

## **LIBYA-EUROPE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR GLOBAL SECURITY**

**Dinda Jasmine<sup>1</sup>, Reisha Maharani<sup>2</sup>, Adinda Rahma Putri<sup>3</sup>, Amelia Reva Maulana<sup>4</sup>, Dini Putri  
Saraswati<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta**

2210412065@mahasiswa.upnvj.ac.id<sup>1</sup>, 2210412074@mahasiswa.upnvj.ac.id<sup>2</sup>,  
2210412075@mahasiswa.upnvj.ac.id<sup>3</sup>, 2210412079@mahasiswa.upnvj.ac.id<sup>4</sup>,  
diniputrisaraswati@upnvj.ac.id<sup>5</sup>

### ***Abstract***

*Human trafficking, a pervasive global issue, deprives millions of people of their rights and dignity. Technological advancements complicate the problem, enabling sophisticated subterfuges employed by international criminal groups for lucrative gains. This study focuses on rampant human trafficking cases in Libya, a transit point for migrants seeking a better life in Europe. Unfortunately, the difficult access to Europe traps migrants in Libya, exposing them to dangers such as torture, rape, infectious diseases, and human trafficking. The research aims to explore how trade between Libya and Europe impacts global security. Findings indicate that human trafficking in this region poses a significant threat, potentially triggering conflicts, international security instability, and widespread insecurity. Effective prevention requires inter-regional cooperation and the formation of organizations.*

**Keywords: Human trafficking, Libya, Europe, migrants, transnational crime**

### **Abstrak**

Perdagangan manusia, yang merupakan isu global yang luas, merampas hak dan martabat jutaan orang. Kemajuan teknologi semakin memperumit masalah ini, sehingga

memungkinkan dilakukannya dalih yang canggih oleh kelompok kriminal internasional untuk mendapatkan keuntungan yang menguntungkan. Studi ini berfokus pada kasus perdagangan manusia yang merajalela di Libya, yang merupakan titik transit para migran yang mencari kehidupan yang lebih baik di Eropa. Sayangnya, sulitnya akses ke Eropa menjebak para migran di Libya, sehingga membuat mereka menghadapi bahaya seperti penyiksaan, pemerkosaan, penyakit menular, dan perdagangan manusia. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi bagaimana perdagangan antara Libya dan Eropa berdampak pada keamanan global. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa perdagangan manusia di wilayah ini menimbulkan ancaman yang signifikan, berpotensi memicu konflik, ketidakstabilan keamanan internasional, dan ketidakamanan yang meluas. Pencegahan yang efektif memerlukan kerjasama antar daerah dan pembentukan organisasi.

**Kata kunci: Perdagangan manusia, Libya, Eropa, migran, kejahatan transnasional**

## **Introduction**

Libya has become a starting point for migrants and refugees trying to enter Europe via the “Mixed Migration” route. There are three main routes from the Mediterranean to Europe for refugees and migrants. The first route is the western Mediterranean route, which mainly passes from Morocco to Spain, migrants from Mali, Gambia and Senegal are some of the countries of origin of migrants on this route. The second route or main route is through Libya to Italy, migrants from Nigeria, Ghana, and Niger take this route. The third route from the Eastern Mediterranean usually passes through Turkey to Greece, with migrants from Somalia, Eritrea, Darfur and South Sudan taking this route. Libya has become an attractive starting point for migrants, as well as a transit and destination country for those fleeing violence, extreme poverty, lack of economic, social, and cultural access, and other human rights violations. Libya's geographic proximity to Europe, particularly Italy, attracts Ethiopian and Somali migrants, making it a transit point to Southern Europe (Park, 2015).

The number of migrants arriving in Libya in 2017 was 621,706 people, in 2018 it was 663,455 people, in 2019 it was 654,081 people, and in 2020 it was 625,638 people. These statistics show that the number of migrants arriving in Libya is relatively large, with a significant increase in 2018. The

majority of immigrants are adults, with men outnumbering women each year. According to 2017 data, 91% of immigrants left their country for economic reasons and 5% for war, conflict and political reasons. As many as 80% of migrants to Libya came through illicit means, with 28% being native Libyans returning to their own country (International Labour Organization and Walk Free Foundation, 2017).

