

SHOCKING VIDEO: Libyan Regime Cages, Abuses Black Africans

Libyan rebels cage black Africans in zoo, force feed them flags

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Global Research, March 02, 2012

RT 2 March 2012

Region: Middle East & North Africa

Theme: Crimes against Humanity, US

NATO War Agenda

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A shocking video has appeared on the Internet showing Libyan rebels torturing a group of black Africans. People with their hands bound are shown being locked in a zoo-like cage and allegedly forced to eat the old Libyan flag.

"Eat the flag, you dog. Patience you dog, patience. God is Great," screams a voice offcamera in the video uploaded to YouTube last week, which also made its way onto LiveLeak.com.

The torturers are also shown making the group of captive black Africans stand up with pieces of green cloth still in their mouths and apparently forcing them start jumping.

A number of people are shown standing outside the cage watching the atrocity.

After Muammar Gaddafi was killed, hundreds of migrant workers from neighboring states were imprisoned by fighters allied to the new interim authorities.

They accuse the black Africans of having been mercenaries for the late ruler.

In the course of the fighting to topple Gaddafi last year, sub-Saharan African migrants and refugees "became targets of stigma, discrimination and violence," the human rights group Amnesty International said last month.

"At the beginning of the crisis, there was vastly exaggerated propaganda for which the highest level of the National Transitional Council should take some responsibility because they largely contributed to that unfounded propaganda," said Donatella Rovera, Amnesty's senior crisis response advisor.

Some of the black migrants managed to flee into neighboring Mali and Niger, but more than 5,000 were detained. They face mass execution, beatings, and revenge killings, according to an Al Jazeera report published back in September.

Before the Libyan uprising broke out, the country hosted about a million black African workers, many of them employed in domestic work, construction, trash collection and other low-wage jobs.

Human Rights Investigations (HRI) suspect Libyan rebels of ethnic cleansing of the black

population of the country, particularly in the city of Tawergha.

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