



European Parliament

Parliamentary questions

26 May 2014

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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission

The EU is well aware of the situation of Internally Displaced People (IDP) in Libya, including the Tawerghans. The EU has raised the situation of the Tawerghans with the Libyan authorities and has called on the government to address the situation. The EU Delegation in Libya has visited Tawerghans camps repeatedly to listen to the claims of their representatives. The EP Special Rapporteur for Libya, Ms Ana Gomes, also visited one of these camps.

Throughout the dialogue with the EU the Libyan government has expressed its willingness to address this issue and do the necessary to allow for the return of the Tawerghans to their village. However, the role of some militias who are directly involved in the ongoing displacement of the Tawerghans has undermined these efforts.

The prolongation of the post-conflict situation in Libya and the inability of the Libyan government to address all the existing needs have brought the EU to address protection of vulnerable groups in its activities and programmes. For instance the 'Better quality education and increased inclusion of all children' programme implemented by Unicef started in January 2012 and worked with IDPs children. Another programme 'Libyan Protection government initiative' has been helping the relevant government ministries and non-state actors to better support the specific needs of IDPs and designed an interactive webpage on their situation in Libya. A new EU-funded programme on protection amounting to EUR 2.4 million will start in 2014. It will address the protection needs of vulnerable, marginalised and at-risk groups, including IDPs, by broadening access to psychosocial rehabilitation and socioeconomic integration.

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