.⁶⁴

61. JS1 called on Libya to issue a law establishing an independent regulatory body concerned with amending and regulating the audio-visual media sector, provided that it enjoys all guarantees of institutional, administrative and financial independence.⁶⁵

62. ECLJ stated that Libya had made no efforts to protect and guarantee the right to freedom of religion for all.⁶⁶ ECLJ urged Libya to take immediate action to ensure its Constitution and laws protected the rights established in the UDHR and the ICCPR.⁶⁷

63. ECLJ urged the government to ensure that all Libyans must be able to freely and peacefully practice their religion according to the tenets of their faith; and to take action to protect Christians from being attacked and harassed because of their faith.⁶⁸

64. ADF recommended Libya to ensure that the new constitution explicitly recognized and guaranteed the right to freedom of religion or belief, in accordance with its obligations under international human rights law.⁶⁹

65. LCW recommended the government to immediately release all individuals detained for their religious beliefs, including followers of Sufi orders, and conduct independent investigations into cases of enforced disappearance, torture, and deaths in custody.⁷⁰

66. LCW also called on the government to release arbitrarily detained individuals and investigate enforced disappearance cases and ensure detainees' rights and provide judicial oversight of detention practices.⁷¹

67. SMPF urged Libya to hold religious leaders and others who call for the death of Christian converts and other "apostates from Islam" accountable; and decriminalise perceived or real apostasy from Islam in law and practice.⁷²

68. SMPF urged the government to decriminalise perceived or real apostasy from Islam in law and practice.⁷³

Right to marriage and family life

69. AAD noted that in August 2020, Libya's Ministry of Justice issued Circular No. 5/2020, directing Sharia court notaries in southern Libya to refuse marriage registration unless both parties presented a recent "electronic family status" document containing a national identification number. This effectively barred members of minority communities - particularly the Tebu and Tuareg - from marrying due to their lack of national ID numbers, despite being registered in family civil records.⁷⁴

Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons

70. JS5 noted that Libya remained a key hub for human trafficking, with traffickers exploiting the country's lawlessness to operate with impunity. JS5 observed that detained migrants were often 'sold' multiple times between different trafficking rings, forced to pay ransom for their release, or subjected to forced labor in agricultural, construction, and sex work industries.⁷⁵

71. JS5 stated that testimonies from survivors described torture used as a method of coercion, with migrants being filmed while being beaten and having the footage sent to their families as a means of extortion.⁷⁶

72. JS5 urged the government to strengthen human trafficking laws and ensure the prosecution of traffickers and smugglers operating within Libya.⁷⁷

73. Unvoices recommended the government to issue a law to combat trafficking in persons. This law must be expedited and a complete ban on trafficking in persons in all its forms must be enacted.⁷⁸

Right to an adequate standard of living

74. ICO stated that the deteriorating economic conditions 'contributed significantly to the occurrence of violations of human rights, largely due to the inability to enjoy decent living conditions, access adequate food, and maintain a suitable healthy environment, particularly for members of the Tebu, Tuareg, and Amazigh communities.

75. ICO indicated that the largely minority groups in southern Libya received little or no government investment in basic infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, roads and electricity, making it difficult for these marginalised groups to escape poverty or access essential services.⁷⁹

76. ICO urged the government to invest in infrastructure in the south to mitigate economic marginalisation of minority groups and ensure access to basic public services. ICO further

recommended to and ensure the de facto implementation of the several international conventions that prohibit employment discrimination that Libya had already ratified.⁸⁰

Right to health

77. LFJL stated that, following the collapse of the two dams in Derna in September 2023, healthcare facilities quickly became overwhelmed, unable to cope with the urgent medical needs resulting from the flood. This inadequacy significantly worsened the humanitarian suffering experienced by survivors.⁸¹

78. ICO stated that minority and indigenous communities in Libya faced severe challenges in accessing healthcare services, especially in southern and border regions.⁸²

79. SCM also observed that migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers did not seek government health care because of the “poor conditions” thus, migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers sought private care or underground medical providers.⁸³

80. ICO surveys have found that due to poor healthcare services, maternal and infant mortality rates among Tebu and Tuareg communities were significantly higher than in Arab-majority regions.⁸⁴

81. JS7 recommended the government to provide women detainees with adequate healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services, hygiene products, and nutritious food.⁸⁵

