



Civil Society for  
Global Commitments  
on Migration

## **Killers of 26 Bangladeshis in Libya must be brought to justice**

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The human trafficking gang that was involved in the shooting death of 26 Bangladeshis in Libya must be brought to justice without any delay. In this regard, Bangladesh should take help from international organization, if needed. In the false hope of sending migrants to Europe, this human trafficking gang has long been holding them hostage and persecuting. The latest victims of this gang are Bangladeshis.

In a joint statement, members of the Civil Society for Global Commitments on Migration ([CGCM](#)) that works on migrants demanded this justice.

The statement mentioned that the ongoing civil war of Libya over taking control is their internal affair. But taking this opportunity, the human traffickers has been active there for almost a decade. They are taking an average of three to four lakh Bangladeshi taka from each aspirant migrants in the name of sending them to Europe. They are keeping migrants hostages in the camps across the Libyan border near the Mediterranean and sending them to Europe in small boats. Bangladeshis are often losing lives there in accidents. These came up from the description given by one of the survivors in the latest shooting that happened and also other media coverage. The traffickers held hostage around 40-42 people, including 36 Bangladeshis, for ransom.

If needed, different countries should work collaboratively to arrest and bring the traffickers to justice, in addition to finding all those who are involved.

At different times, Bangladeshis returning from Libya have described various incidents of persecution, including being hostage and paying ransom. Various international reports and media have already covered these stories. International organizations must take the responsibilities so that no such lives of migrants are lost anymore. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment have to play a strong role in this regard.

According to the UNHCR, about 2.5 million people crossed the Mediterranean from 2014 to April, 2020. While crossing sea in such risky way, more than 19,000 people have lost their lives, including many Bangladeshis. From January to April this year, only 693 Bangladeshis were detained while trying to enter Europe.

It has been five years, Bangladesh stopped sending workers to Libya. Even then, how so many people are going to Libya from Bangladesh should be investigated. Usually, people from few specific areas of Bangladesh including Sylhet, Sunamganj, Noakhali, Madaripur, Shariatpur migrate to Europe in this way.

Therefore, local brokers and human traffickers should be identified and actions must be taken against them. Besides, Bangladesh must be vocal at international level, against the human-trafficking gangs that exist in Libya or other countries. Since Bangladesh has decided to ratify the Palermo Protocol, that opportunity remains. It must be kept in mind that the death toll will continue to rise if proper action is not taken. Many families will lose their relatives. Bangladesh will continue to lose its image globally. So this march of deaths must be stopped. The CGCM members highlighted that they are ready to support the government in all aspects, including raising awareness in this regard.

CGCM is a network of Bangladeshi non-government organizations that work on global commitments on migration and development. CGCM aims to increase CSO monitoring of the global, regional and intra-regional cooperation and commitments on migration and development.

The members of CGCM include Brac, BNSK, IID, OKUP, Warbe, ACD, ASK, Awaj, BILS, BNPS, BOMSA, Devcom, Migration News, Films4Peace, BNWLA, IMA, Kormojibi Nari and SNA.

#### Members of CGCM



[theCGCM.org](http://theCGCM.org)