



UNODC
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Regional Office for the
**MIDDLE EAST AND
NORTH AFRICA**



ROMENA Newsletter

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Message from the Regional Representative

This time, our Newsletter invites you to read about our work in **Libya**. UNODC and Libya have maintained a solid partnership over many years since the early 2000s built on mutual trust, joint consultations and agreed priorities. Over time, we have worked with the State of Libya in a broad range of activities, initially focusing on drug use and HIV prevention and since a few years focusing on addressing the threats and challenges of organized crime, corruption and terrorism while supporting Libyan efforts to enhance their criminal justice systems including prisons.

We would like to thank our partners, the EU, the Netherlands, Sweden and the US for the support provided and our partner countries from the MENA region, in particular Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia who have hosted Libyan delegations and offered expertise in our common work under a south-south cooperation approach.

This Newsletter provides an insight into our current work in Libya on prison reform, anti-corruption, financial investigations, and the Libya component of our regional project “Dismantling Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Criminal Networks in North Africa.” We have also included specific stories on women’s participation in our programmes in fields such as prison reform and forensics. Lastly, you will get to hear first-hand stories from Libyan forensics experts who participate in our forensics work.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Cristina Albertin,
UNODC Regional Representative for MENA

STORIES IN THIS ISSUE

Developing of a national roadmap for prison reform

[Key roles of women in rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners](#)

A stronger path to investigating and prosecuting corruption

[Launch of the Libya component of the Regional Programme “Dismantling Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Criminal Networks in North Africa”](#)

UNODC and Libya review legal framework in light of the UNTOC

[His Story: Mr. Hussein Alzaidi, Libyan Forensic Expert](#)

A coordinated forensic response for victims of trafficking in persons and smuggled migrants

[Her Story: Ms. Kalthoum Amara, Expert in serology and blood analysis](#)

Developing a national roadmap for prison reform



As the guardian of the Nelson Mandela Rules, UNODC supports the Member States with technical assistance and advisory services in the area of prison reform to uphold international norms and standards and thereby reduce the scope of imprisonment, strengthen prison management, improve prison conditions and facilitate the social integration of prisoners upon release.

An example of South-South cooperation, UNODC organized in collaboration with the Libyan Ministry of Justice and the Algerian Prison Administration, a three-day workshop in Tunis with government representatives from Libya and the Algerian Prison Administration to exchange experiences, best practices and challenges with regards to reforming the Libyan penitentiary system in line with international norms and standards. The workshop was part of the project “Strengthening Prison Reform in Libya, Under the Guiding Principles of Rehabilitation and Social Integration” funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

During the three-day workshop, participants discussed how to address challenges and initiate reform in Libya with regards to the penitentiary system and focused on the specific needs and challenges in the context of Libya. Some of the areas highlighted are the living conditions for inmates, prisons’

infrastructure, prison security, prison health and internal and external challenges faced by the Libyan prison administration.

The outcome of the discussions during the three-day workshop serves as a first step in developing a national roadmap on prison reform in Libya tailored to the specific needs of the Libyan penitentiary system.

Key roles of women in rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners



The importance of rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners is becoming clearer day by day as it helps prisoners avoid recidivism and gain a second chance in being positive members of their society and for communities at large to be safer from the harms caused by crimes that lead to imprisonment.

As part of the project “Strengthening prison reform in Libya, under the guiding principle of rehabilitation and social integration” funded by the Netherlands, UNODC, in collaboration with the Libyan Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Algerian Prison Administration organized a 10-days training for women who work in prisons in Libya.

The training provided a chance to the women officials to gain practical knowledge that can make a difference in the lives of many prisoners. Such knowledge included the necessary psychosocial support, [the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders known as “the Bangkok Rules,”](#) the specific policies related to young children of mothers who live in prison, and the process and programmes for reintegration and rehabilitation.

A stronger path to investigating and prosecuting corruption

Corruption is a complex social, political, and economic phenomenon that affects all countries. Corruption undermines democratic institutions, slows economic development, and contributes to governmental instability.



People and institutions are equally important in countering corruption. UNODC, in collaboration with the Egyptian Administrative Control Authority (ACA)’s training arm, the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, organized training for the Libyan national authorities to support Libya in strengthening its criminal justice response to corruption. 19 participants representing law enforcement, prosecution and judiciary authorities and financial analysts received first-hand information and capacity building to:

- a- investigate and prosecute corruption
- b- trace, seize, and confiscate assets linked to high-level corruption, and
- c-obtain insight on the international obligations and good practices and the Egyptian experience in this field.

