

16 March 2021

Statement to UN Human Rights Council, 46th regular session (22 February to 23 March 2021)

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

Statement on Libya

I am Hajer Sharief, the co-founder of Together We Build It. This is a statement by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom supported by Together We Build it.

Despite the majorly significant role that Libyan women and young people play within their communities and as civil society and political leaders, the issue of women's meaningful participation in Libya's formal decision-making processes continues to be deprioritized by all stakeholders. Libya received nine recommendations addressing the necessity to ensure the effective inclusion of women in political life and in all peace related talks and consultations. While most of these recommendations have been accepted,¹ their implementation will remain flawed and the hopes to achieve sustainable peace unrealistic as long as women, including young women, continue to be effectively excluded. We urge the government and other actors to take effective measures to ensure the effective participation of women and young people in the peace and political processes and in the implementation of all foreseen reforms.

Violence against human rights defenders and women peace builders is rising in an environment of total impunity. Acts of reprisals against WHRDs including women political activists range from online harassment to killings. We are still calling for justice for all women peacebuilders who were assassinated in Libya.

The government must address the prevailing impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of human rights violations against women peacebuilders and women human rights defenders by increasing efforts to investigate and prosecute all alleged perpetrators in order to ensure accountability and guarantee the rights of the victims to justice and reparations.

¹ **A/HRC/46/17, Libya supported recommendations:** 148.172 Create a safe, inclusive and enabling environment for all civil society stakeholders, including women, minorities and vulnerable groups, and ensure their meaningful participation in all stages of the peacebuilding process (Czechia); 148.218 Guarantee greater participation of women and minorities in the political and economic life in Libya, including by promoting greater representation in parliament (Sierra Leone); 148.220 Ensure the full, equal and effective participation of women in conflict resolution and decision-making and tackle sexual and gender-based violence (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); 148.221 Ensure the full and effective participation of women in the political process (Spain); 148.225 Take specific measures to increase the active participation of women in the decision-making process in public life, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (Angola); 148.227 Ensure the meaningful participation of women in political and public life, including in the Libyan Political Dialogue and all meetings and consultation processes related to peace talks, as well as on the committee for elections (Austria); and 148.231 Reaffirm its commitment to ensuring the full and effective participation of women in the peace process (Denmark); 148.238 Guarantee the active and genuine participation of women at all levels of peace processes and ensure their political representation through the establishment of quotas (Luxembourg).

Libya stated that it rejected recommendation 148.107 Review all laws and practices that are discriminatory based on gender and that limit the participation of women in political processes and social life (Estonia).

For Libya's position on UPR recommendations, please see A/HRC/46/17/Add.1, currently available only in Arabic.

Impunity also continues in relation to breaches of the UN arms embargo. Sustainable peace in Libya is contingent on ending all arms transfers as well as on effective de-militarization and disarmament processes. We thus strongly regret the noting of recommendations calling for the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and of other disarmament treaties, which are paramount to achieve such objectives.²

² A/HRC/46/17, see recommendations 148.5 Ratify and strictly implement the Arms Trade Treaty without delay (Namibia); 148.55 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Arms Trade Treaty, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Panama); 148.66 Ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Honduras)

For Libya's position on these recommendations, please see A/HRC/46/17/Add.1, currently available only in Arabic.