



**Libya**  
**Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review:**  
**The Death Penalty**

**Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,**  
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

**Parliamentarians for Global Action**

and

**The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**

**for the 50th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

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**The Advocates for Human Rights** (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law since its founding in 1983. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a death penalty project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

**Parliamentarians for Global Action** (PGA) is a non-partisan NGO network of legislators from all regions of the world acting in their individual capacity to advocate for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law; peace and human security; gender equality and inclusion; protection of the environment; and justice in all its forms. Our network includes over 1,100 active members of parliament, representing government and opposition parties, in 150 countries where the parliament has true legitimacy and authority. We facilitate peer-to-peer learning among parliamentarians, foster connections between parliamentarians and civil society, and build bridges between domestic and international policymakers and stakeholders. PGA is governed by legislators with technical and legal assistance from our Secretariat, which is based in New York and has an office in The Hague.

**The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty** is a membership-based global network committed to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Established in 2002, its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking

to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report addresses Libya’s compliance with its international human rights obligations with respect to: the death penalty; arbitrary arrest and unlawful detentions; the prohibition against torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment; detention conditions; the need to create a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders; and gender-based violence.
2. Libya has not abolished the death penalty or implemented a formal moratorium on executions, nor has it limited the application of the death penalty to the “most serious crimes.”<sup>1</sup> Libyan courts continue to sentence people to death, but there is no official record of the overall number of people under sentence of death. People in prisons and detention centers, including people under sentence of death, experience poor detention conditions and ill-treatment, including torture.

### I. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

#### Acceptance of International Norms

##### **Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented**

3. In its third-cycle UPR in 2020, Libya declined to accept all eight recommendations regarding ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.<sup>2</sup> During the interactive dialogue, the Libyan delegation asserted that “the legislation of Libya remained compatible with the provisions of the [Second] Optional Protocol.”<sup>3</sup> Since 2020, Libya has made no progress toward ratification of OP2.

#### Death Penalty

##### **Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented**

4. In its third-cycle UPR, Libya declined to accept 14 recommendations related to: (1) enacting legislation abolishing the death penalty, (2) maintaining the moratorium on executions and making such moratorium official, and/or (3) commuting all current death sentences to other forms of punishment.<sup>4</sup> During the interactive dialogue, the Libyan delegation claimed that “[t]he Government only applied the death penalty for the most serious crimes and ensured due process.”<sup>5</sup>
5. Libya is a party to most of the basic international and regional human rights treaties and had made efforts to align national legislation with international human rights law.<sup>6</sup> With the exception of 2018, however, Libya has voted against every UN General Assembly resolution calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty,<sup>7</sup> including most recently in December 2024.<sup>8</sup>
6. Libya remains divided between two rival administrations. The internationally recognized Government of National Unity (GNU) is based in the northwestern city of Tripoli and led by Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, while the Government of National Stability (GNS) is based in the east and supported by the House of Representatives in Tobruk<sup>9</sup> and the Libyan National Army (LNA).<sup>10</sup> There are additional armed groups, militias, and foreign fighters who

