



**Statement of Ireland**  
**42nd session of the Human Rights Council**

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Interactive dialogue with the High Commissioner on the oral update on Libya

**25 September 2019**

Mr President,

Ireland aligns with the statement of the European Union and adds the following.

Madame High Commissioner,

Ireland thanks you for the update on the human rights situation in Libya. Ireland remains concerned about widespread violations of international humanitarian law in Libya, including indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, destruction of private property, and attacks that leave civilians without access to food, water and basic medical care. All parties must ensure the protection of civilians and ensure access to basic services.

We believe that the system of detaining migrants and refugees in Libya, often in appalling conditions, is reprehensible. We remain troubled by the grave human rights violations and abuses that people have suffered in these centres. Ireland firmly believes that we must continue to work on alternatives to the practice of detaining migrants and refugees in Libya.

The horrific attack on the Tajoura detention facility in July 2019 also highlights the inherent danger in housing migrants and refugees in areas of active conflict. Ireland applauds the efforts of humanitarian organisations to relocate migrants and refugees away from dangerous areas. We call on the Libyan authorities to cooperate with UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies to manage this situation in line with their responsibilities under international humanitarian law.

Ireland stresses the need for accountability, and we believe the Human Rights Council has an important role to play in independently investigating these abuses and violations.

Finally, Ireland calls on all parties to cease military activities in Libya and to engage fully with the UN-led peace process.

*Madame High Commissioner, Ireland would like to ask what the international community can do to protect and safeguard migrants and refugees who may be suffering abuses in areas not under government control.*

Thank you.