82. JS99 recommended taking immediate steps to address the severe health crisis within all detention facilities, ensuring that all detainees, regardless of their status, have access to timely and adequate medical care, including treatment for physical and mental health conditions.⁸⁶

Right to education

83. Broken Chalk observed that one of the main factors that persisted and undermined the right to education had been the protracted armed conflict and political instability. Since 2020, the conflict in Libya had resulted in the destruction of educational facilities and the displacement of communities due to the volatile security conditions, intermittent hostilities, and weak governance structures.⁸⁷

84. Broken Chalk noted that the protracted conflict gave rise to chronic socio-economic disparities and recurring economic instability that continued to undermine equitable access to quality education in Libya.⁸⁸

85. AAD recommended Libya to ensure universal access to primary education regardless of legal status or possession of a national ID; and allow stateless secondary school graduates to enrol in universities and access healthcare services.⁸⁹

86. Broken Chalk recommended Libya to implement a School-Based Peer Support Groups to help students, teachers, and community volunteers support each other in unstable situations.⁹⁰

87. Broken Chalk advised implementing a Localised Digital Teacher Training Clusters in safe areas, such as cities or community centres; and Micro-Grant Programme to help schools and communities with limited resources.⁹¹

88. Broken Chalk further recommended introducing Mobile Learning Hubs—small, portable classrooms set up in repurposed buses, shipping containers, or community tents. These hubs travel to areas where schools are closed or unsafe.⁹²

Development, the environment, and business and human rights

89. HIC urged the government to ensure that victims of human rights violations arising from human-made environmental hazards and climate-change enjoy full reparations aligned with UNGA A/RES/60/147.⁹³

90. JS11 provided that the survivors from Derna described their initial abandonment by government authorities, with civilians forced to undertake rescue operations independently due to inadequate governmental support.⁹⁴

91. JS11 advised the government to immediately develop and implement comprehensive disaster preparedness and response plans, incorporating international standards; and ensure transparent and equitable distribution of humanitarian aid, explicitly prohibiting discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, or legal status.⁹⁵

92. JAI stated that, as one of the driest and most water-stressed countries in the world, Libya was particularly susceptible to drought, with less 2% of the country receiving enough rainfall to sustain agriculture; and that environmental disasters, including floods, sandstorms, landslides, and desertification, were becoming more frequent and intense.⁹⁶

93. JAI noted experts' projections suggesting that by 2060, Libya's main temperature could rise by 1.42°C to reach approximately 24.34°C, with the potential to soar as high as 25.61°C. This increase will likely result in more frequent droughts, dust storms, and extreme heat days.⁹⁷

94. JAI recommended Libya to diversify its economy by investing in renewable energy sources like solar and wind power to reduce dependency on non-renewable resources, mitigating climate change and promoting long-term economic self-determination and economic sovereignty.⁹⁸

95. JAI further urged to enhance agricultural sustainability by strengthening support for small-scale farmers, promoting sustainable irrigation practices, and diversifying crops to reduce climate risks and improve food security.⁹⁹

2. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women

96. ICJ observed that the Libyan Penal Code was grossly inadequate at addressing violence against women and girls. It further observed that its approach to consent in the context of sexual and gender-based crimes contravened international law and standards since the absence of consent can only be proven by the use of force, threat or deceit.¹⁰⁰

97. ICJ noted that Libyan criminal law did not criminalize domestic violence and marital rape; and that the penal code provided for a reduced sentence for men who murdered or seriously harmed their wife, daughter, or sister and their sexual partner purportedly "in response to the attack upon their honour or that of their family".¹⁰¹

98. HRW recommended the government to develop laws to prevent, criminalize, and respond to domestic violence that ensure adequate protection and services for survivors; repeal article 424 of the penal code that allows a rapist to escape prosecution if he marries the victim; and terminate plans to impose additional restrictions on women's mobility by the "morality police."¹⁰²

99. JS10 recommended adopting the draft law on the protection of women from violence and establishing a mechanism, pursuant to a resolution or law, to combat violence against women.¹⁰³

100. JS10 urged the government to develop a national plan to eliminate all forms of violence against women with broad participation from human rights and women's organizations.¹⁰⁴ JS7 observed that Libya's nationality laws discriminated against women, denying women the equal right to confer citizenship to their children and spouses.¹⁰⁵

