

Research Report
Model United Nations
Development Programme
XXV. Annual Session



**UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)**

**TACKLING THE MALTREATMENT OF
ASYLUM SEEKERS IN LIBYA**

DEMİR BÖLEK





Basic Overview of the Issue

Following the ongoing civil war in Sudan, many asylum seekers fled across the border into Libya. As of December 2024, close to 80.000 asylum seekers are seeking shelter in Libya. (UNHCR, 2024). Prior to the arrival of the asylum seekers, Libya had already endured 2 civil wars in the last decade. Because of these wars, Libya has been politically divided into two separate administrations and its economy has suffered devastating damages, along with the living conditions in its war-torn cities. As a result, Libya became a host for more than 100.000 internally displaced persons (IDP) in need of humanitarian assistance even before the arrival of the asylum seekers . (UNHCR, 2023). The vast number of people in need of humanitarian aid has overwhelmed Libya and resulted in many asylum seekers to be placed in detention centers. However, the real issue that raises concerns is the treatment of the asylum seekers rather than their overwhelming number. Migrants and even asylum seekers who do not possess their passports are classified as illegal immigrants under Libyan National Law. This results in the police and other officials treating many asylum seekers as criminals. Even so, the inhumane treatment of asylum seekers can not be justified in any way. In Libyan detention centers countless asylum seekers are met with even harsher conditions than that they originally escaped from. Previous United Nations and Amnesty International reports demonstrate that asylum seekers are subject to major human rights violations such as torture and have been systematically deprived of basic human necessities such as food and water. In addition to being subject to inhumane and degrading treatment, many asylum seekers suffer from gang violence. Libya has been a politically unstable country since the fall of Kaddafi. Hence, the country is full of local gangs and other sorts of criminal organizations. Most asylum seekers who manage to escape from detention centers are very likely to get kidnapped and returned to detention centers by local gangs in exchange for money. In fact, of the 47,000 migrants and refugees that tried to escape from detention centers most were captured and detained illegally by smugglers. (Al Jazeera, 2023).

Moreover, the asylum seekers who are lucky enough to successfully escape from detention centers and gangs, attempt to travel through the sea with the hopes of reaching the coasts of Italy. Many of them lose their lives during the journey by drowning or sickness. The others who reach the coasts of Italy are sent back to Libya unless they meet the qualifications set by the European Union (EU) Pact on Migration and Asylum. The EU's



approach on this matter does not comply with human rights standards. As a result, many asylum seekers who arrive in Europe are denied access to their humanitarian rights and sent back to Libya.

Explanation of Important Terms

Asylum seeker

Someone who is seeking international protection. (UNHCR)

Internally Displaced Person

An internally displaced person is someone who is forced to flee their home by conflict, violence, persecution or disasters, however, unlike refugees, they remain within their own country. (UNHCR)

European Union Pact on Migration and Asylum

The European Union Pact on Migration and Asylum was adopted on April 10th, 2024, by the European Parliament. The pact is a new set of new rules managing migration and establishing a common asylum system at the EU level, that aims to deliver results while remaining grounded in European values. (EU)

Detention Center

A detention center is a place where people who have entered a country without the necessary documents can be kept for short periods of time. The government of the country in which the people enter determines what the necessary documents are. The necessary documents might differ from one country to another. (Cambridge Dictionary)

Torture

Torture consists of severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, inflicted for such purposes as obtaining information or a confession, exerting pressure, intimidation or humiliation. (ICRC)

Inhumane treatment

Inhumane treatment are acts that cause serious pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, or which constitute a serious outrage upon personal dignity. Unlike torture, these acts do not need to be committed for a specific purpose or a motive. (ICRC)



Refugee

A person who has escaped from their own country for political, religious, or economic reasons or because of a war. (Cambridge Dictionary)

Human Rights Violation

Violations of internationally recognized standards relating to human rights, whether or not they have yet been incorporated into national laws. (The Commonwealth Library)

