



Eritrean Civic Democratic Movement

ዕለት/Date: 25/11/2017

ቁ/መዝገብ/Ref.NO: ECDM 11/2017/07

Press Release

Concerning: on the human trafficking and Slavery in Libya

The Eritrean Civic Democratic Movement (E.C.D.M) is deeply concerned about the worsening human rights situation in Libya, and calls the Libyan authorities and all the relevant stakeholders to take immediate action towards ending the various violations in order to protect the rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter).

According to the several recently published reports the video footage of African migrants being sold as "goods" in Libya is actively showing the issue with the Libyan authorities to organize transparent monitoring mechanism that safeguards migrants against the horrifying human rights abuses.

This new footage shows the readily unimaginable and inhumane situation that migrants have to suffer and endure in Libya such as human trafficking, forced labour, unlawful killings; sexual abuse of men, women and children, arbitrary detentions. These are all carried out in a system with no responsibility and accountability. Nowadays the UN's International Organization for Migration has also alerted the international community of cases that migrants were being sold between the human trafficking gangs in Libya.

The Eritrean Civic Democratic Movement Condemns human trafficking, probes claims of slave auctions in Libya and condemns the inhuman, cruel and degrading treatments of the refugees by the gangs. E.C.D.M requests the Libyan authorities to conduct the necessary investigations in order to bring to justice the presumed perpetrators of this practice and to do everything possible to ensure equal access to justice for the victims.

To meet the needs of security and humanitarian help, the Libyan authorities have to ensure, without any discrimination, respect for their regional and international obligations regarding the protection of refugees. The Eritrean Civic Democratic Movement wants to remind the Government of Libya that no situation should justify the continuity of violation of human rights, and calls upon the national authorities to take without delay the necessary measures to ensure the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in accordance with Article 1 of the African Charter. The Government of Libya should also comply with its obligations under the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the Protocol to the UN Convention against the Smuggling of Migrants, African Union policy documents on migrants, and other relevant regional and international instruments.

The Eritrean Civic Democratic Movement calls upon the African Union, the Arab League, the European Union and the United Nations to take necessary measures to ensure the security of the civilian population in Libya, and to make everything possible to find a lasting solution to peace and security in Libya. These elements are essential for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Reference:-

1. <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/11/17/africa/libya-slave-auction-investigation/index.html>
2. <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-learns-slave-market-conditions-endangering-migrants-north-africa>
3. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sgsm18793.doc.htm>