- also vie for power.<sup>11</sup> One such entity is the Internal Security Agency (ISA), which is led by Lotfi al-Harari, operates in Western Libya, and is nominally under the authority of the GNU.<sup>12</sup>
7. The protracted stalemate between the GNU and the GNS contributes to Libya's political, economic, and security instability,<sup>13</sup> and the population lives in a climate of fear arising out of a lack of transparency, prevailing impunity for crimes under international human rights law, and the apparent absence of fair governance in both the east and the west.<sup>14</sup>
  8. Both the GNU and GNS, however, take the position that the death penalty should be enforced.<sup>15</sup> According to Amnesty International, in July 2023, the GNU's public prosecutor, Al-Siddiq Al-Sour, "announced the establishment of a committee to examine the resumption of executions, which had been halted since 2011."<sup>16</sup>
  9. Libya retains the death penalty in more than 30 articles in its penal code, including various crimes that do not amount to "most serious" crimes under international human rights standards, such as establishing or participating in unlawful organizations, drug trafficking, apostasy, and treason.<sup>17</sup> The death penalty is also an available punishment for certain military offenses and for committing crimes resulting in death<sup>18</sup> (unless the victim's family pardons the offender).<sup>19</sup> Moreover, absent a "pardon" from the victim's family, the death penalty is mandatory for aggravated murder and other crimes resulting in death.<sup>20</sup>
  10. Article 207 of the Penal Code prohibits circulation of views aiming to "alter fundamental constitutional principles, or the fundamental structures of the social order," and states that the offense "shall be punished by death."<sup>21</sup> Article 291 of the Penal Code, as amended by Law No. 20 of 2016, also criminalizes renouncing Islam in word or deed, as well as publicly insulting Islam, rendering both offenses punishable by death.<sup>22</sup>
  11. The Libyan Penal Code exempts from the death penalty individuals under the age of 18, people with "mental illness," and people who commit offences against public health due to negligence.<sup>23</sup> The Criminal Procedure Code further stipulates that pregnant women under sentence of death should not be executed until two months after delivery.<sup>24</sup> Given the limited transparency and lack of available data, it is unclear whether GNU or GNS authorities observed these laws.
  12. Religious institutions have taken advantage of the broad range of offenses that are eligible for the death penalty to push for censorship of freedom of expression, including through a "Guardians of Virtue" program, which has resulted in a wide range of human rights violations.<sup>25</sup> Several months after the creation of this program, the House of Representatives issued a new law<sup>26</sup> on 9 January 2024, criminalizing "witchcraft, and sorcery, and fortune-telling," with penalties ranging from imprisonment for up to fourteen years to the death penalty.<sup>27</sup> This legislation, which contravenes international human rights law, further exacerbates the climate of repression and authorities could arbitrarily apply it to target religious minorities, ethnic communities—particularly the Amazigh community—women human rights defenders, and civil society organizations.<sup>28</sup>
  13. Since 2010, Libya has observed a *de facto* moratorium on executions,<sup>29</sup> and no recorded executions have been carried out in Libya since the armed conflict in 2011.<sup>30</sup> Both GNU and GNS courts continue to hand down death sentences.<sup>31</sup>
  14. GNU courts sentenced at least 18 people to death in 2022.<sup>32</sup> Also in 2022, in areas of eastern Libya under GNS control, secretive military courts issued death sentences, including against

- civilians.<sup>33</sup> As of the end of 2022, at least 18 people were known to have been under sentence of death. As of May 23, 2023, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty estimated that there were 500 individuals on death row,<sup>34</sup> at least 29 of whom Amnesty International identified to have been sentenced in 2023,<sup>35</sup> and at least 18 who had been sentenced in 2022.<sup>36</sup>
15. In May 2023, Libyan authorities reportedly sentenced six people to death under Article 207,<sup>37</sup> including at least two women, for converting to Christianity and proselytizing.<sup>38</sup> The ISA said in a statement that it had arrested six people to “stop an organized gang action aiming to solicit and to make people leave Islam.”<sup>39</sup> One woman human rights defender in exile told a reporter that since 2022, authorities have been increasingly using Article 207 “against civil society activists and international organisations.”<sup>40</sup> She reported receiving death threats for her work before fleeing the country.<sup>41</sup>
  16. In May 2023, a court in Misrata sentenced 23 individuals to death for their alleged association with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, referred to as ISIL.<sup>42</sup>
  17. As mentioned in paragraph 8, in July 2023, Libya announced plans to resume executions, purportedly “to combat the rising crime rate and murders in the country.”<sup>43</sup> Attorney General Al-Sour formed a committee to “give the green light to impose the death penalty, and implement fair retribution in some cases.”<sup>44</sup> Due to lack of transparency, however, it is unclear whether GNU or GNS authorities have carried out any executions since the last reported judicial execution in 2010.<sup>45</sup>

