

Security Council

Topic B:

"The rising of the human slavery situation on the post war Libya"

President: Michelle Toral

Mendoza

Moderator: María Elizabeth

Urbina López

Official Assistant: Mariana

García Martínez

INTRODUCTION

Slavery is a condition where a person owns individuals and control the place where they live and what they work. This condition has always existed in history. A human slave means to be owned by another human being and being forced by this person to work for him. In the social classes, slaves are usually at the bottom of them, as they are seen as objects more than people.

The civil war in Libya started after the death of Colonel Muammar al-Qaddafi in October 2011. With this, the rebels have increased in Libya, rebels now are around 1,700 armed groups, this number includes loyal fighters to Islamic State. Another reason for this increase is the attack on the United States consulate in the city of Libya Benghazi, on September 11, 2012.

After 2011, the United Nations saw they should do something for the country. Ghassan Salamé, who is the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the USMIL, the UN support mission in Libya, said that the must reconstitute the national polity of Libya. They want to put in order the Libyan Political Agreement.

Over the years, African refugees have been sailing throughout the mediterranean sea to get to Europe. Libya is the point in where a lot of refugees and migrants pass to make it to Europe. It is estimated that 3,000 people have died per year in the past four years. And the ones who did not make outside the borders of Libya, are trapped in there. 400,000 to one million people are estimated to be trapped. This is because of the human slavery situation in Libya. There are a lot of African people being sold in the market. This migrant backlog is the biggest reason why they are selling slaves in Libya.

Libyan coast guard, with the help of the United States and Italy, has stopped many of the boats with people who are running to Europe. But in November 2017, leaders from places like Libya, France, Germany, Chad, and Niger reunited to make a plan, so they can evacuate migrants that are stuck in detention camps in Libya.

The countries that are more affected are the European ones, like Germany, Italy, and France, as they are the ones receiving the refugees, and sometimes the economy of the countries cannot afford the arriving of thousands of people. On the other hand, developed countries see the arriving of these people as a plus, as they think these refugees can work in their country and help the economy.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

I. During the Ottoman Turk rule, which started in 1551, Tripoli was made by the unification of the three provinces: Cyrenaica, Fezzan, and Tripolitania. For two centuries, Libya was ruled by a military anarchy under the Karamanli dynasty.

II. Italian Control. A war between Italy and Turkey took place from 1911 to 1912. Its government expanded through the 20s and 30s. Starting in 1935, there was a demographic colonization initiated by Benito Mussolini, an Italian fascist leader. When World War II had started, Italy entered in 1940, and Libya became the setting for the North African Campaign. Allied troops occupied Libya overseen by the British military. In 1942, Allies cast out Italians from Libya. The French got to administer Fezzan, and the British, Cyrenaica and Tripolitania. The same year, Moammar Gadhafi was founded, it means the "Guide of the Masses". 5 years later, Italy reclaims Libya peacefully with a treaty with the Allies. In 1949, the UN Assembly decided to give independence to former Italian colonies. Libya declared independence in 1951, as the United Kingdom of Libya under King Idris. The UN granted its Independence a year later. In 1952, Libya's King Idris banned all political parties. A decade later the three provinces of Libya, Cyrenaica in the east, Fezzan in the south, and Tripolitania in the west, were abolished and the country became a unitary state.

III. In 1969, Muammar Gaddafi overthrew the king, leading a military coup. More than 18,000 Italians were driven out from Libya on 1970. The new government had the monarchy's relationship with the United

States and Britain ruptured; also, it began a self-assured rule that drove to higher prices for oil. Gaddafi backed the Palestinians and their cause and interfered to support it, likewise revolutionary groups in Africa and the Middle East. In March 1977, Libya's constitution was enhanced, and its name was modified from "The Libyan Arab Republic to The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya". Eight months later, The Libyan flag was endorsed. Sometime after, Libya left the Federation of Arabs Republic (consisting of Libya, Egypt, and Syria). State socialism was introduced by the nationalization of most of the economy, along with the oil industry.

IV. In August 1981, the United States' President Ronald Reagan, ordered an attack in Libya, this because of Gaddafi's government-sponsored numerous belligerent action groups worldwide, but mainly against Americans and British. Five years later, Reagan declared economic sanctions against Libya. The same year, in April 1986, Libya was found responsible for another explosion, Libya was bombed by the United States, as retribution for terrorism. Not after the 2000's did Libya took responsibility for these and many other attacks.