The protests and uprisings that occurred in many Middle Eastern and North African countries from late 2010 to 2011 coincided with the Arab Spring era. This incident had a big impact because it resulted in civil war and increased refugee movements and migration. Human trafficking increased in Libya after the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi. Ironically, during the post-Arab Spring civil war, the number of militias and armed groups surged, making Libyan ports a major channel for illegal migration to Europe.

Libya has difficult conditions, an unstable government, and other considerations, so the number of criminal cases in the country is relatively high, including cases of human trafficking. As a result, human trafficking is highly likely to occur in Libya. Additionally, due to Libya's ethnic diversity, the issue of human trafficking is complex. Many sources of income for the Libyan people even come from human trafficking, especially in areas that are rarely visited. Human

trafficking occurs in Libyan detention cells, and the agreement reached by the European Union and Italy regarding the flow of migrants originating from Libya allows the illegal migration of human traffickers along the European Union's Libyan border (Al-Dayel et al., 2023).

Cases of human trafficking are very widespread in Libya. An ignorant government and a weak legal system mean that human traffickers can move freely in carrying out their business. According to the former Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations (UN), Zeid bin Ra'ad, the migrant detention system in Libya is broken and cannot be repaired. Libya is the main country connecting migrants and human traffickers to Europe. It can be said that Libya is a transit point for migrants to get to Europe. As of October 2021, international organizations estimate there are at least 610,128 migrants and 41,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Libya. Migrant workers in Libya usually come from Sub-Saharan and Sahel states.

According to the Deutsche Welle (DW) Documentary (2019), migrants call Libya "Hell on Earth". They had to cross the Sahara Desert to reach Libya. During their trip, they had high hopes of being able to get a better life in Europe. However, to get there they had to reach Libya and pass through the Mediterranean Sea. The difficulty of access to Europe means many refugees are trapped in

Libya. There, many migrants have no money, so they are confined to government-run prisons and private torture chambers. Often, they are in inhumane conditions, such as being tortured and sold into slavery. Victims of human trafficking, both adults and children, are particularly vulnerable to extreme violence and human rights violations in Libya by state and non-state armed groups, including physical, sexual and verbal attacks, kidnapping for ransom, extortion, arbitrary killings, inhumane detention, and child soldiers. This is made worse by human traffickers who exploit migrants for profit. There will be financial incentives for smugglers and human traffickers to prevent the disembarkation of migrants transiting the Mediterranean and return migrants to Libya for detention and further exploitation.

According to the Deputy Director of the Libyan Irregular Migration Control Department, Mohamed Abu Breda, refugees and Libyan citizens themselves do not feel safe in Libya due to the lack of a guaranteed security system, coupled with the civil war that has been going on since 2011, causing a high level of insecurity in Libya. Human trafficking and refugees being tortured, due to lack of protection, security and financial assistance from the Libyan government and the UN. A lack of institutional capacity, as well as a lack of Libyan law enforcement, customs, and military personnel, especially along the

country's borders, hampers authorities' efforts to combat human trafficking crimes. Libya's criminal justice system is not fully functional as of 2021, nor are there administrative units and courts specifically dedicated to overseeing human trafficking cases. Law enforcement and judicial officials often lack knowledge and understanding of the crime of human trafficking (U.S. Department of State, n.d.-a).

What is very concerning is that these immigrants need urgent protection. Migrants are in a situation that requires them to choose between going to sea with the risk of interception, further detention, drowning, or remaining in Libya with all the dangers involved and can only hope that they will gain access to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which is very slow and uncertain (Tubiana & Purbrick, 2022). If this is not addressed quickly, human trafficking will continue to run rampant and traffickers can reap large profits with a relatively low risk of being caught.

Human trafficking or human trafficking is a form of transnational crime that can threaten the security of a country. Exploitation carried out can take the form of prostitution or sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, and forced removal of bodily organs. Therefore, human trafficking can be interpreted as a form of human rights violation because the process takes away an individual's freedom by coercion. Human trafficking has

become a global issue because it includes the type of transnational crime whose operations are not only carried out in one country but involve two or more countries (Putri et al., 2022).

