



*The Libyan Red Crescent retrieves the body of a migrant in Tripoli - Source: Social Media*

Monthly Report <sup>No. 77</sup>

# HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN LIBYA DURING APRIL 2026

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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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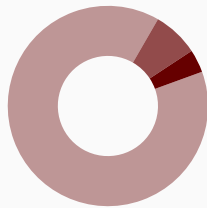


**STAND WITH  
VICTIMS**

**DONATE NOW!**

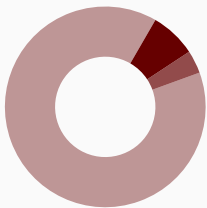
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**3 Minors**

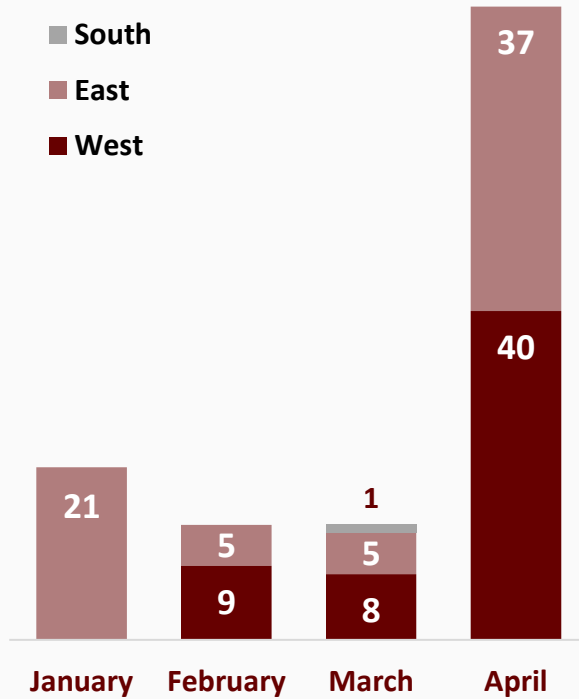
■ South  
■ East  
■ West



**6 Women**

**Migrant Deaths in 2026:  
Monthly and geographic comparison**

*\*According to LCW's Database.*



## I. SUMMARY

April 2026 witnessed the continuation of grave human rights violations across eastern, western, and southern Libya, with an escalation in extrajudicial and unlawful killings, particularly those resulting from the excessive use of force, civilian casualties arising from military operations, arbitrary detention, and a deepening toll of migrant deaths along migration routes. These violations occurred against a backdrop of the continued failure of the authorities in eastern and western Libya to ensure the accountability of those responsible and the entrenchment of impunity.

During this month, LCW's field team documented the deaths of three (3) civilians and the injury of five (5) others, among them one child, in incidents encompassing indiscriminate and direct gunfire, the explosion of a landmine, a remnant of war, and death in custody under inhumane conditions of detention, occurring in the cities of Zawiya, al-Ajelat, Qasr al-Akhyar, Kufra, and Benghazi. In the context of arbitrary detention, LCW's field team documented the arrest of four (4) civilians in the cities of Derna and Tripoli, among them a social media activist and three protesters, on account of their criticism of the authorities.

With regard to migrant fatalities, this month recorded the highest toll since the beginning of 2026, with LCW's field team monitoring the recovery of seventy-seven (77) bodies believed to be those of migrants, among them five women, as well as migrants from Sudan and Bangladesh. These deaths resulted from drowning or from conditions of smuggling and trafficking in persons along migration routes in the cities of Tobruk, Zuwara, Tripoli, Misrata, Zawiya, Derna, al-Khums, Sabratha, Sorman, and Ghadames.

Based on its analysis of information in LCW's database, LCW concludes that the authorities in eastern and western Libya bear direct and indirect responsibility for the violations documented in April, potentially extending to senior command levels. This responsibility encompasses security apparatuses and armed formations, including the 155th Infantry Brigade and the Sabil al-Salam Battalion affiliated with the Libya Arab Armed Forces (LAAF), the Internal Security Agency (ISA) and the General Directorate for Security Operations (GDSO) affiliated with the Libyan Government accredited by the House of Representatives (HoR), alongside the Qasr al-Akhyar Police Station, the Prime Minister's Office Protection and Security Force, and other security bodies affiliated with the Government of National Unity (GNU). This responsibility is grounded in the subordination of perpetrators, direct involvement, complicity, or failure to prevent or investigate violations.

