



Security Council

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Letter dated 2 May 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

We have followed with great interest the session of the general debate on conflict-related sexual violence, held by the Security Council on 23 April 2019, and we hereby emphasize the importance of this event, through which the Council adopted an important resolution that would strengthen continued international efforts to eliminate sexual violence in conflict situations. This form of sexual violence has become an aggravating and abhorrent phenomenon against human dignity and freedom, which causes devastating psychological impacts and will, undoubtedly, affect the aspirations of the victims for a secure future that fulfils their legitimate aspirations, hopes and dreams.

In this context, we reaffirm Libya's commitment to all relevant Security Council resolutions and its readiness, despite the current challenging transitional phase, to enhance cooperation at the regional and international levels so as to ensure the elimination of this phenomenon, and to hold accountable those responsible for this heinous action and fight against impunity.

We believe that participation in such significant topics should not be exclusive to the States Members of the United Nations. We also support the invitation of representatives of non-governmental organizations and civil society institutions, provided that the invitees have credibility and enjoy recognized legal status in their respective countries. In this regard, we were closely watching the statement made by Ms. Inas Miloud, who claimed to speak on behalf of the Amazigh women in Libya; therefore, we would like to clarify the following:

- In her statement, Ms. Miloud pointed out that she represents all Libyan women as well as a group of women's non-governmental organizations. This claim has no legal basis, as she was never mandated to assume these functions at all. Furthermore, she also alleged that she is interested in the topic of sexual violence, as she monitors the situation of internally displaced persons and migrants in Libya. She made this allegation without providing any objective evidence of her studies or of any contribution to responding to the challenges and difficulties that arise in this respect.
- She spoke of what she called the marginalization of Amazigh women over decades, the discrimination against the Amazigh people, as she claimed, and the denial of their political, cultural and social rights. We would like to point out that this false claim seeks nothing but sedition and the destabilization of the values and principles of the unified Libyan people, who are socially cohesive



and who do not recognize discrimination or marginalization against any social component but have stood united in the face of colonialism and foreign ambitions. The Libyan people continue to look forward to achieving a democratic system that advances prosperity, well-being and dignity for all Libyans. This popular cohesion embraces everyone, including our Amazigh brothers and sisters, who enjoy the same rights and have the same duties. They actively participate in all aspects of life, without exclusion or marginalization, and enjoy all political, economic and social rights and probably even more than others. This is evidenced by the fact that some of them hold the highest political positions in the Libyan State and some of them hold senior positions in the judiciary, sovereign ministries and all service sectors. It was unfortunate that these facts were not mentioned by one who claims to speak on behalf of the Amazigh.

- She referred to an incident of rape that we have not verified yet; although these incidents may unfortunately occur when the security situation in conflict situations deteriorates, they are not systematic, and whoever commits them will eventually be held accountable and brought to justice. We condemn such despicable acts and absolutely deny the claim that a particular social component is the sole target of rape. The biggest evidence is that reports of all United Nations organs concerned with the situation in Libya make no reference to what she claimed. Therefore, we would like to emphasize in this regard that the judicial institutions take seriously such allegations reported by anyone.
- In her statement, she called for the provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services for pregnant women and means of contraception in cases of emergency, and we are surprised by the presentation of these controversial concepts, which include many interpretations, including those that are incompatible with the religious teachings and moral values of Libyan society in all its components, including our brothers and sisters who speak the Amazigh language. This initial position was the basis of the cooperation programme signed by Libya last year with the United Nations Population Fund, which included responding to some of the public health needs, services and social needs of women and young people.
- We stress that the difficult challenges facing Libya in this transitional phase require the consolidation of national efforts, emphasizing the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the nation, preserving its social fabric, enhancing the search for solutions to meet the challenges and preserving people's lives and property. These principles and values agreed upon by all Libyans were, unfortunately, not reflected in the statement made by the aforementioned lady.

In conclusion, we express our appreciation and respect for the efforts of the Security Council to continue to address such important issues, to reach comprehensive solutions in order to prevent further casualties and to end the suffering in the cycle of conflict-related sexual violence.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elmahdi S. **Elmajerbi**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.