101. JS7 stated that this longstanding issue has caused hardship for thousands of families and effectively rendered many children of Libyan mothers stateless or at a disadvantage in their own country.¹⁰⁶

102. JS7 and JS10 recommended that Libya amend laws and practices to allow foreign spouses of Libyan women to obtain residency and citizenship on an equal basis as spouses of Libyan men; and ensure that children of Libyan mothers can obtain Libyan identity documents.¹⁰⁷

103. JS7 stated that women continued to remain underrepresented in political institutions and faced serious risks when engaging in public life; and that progress in this area since 2020 had been modest and fragile, often overshadowed by threats and societal resistance.¹⁰⁸

104. JS7 also held that there continued to exist a climate of intimidation and violence against women who speak out or assume public office.¹⁰⁹

105. LFJL advised the government to implement specific protective measures for women human rights defenders and youth activists facing gendered threats and smear campaigns.¹¹⁰

106. JS7 and JS10 urged Libya to adopt concrete measures to increase women's representation in all political bodies, from the national parliament to municipal councils; and ensure that any new election law require that women comprise at least 30% of appointees in leadership positions.¹¹¹

107. JS10 recommended Libya to amend Law No. 29 of 2012 regulating political parties by adding a provision that allocates women no less than 30% of party membership across structures, committees, and senior cadres.¹¹²

108. JS10 further recommended amending Law No. 8 of 2013 establishing the High National Elections Commission by adding a provision allocating women no less than 30% within its organizational structure.¹¹³

109. JS2 called on the government to stop any policy that impose compulsory hijab (veiling) on women and girls, in violation of their rights to equality and non-discrimination.¹¹⁴

Children

110. HRS called on the government to release all children who were being detained with one or both parents; those who have relatives should be transferred to their custody; the rest should be moved to the care of the social welfare homes; no child should be in detention.¹¹⁵

111. Broken Chalk observed that the COVID-19 disrupted access to learning for children already affected by conflict. At least 165,000 children required access to schooling, and the lack of digital infrastructure and limited internet connectivity, left vulnerable groups, such as internally displaced children and migrants, disproportionately affected.¹¹⁶

112. Broken Chalk stated that approximately 27,500 migrant and refugee children faced obstacles such as a lack of documentation, language differences, and discrimination, which hinder their educational opportunities.¹¹⁷

113. Broken Chalk further observed that children in conflict-affected areas suffered from damaged infrastructure and limited access to learning materials, further impeding their academic prospects.¹¹⁸

114. AAD stated that children belonging to stateless minorities in Libya, particularly the Tebu and Tuareg, were systematically denied basic rights, especially in education and healthcare, due to the lack of official recognition and national ID.¹¹⁹

115. AAD observed that children from minority communities were often barred from enrolling in primary school or expelled, violating the CRC, the ICCPR, Article 14 of Libya's Interim Constitution, and the Libyan Education Law, which mandated free and compulsory basic education.¹²⁰

Persons with disabilities

116. Broken Chalk noted that Children with disabilities encountered substantial barriers to accessing education, including inadequate infrastructure and limited specialised support.¹²¹

117. JS6 recommended Libya to enable participation of activists with disabilities and ensure they can freely express their views and claim their rights.¹²²

Indigenous Peoples and minorities

118. ICO stated that the conflict in Libya had disproportionately affected minority groups, leading to hardships and human rights violations; in particular, the Tebu communities in Southern Libya had been subjected to repeated attacks and forced evictions.¹²³

119. ICO noted that Libya's population is predominantly of Arab and mixed Arab-Berber descent, accounting for over 90% of the populace. Of the total population of 6.2 million people, the Amazigh (Berber) community, indigenous to North Africa, constituted the largest non-Arab ethnic group in Libya and comprised approximately 5% of Libya's population.¹²⁴

120. AAD advised the government to officially recognize cultural and linguistic minorities including the Amazigh, Tebu, Tuareg, and Tawergha communities in Libya's upcoming constitution and guarantee their rights to language, culture, and education.¹²⁵

121. ADF urged the government to ensure the effective protection of persons belonging to religious minorities, including migrants and converts, from all acts of violence, harassment and abuse by state and non-state actors.¹²⁶

122. ADF further recommended taking all measures to eliminate the practice of abductions, forced religious conversion and forced marriage of women and girls, especially from religious minorities.¹²⁷