### **Prohibition on Torture and Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment; Conditions of Detention**

#### **Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted, Not Implemented**

18. In its third-cycle UPR, Libya accepted nine out of twelve recommendations related to: (a) improving human rights by incorporating the Convention against Torture and the Convention’s Optional Protocol into national law, (b) reforming detention conditions to ensure humane treatment, (c) ending arbitrary detention and ensuring due process of law, and (d) investigating human rights violations, including torture, excessive use of force, and other abuses, with an emphasis on accountability for perpetrators.<sup>46</sup>
19. According to the GNU Justice Ministry, in October 2023, GNU authorities held over 18,000 people in 31 prisons nationwide, two thirds of them without trial.<sup>47</sup> Militias and armed groups, including the GNS, held thousands more in detention facilities.<sup>48</sup> Research did not uncover which particular facilities are holding the estimated 500 individuals who are currently under sentence of death, or which entities control those detention facilities.
20. Amnesty International reports that torture and ill-treatment are widespread and systemic in detention centers throughout Libya. People in detention experience: overcrowding; lack of hygiene; denial of medical care; insufficient food and lack of water; inadequate access to sunlight; and denial of family visits.<sup>49</sup> Migrants in detention centers reportedly experience torture, rape, humiliation, and extortion, resulting in several deaths.<sup>50</sup>
21. Libya generally has separate prison locations for men and women, but women are almost exclusively guarded by men, most of whom lacked gender-sensitive training.<sup>51</sup> Many female detainees are reported to have experienced harassment and rape.<sup>52</sup> Inside the military wing of a

prison in Benghazi, for example, witnesses reported harassment and rape, and male detainees reported hearing screaming coming from the women’s wing.<sup>53</sup> The UN Support Mission in Libya and international NGOs have reported numerous cases in which women in detention has been forced into prostitution.<sup>54</sup>

22. A lawyer of one of six Libyan individuals sentenced to death in 2023 for proselytizing and converting to Christianity said that authorities tortured their client in detention.<sup>55</sup> The lawyer, who asked to remain anonymous, said that authorities forced their client to renounce their Christian faith under torture.<sup>56</sup>
23. There are also reports of authorities using torture and other ill-treatment to extract confessions that are used to secure convictions and sentence people to death. The 2023 Misrata trial that resulted in 23 death sentences was tainted by accusations of torture and enforced disappearances, and Amnesty International described the proceedings as “grossly unfair.”<sup>57</sup>
24. The general climate of impunity and lack of transparency prevent recording in detail the extent of the human rights violations that are occurring, and those conditions also prevent victims of torture and other ill-treatment of all genders from reporting these crimes, due to a vacuum in the accountability process. Victims and human rights defenders face significant barriers when reporting about torture and other ill-treatment, including fear of retaliation and the absence of adequate gender-sensitive legal protection frameworks.<sup>58</sup>
25. Information regarding legal representation in capital trials and fair trial rights for individuals charged with capital crimes is limited, but Libya’s 2011 Constitutional Declaration does not provide for the right of any person to challenge the lawfulness of their arrest or detention in court.<sup>59</sup> It is likely that thousands of people in detention lack access to attorneys and interpreters and have been denied their fair trial rights.<sup>60</sup> People report that judicial proceedings denied them the ability to confront witnesses, failed to have safeguards against forced confessions, and denied them the right to appeal.<sup>61</sup>

### **Gender-Based Violence; Discrimination Against Women**

26. In 2023, Libyan authorities reportedly sentenced at least two women to death.<sup>62</sup> It is not clear how many women are currently under sentence of death.<sup>63</sup> As mentioned in paragraph 21, there are reports that women in detention, including female migrants, face sexual violence in prisons and detention centers, such as harassment, sexual slavery, rape, torture, and forced prostitution. They are almost exclusively guarded by men, most of whom lack gender-sensitive training.
27. Sexual and gender-based crimes in Libya, including crimes committed in detention facilities, are rarely investigated and prosecuted, and victims fear retaliation in reporting such crimes.<sup>64</sup>