Judging from its impact on state security and human rights violations, human trafficking is a security threat that has the most extensive network. Human trafficking is growing and can trigger national and international security, so handling it requires effective international cooperation. Human trafficking has also been proven to be a source of funds for terrorist organizations. The perpetrators use human trafficking as a tool to access a country to commit fraud and falsify documents in various countries, including forgery and buying and selling passports. One of the causes of the rise in human trafficking is the high economic profits generated from this crime. In 2017, the International Labour Organization (ILO) (2017) reported that the human trafficking industry was estimated to generate profits of USD 150 billion.

In the period 2011-2016, Europe was hit by a very bad immigrant crisis. 2015 was the peak of the crisis when the number of immigrants coming to Europe skyrocketed to 1 million people. The immigrant crisis experienced by Europe is a case of mixed migration, namely a case of large immigration caused by immigrants from various backgrounds. Some immigrants come to

Europe to save themselves because of the conflict that occurred in their place of origin and some come to Europe because they want to find a better job than in their home country. These immigrants choose Europe as their migration destination because it is geographically close to the immigrants' countries of origin, namely countries in North Africa and the Middle East. They crossed the Mediterranean Sea to get to mainland Europe (Dearden, 2015).

According to previous research, immigrants, mostly from African countries, used people smugglers or smuggler services to be taken to Libya where they were then sent via the Mediterranean Sea to mainland Europe. Once they arrive, these illegal immigrants will stay to look for work or use Italy as a transit country to continue to other European countries such as England, France, Germany, and Sweden. As a result, the problem of illegal immigration is expected to worsen Italy's already poor conditions, which include high unemployment and slow economic growth. The Mediterranean route is also a very dangerous route for migrants, which can be seen from the cases of thousands of people who drown every year (Nugroho & Elistania, 2019).

Libya has many limitations in addressing the problem of migration and human trafficking. Many efforts have been made by the European Union (EU) to

collaborate with Libya in migration management efforts. Various operations and actions have been carried out such as Operation Triton and Operation Sophia until 2020 which were then replaced with Operation Irini. When migration flows occurred in Europe in 2016, the EU prioritized monitoring Libya in the Mediterranean region, so in 2017 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was established between Libya, the EU and Italy. The content of the MoU is the existing cooperation, including issues relating to migration flows, crackdown on human trafficking, smuggling, and also Search and Rescue (SAR) (Syarifah & Sidik, 2022).

Migrant smuggling occurs in Europe and includes extensive criminal networks. They abuse the socio-economic situation of potential migrants to use their services. The actions they take against these immigrants are sporadic, these immigrants are periodically smuggled through underground criminal networks. Apart from that, they also have the skills to adapt when facing policy changes implemented by the EU. The EU has set an agenda to examine immigration issues, which has resulted in several important points, such as the EU's open ultimatum of combating migrant smuggling as one of the priority goals, avoiding exploitation of migrants, and reducing incentives for illegal migrants (European Commission, 2023).

The EU action plan 2015-2020 aims to be steps that not only break the illicit chain of migrant smuggling but also be an EU effort to address the core of this problem. The EU's security and surveillance procedures in dealing with immigration smugglers constitute a kind of security against the wider threat, not only of migrant abductions, but the impact of the conditions arising from admitting migrants to the EU. The escalation of this cooperation is also a form of response to the increasing number of illegal migrants trying to enter Europe and migrant smugglers have a fairly high level of adaptation to the form and system of security and supervision implemented by the EU (Firdaus et al., 2023).

## **Conceptual Framework**

### **Transnational Organized Crimes**

Transnational organized crime refers to criminal groups or operations that operate across international boundaries and involve at least two different territories and national legal systems. It involves illegal trade that crosses all cultural, social, linguistic, and geographic boundaries and does not comply with the law. Organized crime has a transnational component that involves more than one country in its conception, implementation, or effects. This is a worldwide event that affects international relations (Wijayanti et al., 2020).

There are several types of transnational organized crime, namely drug trafficking,

human trafficking, migrant smuggling, illegal weapons trafficking, smuggling of raw materials, such as diamonds, wildlife trafficking, and so on. Transnational organized crime does not operate under a single structure but rather operates with hierarchies, clans and networks (Hauck, 2016).

