



**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: 54th Session
- Item 3- General Debate on Promotion and Protection of All Human Rights, Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Including the Right to Development
- Oral Intervention
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)

20 September 2023

Delivered by: Cher Saadi

“No one is safe in Libya” as authorities revive Gaddafi-era policies

Mr President,

I am Cher Saadi, a Libyan citizen forced to flee my country after facing threats for my civil society work. For years, I have watched my friends and colleagues arrested, tortured, and killed for attempting to uphold human rights.

The death toll and heart-wrenching trail of destruction of the recent flooding have been aggravated by official mismanagement and a glaring absence of accountable government in Derna, and throughout the country. We urgently call for an independent inquiry into the catastrophe in Derna. No one is safe in Libya.

On 14 August, 27 innocent lives were taken and 106 injured when GNU-affiliated armed groups attacked civilian areas in Tripoli. Ten days later, forces of the [Tarek Ibn Zeyad](#) battalion terrorized and kidnapped civilians in Oum Al Araneb, South of Libya. Armed groups linked to the same brigade aggressively attacked polling stations during local elections in Ajdabiya on 8 July, stopping the vote.

Instead of pursuing accountability for such acts, the Libyan authorities and affiliated war lords are attempting to silence critics through widespread repression and brutal violence, including the revival of Gaddafi era policies and laws.

This Council should urgently revive investigations into human rights violations in Libya. Failing to do so will encourage groups to commit further atrocities and hasten Libya's descent into chaos.

Thank you.