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December 4, 2017

The Honorable Wafa Bughaighis
Ambassador
Embassy of Libya
2600 Virginia Ave NW, Ste 400,
Washington, DC 20037

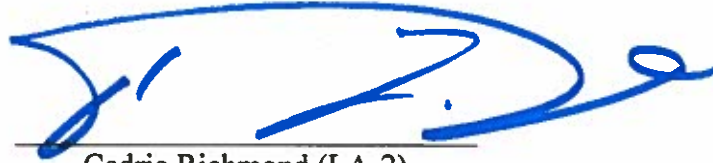
Dear Ambassador Bughaighis:

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) of the United States Congress is deeply outraged by the migrant slave auctions in Libya that were exposed in a CNN International report. Slavery is a crime against humanity and we strongly condemn the slave auctions of refugees and migrants. The United States of America knows all too well the repercussions of slavery, as African Americans continue to suffer from the social and economic injustices that began under this insidious institution.

In addition, we call for the Libyan government to conduct an immediate investigation into the existence of slave auctions and forced labor involving migrants and refugees, and other sub-Saharan Africans, who have made their way to Libya in an effort to reach Europe. We further advise the Libyan government to hold smugglers, traffickers, detention center guards, and anyone else involved accountable. We also encourage the Libyan government to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to regularly monitor and publicly report on the situation of all refugees and migrants in Libya including those detained in official detention centers. Finally, we call for the country to manage migration flows in a humane manner.

We recently introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives addressing the slave auctions of migrants and refugees in Libya. Before we move forward with this legislation, we would like an opportunity to meet with the Ambassador and the Prime Minister, who is currently in Washington D.C. to discuss the urgent issue. We are prepared to take a delegation to the Embassy this week. We would also welcome a meeting at the Capitol.


Sincerely,



Cedric Richmond (LA-2)
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus



Karen Bass (CA-37)
Co-Chair, CBC Foreign Affairs &
National Security Task Force



Marc Veasey (TX-36)
Co-Chair, CBC Foreign Affairs &
National Security Task Force