Detailed Background of the Issue

The Impacts of the Recent Civil Wars In the Region

Spillover Effects of the Libyan Civil Wars

Since 2011, Libya endured two civil wars which lasted until 2020. The first civil war broke out between the rebel forces and the forces of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. After eight months of fighting, Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown and killed. After the war, a transitional government was established. However, peace was not maintained for a long period. Eventually, after the election in 2014, fighting broke out between the forces of the Government of National Accord (GNA) and the House of Representatives (HoR). After 6 years of fighting a permanent ceasefire was achieved between the parties and the war was concluded on 23 October 2020. Currently, Libya remains politically divided into two separate administrations: the Government of National Unity (GNU) and the Government of National Stability (GNS). Libya's political instability coupled with the devastating damages it received from a decade of armed conflict has caused many Libyans to be internally displaced. Many victims of the civil war were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, which left Libya in an even more vulnerable state. As a result, many tried to escape the country undocumented but few were successful. Those who were caught were placed in detention centers and subjected to serious human rights violations. Moreover, following the Sudanese civil war, a vast number of asylum seekers were seeking shelter in war-torn Libya. Libya had not been able to repair the damages of the civil wars before the arrival of the asylum seekers. Therefore, Libya did not have enough resources to provide the asylum seekers with humanitarian assistance and chose to hold those who had



entered the country undocumented, in prolonged detention pursuant to its legislation. However, this only worsened the harsh conditions of the asylum seekers. Because of this many asylum seekers relied on the humanitarian assistance provided by local Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Spillover Effects of the Sudanese Civil War

On 15 April 2023, fighting broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) which would then escalate into the ongoing Sudanese Civil War. Prior to the war, Sudan was already hosting many refugees because of the South Sudanese refugee crisis. Because of the war, with each passing day, the tragic humanitarian conditions in Sudan keep getting worse. As a result, after the beginning of the war, 3.2 million people including the ones that have arrived from South Sudan were displaced into neighboring countries, creating the worst displacement crisis in the world. (UNHCR, 2024). This crisis has also resulted in countless asylum seekers being displaced into countries that are not stable enough to host them. Asylum seekers have mostly sought shelter in South Sudan and Chad. However, a considerable number of asylum seekers who fled up north ended up crossing the Libyan border hoping to receive humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian Issues and Human Rights Violations

Treatment of Asylum Seekers in Detention Centers

A major part of this issue is constituted by the inhumane treatment of asylum seekers in detention centers. The problem regarding detention centers has been apparent for the better part of the decade. However, despite this; the Libyan government has not taken any significant successful action in solving the problem. In these detention centers asylum seekers are subjected to countless human rights violations rather than receiving the humanitarian assistance they need. In the detention centers, asylum seekers are systematically subjected to cruel acts by guards, members of militias, and armed groups. For example, asylum seekers who fail to pay ransom money for their kidnapped relatives or who refuse to follow an order from the guards are beaten with metal pipes and/or tortured with electric shocks. In some cases, asylum seekers are subject to violence for no apparent reason. For instance, “Ikenna” an asylum seeker in a detention center at Libya told Amnesty



International reporters that the guards had broken his leg “For no apparent reason but just for fun” (Amnesty International, 2020). Situations like this cause the asylum seekers to suffer from not only physical damage but also permanent psychological damage or trauma. Additionally, asylum seekers in detention centers, more specifically the women also suffer from sexual violence from guards and members of armed groups. Moreover, due to the overwhelming amounts of asylum seekers entering the country following the Sudanese Civil War, detention centers have a major problem regarding bedding. Many asylum seekers have to sleep on the floor without any cushioning. According to Amnesty International reports, bed sheets are roughly cleaned every 3 months in most detention centers. Furthermore, the quality of food and the scarcity of potable water in detention centers raise genuine concerns. As “Samuel” an asylum seeker and a previous detainee at a detention center told Amnesty International reporters: the detainees are forced to rely on the food and water provided by the local NGOs because the Libyan officials fail to provide them with basic human necessities (Amnesty International, 2020). Therefore, the lives of many detainees are dependent on the humanitarian assistance provided by NGOs. Furthermore, asylum seekers are also subjected to forced labor. Many detainees are forced to work in construction, cleaning, and maintenance without remuneration or their consent.



Image 1: Asylum seeker forced to work (Human Rights Watch, 2019)

Gang Violence Against Asylum Seekers

Following the fall of Kaddafi, Libya has not been able to ensure political stability within itself. As a result, the country is full of gangs, armed militia groups, traffickers, and corruption. Hence, corrupt deals and operations are regularly encountered in Libya. Because of the harsh conditions and inhumane treatment at detention centers many asylum seekers escape the detention centers in a desperate attempt to flee to Italy. However, some traffickers and gangs deceive asylum seekers into believing that they will rescue them, while they actually aim to hand them back to detention centers in exchange for money. Many asylum seekers who fall into this deception get beaten, abused, robbed, or even sexually assaulted by gang members during the process. Additionally, it is very likely for asylum seekers to be taken advantage of by local gangs and traffickers right after they are legally freed from detention. Some gangs target asylum seekers who have recently entered the country with the incentive of receiving ransom money from their relatives. For instance, Salem Doma was an asylum seeker who had recently entered Libya. On October 8 2023 his family received a message including a video of him being brutally tortured by gang members. The gang that sent the video demanded 12,000 dollars of ransom money from Salem



Doma's family. (Al Jazeera, 2023). Similar to Salem Doma's family, many families can not seek help from the police due to the corruption in Libya, which leaves most families that cannot provide the money with no opportunity to help their relatives.

