

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



THE DIRECTOR

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

Brussels, **13 JUN 2014**
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Dear Petitioner,

The EU is well aware of the situation of Internally Displaced People (IDP) in Libya, including the population of Tawherga. The EU has raised the issue of the forceful displacement of the Tawherghans with the Libyan authorities and has called repeatedly on the government to address the situation. The EU Delegation in Libya has visited Tawhergha camps in Tripoli and is in permanent direct contact with their leaders. 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 Tawherghans to their hometown. However, the attitude of some groups hostile to the population of Tawherga has undermined these efforts. The EU has been engaged in the preparatory stages of the National Dialogue process, which aims at facilitating talks that can lead to permanent solutions to issues like the displacement of the population of Tawherga. The reinforcement of this National Dialogue is one of the main objectives of the recently appointed EU Special Envoy for Libya, Bernardino León.

The unstable situation in Libya and the difficulties faced by the Libyan government to address all the existing needs have brought the EU to support the 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 €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.

As you may be aware, the current political and security situation in Libya poses important challenges to national reconciliation and democratic transition processes. Rest assured that the European Union remains focused on the situation in Libya and will continue to support the Libyan population on its path towards a stable, democratic and prosperous Libya.



Christian BERGER