

## UN horror at slave trade in Libya

6th December, 2017



The United Nations boss has said he is horrified by reports of slavery in Libya. Reports show thousands of African refugees are being sold in auctions and markets across Libya every week.

Most of the people being sold are black African men. There are also reports of the enslaved people having their organs removed. These are sold on the illegal organ trade market. The UN's Antonio Guterres spoke in a televised statement. He said: "I am horrified at news reports and video footage showing African migrants in Libya reportedly being sold as slaves." He added: "I [hate] these appalling acts and call upon all...authorities to investigate these activities without delay and to bring the [criminals] to justice."

A group of human rights experts said urgent action had to be taken to stop this modern-day slave trade. The Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council said: "It is now clear that slavery is an outrageous reality in Libya. The auctions are [similar to] one of the darkest chapters in human history, when millions of Africans were uprooted, enslaved, trafficked and auctioned to the highest bidder." The enslaved men are reportedly being sold for between \$300 and \$400 each. Mr Guterres said: "Slavery has no place in our world and these actions are among the most [terrible] abuses of human rights and...amount to crimes against humanity." He asked all countries to fight to end the slave trade.

Sources: [thesierraleonetelegraph.com](http://thesierraleonetelegraph.com) / [aljazeera.com](http://aljazeera.com) / [un.org](http://un.org)

## Writing

Why is there slavery in the world? What must countries do to end it?

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

boss / horrified / slavery / auction / enslaved / organ trade / video / criminals / justice / experts / reality / chapters / human history / trafficked / abuses / human rights / crime

## True / False

- The article says slave auctions happen every week in Libya. T / F
- There are reports of people losing organs for the illegal organ trade. T / F
- The UN Secretary-General said he hadn't yet seen the video footage. T / F
- The article says the Secretary-General asked Donald Trump for help. T / F
- A group of experts called this slavery the "olden-day slave trade". T / F
- The experts called Libya's slave trade a dark chapter in our history. T / F
- People are being enslaved for \$100-\$200. T / F
- The Secretary-General asked one or two countries for help. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. <b>boss</b>       | a. specialists  |
| 2. <b>horrified</b>  | b. accounts     |
| 3. <b>removed</b>    | c. people       |
| 4. <b>reports</b>    | d. outraged     |
| 5. <b>delay</b>      | e. scandalous   |
| 6. <b>experts</b>    | f. chief        |
| 7. <b>modern-day</b> | g. hesitation   |
| 8. <b>outrageous</b> | h. mistreatment |
| 9. <b>abuses</b>     | i. taken out    |
| 10. <b>humanity</b>  | j. 21st-century |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- How is today's slave trade different from before?
- Why do people enslave other people?
- What do you know about the history of slavery?
- Does slavery exist in your country?
- What advice would you give an enslaved person?
- Do you think slavery will disappear this century?
- What questions would you like to ask the UN boss?

## Phrase Match

- |                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. horrified by reports           | a. to be taken   |
| 2. refugees are being sold        | b. footage       |
| 3. people having their organs     | c. to justice    |
| 4. news reports and video         | d. rights        |
| 5. bring the criminals            | e. bidder        |
| 6. urgent action had              | f. in auctions   |
| 7. one of the darkest chapters in | g. humanity      |
| 8. auctioned to the highest       | h. of slavery    |
| 9. terrible abuses of human       | i. human history |
| 10. crimes against                | j. removed       |

## Discussion – Student B

- How shocking is slavery?
- How can slavery still exist in the 21st century?
- What can the United Nations do about the slavery in Libya?
- What other forms of slavery are there around the world?
- How can we shut down the trade in illegal organs?
- Where do the illegally sold organs go to?
- What can the authorities in Libya do?
- What sentences should the criminals receive?

## Spelling

- ihirodfre by reports of slavery
- thousands of African fueeresg
- aledsvne people
- video aoefogt
- aiigveenstt these activities
- bring the isrlcainm to justice
- human rights teexrps
- runetg action had to be taken
- slavery is an oosutreaug reality
- uprooted, enslaved, firtfkaced
- nitudcaoe to the highest bidder
- the most terrible besaus of human rights

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. g
6. a	7. j	8. e	9. h	10. c

## Role Play

### Role A – The Internet

You think the Internet is the best hope to end slavery. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are not as effective. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): armies, the police or the United Nations.

### Role B – Armies

You think armies are the best hope to end slavery. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are not as effective. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): the Internet, the police or the United Nations.

### Role C – The Police

You think the police is the best hope to end slavery. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are not as effective. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): armies, the Internet or the United Nations.

### Role D – The United Nations

You think the United Nations is the best hope to end slavery. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things are not as effective. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): armies, the police or the Internet.

## Speaking – Human rights

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • free speech      | • no slavery             |
| • no torture       | • the right to democracy |
| • food and shelter | • the right to trial     |
| • clean water      | • the right to privacy   |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.