V. In 1988, around December the Lockerbie bombing took place. An airliner was blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland, coordinated by Libya. In 1992, the UN imposed sanctions on Libya to trial two of its citizens who were involved in the attack. Three years later, the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, a militaristic group of the Islam, was first known of and its purpose to overthrow Gaddafi's regime, throwing a violent movement. The Vatican established diplomatic relations with Libya in 1977. The same year, it was announced that Libya was constructing what was called "the Great Man-Made River Project". It was 2,000 miles of tunnels from Tunisia until Egypt. On June 11, 1999, Libya and the United States engaged in their first official meeting in 18 years. Conditions by the US were imposed to be met prior to the lifting of sanctions. A month later, Britain and Libya reported a continuation of diplomatic relations. Lockerbie suspects were handed over in 1999 for trial; United Nation sanctions were suspended and diplomatic relations with the United Kingdom restored.

VI. On September 2000, African immigrants were killed by Libyan crowd in the west of Libya upset at the numerous of African workers arriving into the country. Early in 2001, it was declared that Africans from Cameroon, Niger, Guinea, Nigeria, Congo, and Ghana had resumed travel to Libya for improved economic conditions. The UN Security Council and the European Union lifted 11 years old sanctions on Libya

in September of 2003, after Moammar Gadhafi's government took full responsibility for the attack over Scotland and there was an agreement to pay the victims' families more than \$2.4 billion USD. In 2005, a Libyan leader issued a call for economic liberalization in the North African state. In May 2006, the United States restored full diplomatic connections with Libya. The same month, Venezuela's president was welcomed by Gaddafi in Tripoli, to discuss "social programs based on oil revenues." On December 2006, a peace agreement was signed by Chad's president and the leader of a rebel faction in Libya, but Chadian rioters dismissed the pact and promised to keep fighting. On January 25, 2007, Muammar Gaddafi regulated a meeting of African presidents to arrange an African Union summit as problems grew on the continent. In June of the same year, African leaders in Libya desired to resolve differences between Sudan and Chad over Darfur; also, wanted to boost Somalia's fighting transitional government at a regional summit. In 2008, "Libya took over the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council in a major step back to global respectability after decades" as an undesirable of the West.

VII. On January 18, 2009, Libya defended plans to carry out a massive expulsion of illegal immigrants, rejecting criticism from a human rights group that doing so would violate international law. In March, a boat with about 250 migrants sank during a storm off the coast of Libya, where only 20 survived. Days later, the second boat with around 350 persons arrived safely to Libya. On December 12, Human Rights Watch announced Libya continuing to subject political nonconformists to arbitrary detainment and unfair trials even though improvements in freedom of expression had been made. In June 2010, the UN refugee agency was driven out from Libya, notwithstanding being responsible for thousands of refugees in the country. Libya justified its discontinuance of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees office by claiming "its representative had offered refugee status in exchange for sexual intercourse". In August, Libya's government declared that a payment was going to be made for wrongfully imprisoned people, in an effort to compensate a history of abuses to human rights. On December 14, the European Union and Libya were accused by the Amnesty International for preventing migrants from Africa to reach Europe.

CURRENT RELEVANCE

In November 2017 a news reporter showed a video where people were offered and sold as what it seemed to be "slave auctions" in Libya, where people especially West African migrants from Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Zambia, Senegal, Gambia and Sudan, were treated as objects, reason why later on the UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that slavery had no longer a place in the society and the actions taken in Libya were against the human rights and illegal. Capturing the attention to all those migrants not only in Libyan territory but also as a global situation and concern only in 2016, 40.3 million of people worldwide were captured and treated as slaves; which nowadays is called as modern slavery.

Libya is the main point where refugees and migrants try to arrive to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea being this route called as the deadliest one on Earth. Only in each of the last 3 years more than 100,000 people have crossed the Mediterranean Sea and more than 2,000 of them have lost their lives in the process in that period of time. However, there is no proper registration process for all the migrants arriving to the territory, which has caused the smugglers to deliberately sell them. The International Organization of Migrations establishes that these actions have reached a point where people are being sold and bought in public for small amounts, such as \$400.

The UN conducted an investigation with the Libyan government, however, due to the fact that this state has fallen into civil war thanks to Muammar Gaddafi's banishment in 2011 and the end of the Arab Spring; the Transitional government has failed in the implementation of laws in the country, which has created a "lawless country". The reason why people began to consider slave trading as an industry with potential. These events have helped some of the trafficking and smuggling people by illegal migrations that some Europeans have been trying to stop since 2014.