False Imprisonments and Deprivations of Liberty of Asylum Seekers

Asylum seekers and refugees in Libya live under constant risk of getting arbitrarily arrested or abducted by security forces, members of militias and armed groups as well as traffickers. In fact, it is very likely for an asylum seeker to get kidnapped by local gangs or militia groups and a ransom to be demanded for their release. Nevertheless, in some extreme instances, asylum seekers are abducted by security forces and asked for ransom in order to be released. Moreover, under Libyan law, an asylum seeker, migrant, or refugee who is not in possession of their passport is classified as an illegal migrant. The Libyan authorities and those in control of the territory do not make any distinction between migrants, individuals in need of international protection, and survivors of trafficking. However, according to customary international law which all member states must follow, asylum seekers shall be offered asylum regardless of how or why they arrived at a country. Despite this, many asylum seekers in Libya get arrested and thrown into detention centers for not possessing their passports even though it is strictly against international law. In addition, many victims of the tragic effects of the Libyan civil war are also asylum seekers in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Since most of them are IDPs they also share the risk of being abducted by militia groups and other sorts of criminal organizations. Moreover, because many of them are hundreds of miles away from their homes they have a high chance of either becoming homeless or seeking shelter in a detention center only to be falsely imprisoned. Furthermore, asylum seekers who try to escape from Libya through the sea in order to reach Italy are falsely imprisoned as illegal migrants if they get caught by the Libyan authorities for no legal basis or justification. Moreover, some asylum seekers are subjected to stay in detention for an indefinite amount of time for no evident reason which is in clear violation of international law. According to Amnesty International reports, none of the arrests of asylum seekers documented by Amnesty International had any legal basis or even based on any judicial decision. Additionally, the reports also indicate that those detained had no



opportunity to challenge the legality of their detention.



Image 2: Falsely Imprisoned Libyan Asylum Seekers (BBC, 2017)

Humanitarian Issues Outside Detention Centers

Even when free, asylum seekers and refugees in Libya frequently live in dreadful conditions and are subject to systematic abuse and exploitation by employers, security forces, and local gangs. Many asylum seekers who live in urban areas rely on daily and physically demanding jobs without a legal contract for their living. Because of the absence of a legal contract, asylum seekers are generally unable to seek legal protection from the government against their employers. This allows employers to take advantage of them without facing any significant consequences. Even in the instances that they do get paid, asylum seekers are in grave danger of being robbed by local gangs and armed groups. Moreover, asylum seekers face significant trouble accessing healthcare. After many years of civil war, Libya's healthcare system has been undermined substantially due to attacks on medical facilities and the migration of qualified medical personnel. This leads to civilians in general having difficulties accessing proper healthcare. Although asylum seekers and refugees registered with the UNHCR can seek free medical care, those who are not registered face more obstacles in addition to what a normal Libyan citizen faces due to racial and other forms of discrimination. As a result, most of them do not have access to public healthcare and have to resort to private healthcare. However, because most of them do not have the money to afford private healthcare they are



solely dependent on the medical aid provided by local NGOs and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs).

Legal Issues In Libya

The Effects of Libya's Approach towards its Obligations Under International Law

Libya is bound by customary international law similar to other member states. According to customary international law, an asylum seeker should be offered asylum irrespective of how and why they seek asylum. This principle applies to both the asylum seekers who have suffered from the effects of the Libyan civil war and the asylum seekers who flee their country and enter Libya. Libya's approach to this matter falls short of its responsibilities under international law. In most cases, Libyan authorities place asylum seekers who have entered the country in detention centers pursuant to their civil code, subjecting many to prolonged detention where they have a likelihood of facing systematic abuse instead of being offered basic humanitarian assistance. In addition, in many instances, asylum seekers who have been internally displaced within Libya are also subjected to prolonged detention rather than receiving humanitarian aid, even though there is no apparent legal basis. As a result of these, asylum seekers cannot receive the aid that they need and many have no choice but to try escaping Libya through the sea with the hopes of reaching Italy. Those who cannot manage to escape are either abducted by gangs or have to rely on the humanitarian aid provided by local NGOs in order to survive.