Transnational organized crime is also a dynamic sector, they continue to develop new criminal activities as time goes by. This poses a serious threat or conflict to domestic and global security, global economic stability, and public safety and health. Transnational organized crime can offer a framework for understanding and addressing this issue to combat human trafficking. This theory can improve global cooperation to combat this problem by identifying the actors, networks, and resources involved in human trafficking (Albanese, 2011).

### **Research Methodology**

Qualitative research is a research method that can produce descriptive data. This data can be in the form of words or utterances originating from the object being observed (Moleong, 2013). This descriptive research will be able to produce a study of a broader problem.

This research uses data collection techniques through literature study. Library study is a data collection technique that is produced through the process of searching for

data and information through scientific journals, reference books, and publication materials that are available in libraries (Ruslan, 2013).

In this research, data collection was obtained through books, research journals, papers, and articles discussing human trafficking cases that occurred in Libya and Europe. Apart from using library study techniques, this research also uses internet-based research techniques to collect data. The data obtained using this internet-based research technique comes online by exploring or downloading relevant data from the internet via certain websites to explore research topics regarding human trafficking cases in Libya and Europe which could threaten global security.

## **Result and Discussion**

### **Libya-Europe Human Trafficking**

Libya is a country located in North Africa and directly borders the Mediterranean Sea. The Mediterranean Sea is one of the main crossing routes for African immigrants to Europe. The EU and Libya have quite close diplomatic relations, especially in the field of migration. Libya's role in Europe is to limit transit migration from the Sahel region and South Africa, while the EU's role in Libya is to assist in overcoming internal security difficulties and building state institutions. The EU and Libya share common interests in migration (Seeberg, 2014)

The immigrants who fill Libya are those with irregular migration status. In contrast to immigrants who move regularly, people with irregular migrant status cross national borders illegally (through smuggling or illegal routes) without submitting documentation by applicable laws, regulations and international agreements. According to data from the IOM, immigrants from Libya come from 38 different countries. Immigrants arriving in Europe via Libya alone numbered 4.6 million, with the majority coming from North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa (Kohnert, 2007). In 2018, the recorded immigrant population in Libya reached 662,000 people. Immigrants in Libya can be categorized as vulnerable migrants because of the conditions faced by these immigrants where they have the potential threat of exploitation, violence and various violations of their rights as immigrants.

According to data from the UNHCR "Report on Mixing Migration Movement in Libya" (Fiedler, 2018), there are three categories of immigrant groups in Libya based on their reasons for migrating. The first group came from Libya's neighboring countries including Chad, Egypt, Nigeria, Sudan, and Tunisia for economic reasons. They were immigrants who went to Libya as a destination, not to travel across Europe. In this case, they often come for seasonal work, however, they often cross the border without documents, so



they are classified as irregular migrants. The second group of immigrants migrated for economic reasons, they traveled to Libya as a transit country in the hope of crossing the Mediterranean to Europe. They originate mostly from West and Central Africa, especially in Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal. Immigrants in this category of immigrant groups are mostly young and vulnerable to abuse. The final category of irregular migration is those who migrate due to political persecution, crisis and economic difficulties. They come from East Africa, whose nationalities are Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan. In this category, they tend to migrate by transiting to Libya in the hope of reaching the European Continent. Apart from that, another driving factor which is no less important is the demographic factor, namely the phenomenon of 'Africa's population boom' which is also the driving force behind the phenomenon of increasing intensity of immigration by the African population.

The phenomenon of migration in Libya is not something new to discuss, Libya itself has experienced the phenomenon of migration flows since the 1950s, making Libya a destination country for immigrants and refugees. The outbreak of civil war in Libya since the fall of the Libyan dictator in 2011 followed by a second civil war in 2014 gave rise to two new actors competing for interests.

Libya has a Government of National Accord (GNA), a government officially recognized by the UN which is located in Tripoli, the capital of Libya is led by Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj who is the head of government. At the same time, the other force is the Libyan National Army (LNA) which controls most of Eastern Libya, led by Khalifa Haftar. The absence of an authority that has complete control over Libya creates conditions of chaos in Libya and makes this country very unstable. Overall, the country is separated into several different regimes controlled by different tribal groups and militia groups. These groups compete for power among each other. Oil control resource centers have been at the heart of these conflicts, and access to and control of the illicit economy, including human trafficking, has become a profitable business in Libya (Vick, 2016).

