



Flash report on mass arrest and eviction in Tarik AL-Matar IDPS settlement

In August 2011, approximately 40,000 Tawarghans have been forcibly displaced from their town of Tawargha (40 KM South of Misrata) as armed fighters from the city of Misrata attacked the town forcing thousands to flee. Tawarghans have been displaced across the country and have been prevented from returning by the Misrata Brigades. Misrata residents widely reproach Tawarghans of having committed serious crimes including murders and rapes in Misrata along with the forces loyal to the ousted Libyan leader Moammar Ghadafi. The pro-Ghadafi forces used the city of Tawargha as a base to attack Misrata and the surrounding areas from March until August 2011.

Triq al Matar IDPs settlement was built in 2008 for workers of the nearby commercial centres in a form of prefab houses. However and as more IDPs were approaching the site after 2011, the camp was expanded by building extensions/rooms in order to accommodate the increasing number of newcomers. The constructions grew unorganized and the site took the form of a “slum”. There are 1960 IDPs currently living at the settlement.

According to UNHCR’s protection assessment, the IDPs community reported an increase in the number of military raids to the site¹, looking for drug dealers or persons involved in criminal activities. They raided houses with no permission and arrest family members without notice. According to the community, the site became a hub for drug business and other illegal activities; mainly due to the fact that young men do not have access to work and no social activities are organised in the site. The protracted displacement, lack of support to the community, lack of freedom of movement, and lack of social activities are all contributing factors to the community members to resort to negative coping mechanisms.

Mass arrest and threat of eviction on 7, 8 and 9 August 2018

On 9 August 2018 the militia who controlled Abuselim area entered the settlement and arrested 80 persons including elderly and community leaders (14 elderly and 66 young men). They asked the IDPs to leave the settlement or to hand over a number of individuals wanted by the militia. The incident has negatively impacted the IDPs community and some IDP families fled the IDPs settlement and they are looking for accommodation in Tripoli area.

According to the IDPs community, the arrests happened during the Morning Prayer. A fight erupted between one person from the IDPs settlement and a member of the militia whose relative is the head of the militia. The aforementioned relative is currently at a hospital in Tripoli and in critical medical condition.

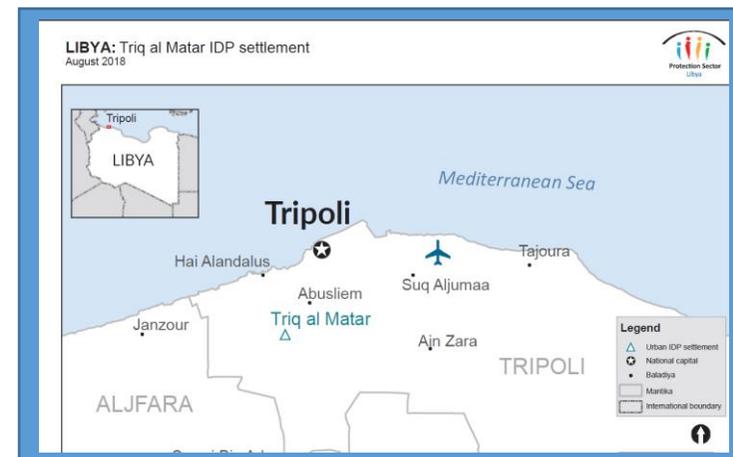
In the evening of Tuesday, 7 August, the same militia entered the settlement and arrested around 40 men. According to the information received, the arrested people were randomly selected; including elderly, young people, and middle-aged males. The militia even kept waiting inside the settlement for men to finish the morning prayer and get out of the mosque to arrest them as well. So, although there may be claims that the reason the militia entered the settlement allegedly for drugs and crimes committed by IDPs residing inside the settlement, the arrests were arbitrary based on status/residency i.e. being IDPs. Those arrested were taken to the HQ of the militia in AbuSelim.

Around 6:00 am next day, around 10 IDPs were released; however, the rest remained in detention. The release of IDPs was also randomly carried out (without clear criteria) or because the released had someone who intervened for their release.

The militia continues to arrest the IDPs members and asking the IDPs community to leave the settlement by Friday noon time. The Tawargha community leaders and the militia met today evening to discuss the eviction, where the latter insisted that all IDPs have to leave the settlement. According to different resources, at least 300 families already left the settlement to different areas including Tarhona, Bani Walid, Flah 1 and Flah 2 in AbuSelim, Souk AL-Ahad, and other areas in Tripoli. Ongoing negotiation at diffident level with government, the militia and AbuSleim municipality to stop or postpone the eviction.

¹ 22 military raids reported from January 2018

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Adult men (18+)	N/A
Adult women (18+)	N/A
Boys (0-18)	274
Girls (0-18)	299
Families with detained family members	38
Families in need of urgent assistance	62
Heads of HHs with no jobs	84
Families living in damaged houses	120
Persons suffering from Diabetes	40
Persons suffering from hypertension	30
Families with orphans	10
Divorced women	24
Widowed	56
Total individuals	1,960
Total families	370

Breakdown the population in the IDPs settlement