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

123. AI noted that Libya rejected recommendations aimed at decriminalizing consensual same-sex sexual relations between adults. Since the last UPR review, the ISA-Tripoli and other militias and armed groups arrested tens of individuals based on their actual or perceived gender identity and/or sexual orientation. Several have been prosecuted on charges of "homosexuality".¹²⁸

124. AI recommended the government to decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual conduct and protect LGBTI people from discrimination, violence and other human rights violations.¹²⁹

Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

125. AI noted that thousands of foreign nationals were arbitrarily detained in detention centres run by the Department of Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM), while thousands of others were held directly by militias and armed groups in cruel and inhuman conditions and subjected to torture and other ill-treatment, extortion of ransoms, forced labour, and denial of adequate medical care.¹³⁰

126. AI stated that those held indefinitely included men, women and children intercepted by EU-supported Libyan coastguards and those forcibly expelled by Tunisia since July 2023.¹³¹

127. SCM, JS99 and JS5 urged the government to investigate all reports of human rights violations and abuses committed against migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, including enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, unlawful killing, forced displacement, attacks against civilians and civilian objects, and cases of sexual violence and abuse against women and girls, bring the perpetrators to justice, and provide access to justice and rehabilitation to victims of torture.¹³²

128. HRF advised the government to protect the rights of asylum seekers and stop the torture and ill-treatment of migrants, especially through illegal pullbacks at sea.¹³³

129. JS5 urged the government to guarantee non-refoulement protections for asylum seekers and ratify the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and to strengthen human trafficking laws.¹³⁴

130. JS5 recommended Libya to end the exploitation of migrants and refugees in detention centers by phasing out their use and ensuring that detained individuals are released and granted access to legal pathways for protection.¹³⁵

131. JS9 recommended the Libyan authorities to halt illegal interceptions at sea and returns to Libya following rescue or interception operations at sea, as Libya cannot be considered a safe port for disembarkation.¹³⁶

132. JS99 called on Libya to repeal laws criminalizing irregular entry and close all DCIM detention centres and trafficking hubs, where enforced disappearances and torture-related

fatalities are rampant and replace these with monitored reception centres providing access to asylum procedures, healthcare, and legal aid.¹³⁷

133. CFJ recommended to urgently ensure that the treatment of migrant detainees aligns fully with international human rights standards, specifically the Mandela Rules, by ending systematic torture, ill-treatment, and degrading practices.¹³⁸

Internally displaced persons

134. HIC noted that conflicts displaced some 925,000 Libyans from their homes between 2011 and 2018. However, at Libya's 3rd UPR (2020), that number dropped to fewer than 300,000. The end of 2022 saw the lowest number since 2013, at about 135,000.¹³⁹

135. LFJL stated that, in September 2023, two dams in Derna collapsed, resulting in at least 5,923 confirmed deaths. However, estimates suggested the actual death toll could be as high as 24,000. More than 8,000 individuals were reported missing, and over 40,000 residents were displaced.¹⁴⁰

136. LFJL observed that approximately 18,500 homes were destroyed, leaving entire communities disrupted and infrastructure severely damaged.¹⁴¹

137. AI recommended Libya to take steps to establish an independent body, in consultation with displaced communities, to organize and monitor the safe, voluntary and dignified return of IDPs without fear of reprisals and ensure that they can reclaim their homes and other property.¹⁴²

138. HRW urged the government to provide adequate support and assistance to facilitate the return of displaced populations.¹⁴³

Notes

¹ A/HRC/46/17, A/HRC/46/17/Add.1, and A/HRC/17/2.

² The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org (one asterisk denotes a national human rights institution with A status).

Civil society

Individual submissions:

A F A	Adala for All (AFA), Paris 75012, France;
AAD	Aman against Discrimination (AAD), Murzuq, Libya;
ADF	ADF International, 1202 Geneva, Switzerland;
AI	Amnesty International, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
Alkarama	Alkarama for Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland;
Broken Chalk	The Stichting Broken Chalk, Amsterdam, Netherlands;
CFJ-Geneva	Committee for Justice, Geneva, Switzerland;
CIHRS	Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Geneva, Switzerland;
CPI	Committee to Protect Journalists, New York, United States of America;
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice, Strasbourg, France;
H.R.F	Human Rights Foundation, New York, United States of America;
HIC	Habitat International Coalition, Geneva, Switzerland;
HRS	Human Rights Solidarity Organization, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland;
HRW	Human Rights Watch, Geneva, Switzerland;
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, Geneva, Switzerland;
ICJ	International Commission of Jurists, Geneva, Switzerland;
ICO	International Communities Organisation, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
JAI	Just Atonement Inc., 2nd Floor, United States of America;
LCW	Libya Crimes Watch, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