LCW calls upon the authorities in eastern and western Libya to take urgent measures to reduce the risks and impact of landmines and ERW on the safety and lives of civilians. It further calls upon them to cease all forms of targeting based on religious beliefs and practices, to respect the right to freedom of opinion, expression, and peaceful assembly, and to immediately halt the arbitrary detention and prosecution of activists, dissidents, and vulnerable and marginalised religious groups. LCW reiterates its call upon the Libyan authorities to protect the lives of migrants along migration routes. It further calls upon the Libyan Attorney General to open urgent and independent investigations into all violations documented during this month and to ensure the accountability of those responsible, thereby guaranteeing non-recurrence and curbing impunity.

As in every monthly report, LCW affirms that the violations documented in this report may not fully reflect the entirety of those committed during November. The report is confined to cases that the LCW field team documented and verified, with informed consent from the victims or their families. Publication has been limited to violations whose disclosure does not compromise confidentiality or pose risks to victims, survivors, or their relatives.

## II. DETAILS

### April 2

On 2 April, LCW documented the killing of child **Walid al-Sharef Kashim** (5 years old), following critical head injuries, and the wounding of his father with moderate injuries, as a result of indiscriminate gunfire in the city of Zawiya on 1 April, whilst the two were inside their vehicle. Both were transferred to the hospital for treatment, but the child died the following day from his injuries.

### April 4

On 4 April, LCW monitored the discovery of three (3) unidentified bodies on the seashore in the city of Misrata, believed to be those of migrants. The bodies were recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Misrata branch, and handed over to the local authorities for the completion of legal proceedings.

### April 7

LCW monitored the discovery of two (2) unidentified bodies on the seashore in the Ghunayma area of the city of al-Khums. On the 7th of April, they were recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, al-Khums branch, and handed over to the local authorities to complete legal proceedings.

On the same date, 7 April, LCW recorded the discovery of one (1) unidentified body on the seashore in the Ghout al-Roman area, east of Tripoli, believed to be that of a migrant. It was recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Tripoli branch, and handed over to the local authorities to complete the legal proceedings.

### April 8

On 8 April, LCW monitored the discovery of one (1) unidentified body on the seashore in the Tajoura area, east of Tripoli, believed to be that of a female migrant. It was recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Tripoli branch, and handed over to the local authorities to complete the legal proceedings.

On the same date, 8 April, LCW recorded the discovery of one (1) unidentified body, believed to be that of a migrant, on the seashore in the Musayif al-Mutrad area in the city of Zawiya. It was recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Zawiya branch, and handed over to the local authorities to complete the legal proceedings.

## April 10

On 10 April, LCW monitored the discovery of one (1) unidentified body, believed to be that of a female migrant, on the seashore in the al-Fanar area of Tajoura, east of Tripoli. It was recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Tripoli branch, and handed over to the Emergency and Ambulance Service of the Ministry of Health, under the GNU, to complete the legal proceedings.

## April 13

On 13 April, LCW monitored the serious injury of **Abdel Monem Miftah al-Wulwal** following the explosion of a landmine, a remnant of war, on his farm in the New al-Ajelat area in the city of al-Ajelat. He was transferred to the hospital for necessary treatment.

## April 14

On 14 April, LCW monitored the discovery of one (1) unidentified body, believed to be that of a migrant, on the seashore near the Zurayq fishing harbour in the city of Misrata. It was recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Misrata branch, and handed over to the local authorities to complete the legal proceedings.

On the same date, 14 April, LCW monitored the discovery of one (1) decomposed unidentified body in the Hariz area of the Sinaoun desert oasis, east of Ghadames, believed to be that of a migrant. It was recovered by the Ghadames Security Directorate and transferred to the Sinaoun Health Centre to complete legal proceedings.

## April 16

On 16 April, LCW documented the serious injury of **Abdel Karim Dadi Mohammed** in the city of Kufra, following gunfire directed at him by armed members of the 155th Infantry Brigade affiliated with the LAAF during a pursuit. He was subsequently transferred to the hospital for treatment.

## April 17

On 17 April, LCW documented the killing of **Ibrahim Abdel Salam Ben Omar Sasi** in the al-Aλους area near the Qasr al-Akhyar region in western Libya, following gunfire directed at him and the obstruction of medical assistance by armed members of the Qasr al-Akhyar Police Station of the al-Murqub Security Directorate, affiliated with the Ministry of Interior under the GNU, during a pursuit within the area.

Also on 17 April, LCW recorded the discovery of one (1) unidentified body, believed to be that of a female migrant, on the seashore in the Janzour area of Tripoli. It was recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Tripoli branch, and handed over to the Emergency and Ambulance Service to complete legal proceedings.

