



## Refugees and asylum seekers

UNHCR is shocked by the tragic death of more than 200 refugees and asylum seekers in the proximity of Sicily. The boat, which originated from Libya, caught fire half a mile from the island of Lampedusa. 500 persons mainly from Eritrea were on board. Many of the casualties involved children and pregnant women. This is one of the worse maritime incidents recorded recently. This tragedy reminds us once again about the importance of identifying protection solutions for refugees and asylum seekers. In Libya many persons of concern to UNHCR continue to be subject to widespread and ongoing mistreatment in detention. UNHCR advocates the urgent identification of alternatives to detention and the access to basic services for persons of concern in Libya.

As part of its regular activities, in September UNHCR visited five centres detaining persons of concern. On 8 September, UNHCR was in Garaboli detention centre managed by the Department of Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM). At the time of the visit 300 persons were detained. Detainees included Eritrean, Ethiopian and Somali women as well as children (*photo above*). On 9 September, UNHCR together with Médecins Sans Frontières were in Sourman detention centre also under the authority of DCIM. Thirdly, on 10 September UNHCR visited Misrata detention centre. Persons in the detention were arrested after being intercepted at sea by the Misrata Coast Guard. UNHCR succeeded in releasing some of them. Finally, on 11 September 2013, UNHCR was in Garyan to visit Gendouba prison at the request of the Ministry of Justice. In Garyan UNHCR also visited Arbushada detention centre that accommodates approximately 300 detainees including persons of concern to UNHCR such as Ethiopians, Eritreans and Somalis. The office is providing assistance and is seeking the release of persons with medical conditions, pregnant women and children.

## Transfer of persons of concern to the South

On 14 September, Benghazi Local Council in coordination with DCIM transferred by bus over 380 asylum seekers and refugees from the site managed by the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) in Benghazi to Brak Al Shaty detention centre, near Sabha. Following the eviction of internally displaced persons previously hosted in the Electricity Institute, Benghazi Local Council evacuated refugees and asylum seekers to make space for the IDPs from Tawergha. From now on, the LRC camp shall host exclusively Tawerghans. Between 22-25 September, UNHCR conducted a day mission to Brak Shati detention centre to gather information on the transfer to Sabha, assess conditions in detention and assist vulnerable cases. Reportedly, conditions are wanting and some of the refugees were mistreated before and during the transfer to Brak Al Shaty. UNHCR provided immediate assistance to a paralyzed woman who was released and taken to Tripoli.

FARAWAY سوريا  
SYRIA البعيدة

**Submit your photo at [farawaysyria.org](http://farawaysyria.org)!**  
**Photo exhibition on Syrian refugees**

UNHCR has launched two calls for photos for the exhibition on Syrian refugees both in Libya and in neighboring countries. The exhibition intends to raise awareness on the plight of refugees from Syria. The event curated by the Italian photo journalist Nancy Porsia is organised in collaboration with the Italian Embassy, the Italian Institute of Culture and the Canadian Embassy. For more information please see the website:

<http://farawaysyria.org/>

## Maritime incidents in September

During the month of September, the number of boats departing from Libya in an irregular manner has increased. Between 1 and 30 September, 4,619 persons left Libya compared to 775 persons in September 2012. In particular, this last month 32 boats embarked for Southern Europe. Three of them were intercepted by Libyan Coast Guard and returned to Libya, one reached Malta and the rest reached Italy. Persons on board were mainly Eritreans, Ethiopians, Palestinians, Syrians, Somalis, Sudanese, Malian, Nigerian, Egyptians. More details on the tragic incident whereby over 200 persons died near Lampedusa on 3 October will be provided in the next update. UNHCR regularly liaises with authorities including the Department of Combating Illegal Migration and the Libyan Coast Guard to share information on boats in distress. UNHCR strongly advocates for alternatives to detention for persons of concern especially upon disembarkation in Libya and for a comprehensive approach to mixed migration by creating an asylum space to uphold the rights of those who are in need of international protection.

### New video released on Syrian refugees

UNSMIL and UNHCR have released a new video on Syrian refugees in Libya and on the assistance provided by the Libyan NGO Nawaris. Thanks to the support and coordination provided by Nawaris, UNHCR registers refugees from Syria in Al Khums and delivers relief items such as beds, kitchen sets and hygiene kits. The video provides a snapshot of the challenges related to the integration of Syrian refugees. The video can be accessed here:

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e485f36.html>

### Telephone hot-lines for refugees

UNHCR can be reached on the following numbers:

**General queries / registration:** 091 9897937  
**Emergencies / detention:** 091 9897936  
**Syrians:** 091 7129750  
**Benghazi hot-line:** 092 3186819

**Donors of UNHCR Libya**  
European Commission and Switzerland

## Syrian displacement

UNHCR is liaising with the Libyan government and relevant partners to ensure access to basic services for Syrian refugees. On 24 September, UNHCR met with the Ministry of Education that confirmed the exemption from enrollment fees for all refugees and asylum seekers, not only those from Syria. The commitment by the government to help refugees from Syria and ensure education without discrimination is a welcome development. It attests the recognition by the government of the right to education. This is key to the protection of children. Refugees registered with UNHCR in Libya, the majority of children are enrolled in primary education (*see table below*).

### Education level of Syrian children registered with UNHCR as of August 2013

<i>Education Level</i>	<i>Syrian population by education level</i>
Primary school	3,439
Preparatory school	2,630
Secondary school	1,134

With mobile teams, UNHCR in collaboration with local NGOs continues to conduct regular missions throughout West and East Libya in order to register refugees from Syria, deliver relief items and provide ad hoc assistance to vulnerable cases. On 12 September UNCHR was in Al Khums and registered 82 individuals. In Benghazi UNHCR is planning to resume registration that was put on hold due to the security situation. Overall, as of 30 September, 14,056 refugees from Syria were registered with UNHCR in Libya. Despite the daunting challenges that the country is facing to ensure internal stability, the government is committed to extend support and assistance to refugees from Syria. UNHCR recognizes and appreciates the efforts made by the Libyan government to help refugees from Syria.

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