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Statement of the Rights Group for Migration ¹
On the Situation of Migrants and Asylum Seekers in Libya in the light of the Spread of the New Corona Virus in the World and Neighboring Countries

As the entire world and humanity are going through difficult and complex circumstances due to the outbreak and spread of the new Corona virus, most of the countries are prompted to close their borders and completely isolate themselves from the world, and Libya is one of these countries as it is going through difficult humanitarian situations due to the ongoing armed conflicts.

The Rights Group for Migration had previously issued statements calling for the need to improve the human rights and humanitarian situation of migrants and asylum seekers in Libya. At this time, the risk of deteriorating health and humanitarian conditions of migrants inside and outside the DCIM detentions centers has exacerbated due to the decision of concerned international organizations operating in Libya, or part of them such as the UNHCR ² to suspend their activities.

The Rights Group for Migration calls on the relevant state institutions to play their humanitarian and human rights role in saving the migrants and asylum-seekers from the risk of infection with the new Corona virus, by providing the following as soon as possible:

- 1) Provide the detention centers with the necessary sterilization and hygiene materials for every migrant.
- 2) Prepare special rooms in each detention center to isolate those infected.
- 3) Enhance health and nutritional care of migrants, and by this we mean provision of adequate healthy food and medicines.
- 4) Eliminate any overcrowding inside the detention centers on an immediate basis.
- 5) Follow and effectively enforce the directions of the World Health Organization on "social distancing" and request urgent assistance from the health authorities cooperating with WHO.
- 6) Take all preventive measures to protect the security personnel working in the detention centers from infection, whether from outside or inside these centers.
- 7) Cooperate with civil society organizations to raise awareness inside the detention centers about the risks of the new Corona virus and how to prevent infection.
- 8) Release the children, women and those with special needs as they pose no threat to public security.

¹ The Rights Group for Migration is a coalition of a number of Libyan civil society organizations, which are formally registered and concerned with monitoring the rights of migrants and asylum seekers in Libya.

² [Announcement of the UNHCR suspending its activities – 18 March 2020](#)



The Rights Group for Migration calls on DCIM and MOI officials to look upon the migrants held in the detention centers through the eyes of humanity before which we are all equal with no discrimination whatsoever, and to consider the possibility of releasing all detainees in case that any of the aforementioned demands is not met or open [the detention centers] to enable monitoring and provision of health care.

The Group also calls on the relevant authorities to enable the migrants and refugees to receive health care in hospitals and to enable their access to free examination and treatment in order to reduce the pandemic and save their lives.

We pray to God to ensure safety and good health for all

Rights Group for Migration

Tripoli, Saturday 21 March 2020