Also on 17 April, LCW recorded the discovery of one (1) unidentified body, believed to be that of a migrant, on the seashore in the city of Misrata. It was recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Misrata branch, and handed over to the local authorities to complete the legal proceedings.

## April 18

On 18 April, LCW documented the serious injury of **Omar Youssef Murda** and **al-TaHER Youssef Murda**, following gunfire directed at them by members of the Sabil al-Salam Battalion affiliated with the LAAF inside Kufra Airport, whilst they were preparing to travel to Benghazi to accompany a family member who had been shot by members of the 155th Infantry Brigade on 16 April.

Also on 18 April, LCW monitored the discovery of seventeen (17) bodies of migrants, among them one man from Bangladesh, on the seashore in the city of Zuwara. They were recovered by the Emergency Medicine and Support Centre, affiliated with the Ministry of Health under the GNU, and handed over to the local authorities to complete the legal proceedings.

Also on 18 April, LCW recorded the discovery of one (1) unidentified body, believed to be that of a migrant, on the seashore in the Tajoura area of Tripoli. It was recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Tripoli branch, and handed over to the Emergency and Ambulance Service to complete legal proceedings.

## April 20

LCW monitored the discovery of three (3) unidentified bodies, believed to be those of migrants, among them two women, on the seashore in the Janzour area of Tripoli, on 20 April. They were recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Tripoli branch, and handed over to the Emergency and Ambulance Service to complete legal proceedings.

## April 22

On 22 April, LCW documented the arbitrary detention of **Salem al-Mansouri** (39 years old), a social media activist, in the city of Derna, by the ISA, affiliated with the Libyan Government, accredited by the HoR. His arrest stemmed from his criticism of the Derna Municipal Council's mismanagement of compensation payments to those affected by the collapse of the city's two dams in 2023. He was taken to the ISA before being released hours later.

## April 23

On 23 April, LCW monitored the discovery of one (1) unidentified body, believed to be that of a migrant, on the seashore in the city of Sabratha. It was recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Sabratha branch, and then transferred to the Sabratha Teaching Hospital to complete legal proceedings.

## April 24

On 24 April, LCW documented the death of **Juma'a Mohammed Saad al-Sharif**<sup>1</sup> (63 years old), following the deterioration of his health whilst in arbitrary detention in al-Kweifiya Prison in the city of Benghazi, and the denial of necessary medical care. LCW further documented his subjection, during detention, to torture and ill-treatment, the denial of communication with his family and legal counsel, and his continued detention outside any legal framework until his health deteriorated and he died.

Al-Sharif had been arbitrarily detained in September 2024 near his home in Benghazi by armed members of the GDSO of the Ministry of Interior under the Libyan Government accredited by the HoR, on account of his membership of Sufi orders, in the context of a campaign of arbitrary arrests targeting more than eighty (80) civilians in eastern<sup>2</sup> Libya, among them women, on charges of practising sorcery and witchcraft. His death follows five (5) other deaths of detainees within the same campaign<sup>3</sup>.

## April 25

On 25 April, LCW recorded the discovery of one (1) unidentified body, believed to be that of a migrant, on the seashore in the city of Sorman. It was recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Sorman branch, and handed over to the local authorities to complete the legal proceedings.

## April 26

On 26 April, LCW documented the arbitrary detention of **Mohsen Abdel Rahim** (48 years old), **Abdullah al-Kabawi** (43 years old), and **Jihad al-Lamoushi** (26 years old), from in front of the Prime Minister's Office building on al-Sikka Road in central Tripoli, by armed members of the Prime Minister's Office Protection and Security Force affiliated with the Ministry of Defence under the GNU.

Their arrest came on account of their organisation of a protest outside the premises, calling for the restitution of residential units they own that had been seized. They and others were subjected to assault by the armed members before being taken to the headquarters of the Criminal Investigation Department affiliated with the Ministry of Interior under the same government, before being released the following day after being compelled to sign undertakings to refrain from participating in further protests.

Between 18 and 26 April, LCW monitored the discovery of sixteen (16) unidentified bodies of migrants on the seashore in the Bu Hasna, al-Khather, and Ain Ghazala areas of the city of

<sup>1</sup> [Death of a Sufi detainee in Benghazi](#). Libya Crimes Watch (LCW). 25 April 2026.

<sup>2</sup> [Libya: Accountability Is the Solution – Violations Continue Amid Impunity](#). LCW. 8 April 2025.