### **Civic Society and Human Rights Defenders**

#### **Status of Implementation: Accepted, Not Implemented**

28. In its third-cycle UPR, Libya accepted three recommendations related to: (a) ensuring the protection of human rights defenders from arbitrary arrest, (b) ensuring the protection of human rights defenders from detention, and (c) investigating any restrictions on human rights.<sup>65</sup>

29. Nonetheless, human rights defenders and other members of civil society risk harassment and prosecution for exercising their freedom of expression, association, and assembly—both in Libya and in exile.<sup>66</sup> Severe crackdown on civic space persists, including with authorities’ decision on 2 April 2025 to suspend operations of ten international humanitarian groups, accusing them of a plan to “settle migrants” from other parts of Africa in the country.<sup>67</sup>
30. As discussed in paragraphs 9 and 10, the Libyan Penal Code threatens severe punishments, including the death penalty, for establishing “unlawful” associations and for circulating views that could alter the social order.<sup>68</sup> GNU and GNS authorities have arrested and detained human rights defenders and other members of civil society, often on politically motivated charges.<sup>69</sup>
31. In 2023, ISA arbitrarily arrested and detained at least 27 individuals, and authorities published some of their forced “confessions” alongside claims of their involvement in activities contravening “Libyan values,” including “apostasy,” “homosexuality,” proselytizing, and feminism.<sup>70</sup> Eighteen of those people are still detained, including on the charge of “apostasy,” which carries the death penalty.<sup>71</sup>
32. Despite the lack of transparency, the threat of the death penalty has had a chilling effect on human rights defenders, as some of them are forced to engage in self-censorship. Between April and October 2024, Human Rights Watch conducted 17 in-person and telephone interviews with activists and members of Libyan civil society organizations.<sup>72</sup> Only five people agreed to meet in person in Libya, while the rest asked for telephone interviews or refused to respond altogether for fear of ISA / GNU harassment and arrest.<sup>73</sup>

## II. RECOMMENDATIONS

33. This stakeholder report suggests the following recommendations for the government of Libya:
  - Abolish the death penalty and replace it with penalties that are fair, proportionate, and consistent with international human rights standards.
  - Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
  - In the interim:
    - Adopt a *de jure* moratorium on executions.
    - Amend the law to ensure the death penalty applies only to the “most serious crimes,” as specified under Article 6(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
    - Amend the law to ensure that no crime is subject to a mandatory death penalty and that courts may always consider evidence in mitigation to warrant a penalty other than death.
    - On at least an annual basis, publish comprehensive data on all people under sentence of death over the reporting period, disaggregated by sex/gender, age, nationality, ethnicity, crime of conviction, date of conviction, relationship to any victim or codefendants, age of any dependent children, status of any appeals or requests for pardon/commutation, and current location.

- On an urgent basis, undertake measures to protect women in detention from rape and other gender-based violence and to hold perpetrators accountable.
- Align detention conditions with the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules, in particular by ensuring access to nutritious food, safe and clean water, adequate hygiene, and adequate medical care.
- Establish an independent investigative body to receive and investigate allegations of torture and other ill-treatment of persons in detention.
- Ensure that any person detained on suspicion of committing a capital crime has timely access to state-provided counsel prior to any interrogation up through the trial and including any appeals or requests for pardon.
- Ensure that any person charged with a capital crime receives a fair trial.
- Issue a directive to all courts handling criminal matters to ensure that they do not admit into evidence any statements or confessions obtained through torture or other ill-treatment, except to prove the offenses of torture or ill-treatment, and direct all judges who receive allegations of torture from the defense to order a prompt, independent, and effective investigation of such allegations.
- Ensure that all prison authorities adopt gender-sensitive policies in relation to women's detention, based on the Bangkok Rules and the Nelson Mandela Rules, ensuring women's safety and security pre-trial, during admission to any detention facility, and while incarcerated, including by expanding the employment of female staff in detention facilities for women.
- Reform provisions of the Penal Code that criminalize freedom of expression, association, and assembly and guarantee the peaceful exercise of those rights, including when they entail criticism of the government or other authorities.
- Create a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders, including by protecting them from harassment and prosecution for any work entailing the promotion or protection of human rights.
- Establish a standardized court system that applies across all provinces of Libya, with clear, speedy, and predictable judicial processes.