MAAT	Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights, Cairo, Egypt;
SCM	Syrian center for media and freedom of expression, Paris, France;
SMPF	Set My People Free, Gnosjö, Sweden;
unvoices	منظمة المتوسط لحقوق الإنسان, Sabratha, Libya;
UPR BCU	The UPR Project at BCU, Birmingham, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Joint submissions:

JS1	Joint Submission 1 submitted by: ARTICLE 19 MENA, Tunis, Tunisia;
JS2	Joint Submission 2 submitted by: Access Now, New York, United States of America;
JS3	Joint Submission 3 submitted by: Advocates for Human Rights, Minneapolis, United States of America;
JS4	Joint Submission 4 submitted by: Arab NGO Network for Development, Beirut, Lebanon;
JS5	Joint Submission 5 submitted by: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Geneva, Switzerland;
JS6	Joint Submission 6: submitted by: للحقوق والحريات, Albayda, Libya;
JS7	Joint Submission 7 submitted by: Lawyers for Justice in Libya; London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
JS8	Joint Submission 8 submitted by: Middle East Concern; The World Evangelical Alliance; ADF International; Jubilee Campaign; Open Doors; Stefanus Alliance International; The Baptist World Alliance; and The Danish European Mission, Luton, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
JS9	Joint Submission 9 submitted by: World Organisation Against Torture, Geneva, Switzerland;
JS10	Joint Submission 10 submitted by: Solidarity For Women Supporting and Empowerment, Tripoli Libya, Libya.
JS11	Joint Submission 11 submitted by: UPR Coalition for Libya, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

³ The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

- ⁴ HRS, p.10; JS9, para 16; JS9, para 23; HRW, p.5; SMPF, p.2; JS2, para 8; SCM, p.12; UPR BCU, para 29; JS2, para 8; LCW, para 8; JS9, p.6; JS8, para 61; AFA, p.7; and HRF, para 37; Alkarama, para 1.2.; Maat, p.10.
- ⁵ HRW, p.9.
- ⁶ ICAN, p.1.
- ⁷ JS5, para 33.
- ⁸ HRW, p.6.
- ⁹ JS2, para 8.
- ¹⁰ CFJ, p.9.
- ¹¹ Alkarama, para 3.2.4.
- ¹² UPR BCU, para 29.
- ¹³ JS99, para 16.
- ¹⁴ JS4, para 7; JS5, para 11; CIHRS, para 32.
- ¹⁵ CFJ, p.9.
- ¹⁶ JS4, para 7.
- ¹⁷ LFJL, para 25; JS11, para 25; JS5, para 23.
- ¹⁸ JS6, para 10.
- ¹⁹ HRW, p.8.
- ²⁰ Unvoices, p.18.
- ²¹ AAD, p.6.
- ²² HRS, para 24.
- ²³ HRS, para 51.
- ²⁴ ADF, para 35.
- ²⁵ HRW, p.7.
- ²⁶ UPR BCU, para 29.
- ²⁷ Alkarama, para 3.3.
- ²⁸ Alkarama, para 1.3.
- ²⁹ JS99, para 16.
- ³⁰ CIHRS, para 23.
- ³¹ ICJ, para 24.
- ³² JS10, p.11; HRS, p.9.
- ³³ ICJ, para 26.
- ³⁴ ICJ, para 27.
- ³⁵ JS8, para 61.
- ³⁶ JS8, para 61.
- ³⁷ JS3, para 33.
- ³⁸ JS3, para 33.
- ³⁹ JS3, para 33.
- ⁴⁰ MAAT, p.10.
- ⁴¹ MAAT, p.10.
- ⁴² JS5, para 33.
- ⁴³ JS8, para 61.
- ⁴⁴ HIC, para 19.
- ⁴⁵ HIC, para 33.
- ⁴⁶ ICJ, para 34.
- ⁴⁷ ICJ, para 35.
- ⁴⁸ HRW, p.8.
- ⁴⁹ MAAT, p.10.
- ⁵⁰ HRW, p.2.
- ⁵¹ JS6, para 30; HRW, p.3.
- ⁵² JS6, para 14.
- ⁵³ AFA, p.3.
- ⁵⁴ AFA, p.3.
- ⁵⁵ AI, para 7.
- ⁵⁶ AFA, p.3.
- ⁵⁷ AFA, p.7.
- ⁵⁸ HRW, p.7.
- ⁵⁹ HRW, p.9.
- ⁶⁰ JS6, para 11.
- ⁶¹ JS2, para 31.
- ⁶² HRF, para 37; JS6, para 14.
- ⁶³ JS1, para 17.

