

**STORY 1** "I fled from Somalia in 2008. By crossing Sudan I reached the southern border of Libya. The crossing of the Sahara desert was very difficult. There were 125 of us, three of us died of hunger and fatigue. We finally managed to reach Kufrah and from there, by paying, we were able to get to Tripoli. We wanted to leave Libya, go to Europe and request international protection. In the summer of 2009, we set off from the Libyan coast. It was in the month of August 2009. We left in a small boat that was very heavily loaded because there were 85 of us on board. Our journey lasted longer than expected. After the first day of the crossing we already didn't have anything left to eat. We were very tired. When we were approaching the island of Malta, our boat had an accident. Four of us died. Among them, there was also a friend of mine, he didn't know how to swim, I tried to help him, but it was very difficult. There were pregnant women on board.

Shortly afterwards, we saw an Italian ship approaching us. We thought that we had finally been rescued. But the Italian ship took us to Libya. Once we were in Libya, we were detained in the camp on the outskirts of Tripoli. We were held for nine months. During all those months, we didn't see anyone in the camp. We were tired and very exasperated.

After nine months, we were freed.

Now, we are in Benghazi. We are scared, we don't go out. The population thinks that we are mercenaries, which is why we are in danger. We don't dare to leave our homes. They have suggested that we leave for Egypt, but we have refused. We want to finally be able to request the international protection which we need. But there aren't any international bodies here in Benghazi.

We refuse to go to Egypt and demand that we be granted international protection."

**STORY 2** "I fled from Eritrea for some serious political problems. I arrived in Libya in 2007. During my stay in Libya, I was arrested and detained in the camp in Misurata (or Misratah) for three years

*(see the information on the violence suffered by Eritrean detainees in the camp in Misratah, here: <http://temi.repubblica.it/micromega-online/litalia-finanzia-e-la-libia-deporta-gli-eritrei-di-misurata-nel-silenzio-della-stampa-italiana/>).*

During my stay in the camp in Misratah, I was recorded by UNHCR as an asylum seeker and I have a UNHCR record number (see the *HRW report on Eritrean refugees in Libya and the intervention of UNHCR in the Libyan camps*: <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/85604/section/13>). Once we left the camp, I went to Tripoli and then I was taken to Benghazi to work in a business.

Since a few weeks ago, we have been living in fear here in Benghazi. We do not dare to go

out because of the violence that we could suffer at the hands of the local population which mistakes us for mercenaries. Those of us who went out were attacked.

We are all detained in a camp that is managed by the Libyan Red Crescent. Apart from having seen a representative of the IOM once, we have never come across any international body. They move us every day, we don't know why.

We are frightened, we do not dare to go out, we don't know what's happening outside. We only hear some sounds of war from outside but we don't know what's going on. We must be helped. International organization must be called in. We need to be able to demand international protection."

**STORY 3:** "I've been living in Libya for five years. I tried to move to Italy in 2007. Libyans coast-guards intercepted the boat and turned us back to Libya. Then I was jailed in Misurata retention camp. For three years, I have been locked up in there. It was really tough, violence was chronic. Along with me, 700 migrants were locked up, most of them were Eritrean. Over here in Benghazi with me there are other migrants that we were expelled to Libya by Italy, as they were approaching Italian coasts. Now I'm in Benghazi, I live in a building run by the Libyan Red Crescent. We can go out only with a permit delivered by the Red Crescent. Yet, none of us wants to go out because we're too much afraid. We met IOM once, we were told of an opportunity to be taken to Egypt by bus.

Once we are in Egypt we are supposed to get in touch with our embassy. But we are not able to do this !! Plus, the situation in Egypt is very precarious. The road to Egypt is hard to take and many migrants just can't enter Egypt."

**STORY 4:** "We are living in a camp run by the Red Cross in Benghazi. We don't dare to go out. So far, we met only the Red Cross and the IOM. The only proposal we received was to go to Egypt. We don't want to go to Egypt, because the situation in this country is difficult. We want to go in a country where our right to international protection will be respected. We suffer persecutions in our country and we are in danger in Libya. We absolutely need to talk to some representative of the HCR, but so far we haven't met any. For all these reasons, we ask not to go to Egypt but rather somewhere else where the HCR can help us. Most of us have no ID. We worked for companies who took our documents at the time they hired us, and we couldn't get them back afterwards. We are 250 from Eritrea, Somalia and Ethiopia. Some of us had already tried to reach Europe and were turned back either by Libyans or Italians."