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<sup>1</sup> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, art. 6, ¶ 2, Dec. 16, 1966, 999 U.N.T.S. 171.

<sup>2</sup> Human Rights Council, *Summary of Stakeholders' Information on Libya*, (February 28, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/WG.6/36/LBY/3, ¶ 2, available at <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/WG.6/36/LBY/3>.

<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Libya*, (March 8, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/46/17/Add. 1, ¶ 143.

<sup>4</sup> ¶ 115.70 Establish an official moratorium on executions and immediately commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment (Slovakia). ¶ 115.71 Establish an immediate moratorium on executions (Belgium). ¶ 115.72 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its abolition (Costa Rica). ¶ 115.73 Formalize a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Cyprus). 115.74 Declare a moratorium on executions, with a view to the permanent abolition of the death penalty for all crimes, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France). ¶ 115.75 Consider a moratorium on the

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application of the death penalty, with a view to its permanent abolition (Holy See). ¶ 115.76 Take effective steps to abolish the death penalty (Liechtenstein). ¶ 115.77 Consider commuting all current death penalty sentences to other forms of punishment (Namibia). ¶ 115.78 Adopt an immediate moratorium on executions, with a view to the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal).

<sup>5</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Libya*, (March 8, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/46/17/Add. 1. ¶ 143.

<sup>6</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Libya*, (March 8, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/46/17/Add. 1.

<sup>7</sup> International Commission Against the Death Penalty, UNGA Moratorium Resolution Table, <https://icomdp.org/map-unga/> (last visited 30 Mar. 2025).

<sup>8</sup> U.N. General Assembly, *Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty: Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly, 79th Sess.*, U.N. Doc. A/RES/79/25 (2024).

<sup>9</sup> “Status quo ‘not sustainable’ in increasingly unstable Libya, Security Council hears,” accessed March 3, 2025, available at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/08/1153376>.

<sup>10</sup> “Status quo ‘not sustainable’ in increasingly unstable Libya, Security Council hears,” accessed March 3, 2025, available at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/08/1153376>.

<sup>11</sup> Amnesty International, *Human Rights in Libya* (2023), accessed March 3, 2025, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/north-africa/libya/report-libya/>.

<sup>12</sup> Libya: Internal Security Agency must be held accountable for deaths in custody, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention (2025), available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/09/libya-internal-security-agency-must-be-held-accountable-for-deaths-in-custody-enforced-disappearances-and-arbitrary-detention/>.

<sup>13</sup> Security Council Report, *Libya: Briefing and Consultations, SECURITY COUNCIL REPORT* (August 21, 2023), available at <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2023/08/libya-briefing-and-consultations-15.php>.

<sup>14</sup> “Status quo ‘not sustainable’ in increasingly unstable Libya, Security Council hears,” accessed March 3, 2025, available at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/08/1153376>.

<sup>15</sup> Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2023: Libya, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH* (January 2023), available at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/libya>.

<sup>16</sup> Amnesty International, *Libya 2023*, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/north-africa/libya/report-libya/> (last visited 30 Mar. 2025).

