

Situation report on re displacement of Tawergha IDP's August 2014



Libya Tawergha Forced Displacement 2011

Tawergha Foundation
2014-08-30

Summary

During the 2011 February 17th revolution in Libya, the small town of Tawergha was used by Gaddafi to station and deploy military forces and equipment for the siege on the city of Misrata.

Rebels from Misrata assisted by NATO bombing raids overrun Tawergha and the militiamen humiliated, imprisoned and brutally tortured 1300 men from Tawergha, many of whom were massacred.

NATO's war in Libya was proclaimed as a humanitarian intervention—bombing in the name of “saving lives” but instead Tawergha was ethnically cleansed and 44,000 to 47,500 people were violently evicted and have been living in appalling conditions in internally displaced person camps across Libya for the past three years. Their houses and shops were looted and set on fire and the infrastructure and community buildings destroyed by Misrata militias.

The so called Libyan Government has since then fantasized about a comprehensive strategy for trying all perpetrators, including those responsible for human rights violations, irrespective of their identities or those of their victims, stressing that the Government was committed to ensuring accountability, fighting impunity, realizing justice for victims and protecting the rights of all.

The Libyan Government proclaimed that the future of the Tawergha inhabitants was among the Government's priorities but actually nothing was done or accomplished and although many human rights organizations like Amnesty International, HRW, HRI and other organizations including the ICC wrote nearly [250 official reports](#) about the crimes against humanity, nobody lifted a finger to protect the refugees and the only visible action the international community undertook was stating their condemnation or concerns about the crimes.

As a result of the Misrata and Islamist militia coalition (Operation Dawn) attacks against the militia from Zintan, many of the displaced families from Tawergha once again became targets while they were positioned in the middle of the conflict zone. (Airport Road & Al-falah Camp)

Unguided shells and rockets landed on the internally displaced camps and some people were injured by gunfire and shrapnel. Although the injuries were minor, it did force the people to leave the camps and they had to be displaced again. Most families moved to areas West of Tripoli: Janzur, Al-zawiya, Surman, Sabrath, Al Ojailat & Bani-Wal

Families from Tawergha who were re displaced because of the militia fighting:

- Airport road Internally Displaced camp (Tarieq Al-Matar Camp) 500 families (all families)
- Al-flah Internally Displaced camp 250 families (all families)
- Janzur Academy Internally Displaced camp (70% of all families)
- Families outside the Internally Displaced camps - approximately 250 families

A few people stayed in the camps to protect property from theft but more than a dozen people from Tawergha in Tripoli were randomly arrested. Some were released but for most of them their whereabouts are unknown. Multiple sources have stated at least one of the arrested Tawerghan's was executed by militia from the Misrata led Operation Dawn coalition.

After major clashes in the East of Libya (Benghazi) between forces of retired brigade General Khalifa Hifter and the Islamist coalition supported by Misrata militias in the region near the Sidi Faraj Tawergha Internally Displaced camp, a couple of people from Tawergha suffered injuries when a hand grenade was thrown into the camp.

Approximately 80 families had to move to the Ahalis and Garyounes Internally Displaced camps where they were temporary stationed in the school. Other families moved to neighboring cities such as; Qemiens, Ajdabiya, Sirte, and the South of Libya.

Full version of this report

The full version of this report has yet to be translated from Arabic into English and we will make it available as soon as it is ready for publishing.

Previous report

Last February (2014) this foundation published a comprehensive report about the Tawergha issue containing information based on hundreds of official reports written by Amnesty International, HRW the ICC and dozens of other organizations. We added testimonies from survivors, reporting about the rape allegations as well as the latest reconciliation status update provided by the Tawergha Local Council and the department in charge of the Tawergha case from Misrata. The report contains dozens of recommendations provided by the United Nations and many other specialized organizations. The links below will redirect you to the summary or full version of the report:

[2014-02-17-libya-tawergha-foundation-sitrep-on-the-misrata-tawergha-reconciliation-process-summary-english](http://www.tawergha.org/official-reports.html)

[2014-02-17-libya-tawergha-foundation-sitrep-on-the-misrata-tawergha-reconciliation-process-full-english](http://www.tawergha.org/news-items.html)

Sources

<http://www.tawergha.org/official-reports.html>

<http://www.tawergha.org/news-items.html>

Media

