

**Libyan organizations and personalities call on the government to guarantee constitutional rights to freedom of organizing associations and fulfil international obligations & calls on the legislator to expedite the issuance of the Associations Law submitted by human rights organizations**

## **Statement**

The undersigned Libyan civil society organizations and personalities have received with great apprehension the [circular](#) published by the Civil Society Commission in Tripoli on April 6, 2022, prohibiting civil society organizations, or individuals affiliated with them, from participating in any activity outside Libyan territory, including trainings and workshops, or cooperate with, or receive support from international organizations, except after obtaining the approval of the Commission, which in turn communicates with the security authorities before making its “decision.” This is a further step in the path taken by the Commission towards the systematic restriction of freedom of establishing and organizing associations. The undersigned organizations and personalities affirm that these measures come in the context of [a wide campaign aimed at intimidating civil society](#) and silencing the voices of human rights defenders in Libya.

Since the issuance of Resolution 286 regarding the adoption of the regulations for the work of the Civil Society Commission in March 2019, Libyan human rights organizations have highlighted that this resolution [violates](#) the Interim

Constitutional Declaration (Articles 14 and 15) and international standards for freedom to form civil associations. The Commission sought to impose more control over civil associations by adding a new required document to the papers related to the procedures for registering associations and renewing licenses. This new document requires the founders of associations to pledge not to deal with foreign embassies and consulates at home and abroad and international governmental and non-governmental organizations in all forms, whether that is by holding meetings and congregations, or extending an invitation to them, or responding to their invitations, or signing any agreements or contracts in general until after referral to the Civil Society Commission and requesting permission and approval from them. This is what [Libyan human rights organizations](#) warned of and considered it a nationalization of civil work and the isolation of civil society from the outside world. The undersigned organizations and personalities affirm that the above-mentioned Commission circular, which comes as a consolidation of the flawed “pledge” procedures, is a measure that contravenes constitutional rights, international standards for freedom of congregations and freedom of organizing civil associations and societies, and harms Libya’s international obligations in the field of human rights and should be immediately retracted.

Until recently, many organizations were resorting to registering with the Civil Society Commission in Benghazi, to escape the arbitrary restrictions imposed by the Civil Society Commission in Tripoli on the registration of civil associations. However, in a negative development indicating the worsening situation of freedom of organizing civil associations in Libya, the Benghazi Commission issued a [circular](#) on March 29 in which it threatened to freeze the activities of organizations that do not update their data and deposit their reports periodically without legal basis. This circular came just two days after another circular issued by the Tripoli Commission in which it announced the suspension of the

registration of organizations that had not settled their status according to Regulation 286 of 2019.

It is worth noting, in this context, that the undersigned organizations and personalities have closely followed the appeal procedures before the Administrative Judicial Department of the Tripoli Court of Appeal against Resolution 286 referred to above, on which the Civil Society Commission in Tripoli relies on restricting rather regulating civil society activities as they claim. As the undersigned organizations and personalities express their frustration because of the administrative judiciary's recent ruling by disposing of its hand by issuing a decision of lacking state jurisdiction regarding this issue and closing the door to the constitutional right to litigation, especially in light of the deliberate disruption of the work of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court. Nevertheless, The undersigned organizations and personalities are confident that the legal and human rights struggle to liberate civil work from illegal and arbitrary restrictions, protect activists and society, and guarantee constitutional rights will continue without surrender or despair.

While the undersigned organizations and personalities affirm that Libyan civil society is recently facing [a systematic campaign](#) launched by some security services against human rights defenders, they note with great concern the alignment of the Civil Society Commission in Tripoli against freedom of civil organization and civil associations' activities and support for the ongoing repressive campaign against civil society organizations, instead of supporting it and defending the need to respect the constitutional texts and Libya's international obligations in the field of human rights. The Commission issued [a statement](#) supporting the repressive measures against the civil organizations, including the arbitrary detention of several human rights defenders. The Civil Society Commission in Tripoli also issued a similar statement in which it used verses from the Holy Qur'an in its criticism of the statement of a Libyan civil

society organization in which it commented on security measures against activists. This is a very dangerous matter in a societal context that has experiences in using the weapon of “takfir” and bloodshed in the name of religion. The undersigned organizations and personalities deplore that the Commission adopts this method of dialogue with civil society. It affirms that the dictionary of dialogue with civil organizations is the constitutional rights and international agreements signed by Libya, and that any deviation in the language of dialogue and the use of the religion in attacking organizations and portraying them as an opponent of society is a matter that carries with it a serious danger to the future of peace and security in the country and even to the Activists' right to life.

Finally, the undersigned organizations and personalities affirm that the solution to the crisis of freedom of civil activities and establishing civil associations and societies in Libya lies in the need to pass a new law to organize civil associations and establish a new relationship between the authorities and civil society, whose reference is guaranteed constitutional rights and international standards for freedom of civil society organizations and associations. In this context, the undersigned organizations and personalities call on the House of Representatives to approve the [draft law](#) that was referred to it by [human rights organizations and Libyan public figures](#) in October 2021. It is worth noting that the draft law was referred to the Legislative Committee of the House of Representatives and since then the House has not begun to discuss it prior to its issuance. The undersigned organizations and personalities affirm that the issuance of the draft law, which Libyan legal and human rights experts have been working on, will become the cornerstone of efforts to liberate civil society in Libya from the claws of repression and persecution aimed at thwarting the Libyans' ambition to establish a state of rule of law and respect for human rights.

