



Remnants of The Clashes That Erupted in Tripoli Last May – Source: Social Media

Monthly Report No. 66

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN LIBYA DURING MAY 2025

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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.

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

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CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

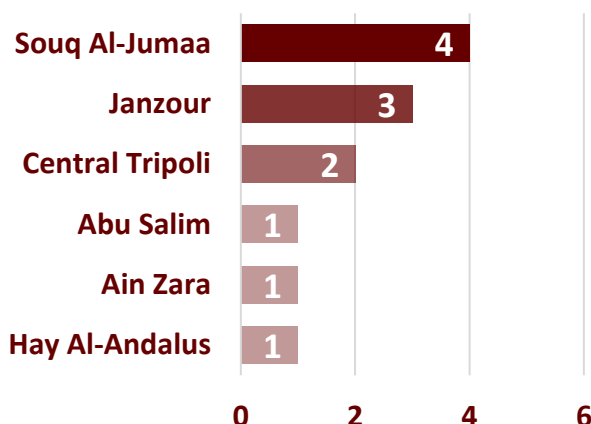


12 Killed



14 Injured

Fatalities by municipality



The toll of the armed clashes that erupted in Tripoli during May 2025

**According to LCW's Field Monitoring and Documentation Team.*

I. INTRODUCTION

May witnessed an alarming escalation in serious human rights violations and international crimes committed by armed groups and security agencies against civilians in both eastern and western Libya. This occurred amid the continued absence of any meaningful steps toward accountability and justice, as well as the ongoing failure of authorities to fulfil their obligations to protect human rights.

The field monitoring and documentation team documented the killing of twelve (12) civilians in Tripoli during the month of May, including four women, and the injury of at least fourteen (14) others, including one child. Additionally, two (2) healthcare facilities were targeted as a result of indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure during armed clashes that broke out in the city.

The field team also documented two (2) cases of extrajudicial killings, which claimed the lives of two civilians in the cities of Al-Bayda and Tripoli, as well as the injury of three (3) civilians by gunfire after participating in a protest in Tripoli. Arbitrary arrest of a Sudanese activist and a poet was also documented in the cities of Tripoli and Sabha.

Furthermore, LCW field team monitored the discovery of thirty-six (36) bodies believed to belong to migrants, including women and children, who lost their lives along land and sea migration routes. These incidents included eighteen (18) bodies found in the desert areas near the cities of Kufra and Murzuq, and another eighteen (18) found along the shores of Misrata, Sorman, and Sabratha. These events underscore the ongoing grave violations against migrants and the failure of authorities to take adequate measures to safeguard their lives both on land and at sea.

Libya Crimes Watch (LCW) holds the following entities fully legally responsible for the violations documented during this month: the Police and Military Prisons Administration and the Tariq Ben Zeyad (TBZ) Brigade, both affiliated with the Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF); the Internal Security Agency (ISA) operating under the House of Representatives (HoR)-accredited government; and the security agencies and armed groups affiliated with the Ministries of Defence and Interior of the Government of National Unity (GNU), including the 444th Combat Brigade, the 111th Brigade, the Public Security and Security Positions Apparatus (PSSPA), Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM), as well as the Deterrence Agency for Countering Terrorism and Organised Crime ("Al-Radaa") and the Stability Support Apparatus (SSA), both of which fall under the authority of the Libyan Presidential Council. LCW also assigns responsibility to the Embassy of the Republic of Sudan in Tripoli, these entities are accountable for either perpetrating these violations, facilitating their occurrence, or failing to prevent them and prosecute those responsible.

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

May 2

Between May 1 and 2, Libya Crimes Watch (LCW) monitored the discovery of sixteen (16) unidentified bodies, believed to be those of migrants, found along the seashore in the city of Misrata. The bodies were recovered by the Misrata branch of the Libyan Red Crescent and transported to the hospital for the completion of legal and forensic procedures.

May 5

Just a few days later, on May 5, one (1) additional unidentified body, also presumed to be that of a migrant, was found on the beach in the city of Sorman. The Sorman branch of the Libyan Red Crescent carried out the recovery and transported the body to Sorman General Hospital for the required legal procedures.