This is part of the European Union (EU) funded project “Building Libya’s National Capacity to Prevent and Combat Corruption and Money Laundering” taking place from 2020 to 2023 and implemented jointly with the United National Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), in which Libyan authorities and law enforcement are receiving the necessary tools and knowledge they need to better combat corruption and financial crimes.

Promoting integrity and facing corruption in Egypt, Iraq, and Libya



Facing corruption effectively requires holistic, systematic, and sustainable solutions that involved all stakeholders. As the private sector plays a crucial role in achieving sustainable development and in the economies of all states, its involvement in countering corruption and promoting integrity is imperative if states are to end corruption.

UNODC organized, in collaboration with the Egyptian Anti-Corruption Academy, the Iraqi Anti-Corruption Academy and the

Libyan Ministry of Economy and Industry, three training workshops in Egypt, Iraq and Libya under the theme “Countering Corruption and Promoting Integrity in the Private Sector” with the participation of 59 representatives from the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and with national counterparts working in the field of addressing corruption.

During these workshops, participants were introduced to the national anti-corruption frameworks within which they operate and the [United Nations Convention Against Corruption \(UNCAC\)](#), as well as the different types of corruption, how and why it takes place, how it affects their business environment and most importantly how they can act against it and reduce it through risk assessments, internal controls and compliance programs.

These workshops were held within the framework of the project “Strengthening the Private Sector Capacity to Prevent Corruption and Enhance Integrity in the Arab Countries”, funded by Siemens Integrity Initiative and being implemented by UNODC in six Arab countries: Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Sudan and the UAE.

Launch of the Libya component of the Regional Programme “Dismantling Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Criminal Networks in North Africa”

The State of Libya, UNODC and the EU launched the Libya package of the regional project “Dismantling human trafficking and migrant criminal networks in North Africa.” Funded by the European Union, through the EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), and

implemented by UNODC, the project aims at strengthening the capacities of Libyan authorities to prevent all forms of organized crime, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The 15 million Euro regional umbrella programme supports Libya, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

The Libya project focuses comprehensively on enhancing the capacities of law enforcement in detection and interception and of health and social workers to identify and provide support to victims and to criminal justice practitioners to investigate and prosecute cases of migrant smuggling and human trafficking, with an emphasis on regional and international cooperation.

UNODC and Libya review legal framework in light of the UNTOC



Within the framework of the “Dismantling human trafficking and migrant criminal networks in North Africa” project, UNODC is working with the State of Libya on enhancing the legal framework to address human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

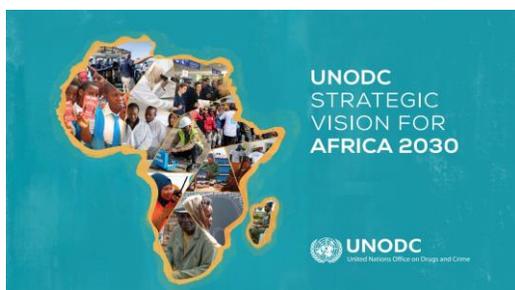
UNODC and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) brought together 19 participants from different relevant divisions at the MoJ and the Ministry of Interior in a first workshop to discuss the required Libyan legal framework

with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

During the workshop, participants learned about various legislations from other Arab countries in this regard as well as about key principles enshrined in the UNTOC and the two protocols. Putting such knowledge into action, the workshop focused on how to further develop the draft law to address human trafficking.

“We must cooperate with international bodies in order to raise the level of combating irregular migration and raise the effective capacity of colleagues in Libya,” the Head of the Libyan delegation, Member of the Supreme Judicial Council, affirmed at the workshop.

Do you know?



[The UNODC Strategic Vision for Africa 2030](#), which includes Libya as it is a North African Member State, seeks to support countries to strengthen crime prevention, enhance justice, address organized crime, ensure a balanced response to drugs, improve the rule of law and bolster resilience.

Countering human trafficking and migrant smuggling: Investigation and Key Hub Cities identification



The pressure on law enforcement and criminal justice systems to effectively identify, investigate, prosecute and adjudicate human trafficking and migrant smuggling cases in accordance with the rule of law continues to grow. Accordingly, raising awareness and providing training for law enforcement officers, is crucial to ensure that cases are identified, perpetrators brought to justice and victims are protected.

