

The Republic of Libya

Positions for the Human Rights Council

I. Presented Instances of Human Rights Violations in Sierra Leone

Although, it has been ten years since the civil war in the Republic of Sierra Leone, human rights abuses as well as psychological damages remain major challenges. Unfortunately, in Sierra Leone, its' citizens are denied their basic human rights such as the "right to due process, freedom from harassment and intimidation of political participation, violation of free speech, etc."¹ The Republic of Libya condemns these presented instances of human rights violations.

Past actions committed by the Republic of Libya to address human rights violations are the signing of the 1949 Geneva Convention protocols and other treaties that condemn human rights violations. In addition, Libya accessioned the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which, "Condemns with the gravest concern the recruitment, training and use within and across national borders of children in hostilities by armed groups distinct from the armed forces of a State, and recognizing the responsibility of those who recruit, train and use children in this regard."² Also, Libya accessioned Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (CAT), which denounces human rights violations.³ Libya is also a party to additional treaties that condemn human rights violations against global citizens, such as, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Non-Application of Statutory Limits to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity, etc.⁴

The Republic of Libya calls upon all member states to address the current issues confronting present day Sierra Leone. Although, Sierra Leone has made significant improvements in the road towards recovery, much of the country still faces human rights issues. In order to mediate the problems in Sierra Leone, social programs such as educational or training initiatives of public officials, need to be implemented by the HRC for the reintegration of child soldiers into society and for the prevention of possible civil wars and human rights abuses. Furthermore, Libya proposes a funding mechanism for psychiatric programs in order to help the child soldiers reintegrate into society. These educational programs will prevent these individuals from falling back into the pattern of violence. Preventing the re-recruitment of child soldiers is also key in diminishing the influence of rebel groups in the area by setting up demobilization programs where children are reunited with family members.⁵ Also, Libya suggests implementing a media campaign that helps citizens become aware of their human rights. Libya believes that by putting into place the above steps we can expedite the social and economic progress of Sierra Leone.

II. Assessing the Impact of Arbitrary Detention on the Global Population

The Republic of Libya firmly believes in the proper legal detention of suspects. Libya has worked diligently in the advocacy of human rights, and has renounced the arbitrary detention of the global population by signing key treaties. This issue is particularly important because without the protection of the right to a trial, people would be subjected to arbitrary arrests that deprived them of their liberty without grounds or proof of their crimes.

The National Transitional Council of Libya is currently working on its vision for a new Democratic Libya. The interim National Council has many tasks including the drafting of a new national constitution which will define the powers of the legal, political, civil, legislative, executive and judicial institutions which will provide a basis for

¹ "2010 human rights report: Sierra Leone" U.S. Department of State. <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2010/af/154368.htm>

² "Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict" UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc-conflict.htm>

³ "Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cat.htm>

⁴ "Report of the High Commissioner under Human Rights Council Resolution S-15/1" Human Rights Council. http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/17session/A.HRC.17.45_AUV.pdf

⁵ "Child Soliders: Preventing, Demobilizing and Reintegrating" World Bank. <http://www.worldbank.org/afir/wps/wp23.pdf>

the justice system.⁶ This constitution is expected to guarantee freedom of expression and protect the public security and social peace.⁷ Libya in the past has also participated in various core international human rights treaties such as, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), on Economic, Social and Cultural Right (ICESCR), and the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (CAT) all of which prohibit the arbitrary detention, torture, and inhuman and degrading treatment.⁸

The Republic of Libya calls for immediate action to remedy the problem of arbitrary detention. Libya recommends the HRC to work with other UN agencies and NGO's to address this issue. The Republic of Libya proposes that the HRC provide educational programs that will discourage arbitrary detention, torture, and cruel and unusual punishment for both the citizens and the military in order to inform them of the consequences of arbitrary detention and how these consequences can be implemented. The development of legal services for the indigent is also needed in order to completely eradicate the arbitrary detention of citizens. Moreover, Libya encourages the committee to derive at a consensus on the definition of the word "arbitrary." Ultimately, these programs would help citizens challenge regional and federal courts to set a fair playing field for people that have been negatively affected.

III. Strengthen the Right to Food, Water and Resource Security

According to UNWater "over the period to 2050 the world's water will have to support the agricultural systems that will feed and create livelihoods for an additional 2.7 billion people."⁹ The Republic of Libya recognizes the utmost necessity of strengthening the right to food, water and resource security because they are interrelated and impact each other's condition. Strengthening the right to food, water and resource security are top priorities for the Libyan Republic.

One of Libya's top priorities is to achieve food, water and resource sufficiency. Past actions that have been committed to improve food, water and resource security are joint agreements with FAO and "The Great Man Made River project." Libya signed a joint agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization, in which, Libya has "agreed on a \$71 million program to boost cooperation over the next five years to strengthen food security and sustainable development in the country."¹⁰ In addition, "FAO will provide technical assistance and support for 18 projects covering a range of areas, such as, protection of natural resources and sustainable water resource management."¹¹ Also, Libya's Great Man Made River Project "transports fossil water to areas in Libya where water is urgently needed."¹² By relying on the GMRP Libya is able to conserve its renewable groundwater resources. Furthermore, Libya signed General Assembly resolution A/64/292 which recognizes the human right to water and sanitation.¹³

Libya calls upon all member states to work together in order to develop a concrete solution to resolve this imperative problem. Libya believes that this problem can be resolved by collaborating with other UN agencies such as, FAO, United Nations Children's Fund, Non Governmental Organization's and non-profit organizations. Libya recommends implementing educational and training initiatives to train local citizens on how to manage water systems and how to extract water from underground. Also, Libya suggests educational or training initiatives to train farmers on proper irrigation and drainage practices. Furthermore, Libya believes that the committee should focus on holding water utilities accountable and transparent. In addition, Libya recommends the continuance of programs such as, WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), which promotes sanitation and hygienic practices to citizens. The Libyan Republic believes that by implementing the steps above, the committee will strengthen the right to food, water and resource security.

⁶ <http://www.aljazeera.com/mritems/Documents/2011/3/29/2011329113923943811The%20Interim%20Transitional%20National%20Council%20Statement.pdf>

⁷ "A vision of a Democratic Libya" The Interim National Council
<http://www.aljazeera.com/mritems/Documents/2011/3/29/2011329113923943811The%20Interim%20Transitional%20National%20Council%20Statement.pdf>

⁸ "Libya: Cease Arbitrary Arrests, Abuse of Detainees." Human Rights Watch. <http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/09/30/libya-cease-arbitrary-arrests-abuse-detainees>

⁹ "Statistics, Graphs and Maps" UN Water. http://www.unwater.org/statistics_sec.html

¹⁰ <http://www.agrifedds.org/node/77207>

¹¹ "Libya and UN Agency Enter Pact to Boost Food Security, Sustainable Development | Global Food Security." Libya and UN Agency Enter Pact to Boost Food Security, Sustainable Development | Global Food Security. World Food Programme, 20 Nov. 2009. Web. 26 Sept. 2012. <<http://www.un-foodsecurity.org/node/160>.

¹² "Libya." AQUASTAT. FAO, n.d. Web. 26 Sept. 2012. <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/countries_regions/LBY/index.stm>.

¹³ "Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly: 64/292 the Human Right to Water and Sanitation" UN General Assembly. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/64/292