- ⁶⁴ LFJL, para 13.
- ⁶⁵ JS1, para 23.
- ⁶⁶ ECLJ, para 18.
- ⁶⁷ ECLJ, para 18.
- ⁶⁸ ECLJ, para 18.
- ⁶⁹ ADF, para 35.
- ⁷⁰ LCW, para 32.
- ⁷¹ LCW, para 8.
- ⁷² SMPF, p.2.
- ⁷³ SMPF, p.2.
- ⁷⁴ AAD, p.3.
- ⁷⁵ JS5, para 44.
- ⁷⁶ JS5, para 44.
- ⁷⁷ JS5, para 45.
- ⁷⁸ Unvoices, p.18.
- ⁷⁹ ICO, para 12.
- ⁸⁰ ICO, para 13.
- ⁸¹ LFJL, paras 37 and 39.
- ⁸² ICO, para 30.
- ⁸³ SCM, para 41.
- ⁸⁴ ICO, para 30.
- ⁸⁵ JS7, para 24.
- ⁸⁶ JS99, para 12.
- ⁸⁷ Broken Chalk, para 13.
- ⁸⁸ Broken Chalk, para 19.
- ⁸⁹ AAD, p.6.
- ⁹⁰ Broken Chalk, para 26.
- ⁹¹ Broken Chalk, para 27.
- ⁹² Broken Chalk, para 30.
- ⁹³ HIC, para 28.
- ⁹⁴ JS11, para 38.
- ⁹⁵ JS11, para 42.
- ⁹⁶ JAI, para 4.
- ⁹⁷ JAI, para 5.
- ⁹⁸ JAI, para 41.
- ⁹⁹ JAI, para 42.
- ¹⁰⁰ ICJ, para 21.
- ¹⁰¹ ICJ, para 22.
- ¹⁰² GRWm o.6.
- ¹⁰³ JS10, p.11.
- ¹⁰⁴ JS10, p.12.
- ¹⁰⁵ JS7, para 25.
- ¹⁰⁶ JS7, para 25.
- ¹⁰⁷ JS7, para 30; JS11, p.11.
- ¹⁰⁸ JS7, para 5.
- ¹⁰⁹ JS7, para 7.
- ¹¹⁰ LFJL, para 13.
- ¹¹¹ JS7, para 10; p.10; JS11, p.11.
- ¹¹² JS10, p.11.
- ¹¹³ JS10, p.11.
- ¹¹⁴ JS2, para 38.
- ¹¹⁵ HRS, p.10.
- ¹¹⁶ Broken Chalk, para 4.
- ¹¹⁷ Broken Chalk, para 6.
- ¹¹⁸ Broken Chalk, para 6.
- ¹¹⁹ AAD, para 4.
- ¹²⁰ AAD, para 4.
- ¹²¹ Broken Chalk, para 5.
- ¹²² JS6, para 30.
- ¹²³ ICO, para 9.
- ¹²⁴ ICO, para 5.
- ¹²⁵ AAD, p.6.

- ¹²⁶ ADF, para 35.
¹²⁷ ADF, para 35.
¹²⁸ AI, para 25.
¹²⁹ AI, para 49.
¹³⁰ AI, para 17.
¹³¹ AI, para 17.
¹³² SCM, p.13; JS99, 23; and JS5, para 45.
¹³³ HRF, para 37.
¹³⁴ JS5, para 45.
¹³⁵ JS5, para 45.
¹³⁶ JS9, p.11.
¹³⁷ JS99, 23.
¹³⁸ CFJ, p.9.
¹³⁹ HIC, para 8.
¹⁴⁰ LFJL, para 37.
¹⁴¹ LFJL, para 37.
¹⁴² AI, para 50.
¹⁴³ HRW, p.5.
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