<sup>17</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, *Libya’s Compliance with The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Suggested List of Issues Prior to Reporting Relating to the Death Penalty*, 17 Aug. 2020, ¶ 5, [https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/libya\\_death\\_penalty\\_loipr.pdf](https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/libya_death_penalty_loipr.pdf); Amnesty International, *Death Sentences and Executions 2022* (2023), at 14.

<sup>18</sup> Penal Code [LBY] arts. 368-372, 218, available at <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/97659/134630/F-1373419708/LBY97659%20Eng.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> Amnesty International, *Global Report: Death Sentences and Executions 2022*, Index No. ACT 50/6548/2023 (2023).

<sup>20</sup> The Advocates for Human Rights and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, *Libya’s Compliance with The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Suggested List of Issues Prior to Reporting Relating to the Death Penalty*, 17 Aug. 2020, ¶ 6, [https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/libya\\_death\\_penalty\\_loipr.pdf](https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/libya_death_penalty_loipr.pdf).

<sup>21</sup> Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, *Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Libya* (April 2024), U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/LBY/CO/6, ¶ 3.

<sup>22</sup> Zeinab Mohammed Salih, *Six Libyans face death penalty for converting to Christianity*, The Guardian (May 3, 2023), available at <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/may/03/six-libyans-face-death-penalty-for-converting-to-christianity>.

<sup>23</sup> Penal Code [LBY] arts. 84, 316, 29, 81, available at <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/97659/134630/F-1373419708/LBY97659%20Eng.pdf>.

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- <sup>24</sup> Criminal Procedure Code [LBY] arts. 436 and 444, available at [https://security-legislation.ly/sites/default/files/lois/292-Criminal%20Procedure%20Code\\_EN.pdf](https://security-legislation.ly/sites/default/files/lois/292-Criminal%20Procedure%20Code_EN.pdf).
- <sup>25</sup> Defender Center for Human Rights, *Libya: New Law Criminalizing Witchcraft and Sorcery*, (January 2024), available at <https://defendercenter.org/7282>.
- <sup>26</sup> Defender Center for Human Rights, *Libya: New Law Criminalizing Witchcraft and Sorcery*, (January 2024), available at <https://defendercenter.org/7282>.
- <sup>27</sup> Amnesty International, “*Libya: Internal Security Agency Must End Abuses in Name of Guarding Virtue.*” (February 19, 2024), available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/02/libya-internal-security-agency-must-end-abuses-in-name-of-guarding-virtue/>.
- <sup>28</sup> Amnesty International, “Libya: Internal Security Agency must end abuses in name of “guarding virtue,” accessed April 3, 2025, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/02/libya-internal-security-agency-must-end-abuses-in-name-of-guarding-virtue/>; and Human Rights Council, *Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya* (June 3, 2024), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/56/70.
- <sup>29</sup> Human Rights Watch, “*Libya: Events of 2019,*” accessed August 10 2020, available at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/libya#699e6e>.
- <sup>30</sup> Amnesty International, *Global Report: Death Sentences and Executions 2022*, Index No. ACT 50/6548/2023 (2023).
- <sup>31</sup> Human Rights Council, *Summary of Stakeholders’ Information on Libya* (February 28, 2020), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/WG.6/36/LBY/3, ¶ 16.
- <sup>32</sup> Amnesty International, *Death Sentences and Executions 2022* (2023), at 12.
- <sup>33</sup> Amnesty International, *Death Sentences and Executions 2022* (2023), at 28 & n.67.
- <sup>34</sup> World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, “*Libya,*” accessed February 20, 2025, available at <https://worldcoalition.org/pays/libya/>.
- <sup>35</sup> Amnesty International Global Report, “*DEATH SENTENCES AND EXECUTIONS 2023,*” accessed February 20, 2025, available at <https://www.amnestyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Amnesty-International-Global-Report-Death-Sentences-and-Executions-2023.pdf>.
- <sup>36</sup> Amnesty International Global Report, “*DEATH SENTENCES AND EXECUTIONS 2022,*” accessed February 20, 2025, available at <https://www.amnesty.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Amnesty-International-Death-Sentences-and-Executions-2022-Report.pdf>.
- <sup>37</sup> Zeinab Mohammed Salih, *Six Libyans face death penalty for converting to Christianity*, The Guardian (May 3, 2023), available at <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/may/03/six-libyans-face-death-penalty-for-converting-to-christianity>.
- <sup>38</sup> The New Arab, *Six Libyans Face Death Penalty for Christian Proselytizing* (February 2024), available at <https://www.newarab.com/news/six-libyans-face-death-penalty-christian-proselytising-0>.
- <sup>39</sup> Six Libyans face death penalty for leaving Islam, The Guardian (May 3, 2023), accessed March 3, 2025, available at <https://www.taipetimes.com/News/world/archives/2023/05/04/2003799137>.
- <sup>40</sup> Zeinab Mohammed Salih, *Six Libyans face death penalty for converting to Christianity*, The Guardian, May 3, 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/may/03/six-libyans-face-death-penalty-for-converting-to-christianity>.
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- <sup>42</sup> Amnesty International, *Libya*, accessed March 3, 2025, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/north-africa/libya/report-libya/>.
- <sup>43</sup> *Libya Considers Enforcing Death Penalty*, Libya Review, July 22, 2023, available at <https://libyareview.com/36249/libya-considers-enforcing-death-penalty/>.
- <sup>44</sup> *Libya Considers Enforcing Death Penalty*, Libya Review, July 22, 2023, available at <https://libyareview.com/36249/libya-considers-enforcing-death-penalty/>.