May 8

Later in the month, on May 8, LCW documented the death of Faisal Awad Ibshish (46 years old) at a hospital in Al-Bayda. His death followed a significant deterioration in his health, reportedly caused by medical neglect during his detention at Qarnada Military Prison, which is overseen by the Police and Military Prisons Administration affiliated with the LAAF. Faisal had been arbitrarily detained since 2018 without any judicial proceedings. His health worsened due to poor detention conditions and the lack of adequate medical care, ultimately

leading to his hospitalisation, where he passed away one month after admission. His body was later returned to his family in the city of Derna by the prison administration.

May 10

On May 10, LCW documented the discovery of two (2) unidentified bodies, believed to be those of migrants, buried in a remote desert near Abu Zureiq on the outskirts of Kufra, north of the city of Kufra. The bodies were recovered by the Kufra branch of the Emergency and Ambulance Service and were reburied in designated graves following the completion of legal procedures.

May 12

Between 12 and 14 May, LCW documented the killing of eleven (11) civilians, including four women, and the injury of at least¹ ten (10) others, including one child, in the areas of Souq Al-Jumaa, Hay Al-Andalus, Janzour, Abu Salim, Ain Zara, and Central Tripoli. These casualties were the result of indiscriminate gunfire during armed clashes that took place in densely populated neighbourhoods of the capital.

During the same clashes, LCW also monitored the targeting of Tripoli Al-Jadida Clinic and Al-Jalaa Maternity and Women's Hospital by shelling, while patients and staff were present inside. Several members of armed groups involved in the fighting were also killed. To date, the Government of National Unity has refrained from releasing any official statistics on the human or material toll of these clashes.

These indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure occurred during armed confrontations in Tripoli that followed the killing of the head of the SSA, Abdelghani Al-Kikli ("Ghaniwa"). The fighting broke out among armed groups and security agencies, most notably the 444th Combat Brigade and the 111th Brigade, both affiliated with the Ministry of Defence under the Government of National Unity (GNU); the Public Security and Security Positions Apparatus (PSSPA), affiliated with the Ministry of Interior; as well as the Deterrence Agency for Countering Terrorism and Organised Crime ("Al-Radaa") and the Stability Support Apparatus (SSA), both operating under the Libyan Presidential Council.

May 13

On 13 May, LCW documented the discovery of the body of Hossam Saleh Al-Tabouni (30 years old), who was killed under torture in an unofficial detention facility located in the Abu Salim area, east of Tripoli. The facility is reportedly operated by the Stability Support Apparatus (SSA), which is affiliated with the Libyan Presidential Council.

¹ [Statement: LCW condemns civilian casualties and calls for an end to the clashes in Tripoli](#), LCW, 15 May 2025.

His death came five days after he was subjected to enforced disappearance following his arbitrary arrest by individuals affiliated with the SSA near his workplace at the dialysis hospital on Shatt Road in Tripoli.

May 14

LCW documented the killing of Qarira Ramadan Al-Mazoughi (65 years old) and the injury of four (4) other detainees² in Mitiga Prison, which is under the control of Al-Radaa, affiliated with the Libyan Presidential Council. The incident took place on 14 May, when a shell struck one of the prison wings during armed clashes in Tripoli. The fate of hundreds of other detainees remains unknown, and no official information has been released regarding the incident.

Also on 14 May, LCW monitored the injury of at least three (3) civilians as a result of gunfire by armed personnel affiliated with the Ministry of Interior of the GNU. The shooting targeted demonstrators protesting against the GNU in the Abu Salim and Central Tripoli areas.

May 17

On 17 May, LCW documented the arbitrary arrest of poet Al-Sanusi Mohamed Khamis Al-Hamri near his home in the city of Sebha by armed individuals affiliated with the 110th Battalion, which operates under the TBZ Brigade of the LAAF. His detentions appear to be linked to his public support for Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi. It is believed that he was transferred to the premises of the ISA in the city of Benghazi, affiliated with the Libyan government accredited by the HoR.