<sup>3</sup> [Statement: Libya Crimes Watch \(LCW\) condemns extrajudicial killings inside an unofficial prison in Benghazi](#). LCW. 29 November 2024.

[Annual Report 2025 – Libya: Division Entrenches Violations and Undermines Accountability](#). LCW. 8 April 2026.

Tobruk, following the sinking of their vessel, which had been heading towards Greece. The bodies were recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Tobruk branch, and the General Administration for Coastal Security, Tobruk branch, affiliated with the Ministry of Interior under the Libyan Government accredited by the HoR, before being handed over to Tobruk Medical Centre for the completion of legal proceedings.

## **April 28**

Between 26 and 28 April, LCW monitored the discovery of four (4) unidentified bodies, believed to be those of migrants, on the seashore in the Khalij al-Bumba and Ras al-Tin areas of the city of Derna. They were recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Derna branch, and handed over to the local authorities to complete the legal proceedings.

## **April 29**

LCW monitored the discovery of seventeen (17) unidentified bodies of Sudanese migrants at sea near the city of Tobruk, on 29 April, following the sinking of a vessel heading towards Europe that was carrying approximately thirty-three migrants. Seven migrants survived the incident, whilst nine others remain missing. The bodies were recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Tobruk branch, and transferred to Tobruk Medical Centre for the completion of legal proceedings.

## **April 30**

Between 20 and 30 April, LCW documented the recovery of four (4) unidentified bodies, believed to belong to migrants, along the coast in the areas of Marsa Dila fishing harbor, Al-Mutared resort, and Joddaim resort in the city of Al-Zawiya. The bodies were recovered by the Libyan Red Crescent, Al-Zawiya branch, and handed over to the local authorities to complete the legal procedures.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Libya Crimes Watch (LCW) calls upon the authorities in western Libya to intensify their efforts in demining and ERW clearance, particularly in populated areas, and to ensure the provision of urgent medical care and psychosocial rehabilitation for survivors. It further underscores the necessity of implementing comprehensive and ongoing awareness programmes for civilians, particularly children, regarding the risks of landmines and ERW.
- LCW calls upon the authorities in eastern Libya to cease all forms of systematic targeting based on religious belief and practice, particularly targeting directed at members of Sufi orders, and to immediately and unconditionally release all persons arbitrarily detained on account of their exercise of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief.
- LCW calls upon the authorities in eastern and western Libya to respect the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under IHRL, including the right to freedom of opinion, expression, and peaceful assembly. It further urges them to immediately cease the arbitrary detention and systematic targeting of activists and dissidents on account of their exercise of the right to expression, as these practices constitute a grave violation of fundamental rights and entrench a climate of fear whilst deepening a culture of impunity.
- LCW calls upon the Libyan Attorney General to open independent and transparent investigations into all grave human rights violations, including extrajudicial killing, unlawful killing, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, abduction, and conditions within official and unofficial places of detention, and to ensure the accountability of those responsible in accordance with international fair trial standards.
- LCW reiterates its call upon the Libyan authorities to fulfil their responsibilities in protecting the lives of migrants along migration routes in the desert and at sea, and to cooperate with competent international organisations to establish effective search and rescue mechanisms, cooperate with international rescue organisations, determine the fate of missing persons, and ensure the identification of remains. LCW further calls for the opening of an independent and transparent investigation into drowning incidents and violations linked to trafficking in persons, and for the accountability of those implicated in accordance with international accountability standards.

- LCW calls upon the Office of the ICC Prosecutor (OTP) to continue and expand the scope of its ongoing investigations into the situation in Libya and to issue additional arrest warrants, particularly against senior-level officials. It further urges the Office to intensify pressure on the Libyan authorities to fulfil their legal obligations to cooperate with the Court, execute its arrest warrants, and surrender those sought by it, given the continued absence of will, capacity, and effectiveness within national judicial mechanisms, and their inability to conduct investigations and prosecutions consistent with the requirements of the complementarity principle as enshrined in the Rome Statute.
- LCW reiterates its call upon the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) and its member states to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Libya, to fill the gap left by the conclusion of the mandate of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), and to ensure the continuation of monitoring and investigation into grave violations and the identification of those responsible, thereby supporting accountability pathways and curbing impunity.
- LCW calls upon the United Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and influential states to intensify pressure on all parties to respect human rights, and to work seriously towards achieving transitional justice, establishing the truth, providing reparations to victims, and bringing an end to the culture of impunity that continues to fuel 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 specialises 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 organise 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, categorising and archiving them securely. Data is analysed by gender, age group, geographic location, type of violation, and victim needs, and stored in a secure 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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