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<sup>45</sup> Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2025: Libya*, (2025), available at <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/libya>.

<sup>46</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Libya*, (March 8, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/46/17/Add. 1. ¶148.23 Continue to incorporate the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment into national legislation (Russian Federation). ¶148.24 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile) (Cyprus) (Denmark) (Estonia) (Togo) (Somalia). ¶148.25 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine). ¶148.26 Continue efforts to ensure the ratification of outstanding international treaties and protocols, including the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana). ¶148.27 Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Honduras). ¶148.122 Guarantee dignified conditions of detention (Zambia). ¶148.126 Take further measures to bring an end to the practice of arbitrary arrest, detention and imprisonment by establishing due process of law (Japan). ¶148.128 Continue efforts to put an end to arbitrary detention and improve conditions in detention facilities (Lebanon). ¶148.159 Investigate all allegations of excessive use of force, as well as all human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest and detention, restrictions on freedom of expression as well as on the right of peaceful assembly and protest in Libya (Iceland). ¶148.160 Increase the efforts to investigate all allegations of torture, summary execution, arbitrary detention and other human rights violations and abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence, in order to ensure accountability (Italy). ¶148.166 Investigate all reports of human rights violations committed against Libyans, as well as refugees and migrants, including, but not limited to, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, unlawful killing, forced displacement, attacks against civilians and civilian objects and cases of sexual violence and abuse against women and girls, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Poland). ¶148.255 Continue to reform Libyan detention facilities to ensure the humane treatment of all migrants and other detainees (Sierra Leone).

<sup>47</sup> Amnesty International, *Human Rights in Libya* (2023), accessed March 3, 2025, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/north-africa/libya/report-libya/>.

<sup>48</sup> Amnesty International, *Human Rights in Libya* (2023), accessed March 3, 2025, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/north-africa/libya/report-libya/>.

<sup>49</sup> Amnesty International, “*Libya 2023*,” accessed February 10, 2025, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/libya/report-libya/>.

<sup>50</sup> UN Security Council, *Implementation of Security Council Resolution 2652 (2022) – Report of the Secretary General*, (August 30, 2023) U.N. Doc S/2023/640.

