

UN calls for investigation in Libya into fate of Egyptian detainees

Tue, 2020-06-16 15:46

CAIRO: The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) said on Tuesday it was concerned about the arrest, detention and ill-treatment of a large number of Egyptian nationals in the city of Tarhouna. The body said this was “in potential violation to Libya’s international human rights law obligations on the prohibition of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.”

UNSMIL is concerned about the arrest, detention & ill-treatment of a large number of Egyptian nationals in the city of Tarhouna in potential violation to Libya’s international human rights law obligations on the prohibition of torture, inhuman & degrading treatment or punishment. pic.twitter.com/jyojScZGem

– UNSMIL (@UNSMILibya) [June 16, 2020](#)

Egypt said Monday it will take a firm stand after a video emerged of Egyptian workers being abused by militias loyal to Libya’s Government of National Accord (GNA).

UNSMIL welcomed a statement released by the GNA’s interior ministry denouncing the video.

“On this issue and called on the local authorities in Tripoli to conduct a prompt investigation, to uncover their fate and whereabouts and to ensure their treatment in accordance with international standards.”

The video has sparked anger in Egypt and led to calls for the government to take further action.

Egypt’s Parliament Speaker Ali Abdel-Aal and immigration minister Nabila Makram promised to take a stand when the time was right, according to Egyptian media.

On Sunday, a spokesman for the Libyan National Army, which is fighting against the GNA’s forces, said the mistreatment of the Egyptians was carried out by Turkey-backed militias.

Ahmed Al-Mesmary said the workers were innocent and not linked to the conflict playing out in the country.

Earlier this month, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi oversaw an agreement that aimed to end the conflict in Libya.



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UN says dozen migrants feared drowned in capsizing off Libya
Conflict, division blight virus response in Libya

[Turkey makes masks compulsory in 42 provinces after uptick](#)

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Tue, 2020-06-16 10:46

ANKARA: Turkey has made the wearing of face masks mandatory in five more provinces, following an uptick in COVID-19 cases.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca tweeted early Tuesday that the wearing of masks is now compulsory in 42 of Turkey's 81 provinces.

In the remaining provinces, residents are required to wear masks on public

transportation and in shops and malls, and are being advised to wear masks and keep to social distancing practices elsewhere.

Koca tweeted: “we cannot struggle against the virus without masks.”

Turkey is seeing an upward trend in the daily number of infections after the government authorized cafes, restaurants, gyms, parks, beaches and museums to reopen, lifted inter-city travel restrictions and eased stay-at-home orders for the elderly and young at the start of June.

The daily number of infections climbed to above 1,500 in the past five days after hovering around 800-900 previously. The country has registered a total of 179,831 cases and 4,825 deaths.

Pinar Oktay, a member of Turkey’s scientific advisory body spoke of the possibility of the resumption of some lockdown measures.

“The increase is being monitored very carefully,” Oktay told HaberTurk news channel. “If the increase continues in this way, we may have to reimpose some measures.

In the eastern province of Ardahan, the number of infections jumped from just three to 18 following the lifting of travel restrictions and the arrival from travelers from other regions, Gov. Mustafa Masatli said Monday.

A village in the central province of Konya was placed under quarantine after 22 people were infected following a funeral wake, Hurriyet newspaper reported.



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[UAE allows travel to specific destinations from next week](#)

Mon, 2020-06-15 22:24

The UAE announced on Monday that citizens and residents are allowed to travel to specific destinations as of June 23, state news agency WAM reported.

A list of the destinations, the groups authorized to travel, and the procedures that must be adhered to before, during, and after returning from travel for citizens and residents will be announced later, WAM reported.



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UAE extends Abu Dhabi travel ban

[France slams Turkey over Libya interference](#)

Mon, 2020-06-15 20:43

PARIS: France said on Monday it condemned any ongoing foreign interference in Libya, singling out the intensification of Turkish support. "This is not acceptable and must end", the French Foreign ministry said in a statement.



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France says Turkey conduct in Libya 'unacceptable' Turkey military runs drill in east Mediterranean 'show of force'

[UAE extends Abu Dhabi travel ban](#)

Mon, 2020-06-15 19:06

DUBAI: A travel ban into and out of Abu Dhabi and between the emirate's three main regions is to be extended for another week.

The UAE's Emergency Crises and Disaster Management Committee said Monday the ban will continue for another week starting Tuesday.

The ban was introduced on June 2 as part of measures to tackle the spread of the coronavirus.



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UAE vital sector workers to get bonuses for coronavirus efforts UAE's annual summer outdoor work ban to start Monday