During the detention, Al-Hamri's home was raided and unlawfully searched by members of the TBZ. His mother was physically assaulted by the armed group, resulting in injuries that required hospitalisation.

May 19

LCW documented the arbitrary arrest of Sudanese asylum seeker and activist Mohammed Adam Arbab, known as ("Tupac"), (24 years old)³, on 19 May by staff members at the Embassy of the Republic of Sudan in Tripoli. He was subjected to enforced detention for one day inside an office at the embassy premises before being unlawfully handed over to the Directorate for Combating Irregular Migration (DCIM), which operates under the Ministry of Interior of the GNU, in preparation for his deportation to Sudan. His current place of detention remains unknown.

² [Statement: LCW documents the killing of a detainee in Mitiga Prison and demands its closure](#), LCW, 17 May 2025.

³ [LCW calls for the release of Sudanese asylum seeker and activist detained in Tripoli](#), Facebook, LCW, 22 May 2025.

May 22

LCW monitored the discovery of eleven (11) bodies belonging to Sudanese migrants, including women and children, who had died from dehydration and starvation in a remote desert area near the city of Kufra. The group had been stranded for eleven days after their vehicles broke down along a migration route. The bodies were recovered by the Kufra branch of the Emergency and Ambulance Service and buried following legal procedures.

May 24

Later, on 24 May, LCW documented the discovery of two (2) unidentified bodies, believed to be migrants, in a remote desert area near the town of Qatrun, north of Murzuq. The bodies were recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent – Murzuq branch – and transported to the hospital for the completion of legal procedures.

Also on 24 May, LCW documented the discovery of one (1) unidentified body on the seashore near the archaeological site in the city of Sabratha. The body was recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent – Sabratha branch – and transferred to Sabratha General Hospital for the completion of legal procedures.

May 30

On 30 May, LCW monitored the discovery of three (3) unidentified bodies, believed to be migrants, in a remote desert area near the town of Qatrun, north of Murzuq. The bodies were recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent – Murzuq branch – and transported to the hospital to complete the necessary legal procedures.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

- LCW calls on the Libyan Attorney General to initiate an independent, immediate, and comprehensive investigation into all serious violations of international humanitarian law committed during the recent armed clashes, including the indiscriminate attacks targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, which may constitute war crimes. LCW further stresses the urgent need for accountability for all individuals and commanders responsible for such violations, as well as for effective measures to be taken to prevent their recurrence.
- LCW also urges the Attorney General to open transparent and independent investigations into all serious human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and torture in both official and unofficial detention centres, and to ensure that those responsible are held accountable in accordance with international fair trial standards.
- LCW calls on authorities in western Libya to uphold the right to peaceful assembly, freedom of opinion, and expression and ensure the protection of peaceful demonstrators. The organisation also urges an immediate and independent investigation into all incidents of violence against protesters, and that all individuals and security forces involved be held accountable.
- In addition, LCW calls on the authorities in both eastern and western Libya to immediately halt the practice of arbitrary detention and the systematic targeting of civilians, particularly opposition figures, activists, and their families. These acts represent serious violations of fundamental rights, and their continuation perpetuates a climate of fear and undermines any genuine efforts to establish justice and uphold the rule of law.
- LCW reiterates its call on Libyan authorities to take responsibility for safeguarding the lives of migrants along both desert and maritime migration routes, and to work with international organisations to establish effective search and rescue mechanisms that can help prevent further loss of life, locate the missing, and identify the deceased. LCW also urges the opening of an independent and transparent investigation to uncover those responsible for human trafficking networks, ensuring they are held to account in line with international fair trial standards.
- Furthermore, LCW renews its call on the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to reconsider its decision to end investigations in Libya by the end of 2025, warning that such a move would further entrench impunity

— especially given the lack of capacity, effectiveness, and willingness of the national judiciary to fulfil its responsibilities or meet the requirements of the principle of complementarity with the Court.

- Finally, LCW urges the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and influential states to increase pressure on all parties to respect human rights, advance transitional justice, ensure truth, reparations, and redress for victims, and bring an end to the prevailing climate of impunity that continues to enable further violations.

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.



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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.