There are four main migrant smuggling routes through Libya, the first is from the west coast with migrants coming mainly from West African countries such as Gambia, Mali, and Senegal. The second route originates from the southwest along Libya's border with Nigeria with migrants coming mostly from Nigeria. The third route is from the southeast along the border with Sudan with migrants coming from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. The final route was the east coast along the border with Egypt with immigrants mainly from Egypt, but

also Syrians and South Asians taking this route (Shaw & Mangan, 2014).

**Figure 1. The Major Smuggling Routes Across Libya**



**Source: Reitano & Shaw, 2017**

Instability, conflict, lack of oversight, and government capacity in Libya continue to allow human trafficking crimes to continue and are highly profitable for human traffickers. According to the European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, 2021), at the end of 2014 an estimated 1,600 armed groups were operating in Libya, an increase of 1,300 since 2011. Militia groups are actively entering the human smuggling or trafficking business and control the main migration routes in Libya. Illicit trade, in both commodities and people, provides a means by which militias can obtain funds to purchase weapons and increase their power and influence further fueling conflict. Smuggling

and human trafficking are becoming increasingly profitable, especially in the south of the country, and migrants and refugees are increasingly being targeted as commodities to be detained, exploited and extorted for maximum financial gain. The European External Action Service estimates that annual revenues from people smuggling in Libya reach 250 to 300 million Euros (Furness & Gänzle, 2017).

Victims of human trafficking, including adults and children, are particularly vulnerable to extreme violence and human rights violations in Libya by state and non-state armed groups, including physical, sexual, and verbal attacks, kidnapping for ransom, extortion, arbitrary killings, inhumane detention; and child soldiers. According to the United States (US) Department of State (U.S. Department of State, n.d.-b), in 2018, an international organization documented incidents in which local armed groups forcibly recruited boys aged 13 to 15 years. Children associated with armed groups in Libya have also reportedly experienced sexual violence. Refugees, including Libyans and foreigners, are vulnerable to labor and sex trafficking. There were an estimated 278,177 refugees in Libya at the end of 2020, 94% of whom were displaced due to deteriorating security conditions in the country.

The exponential growth of the human trafficking industry between 2012 and 2016

was facilitated by the increasing use of hawala systems. The hawala system is an honor-based money transfer system that is widely used in African countries. In practice, relatives of migrants and refugees targeted for ransom are given the name of a local person to whom the money will be transferred via international money transfer companies. In parallel, between 2011 and 2014, many armed groups and militias were integrated into the state security apparatus, including migration management structures. As a result, state functions and resources become closely linked to criminal networks (Subandi & Samekto, 2018).

Smugglers, human traffickers, armed groups, and militia groups deprive migrants and refugees of their freedom by isolating them and holding them in temporary detention centers until they can be transferred to other areas. The length of time they are confined is often determined by the transfer of money from outside sources such as family, friends, or other contacts of the hostages, or by the determination of those responsible for their freedom that they have paid their 'debt' on condition of forced labor or slavery. sexual. In many cases, prisons are used to torture and extort migrants and refugees. Migrants and refugees are sometimes 'released' into detention facilities that are not officially managed by Libyan authorities but are largely controlled by non-state players such as

smugglers, armed organizations and militia groups with ties to state actors. Migrants and refugees are often brought to these locations by smugglers along the road or after being abducted from their homes, roads or checkpoints. These temporary detention facilities, sometimes known as 'campos' or 'prisons', were often warehouses, houses, hangars, farms or other uninhabited buildings. Such locations are thought to be common in, but not limited to, the southern part of the country (Amnesty International, 2020).

### **Libya-Europe Action in Following Up on Human Trafficking Cases**

Europe and Libya have close relations in the migration system, so if there are problems, they must deal with the problem of human trafficking that occurs during migration. The EU launched its action by carrying out the operational mission "Common Security and Defense Policy" in 2013. The mission carried out by the EU was to establish the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) which has a mission to advance border protection in Libya's land, air, and sea areas. This is a continuation of the mission of Integrated Border Management (IBM) (Council Decision 2013/233/CFSP of 22 May 2013 on the European Union Integrated Border Management Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya), 2013). Then on June 22 2015, the EU issued "Frontex Joint Operation

Triton". This mission is a Navy operation in the waters between Libya and Italy whose mission is to protect against threats, tracking and security.

