

Joint Statement

Misrata and Tawergha Meeting
27-28 May 2015

Sponsored by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya

In the name of God Most Graceful Most Merciful

Almighty God says, "No good is there in much of their private conversation, except for those who enjoin charity or that which is right or conciliation between people"
True are the words of Almighty God.

The meeting extends its sincere gratitude to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya for its cooperation and sponsorship of the convening of this session. We also thank everyone who contributed to and assisted in the success of this meeting.

In light of the clear absence of the role of State and successive governments with regards to the activation of transitional justice and national reconciliation, for reasons that are not possible to elaborate here, it has become imperative that local authorities, assisted by the people and civil society organizations, maintain the interest of the homeland and citizens. Complementing previous steps initiated by honest men of this homeland, the delegations of Misrata and Tawergha met for two consecutive days in Tunis under the sponsorship of the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya and reached the following agreement:

First: We would like to express our gratitude and high appreciation for previous efforts to resolve this file, and we stress that this step complements good offices and honorable efforts.

Second: The right of return of the people of Tawergha to their land and city is a legitimate right, for which both parties shall work to achieve.

Third: Establish confidence-building between both parties, by taking the necessary measures and procedures such as unification of the media rhetoric that calls for reconciliation, enabling visits to detainees, referral of their files to the courts for a decision, organizing reciprocal visits between both parties, convening broad meetings and coordinating visits to the area.

Fourth: work towards achieving the principle of accountability and justice for perpetrators of crimes from both sides and disallowing retribution.

Fifth: Material and moral reparation for those affected on both sides as a result of those events.

Sixth: Establish a joint committee comprising both sides that undertakes the preparation of a roadmap to study the obstacles and propose solutions, as well as developing timelines for return, accounting for movable and immovable properties of those affected. The Committee shall be endorsed by local authorities in Misrata and Tawergha, provided that it is established within fifteen days as of the date of this meeting.

Seventh: Underscore previous social and official agreements, which resulted in the release of a number of detainees, visits to prisoners and organization of direct meetings between both parties.

Eighth: Stress the apology issued by the Council of Notables and People of Tawergha in 2012 and emphasize non-provision of social protection to perpetrators of crimes.

Ninth: Emphasize the importance of establishing a Government of National Accord to get Libya out of its current crisis and to address the issues facing its citizens.

The meeting stressed that this dispute is Libyan, and that its solution shall be Libyan derived firstly from the Islamic Sharia and applicable laws and secondly from the Arab and Libyan customs and traditions. They also stressed that the international community has an assisting role in providing technical and financial support through transfer of knowledge and experience in order to address such issues and assist the Libyan State in bringing back perpetrators of crimes, who are outside the State, as well as assisting the Libyan government in the establishment of a fund for financial compensation, provision of psychological support to those affected from both sides and rehabilitation of infrastructure in the affected areas in Tawergha and Misrata.

In conclusion, we ask the Almighty God to bring harmony between all for the benefit of the country and its people.

Peace and blessing of God be upon you

May God protect Libya

Issued in Tunis on 28 May 2015