The Effects of the Libyan Civil Code

Libyan law related to migrants and refugees falls short of international law standards. According to many experts, Libyan law fails to recognize the special nature of asylum seekers and establishes principles contrary to customary international law. Additionally, Libyan law criminalizes irregular entry, stay, and exit as punishable by a prison sentence, a fine, and ultimately, deportation. This results in many asylum seekers who enter the country irregularly to be deprived of their liberty by being placed in detention centers. In addition, according to Law No. 19 on Combating Illegal Migration which was adopted with the purpose of ensuring harsher punishment for irregular migration any person who enters or tries to exit the country undocumented



can be subject to prolonged detention. Many IDPs fail to receive the asylum that they seek in Libya. Because of this some of them try to escape the country through the sea in order to survive. Since they do not have enough money to travel properly they have no option but to attempt traveling undocumented. As a result, those who get caught are placed back in detention centers for an indefinite amount of time.

The EU's Stance on the Matter

European States' Obligations Under International Law

European states, similar to all other states, have the obligation to accept and offer refuge to asylum seekers and refugees irrespective of how or why they have entered the country. This obligation burdens the European states with the responsibility to offer humanitarian aid for asylum seekers who arrive from Libya. In a scenario where the European states are determined to follow this obligation, asylum seekers who have managed to reach the coasts of European countries will receive the humanitarian assistance that they need. In addition to this according to international customary law, the European states must also ensure that asylum seekers and refugees are provided with fundamental legal rights. However, whether the EU member states fulfill this obligation is open to question. Many NGOs believe that the EU fails to fulfill this obligation by not providing all asylum seekers with the right to possess information about their access to legal rights and opportunities, the right to access free legal aid, the right to adequate reception conditions, and the right to a fair, full asylum procedure. These obligations also suggest that the European states should provide medical aid to those who need urgent medical care. Considering that many asylum seekers reach Europe by a dangerous journey through the Mediterranean Sea with rubber boats it is safe to assume that many who reach the coasts will be in need of medical assistance. Unfortunately, the European states' approach towards this obligation results in the loss of many lives that could have been saved otherwise. Moreover, under international customary law, European states are required to ensure that detention and deportation are only used as a last resort and should establish effective alternate ways to fulfill their obligations under international law.

Impacts of the Adaptation of the EU Pact on Asylum and Migration

On April 10th, 2024, the pact on Asylum and Migration was adopted by the



European Parliament despite the genuine concerns raised by multiple NGOs. The pact is composed of ten legislative files and has the initial purpose of achieving more secure European borders. The pact requires asylum seekers to get through a qualification process. However, whether the pact complies with international law is questionable. The pact also determines detention and deportation as primary approaches rather than a last resort. The European Union's approach towards asylum seekers is of crucial importance to tackle this issue. Many asylum seekers are facing even harsher conditions in Libya than what they would have faced in their homeland. Which is why they try to escape from Libya into Europe. Hence, the European Union should be willing to cooperate by offering refuge to asylum seekers at least for a temporary period to ensure the safety and well-being of asylum seekers.

Major Parties Involved

Libya

In the last decade, Libya endured two civil wars and has not been able to maintain its political stability since the Fall of Gaddafi. Currently, Libya is governed by two rival administrations, the GNU and the GNS. Furthermore, as a result of the civil wars more than 100,000 people within Libya were internally displaced. (UNHCR, 2023). Additionally, the arrival of 80,000 asylum seekers following the Sudanese Civil War has significantly overwhelmed Libya leading many to never receive the urgent humanitarian assistance that they need. (UNHCR, 2024). Moreover, asylum seekers placed in detention centers for irregular entry are met with harsh conditions and serious human rights violations. Nevertheless, even the asylum seekers who are free and employed suffer from humanitarian issues. Although the UNHCR has previously attempted to tackle this conflict by funding the Libyan government it was not enough. As of now, this issue has proven too strong to be tackled only by funding.



Government of National Unity

The GNU was established on March 10, 2021, through a UN-backed peace process that has been in motion since 2014. The GNU aims to collaborate with the EU and UN agencies to ensure the safe migration of asylum seekers. The GNU, contrary to the GNS, focuses on the transfer of asylum seekers through the Mediterranean into European borders rather than border security. However, the GNU regularly organizes Coast Guard operations and oversees many detention centers which consist mainly of asylum seekers. While the GNU claims to address the treatment of asylum seekers in detention centers their efforts are insufficient.