Signed organizations:

1. Defender Center for Human Rights
2. The Libyan Women's Forum for Peace
3. Libya Al Mostakbal Centre for Media & Culture
4. Libyan Crimes Watch
5. Lawyers for Justice in Libya
6. Jurists Without Chains
7. Youth for Tawergha Organization
8. Aswat Media Network
9. Tabbiano Organization for Human Rights
10. The 17<sup>th</sup> February Environment and Human Rights Organization
11. Al-Naseer Organization for Human Rights
12. The Arab International Organization for Women's Rights
13. The 21<sup>st</sup> March Foundation for Children's Rights
14. The Libyan Institute for Investigative Journalism
15. The Libyan Organization for Political Development
16. The Libyan Center for Tamazight Studies
17. Aman Organization Against Discrimination
18. Justice for All Organization
19. Libyan Organization for Amazigh Experiences
20. Washem Center for Women's Studies
21. Nuasi for gender studies

**Signed Personalities:**

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|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Abdel Hafeed Ghoga   | Lawyer and human rights defender   |
| 2. Abdel Moneim Sharif  | Member of the Constituent Assembly |
| 3. Abdelsalam Boughuila | Member of the State Council        |
| 4. Abdelsalam Mohamed   | Academic                           |
| 5. Abdelsalam Ordko     | Activist                           |
| 6. Abdeldaem Alghurbali | Lawyer                             |
| 7. Abeer Amnaina        | University professor               |
| 8. Ahlam Mohamed        | Libyan human rights defender       |

9. Ahmed Khaled	Legal advisor
10. Ahmed Khalil Sharkasi	Member of the Political Dialogue Forum
11. Ali Alasbli	The Libyan Crimes Monitor
12. Ali Al-Tarhouni	Former deputy head of the Executive Office
13. Amal Abeidi	University professor
14. Amal Bougheighis	Member of the Political Dialogue Forum
15. Amina Al-Mughairbi	University professor
16. Ashraf Al-Qatani	Human rights activist
17. Emad Irtayah	Human rights defender
18. Fahd Jamal	Lawyer
19. Fayrouz Al-Barjo	Civil activist
20. Hana Abou Al-Deeb	Member of Parliament
21. Hanin Boushousha	Human rights and Civil Society activist
22. Hassan Al-Amin	Journalist and human rights defender
23. Hassan Kadano	Human rights defender
24. Hisham Matar	Novelist and writer
25. Ibtisam Al-Aqoury	Lawyer and human rights defender
26. Ibrahim Grada for the UN	Former Ambassador, politician and senior advisor
27. Jamal Al-Falah Development	President of the Libyan Organization for Political
28. Jamal Belnour	Journalist and Human rights defender
29. Khaled Al-Sayeh	Lawyer and former ambassador
30. Khaled Mutawa	Poet and University professor
31. Khaled Wahli	Member of the Constituent Assembly
32. Louay Farkash	Minister Plenipotentiary - League of Arab States
33. Maher Al Shaeri Investigative Journalism	Member of the Libyan Institution for
34. Mahmud Shamman Information	Libyan journalist and former Minister of
35. Marwa Habil	Journalist
36. Marwa Salem	Human rights defender and journalist
37. Marwan Tashani	Human rights defender and researcher
38. Mimon Al-Sheikh	Activist
39. Mohamed Al-Asfar	Novelist and writer
40. Mohamed Al-Dairi	Former Foreign Minister
41. Mohamed Al-Huni	Journalist
42. Mohamed Hammuda	Legal scholar
43. Mohsen Ibrahim	Human rights defender
44. Motaz Gaderbouh	Journalist
45. Musab Al-Abed	Member of Parliament
46. Naim Al-Ashibi	Libyan journalist and writer
47. Naima Jibril former head of the Benghazi Court of Appeals	Member of the Libyan Political Dialogue and
48. Najia Al-Tabawi	Activist
49. Najib Al-Hasadi	University professor
50. Nisreen Al Alem	Journalist

<b>51. Noura Al-Jerbi</b>	<b>Journalist</b>
<b>52. Rabia Bouras</b>	<b>Member of Parliament</b>
<b>53. Salah Al-Marghani</b>	<b>Lawyer and former Minister of Justice</b>
<b>54. Tawfiq Ayyad Al-Shakrouni</b>	<b>Libyan Association for Amazigh Studies</b>
<b>55. Umm Al-Ezz Al-Farsi</b>	<b>University professor</b>
<b>56. Zahi Al Mughairbi</b>	<b>University professor</b>
<b>57. Zahra Langi</b>	<b>Libyan human rights defender</b>