

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 644

Strongly condemning the slave auctions of migrants and refugees in Libya,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 4, 2017

Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. LEE, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PALLONE, and Ms. ADAMS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Strongly condemning the slave auctions of migrants and
refugees in Libya, and for other purposes.

Whereas on, November 14, 2017, a Cable News Network
(CNN) investigation uncovered slave auctions of migrants
and refugees in Libya;

Whereas in April 2017, the International Organization for
Migration (IOM) gathered evidence and issued a warning
about slave markets in Libya;

Whereas in December 2016, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported that many migrants in Libya are forced to work for no pay on farms, as domestic workers, construction and road paving workers, and rubbish collectors, including by or for guards working in detention centers run by Libya's Department for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM);

Whereas Libya is a primary transit hub for migrants and refugees attempting to reach Southern Europe by sea and the United Nations estimates that there are now between 700,000 and one million migrants and refugees in the country;

Whereas human smuggling and trafficking has become a lucrative trade as a result of the power vacuum in Libya after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011;

Whereas OHCHR reported that DCIM guards torture, sexually assault, and otherwise abuse detainees, there is no refugee registration process or legal procedures to challenge detention, and conditions are generally inhumane—including severe overcrowding and inadequate access to toilets, washing facilities, food, and clean water;

Whereas the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) reported that unaccompanied children who crossed the Mediterranean suffered enslavement, violence, and sexual abuse at the hands of smugglers and traffickers;

Whereas UNICEF reported not all migrants and refugees are held in centers run by DCIM and that some are held in unofficial camps run by armed groups;

Whereas Libya’s weak central government and continuing political turmoil is a contributing factor for the insecurity in the country and it has been reported that the Government of National Accord does not control the entire country;

Whereas poverty and insecurity are the key drivers of migration in the sub-Saharan countries from which many of the migrants originate; and

Whereas slavery has no place in the world: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) strongly condemns slave auctions of mi-
3 grants and refugees in Libya;

4 (2) calls upon the Government of Libya to—

5 (A) conduct an immediate investigation
6 into the existence of slave auctions and forced
7 labor involving migrants and refugees;

8 (B) hold smugglers, traffickers, detention
9 center guards, and anyone else involved ac-
10 countable;

11 (C) manage migration flows in a humane
12 manner;

13 (D) urgently end the violent and inhumane
14 conditions of official migrant detention centers
15 and generally manage migration flows in a hu-
16 mane manner; and

1 (E) swiftly register asylum seekers and
2 fairly process their refugee claims and do not
3 detain them;

4 (3) calls upon the United Nations to—

5 (A) investigate allegations of the slave
6 trade and other forced labor in Libya;

7 (B) encourage Libya to allow the United
8 Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
9 to regularly monitor and publicly report on the
10 situation of all refugees and migrants in Libya,
11 including those detained in official detention
12 centers; and

13 (C) impose sanctions against Libya if the
14 country fails to end slave auctions and other
15 forms of forced labor;

16 (4) calls upon the African Union to—

17 (A) conduct its own investigation into slave
18 auctions of African refugees and migrants in
19 Libya;

20 (B) work to assist migrants in Libya who
21 genuinely wish to return home; and

22 (C) impose sanctions against Libya if the
23 slave auctions and other forms of forced labor
24 do not end;

1 (5) calls upon the Secretary of State and the
2 Administrator of the United States Agency for
3 International Development to use funds authorized
4 and appropriated for—

5 (A) provision of humanitarian assistance to
6 migrants and refugees in detention centers in
7 Libya; and

8 (B) the development of a holistic strategy
9 for Libya to address the political and security
10 situation that includes issues related to mi-
11 grants and refugees in detention centers; and

12 (6) calls upon the President to ensure the De-
13 partment of State and the United States Agency for
14 International Development are adequately staffed to
15 monitor and develop strategies to rapidly respond to
16 the migrant and refugee situation in Libya.

○