Government of National Stability

The GNS was established by the HoR on March 1, 2022. The GNS has a more radical approach to the overwhelming issue. The GNS aims to tackle the issue by focusing on border security and blocking the entry of any migrants or even asylum seekers. The GNS also regularly exercises military operations along with systematic deportation on the southern border through the help of the LNA. Moreover, The GNS has not yet declared any intention to improve the maltreatment of asylum seekers.

European Union (EU)

The European Union consists of many first-world countries and has a strong economy compared to African countries. On April 10th, 2024, the European Union adopted the pact on Asylum and Migration. The pact primarily aims to achieve more secure European borders and faster and more efficient procedures for asylum and return. However, according to many NGOs, the pact disregards the special nature of asylum seekers under international law and denies access to many asylum seekers who aim to escape the harsh conditions in Libya and seek refuge in Italy or other European countries near Libya. Nonetheless, despite the concerns raised by various NGOs, the EU's stance on the matter is clear. As of now, the EU is not willing to offer refuge to most asylum seekers who are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

Italy

Italy is an economically and politically stable country. Geographically, Italy is the closest European country to Libya. Italy also has significant connections with Libya since



Libya was its colony prior to the First World War. Similar to the European Union, Italy has a very clear stance on the matter. Almost all of the asylum seekers who manage to reach the coasts of Italy are sent back to Libya by Italy for failing to qualify as a beneficiary of international protection. Italy's approach almost leaves most asylum seekers with no option but to deal with the extremely harsh conditions in Libya. However, in a scenario where Italy is persuaded to approve the transfer of those asylum seekers to within its borders the the transfer of the asylum seekers would be a viable solution to the problem

Sudan

Currently, Sudan is going through a Civil War and a human rights crisis. Many of the refugees who fled South Sudan are having to return to South Sudan after being met with the conditions in Sudan. Because Sudan is in the midst of a civil war of its own, the ones who fled have no choice but to flee to Saharan countries or another neighboring country. Moreover, the civil war in Sudan has resulted in many people fleeing Sudan with hopes of seeking asylum in nearby countries. The countries that received the most amount of asylum seekers as a result of this event are Libya, Chad, and Egypt. Just Libya alone has received 80.000 asylum seekers that have fled from Sudan. (UNHCR, 2024).

South Sudan

South Sudan has had trouble maintaining its political stability throughout the past decade. After a long-lasting civil war, South Sudan is facing a humanitarian crisis. Close to 10 Million people are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in South Sudan. (UN Crisis Relief, 2024). An issue of this scale has drawn the attention of major organizations such as the UNHCR that have previously attempted to resolve the crisis. Nevertheless, the crisis was not resolved and due to the ongoing civil war and the human rights crisis in Sudan, most of the ones who fled to Sudan find themselves with 2 choices. Either entering into the neighboring countries of Sudan or returning to South Sudan. Among those who chose to enter into neighbouring countries of Sudan some of them enter into the already overwhelmingly full Libya.

Chad

Chad is a neighboring country of both Libya. Unlike Libya, Sudan, or South Sudan, Chad is a politically stable country in sub-Saharan Africa. In the past decade, Chad has not experienced a civil war or a major inner dispute. Nonetheless, Chad was also significantly



affected by the South Sudanese refugee crisis and the ongoing civil war in Sudan. As of December 2024, around 8 thousand asylum seekers are currently living in Chad. (UNHCR, 2024). Moreover, economic reform efforts have successfully portrayed economic growth according to the World Bank. It would be a viable short-term solution for Libya to transfer some of its 80.000 asylum seekers into Chad where they will not be subjected to inhumane treatment.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The UNHCR has been actively sending funds to Libya since 2014 as well as Sudan since the start of the Sudanese Civil War. In addition, the UNHCR has also been collaborating with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide basic humanitarian necessities to the region. However, the efforts of the organizations were not enough to tackle the crisis without the joint collaboration of the political parties in Libya

Amnesty International

Amnesty International has been closely observing the situation for many years. Countless Amnesty International reports entail the human rights violations committed against the asylum seekers both inside and outside the detention centers. Amnesty International has also conducted various interviews with previous victims or eyewitnesses of human rights abuses. Through various reports, Amnesty International expresses its firm stance against the inhumane treatment of asylum seekers. Many Amnesty International reports relevant to the matter indicate that asylum seekers were denied access to healthcare, abused both outside and inside the detention centers, subjected to gang violence, sexually assaulted, and wrongfully arrested, imprisoned, or detained. Moreover, Amnesty International reports also claim that Libya and EU states failed to fulfill their obligations under international law alongside many other accusations.