Since 2015, the International Organization of Migration has been sending back to their home countries more than 13,000, but there's more to be done. In 2017, African and European leaders, later on, specifically Libya, France, Germany, Chad, Niger and four others, gathered together in the Ivory Coast and decided to implement an urgent evacuation plan for approximately 15,000 people, this agreement also included proposals to help dismantle the trafficking routes.

On the other hand, the French leader Emmanuel Macron said that there will be both military and policing actions to help eliminate the gangs that are keeping held the African citizens. As well as the Minister of Rwanda offered asylum 30,000 sub-Saharan Africans held in Africa and with the help of the Nigerian president 242 migrants were flown out of Libya during the same period of time.

Lately, ACNUR declared the by December 1st, there where approximately 44, 306 people registered as refugees, since then it has been helping and working to get some of the refugees back to Niger for later on they can be relocated, leading 25 immigrants to France in the last November and 162 people to Italy in December.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

To reach a solution there must be a global union where not only the African and European community work together, the reason why there is a diverse range of organizations working in getting these people safely back home such as "Medecins sans Frontieres", "Save the Children" and "Oxfam".

"Medecins sans Frontieres", or Doctors without borders, is an international, independent and medical humanitarian organization focused on helping people in crisis regardless of their religion and race. This organization was founded in 1971 in Paris and they have been helping in the detention centers in the matters of health care of the citizens' capture since 2011. By 2016 they have been providing help to migrants in the regions of Tripoli and Misrata.

On the other hand, IOM is working the European Union, the African Union and the Libyan Government by forging an agreement to liberate the people in the detention centers, as well as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights has been working together with the government on the investigation and procedure to take actions over this matter.

Nevertheless, the European Union has fun the majority of the International Organization of Migration in order to take down the detention centers, the United States can provide another amount for the emergency funding in order to continue with these actions, which later on in 2016 it made a contribution for \$ 1 million.

Manifestations outside of the Libyan embassy have been going on in several European and African countries such as France and the United Kingdom due to the outrage in order to take some actions on the matter. The Canadian government working together with France and other nations have made an international call to work together and come with diverse solutions.

UN ACTIONS

7 December 2017. The United Nations Security Council attended the issue and called on those responsible to be held to account. The Council urged all Member States and Libyan authorities to acquiesce with their obligations under international law and the need to relocate slave migrants to State authority. The Council also encouraged to emphasize cooperation with the European Union, the African Union and international and UN organizations to assure full humanitarian access to detention centers, and to protect the lives of refugees in Libya.

The Council welcomed the statement by the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord of Libya implicating the trafficking of people and a launched investigation where authorities were committed to bringing justice. The Council likewise took in the statements by the African Union calling for an urgent end to such practices and by the UN Secretary-General requesting to actively pursue the matter. In the meeting, the Council emphasized that a stable Libya was the sole way to help progress in the living conditions of all people inside the country. In addition, it highlighted the need to implement action in the root causes of the issue, including unmanaged migration and forced displacement.

On November 28, 2017, a meeting was held at UN Headquarters in New York. The Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said, "This is an enormous human tragedy and we can stop it," referring to the slavery situation in Libya. Responding to the issue, IOM has liberated more than 12,000 people out of apprehension centers in Libya. The UNHCR asked for lacking funds, but still, gathering and protecting methods are being strengthened.

In addition, the United Nations Security Council held an emergency session "to discuss the possibility of sanctions and of applying the full range of international law including the use of the international criminal court", despite the efforts, the session ended without a

resolution. Moreover, a sanctions program which was set up in 2011, "allows the Security Council to place sanctions on "individuals and entities involved in or complicit in ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the commission of serious human rights abuses against persons in Libya"."

POINTS TO DISCUSS

- What actions or sanctions should be taken in order to stop slavery and inhuman treatment of people residing in Libya?
- The possible imposition of sanctions on human traffickers and their networks as there is an UN intervention.
- The presence of the terrorism in Libya and armed forces. Should other countries send support to put an end to civil war?
- Migration problem in Libya. How to stop migrant smuggling? How to eradicate forced labor on inhuman conditions? How to protect pregnant women or children?
- Violation of Human Rights.
- Call upon Libyan government to stop promoting violence. Find a way for an arbitrary detention to migrants and the same citizens.

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