



Bodies of migrants recovered from a mass grave in Al-Kufra – Source: Social media

Monthly Report ^{No. 63}

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN LIBYA DURING FEBRUARY 2025



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This monthly report represents the culmination of sustained, cumulative efforts, issued consistently at the beginning of each month since 2019. These efforts are made possible by the invaluable trust placed in us by victims, survivors, and witnesses, who have allowed us to document and amplify their stories

The report is a testament to the extraordinary dedication of our field monitoring and documentation team, who operate under extremely challenging conditions to reach victims, gather information, and verify it with the utmost precision and professionalism. It also reflects the unwavering commitment of our entire team, who work diligently to draft, refine, and publish this report with the highest standards of quality and timeliness, despite limited resources. This work aims to shed light on the state of human rights in Libya, bolster accountability efforts, and confront the pervasive culture of impunity.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to everyone who contributed to this endeavour, whether by providing information, offering support, or making any other effort. We affirm that this work could not continue without the dedication, sacrifice, and determination of our team, who remain steadfast in fulfilling their noble mission in a risk-laden environment, despite significant challenges.

Research and Investigation by:

Field Monitoring and Documentation Team

Authored by:

Ahmed Mustafa (He/Him)

Anas Helal (Any pronouns)

Audited and reviewed by:

Ali Omar (He/Him)



**Donate, be a
voice for the
victims!**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. INTRODUCTION 4**
- II. DETAILS 4**
 - February 2 4
 - February 3 5
 - February 5 5
 - February 6 5
 - February 9 5
 - February 10..... 6
 - February 12..... 6
 - February 17..... 6
 - February 19..... 7
 - February 25..... 7
- III. RECOMMENDATIONS 8**
- MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION METHODOLOGY 10**

I. INTRODUCTION

February witnessed the continued perpetration of grave violations and international crimes by security and military authorities in both eastern and western Libya against civilians. This occurred amid the authorities' clear failure to uphold their legal obligations to protect human rights and ensure accountability.

Libya Crimes Watch's (LCW) field monitoring and documentation team monitored the death of one (1) man after being arbitrarily detained in Qarnada Prison, south of Shahat, and the killing of one (1) man who was shot in the city of Al Zawiya. The field team also documented the arbitrary arrest of four (4) civilians, including a migrant and an election candidate, in Tripoli and Misrata, as well as the abduction of one (1) man in Tripoli.

Additionally, the field team monitored the recovery of eighty-three (83) bodies belonging to migrants found in mass graves in Kufra and Jalu, along with four (4) unidentified bodies suspected to be migrants who died under unclear circumstances in Jalu, Kufra, and Al Zawiya. Thirteen (13) more unidentified bodies, believed to be migrants, were retrieved from the shores of Al Zawiya and Brega. These findings underscore the ongoing violations against migrants and the authorities' persistent failure to take necessary measures to protect their lives on land and at sea.

LCW holds fully legal for the documented violations this month the General Administration of Security Operations (GASO) – Benghazi branch, affiliated with the Libyan government accredited by the Libyan House of Representatives (HoR); the Military Police and Prisons Administration under the Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF); the Rescue Police Department of the Misrata Security Directorate (MSD) under the Ministry of Interior of the Government of National Unity (GNU); The Internal Security Agency (ISA) under the Libyan Presidential council, and the 55th Infantry Battalion under the Ministry of Defence of the GNU. These entities either directly committed the violations, facilitated their occurrence, or failed to prevent them and hold the perpetrators accountable.

LCW affirms that the violations documented in this report may not fully capture the extent of all violations committed during the reporting period. They represent only those that the Field Monitoring and Documentation Team was able to document. The publication is restricted to violations whose disclosure does not pose a risk to the victims, survivors, or their families.

II. DETAILS

February 2

LCW monitored the discovery of two (2) unidentified bodies, believed to be migrants, in a remote desert area on the outskirts of Kufra, eastern Libya, on February 2. These bodies were

recovered by the Kufra Branch of [the Ambulance and Emergency Department](#) and transported to the hospital for legal proceedings.

February 3

LCW monitored the discovery of one (1) unidentified decomposed body, believed to be a migrant, on February 3. In a remote desert area in the Lahrash region of Jalu. Eastern Libya. The body was recovered by the Jalu branch of the Libyan Red Crescent and transported to the hospital for legal proceedings.

February 5

LCW monitored the discovery of three (3) bodies of Bangladeshi migrants¹ on the shoreline of Al-Agilah west of Brega, eastern Libya, on February 5. The migrants had drowned after their boat capsized while attempting to reach Europe. The bodies were recovered by the Brega branch of the Ambulance and Emergency Department and transferred to Al-Shaheed Muhammad Al-Maghrief Hospital in Ajdabiya for legal procedures.

