



CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

United Nations Human Rights Council, 45th Session
Oral Intervention – ID with the fact-finding mission on Libya (oral update), Item 10
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
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Delivered by: Jeremie Smith

Dear Madam President and members of the Fact-Finding Mission,

As [highlighted](#) by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the “inability of the justice system [in Libya] to function effectively has led to widespread impunity.”

In addition to widespread attacks against and intimidation of members of the judiciary, the pervasive repression of any free expression, assembly and association continues to be the norm in Libya - as evidenced by the wide-scale harassment, [arbitrary detention, and killing](#) of protesters and journalists in Tripoli, Benghazi, Sirte and El Marj in August and September 2020.

Civilians, especially journalists, are increasingly tried in military courts. Journalist [Ismail Bouzriba Al-Zway](#) was sentenced to 15 years in prison last May by a military court in Benghazi.

Libyans and migrants continue to be regularly subjected to ill-treatment, torture and sexual abuse in detention. This mechanism is a critical first step towards ending the cycle of violence that has torn Libya apart, and we thank the mission for its update.

We urge the mission to promptly initiate and maintain regular consultations with Libyan civil society and human rights actors and to ensure investigations will include any individual responsible for violations, for both Libyan or foreign actors. We also call on the FFM to urgently coordinate with UNSMIL and send a formal request to Libyan authorities to ensure access to all Libyan territory - West, East and South.

Due to the abbreviated timeline caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the large-scale human rights violations in Libya, we urge Council members to ensure that the FFM has the resources and time required to carry out its investigation in full.

Thank you.