As a foundation step to such action, UNODC held a meeting with Libyan authorities to identify and select the key hub cities (KHCs) along the smuggling routes and to jointly assess and develop the work plan related to the identification and interception pillar to enhance the investigative capacities of the Libyan Ministry of Interior (MoI) in its endeavour to tackle migrant smuggling and human trafficking cases. The meeting is part of the project "Dismantling Criminal Networks Operating in North Africa and Involved in Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking," funded by the EU.

The meeting was attended by officials from Tripoli and Benghazi representing the Libyan Criminal Investigation Directorate (CID), the

Libyan Police Training Institute, and the International Cooperation Directorate. resulted in identifying and selecting the major five KHCs along the smuggling routes, namely Tripoli, Ghadames, Kufra, Qatrun, and Ajdabiya, as well as the drafting and agreeing on a joint capacity-building work plan to be implemented upon the endorsement of the Minister of Interior.

*His Story: Mr. Hussein Alzaidi,
Libyan Forensic Expert*



“I work in the MoI CID, we had equipped a laboratory in a great manner, but unfortunately the conflict in the south of Tripoli has led to the destruction of this laboratory. With the efforts of our team, we extracted some of the equipment and materials and restored some of the working capacity of the laboratory, with its management to 75-80% of its previous working conditions.

When rebuilding, in my opinion, the first thing to consider is to interact with

international experts and field visits to international laboratories and have an insight into how the international community works in the criminal forensics’ management field. This is what I think is important the most, including the training workshops.

Of course, we will not stop our work in Libya, we have our expertise in Libya to work on combatting crime. I will use it within our legal mandate for helping rebuild my country. With the UNODC action plan built on SOPs, quality training and equipment, we are confident we will be able to resume our work”



*We lost our databases
as well as other key equipment*

*With UNODC action plan
built on
SOPs, Quality training, Equipment*

We will be able to resume our work

Mr Hussein Joma Mohamed Alzaidi
Forensic Expert Mol Libya

*A coordinated forensic response
for victims of trafficking in
persons and smuggled migrants*

Forensic sciences are at the heart of criminal justice investigations used by all modern law enforcement and justice services to solve all types of crime and bring justice to victims. One of the key elements in effective forensics is that the experts involved own an enhanced sense of coordination, knowledge, and capacities. For this reason, UNODC held a second in-person roundtable for Libyan forensic services to build their capacities in

the investigation of human trafficking and migrant smuggling crimes. The activity is part of the regional European Union (EU) funded project “Dismantling Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Criminal Networks in North Africa.”

The roundtable gathered UNODC experts with six forensic experts from the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) at the Ministry of Interior (MoI), representing the following services: Mass graves forensic investigation, Crime scene forensic investigation, DNA department, Serology department, Micro-Traces department, and the Fingerprint department.

The discussions supported the development of an action plan for forensic services dealing with human trafficking and migrant smuggling, with enhanced Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines, and with the definition of roles and coordination between different services relating to the crime scene investigation.

*Her Story: Ms. Kalthoum Amara,
Expert in serology and blood
analysis*



“We will focus on the best practices and SOPs used, I will work on using these processes immediately in the lab and I will use CoC according to good practice. In line with forensic work requirements.

Many challenges are facing forensic experts in Libya including expertise, and having the space to do our work, having the equipment, we also need to enhance our skills so that we each have an advanced stage of being proficient in forensic work. I also wish we gain ISO accreditation in our Toxicology work, in addition to all departments.

“

*Supporting female officers
and providing the means for
advancement in the workplace
will encourage other women to
join this sector without fear*

Ms Kalthoum Omar Omara
Forensic Expert Mol Libya

Choosing exceptional women and supporting them will inspire other women to advance, when there are women employees, it will encourage others to join without fear or hesitation.

Regarding this workshop, at the end of the final day today, with deals with TiP and SoM, and how it comments with the forensic evidence work; personally, I enjoined and gained a lot, and it expanded my understanding that forensic evidence exists in all transnational crimes (Trafficking, terrorist, sexual crimes, and so on).

We wish to contribute and support working towards addressing these issues, especially TiP because Libya is a crossing country for it and migration. Therefore, we always strive to participate in such workshops, and we hope the UNODC helps Libya in this work, in workshops, training, and equipment, preparing investigators and specialists so we can contribute to helping to solve this issue that faces countries of the Mediterranean.”

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