<sup>51</sup> Confidential Source, 2023, on file with The Advocates for Human Rights.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> Zeinab Mohammed Salih, *Six Libyans face death penalty for converting to Christianity*, The Guardian (May 3, 2023), available at <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/may/03/six-libyans-face-death-penalty-for-converting-to-christianity>.

<sup>56</sup> Zeinab Mohammed Salih, *Six Libyans face death penalty for converting to Christianity*, The Guardian (May 3, 2023), available at <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/may/03/six-libyans-face-death-penalty-for-converting-to-christianity>.

<sup>57</sup> Amnesty International, *Libya*, accessed March 3, 2025, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/north-africa/libya/report-libya/>.

<sup>58</sup> World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), *Extrajudicial and unlawful killings in Libya – Thematic Report September 2022* (September 27, 2022), available at <https://www.omct.org/site-resources/images/OMCT-LIBYA-REPORT-092022.pdf>.

<sup>59</sup> Confidential Source, 2023, on file with The Advocates for Human Rights.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*

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<sup>62</sup> Zeinab Mohammed Salih, *Six Libyans face death penalty for converting to Christianity*, The Guardian (May 3, 2023), available at <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/may/03/six-libyans-face-death-penalty-for-converting-to-christianity>.

<sup>63</sup> World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, “*Mapping of Women on Death Row*,” accessed February 20, 2025, available at [https://worldcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ENG\\_Country-Mapping-report\\_Women-on-Death-Row.pdf](https://worldcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ENG_Country-Mapping-report_Women-on-Death-Row.pdf).

<sup>64</sup> International Commission of Jurists, *Accountability for Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes in Libya* (April 3, 2025), available at [https://www.icj.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/ICJ-Accountability-for-Sexual-and-Gender-Based-Crimes-in-Libya-2025\\_EN.pdf](https://www.icj.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/ICJ-Accountability-for-Sexual-and-Gender-Based-Crimes-in-Libya-2025_EN.pdf).

<sup>65</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Libya* (March 8, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/46/17/Add. 1. ¶ 148.173 Protect journalists and human rights defenders (France). ¶ 148.174 Ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists and political activists from arbitrary arrest and enforced disappearance (Germany). ¶ 148.159 Investigate all allegations of excessive use of force, as well as all human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest and detention, restrictions on freedom of expression as well as on the right of peaceful assembly and protest in Libya (Iceland).

<sup>66</sup> Human Rights Watch, “*Libya; Civic Space Crushed*” (January 2025), available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/01/27/libya-civic-space-crushed>.

<sup>67</sup> The New Arab, “*Libya bans international NGOs for ‘hostile’ support for migrants*” (April 2, 2025), accessed April 3, 2025, available at <https://www.newarab.com/news/libya-bans-international-ngos-hostile-support-migrants>.

<sup>68</sup> Human Rights Watch, “*Libya; Civic Space Crushed*” (January 2025), available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/01/27/libya-civic-space-crushed>.

<sup>69</sup> Human Rights Watch, “*Libya; Civic Space Crushed*” (January 2025), available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/01/27/libya-civic-space-crushed>.

<sup>70</sup> Amnesty International, *Human Rights in Libya* (2023), accessed March 3, 2025, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/north-africa/libya/report-libya/>.

<sup>71</sup> Amnesty International, *Human Rights in Libya* (2023), accessed March 3, 2025, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/north-africa/libya/report-libya/>.

<sup>72</sup> Human Rights Watch, “*Libya; Civic Space Crushed*” (January 2025), available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/01/27/libya-civic-space-crushed>.

<sup>73</sup> Human Rights Watch, “*Libya; Civic Space Crushed*” (January 2025), available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/01/27/libya-civic-space-crushed>; Libya: Internal Security Agency must be held accountable for deaths in custody, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention (2025), available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/09/libya-internal-security-agency-must-be-held-accountable-for-deaths-in-custody-enforced-disappearances-and-arbitrary-detention/>.