

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



THE DIRECTOR

DIRECTORATE
North Africa, Middle East, Arab Peninsula, Iran and Iraq

Brussels, 12 March 2013
EEAS / CB /

Subject: Eritrean and all refugees Human Rights

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your mail regarding the situation of asylum seekers and migrants in detention centres located in Libya facing an imminent risk of deportation.

The EU-Delegation in Tripoli and the UNHCR Chief of Mission do follow the events you describe in your message.

In November 2012, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation of migrants in Libya. During the debate prior to its adoption participants underlined that the EU will continue to call on the authorities to ensure respect for internationally agreed human rights standards; at the same time, the EU will continue to support the authorities in meeting their responsibilities under international law. Having signed and ratified the African Union's Convention on the Protection of Refugees, Libya must comply with the *non-refoulement* principle.

Funds originating from different EU financial instruments have been activated to put together a support package of about €20 million aimed at improving the protection of vulnerable groups against human rights violations. Enhancing human rights based reforms in the Libyan detention system, strengthening of the capacities for effective and protection-sensitive management of mixed migration movements in Libya, advocacy and support to torture victims and victims of enforced disappearances or support reconciliation processes and democratic transition in the country are some of the objectives sought by these projects.

The EU is currently supporting the IOM, which is both providing assistance to stranded migrants and helping the Libyan authorities to build up a sounder and fairer migration management system. The EU has also allocated funds which will allow UNHCR to fulfil its protection mandate in Libya.

The EU will continue to call on Libya to enhance its norms, administrative capacities and practices in the areas of migration, asylum, mobility and border management, as well as to cooperate with the EU and the international community in all these areas.



Christian BERGER