February 6

LCW monitored the discovery of ten (10) unidentified bodies of migrants on the shore of the Dila Fishing Port in Zawiya, western Libya, on February 6. The bodies were retrieved by the Libyan Red Crescent – Zawiya branch after their boat, in route to Europe, sank.

On the same day, LCW monitored the killing of Shihab Mahmoud Al-Ganga (18 years old), who was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on Al-Daman Street in central Al Zawiya. To date, the city's security authorities have not announced any investigation into the incident or efforts to hold the perpetrators accountable.

Also, on February 6, LCW monitored the discovery of a mass grave containing nineteen (19) unidentified bodies of migrants in the Ijkhara area of Jalu, eastern Libya. The bodies were recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent Jalu branch and transferred to the hospital for legal procedures.

February 9

LCW monitored the arbitrary detention of a man² (1) following his candidacy for the Aziziya Municipal Council elections south of Tripoli, On February 9. The detention was carried out by

¹ Similarly, in January, more than twenty (20) bodies of migrants were found, who are believed to have been aboard the same boat.

For more details: [Report: Human Rights Violations in Libya during January 2025](#). Libya Crimes Watch (LCW), February 5, 2025.

² The victim's name has been withheld for security reasons.

armed members of the 55th Infantry Battalion under the Ministry of Defence of the GNU in an attempt to pressure him into withdrawing his candidacy. He was taken to an undisclosed location before being released the following day. This incident took place within a broader campaign of intimidation targeting candidates in the Aziziya municipal elections, aimed at forcing them to withdraw.

February 10

LCW documented [the arbitrary detention and torture of Adnan Mohammed Al-Sadiq](#) (34 years old), a Pakistani migrant, by members affiliated with the Rescue Police Department of the Misrata Security Directorate (MSD), western Libya, on February 10. The detention was carried out to extort his family into paying a ransom for his release. On February 14, a leaked video circulated on social media, showing the victim being tortured by three members of the department. He was released on February 15, one day after the video surfaced.

February 12

LCW monitored the abduction of a man³ (1) by unidentified armed men, on February 12. His abduction was linked to his online advocacy, where he encouraged people to register and participate in the Aziziya Municipal Council elections. He was taken to an undisclosed location before being released later that same day following social mediation efforts.

February 17

Between February 6 and 17, LCW monitored the discovery of sixty-four (64) unidentified bodies of migrants in mass graves near a human trafficking warehouse in Kufra, eastern Libya. The site was run by a network engaged in migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The bodies were retrieved by [the Ambulance and Emergency Department](#) Kufra branch and later reburied following legal procedures.

On the same date, LCW monitored the discovery of one (1) unidentified body, believed to belong to a migrant, in a remote area near Al-Harsha, west of Al Zawiya. The body was recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent Zawiya branch and transferred to the hospital for legal procedures.

Additionally, on February 17, LCW monitored the arbitrary detention of a man⁴ (1) by the Internal Security Agency (ISA) under the Libyan Presidential Council. He was taken to the ISA's headquarters in Tripoli, western Libya, on charges of publishing videos deemed as "insulting the national flag". The ISA later released [a video of the victim](#) making a coerced confession, following its long-standing practice of using coerced statements to degrade detainees.

³ The victim's name has been withheld for security reasons.

⁴ The victim's name has been withheld for privacy reasons.

February 19

LCW documented [the death of Khamis Mohammed Al-Aqab](#) (54 years old) after he was transferred to the hospital from his detention in Qarnada Prison, south of Shahat, on February 19. He had been arbitrarily detained on November 6 from his home in Al-Marj by the GASO – Benghazi branch, affiliated with the Libyan government accredited by the HoR, under accusations of "practicing witchcraft and sorcery"⁵.

His body bore signs of torture, including wounds and bruises. Following his death in the hospital, members of the Military Police and Prisons Administration under the LAAF seized the forensic report detailing the cause of death, depriving his family of any official explanation regarding the circumstances of his death.

February 25

LCW monitored the arbitrary arrest of another man⁶ (1) by the ISA under the Presidential Council, on February 25. He was taken to the ISA's headquarters in Tripoli on charges of publishing videos considered "insulting to the national flag". The ISA later published [a video of him](#) making a coerced confession, consistent with its ongoing practice of humiliating detainees.

⁵ The incident occurred within the context of a wave of arbitrary arrests since October 2024, carried out by the GAOS, targeting more than thirty (30) civilians with the same charges. LCW documented the death of three (3) other detainees under mysterious circumstances inside an unofficial prison operated the GAOS.