Chronology of Important Events

Date	Description of Event
15 January 2011	The Start of the 1st Libyan



	Civil War
March 2011	The Start of the Syrian Refugee Crisis
23 October 2011	The fall of Muammar Kaddafi and the End of the First Libyan Civil War
16 May 2014	The Start of the Second Libyan Civil War
23 October 2020	The End of the Second Libyan Civil War
10 April 2023	Adaptation of the European Union Pact on Asylum and Migration
April 2023	The Start of the South Sudanese Refugee Crisis
29 April 2023	Security Council's renewal of Authorization to Inspect Vessels Suspected of Smuggling Migrants, Human Trafficking from Libya, Adopting Resolution 2698

Relevant International Documents

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15428.doc.htm>



Adopted by the United Nations Security Council at its 2698th meeting. **(S/Res/15428)**

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n20/038/00/pdf/n2003800.pdf>

Adopted by the United Nations Security Council at its 8722nd meeting. **(S/Res/2510)**

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4050344?ln=en&v=pdf#files>

Adopted by the United Nations Security Council at its 9644th meeting **(S/Res/2733)**

Past Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Organizations such as the WFP, the UNHCR, and the USAID are actively sending humanitarian assistance to Libya. Despite their joint efforts, they are still not able to resolve the issue from its core. Also, the UNSC implemented resolution 2698 with the hopes of making progress regarding the issue. The resolution condemned all acts of migrant smuggling and human trafficking into, through, and from the Libyan territory and off the coast of Libya. This resolution, similar to its predecessors, demanded no action of real significance. Out of the tens of resolutions written throughout the years, only resolution 2733 ordered for real actions to be taken. However, the approach of this resolution was not the best option. It demanded sanctions on Libya in order to resolve the situation. However, due to the overwhelming amount of refugees Libya already has a fragile economy. Consequently, any further sanctions or other restrictive measures might leave permanent impacts on the Libyan economy. Moreover, the issue at its current state is at a level where the Libyan government can no longer resolve the issue by itself. Therefore, an economic sanction would only cripple the government more and drive the issue further since an increase in the poverty rate would result in an increase of the crime rate as well.

Furthermore, the UNHCR has also tried to provide asylum seekers with protection services through its registration systems. This effort was successful in providing registered asylum seekers with fundamental humanitarian aid and medical care. However, only a small number of asylum seekers were able to get registered for the UNHCR. Because of this, many asylum seekers were not able to receive the aid of UNHCR and had to rely on the help of local NGOs for basic human necessities such as medical care and food.



Solution Alternatives

One of the core issues is the lack of collaboration within the parties in Libya. One of the reasons why the joint humanitarian assistance from the WFP, the UNHCR, and the USAID was not enough to solve the problem is because the collaboration of both governments was absent. Hence, steps should be taken in order to mediate the both parties into joint collaboration with relevant UN bodies.

Another major problem regarding the conflict is the overwhelming situation of Libya. Libya in its current state is unable to provide proper shelter or basic needed humanitarian assistance to asylum seekers. Therefore, a framework can be developed to build and fund accommodation centers for asylum seekers where basic humanitarian aid will be provided.

Also, a rather short-term solution could be accomplished if steps are taken to engage in negotiations with the EU to achieve the collaboration of the European countries. This would provide the opportunity to transfer many asylum seekers to a first-world country where they could live a more stable and safer life.

In addition, violence from militia groups and local gangs is also a major threat to the safety of asylum seekers in Libya. In order to fix this, steps should be taken to mediate both parties within Libya to a joint military operation.

Useful Links

BBC on the Maltreatment in Detention Centers

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-41189247>

USAID on the Issue

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/libya/>

Amnesty International on the Cycle of Abuse in Libya

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde19/3084/2020/en/>

WFP Approach on the Issue:

<https://www.wfp.org/news/usaid-and-wfp-address-food-insecurity-sudanese-refugees-libya>

International Rescue Committee on the European Union Pact on Asylum and Migration

<https://www.rescue.org/eu/article/what-eu-pact-migration-and-asylum>

The Guardian on the Maltreatment in Detention Centers

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/jun/24/violence-towards-refugees-at-l>



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The Human Rights Watch on the Abuses at Detention Centers

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<https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/unhcr-update-libya-july-2024-enar>.

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