

# Libya

Libya is a Member State of the African Union (AU), the League of Arab States (Arab League) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

## Regional: African System and Arab System



Libya has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). Additionally, Libya has accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights to hear complaints presented by the ACHPR, African intergovernmental organizations, and States parties to the African Charter. Libya has also ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights, and its compliance with the treaty is monitored by the Arab Human Rights Committee, which may make recommendations to the State concerning its human rights obligations.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Libya through the [African human rights system](#). For example, in *African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights v. Libya*, the Court found that Libya violated the rights to liberty and fair trial by holding Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, son of former leader Muammar Gaddafi, in secret detention. See AfCHPR, *African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights v. Libya*, App. No. 002/2013, Judgment of 3 June 2016. Additionally, the Court has issued [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Libya.

Libya has fallen behind in submitting [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR, and in its [reports](#) to the [Arab Human Rights Committee](#), on human rights conditions in the country. The ACHPR conducted a mission to Libya, on indigenous populations, in [2005](#).

Libya has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- Arab Charter on Human Rights

## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Libya is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Libya's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has accepted the complaints procedure of two treaty bodies. In March 2015, the United Nations Human

Libya has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)

Rights Council directed the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to initiate an [investigation](#) into human rights conditions in Libya, which was concluded in January 2016.

Libya has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: [ICCPR](#), [ICESCR](#), [CEDAW](#), and [CERD](#).

Libya has also ratified the optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Libya has a duty to submit **State Reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Libya has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Libya has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Libya has ratified [optional protocols](#) or made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR and CEDAW. Additionally, certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Libya has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT and CEDAW.

On March 15, 2012, Libya extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Libya.

For more information on Libya's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/MENARegion/Pages/LYIndex.aspx>.

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