



TAWERGHA: A LONG WAY HOME

MASS DISPLACEMENT AND ETHNIC CLEANSING

The suffering road of Tawergha City wrote the saddest stories of how to feel homeless at home, for crimes they never committed.

With no functioning government to provide support, there are more than 400,000 displaced People in Libya, and they have nowhere to run; Tawerghan people are still facing racism and mass displacement in their own country.

THE ROAD TO TAWERGHA

A JOURNEY TO BE MADE

Going Home! , Going Home, chanted more than 40,000 citizens of Tawergha City, who are now refugees in Tripoli, Benghazi and many other Libyan cities. Their tragedy embodies in a long lasting bleeding want in Libya.



Here lives the people of Tawergha as refugees in their own country, attacks by armed militia that came from their neighboring city. In August 2011, When Misrata militia swept the City hundred where killed and more were injured, even the stones didn't skip destruction.

If you are from Tawergha you are a target, wherever you go whoever you are, the gun men of the militias do not differentiate between men, women or children; if you are not under attack today you are not safe tomorrow.

"Keeping people from going home is like detaining them 'for their own good,'" Goldstein said. "The authorities should not only let them go home but should ensure them security as they go and when they get there." (SOURCE: Human rights watch)

Picture: 2013,
Tawergha IDP Camps

Goal One;
To provide a safer and secure living and improved camp conditions

“I was arrested on 07/09/2012 for a period of eight days none did ask me for my name or anything else it was just are you from Tawergha? Yes I am, then asked me to ride on, along the 3 days I was beaten continuously and two days with electric shocks, burning with fire and leather whip and hit with a piece of serrated ferrous, and in a place called "Alchila", came a guy that seemed to be there leader; he looked at me and said: “ bury him beside his family”, they took me to the place seems to be a cemetery because there are ancient and modern drilling and empty digging, They put me in an empty drill and I was fully covered for about two hours almost do not remember exactly, Then two men came and dug and pulled me out of the hole and put me in the sun till the evening and then I found "Hishimh" I washed and drank and then someone told me you were not so beneficial for us, go to your place ! They started to curse and insult me, and then said: “we’re ruling Libya now and no one will help you out”. They also released another person called Hussein Ashour from Tawergha who was tortured a lot. I was released on 16/09/2012.”



Victim of torture

Name: Saad Muhammad Abdulhafeez

Age: 48 years old

Occupation: Freelancers "disability"

Number of family members: 7 members-

Residence: Tawergha "camp of Sidi Faraj in Benghazi

(Story narrated by the victim)

Actions Taken

Alrassed has called on the relevant authorities to intervene and to preserve the lives of civilians and the protection of human rights and work to hold the perpetrators accountable.

However until this current day (Sep 2015), the Libyan authorities do not have full control of Libya; therefore failing to fulfil its obligations to resolve the Tawergha compatriot's problem and provide them with support and health care.

The organization thanked all venerable cities (e.g. Tobruk) who stood in the face of the outlaws and worked to protect the people of Tawergha.

Goal Two: provide the Tawerghan Camps with the health care and keep a record of the victims.

Garyounis camp

A situation from bad to worst

Picture: Garyounis Camp, Children and an elder looking at empty Gas cylinders; used for cooking.



There is almost a thousand out of two hundred and eighty-five families at Garyounis Camp, it is not better than the rest of the Tawergha displaced camps distributed across Libya ,as it's very cold in the winter and there are limited availability of the necessary materials, despite their appeal, the government did not provide them with basic needs of the citizens of Tawergha who were expelled from their city and their homes in front of the eyes of the world and the Libyan government and still their situation is getting from bad to worse.

Goal Three:
provide refugees with all living essentials (clean water, Food, safer and well heated camps)



Pictures: form Garyounis camp, Benghazi, Libya

AL-HALIS CAMP

PIPELINE HOUSES

Al-Hails Camp is suffering the most out of the 6 camps. Reportedly allot of diseases have spread in the camp, especially amongst children, there are serious illness cases as a result of the bad living conditions.

The camp being near to the sea, people are suffering from freezing cold conditions (extreme at night times), they also report shortage of Blankets and the need of basic medical supplies (Panadol etc.).

From 2013, we have reported 4 children who were seriously infected; namely "Matouk Abdul Rahman Altaworgy" who suffers from Anemia and deficiency of important nutrients and vitamins, resulting in the loss of his eye sight.

The Child "Ahmed Mohammed Boezkih" who suffers from Tuberculosis.

There are 6 Tawerghan Camps in The Eastern Region, the largest of them is **Al-halis**, there are more than three thousand people ID in the camp. The second camp is **Garyounis Camp** hosting more than one thousand families. The third camp is located in The College of Electrical and Electronic Technology in **Ei-kwarshah** and includes about four hundred and ten displaced out of the forty-two families.

The fourth camp is located at the **Institute for the Deaf and Dumb** and includes about two hundred and ten displaced out of twenty-two families, while there are two other camps, one in the Red Crescent Society in the sports camp city, called the **Youth Houses**, and the other is in the region of **Sidi Faraj**.

The total number of who exist inside these camps are about ten thousand; in addition to other five thousand who are divided between those who rented a house for his/her family and those who live with relatives.

Note: this is only the ID Camps in The Eastern Region.





5 Objectives

- ❖ Progress the return of the Tawerghan People to their City, which they fled.
- ❖ Create awareness inside and outside Libya for their situation. (Even a Smile is Charity)
- ❖ Provide the essential Living needs for the ID people in the Camps (Clean Water, Food, Blankets, Medical aid etc.)
- ❖ Providing Children with a peaceful environment by providing health care, education, clothing, daily activities etc.
- ❖ Obtain Justice, and keep a record of Tawerghan victims.

HRW and NCCLHR on Tawergha:

"Militias mainly from Misrata continued to arbitrarily detain, torture, harass, and kill Tawerghans in custody...more has to be done to combat the "inhuman conditions" in camps for internally displaced minorities."

Our first priority is to build up pressure on key figures within the Libyan government and the various bodies or companies, which have influence or power to change the inhuman condition of the Tawerghan civilians. Corresponding to this action or project we have built up a victims database for the gathering of information and evidence on crimes against the people of Tawergha; this will help us to keep an analytical or statistical measure of casualties, we can also hand the facts over to the Human Rights Watch and the International Criminal Court.

Creating awareness about the distressing situation of refugees from Tawergha is fundamental, therefore, to support our project we have managed to produce a documentary, titled: Tawergha Mass Displacement and Ethnic Cleansing (YouTube)

Libya must pursue its future on a solid grounding of equality, justice and respect for the rule of law and human rights.

Ensuring the safe return, protection and support of Tawerghans will greatly contribute to this effort and is vital to a successful attempt at national resolution.

WE are so thankful for your generous support. The needs in Tawergha are enormous, but as the reports are shown, we are working promptly on this project, as it will literally save lives and create a more hope-filled future for thousands of families in Libya's most suffering minority. Not only this, but the project will also help us build trust with this community, paving the way for a long-term support for their cause.

You have our heartfelt gratitude.

Thank you!

Alrassed International

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