For more details: [Statement: LCW condemns extrajudicial killings inside an unofficial prison in Benghazi](#). LCW, 29 November 2024.

⁶ The victim's name has been withheld for privacy reasons.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Libya Crimes Watch (LCW) calls on authorities in both western and eastern Libya to ensure the respect and protection of freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly. LCW emphasizes the need to end all forms of persecution or restrictions against individuals for expressing their opinions or participating in peaceful protests and to guarantee their protection from any violations.
- LCW calls on authorities in eastern Libya to immediately halt repression campaigns targeting individuals under the so-called "Anti-Sorcery and Witchcraft" law, as these actions violate international standards and treaties to which Libya is a party. LCW also urges an end to all forms of discrimination and targeting based on religious affiliations and calls for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under international law.
- LCW calls on the Libyan Attorney General to launch independent and transparent investigations into all serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and torture in both official and unofficial detention centres, and to ensure that those responsible are held accountable according to international fair trial standards.
- LCW reiterates its call for Libyan authorities to take responsibility for safeguarding the lives of migrants along migration routes in the desert and at sea. It urges cooperation with international organizations to establish effective search and rescue mechanisms to prevent further loss of migrant lives, locate missing persons, and identify the deceased. Additionally, LCW calls for an independent and transparent investigation to uncover those responsible for human trafficking networks and to ensure their prosecution under international fair trial standards.
- LCW urges the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and key international actors to intensify pressure on all parties to respect human rights, work towards transitional justice, reveal the truth, provide reparations for victims, and end the cycle of impunity that enables continued violations.
- LCW calls on authorities in both western and eastern Libya to fulfil their international obligations by surrendering individuals wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to ensure their prosecution under international fair trial standards and to curb impunity.

- Finally, LCW reiterates its call for the ICC Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) to reverse its decision to halt investigations in Libya by the end of 2025, as this would severely undermine accountability efforts and exacerbate impunity.

MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION METHODOLOGY

At LCW, our work primarily revolves around comprehensive monitoring and documentation. We gather information through our field monitoring and documentation team, which specializes in monitoring, documenting, and tracking human rights violations and international crimes. Our team comprises experts in monitoring and documenting violations, with diverse professional, gender, sexual, religious and ethnic backgrounds, working in fields such as law, journalism, and civil society activism. They operate across all regions of Libya, including hard-to-reach areas, as well as relevant countries abroad.

Principles

Our monitoring and documentation team has a deep understanding of Libyan and international contexts and continuously keeps track of developments. The team consults experts across various fields, including legal, security, political, social, and psychological disciplines. They conduct risk analyses at every stage of their work to identify threats to victims, survivors, witnesses, team members, partners, and collaborators, including threats to physical, psychological, and digital safety.

The team is committed to obtaining informed and renewed consent from victims, survivors, witnesses, and collaborators—ensuring they are fully aware of the risks and purposes of each action taken. They adhere to principles of objectivity, aligning exclusively with victims and survivors, treating them equally, and maintaining their privacy and confidentiality. The team integrates an intersectional perspective throughout all stages of its work.

Tools

To access and verify information, the monitoring and documentation team collects initial signs of violations through field sources, LCW's reporting channels, and available open-source information. Team members then organize preliminary data, establish contact with victims, survivors, or witnesses, and assess the validity of their accounts. Verification is conducted using multiple sources, including official documents, testimonies from other victims and witnesses, local collaborators, and open-source analysis.

The team creates detailed documentation files based on verified testimonies and information, categorizing and archiving them securely. Data is analysed by gender, age group, geographic location, type of violation, and victim needs, and stored in a secured and central database.

Scope

At LCW, we dedicate our efforts to violations and international crimes against civilians. Our work highlights critical issues such as extrajudicial killings, civilian harm caused by armed conflict, torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary arrests and detentions, and enforced disappearances. We also focus on violations linked to human trafficking and smuggling, as well as abuses targeting civil society and vulnerable groups, including women, LGBTQIA+, religious and ethnic minorities. In addition, we pay close attention to violations perpetrated by parties involved in the armed conflict and other influential forces in Libya.



LIBYA CRIMES WATCH
رصد الجرائم في ليبيا

WWW.LCW.NGO

EMAIL: INFO@LCW.NGO

FOLLOW US: [LCWNGO](https://www.facebook.com/LCWNGO)

Libya Crimes Watch (LCW) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation. Its legal name is LCW NGO. It is registered as a limited by guarantee company without share capital, which is the most common structure for non-profit organisations in the United Kingdom. The registration number is 12685067. The registered office is 71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2H 9JQ.