The EU is trying to accommodate Libya in tackling migration problems and fighting for sovereignty. Cooperation between countries can be an important step in eradicating transnational crimes, such as human trafficking. The EU's efforts to combat human trafficking are recognized as a violation of Article 5 of the EU Human Rights Charter in the EU legal system. Victim protection is an important component in combating human trafficking. Victims of human trafficking have rights under EU law, including the rights to health care, treatment, employment, and justice. Member states are obliged under mandate 2012/29/EU to rescue victims, related to human trafficking violations, following appropriate defense legislation. Directive 2004/81/EC determines standards for granting permission to reside to victims of human trafficking in third countries (Syarifah & Sidik, 2022).

The EU Military Operation in the South Central Mediterranean or EU Naval Force Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED) was launched in 2015 with the mission of tracking, securing, and disposing of ships and other infrastructure used by smugglers of illegal goods and people. The EU refocused its attention on the central Mediterranean route

and Italy in the summer of 2016, at a time when a wave of migration was taking place in Europe, with the majority of immigrants coming from Libya. Libya and the EU are committed to protecting migrants at sea, regardless of their status. The European Council adopted a commission in July 2016 to establish a Migration Partnership Framework (MPF) aimed at increasing third-country cooperation in controlling migration flows. The mission needs support from an agreement on returning immigrants to their countries of origin. As a result, on 3 February 2017, the European Council accepted the Malta Declaration on external issues, as well as an MoU relating to Libya and Italy. The declaration states that they intend to act to reduce migration flows on the Central Mediterranean route. In addition, the aim is to disrupt the illegal smuggling industry, and human trafficking, train coastguards, support the development of local communities, monitor the capabilities and conditions of reception in Libya for migrants with the assistance of UNHCR and IOM, and assist IOM to promote and develop voluntary repatriation efforts, and minimizing pressure on Libya's borders (European Commission, n.d.).

The meeting in Cairo, Egypt, was an effort by an alliance between Libya, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the EU in dealing with this

case. The EU is funding this effort, which is being undertaken to disrupt criminal networks in North Africa that also participate in the kidnapping and hiding of migrants and human trafficking. This association aims to explore and find out the main connecting cities along the hiding routes, and then prepare a plan to improve the investigative capabilities of the Libyan Ministry of Interior in dealing with cases of immigrant smuggling and human trafficking (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, n.d.).

The collaboration that has been carried out is with the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG) and SAR with the assistance of Operation Sophia, some specific SAR missions have been transferred to the LCG since 2015. Funding from the EU envoy to Africa, as well as direct support from Italy, has increased LCG capabilities. Italy donated four vessels to the LCG authorities in 2017 and has pledged to deploy six more vessels to assist the LCG. By the end of 2019, 399 people had been trained. The Italian Parliament agreed to deploy an operational naval vessel to support Libya in eradicating illegal immigration and human smuggling activities on 12 August 2017. This operation aims to assist the Libyan authorities in establishing a maritime coordination center, which is necessary for the construction of SAR Zone 1. In 2018, the EU disbursed funds amounting to 3.59 billion Euros for countries in Africa to overcome conflict, migration,

asylum seekers and poverty with 1,286.6 million Euros for the Horn of Africa, 582.2 million Euros for North Africa, 1,721.1 million Euros for the Sahel, Chad, and 167.1 million Euros for the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

### **Implications of the Case for Global Security**

If left unchecked, human trafficking can become a serious threat to global security, which means that it will not only harm one country but many countries will also feel the impact. Human trafficking can have various fatal impacts, such as triggering conflicts between countries and international security instability. Human trafficking can fuel conflict by enabling armed and extremist groups to generate income and expand and improve their military capabilities. Human trafficking also drives instability in societies, exacerbating conflict and undermining development and infrastructure. It is not uncommon for human traffickers to also involve officials, law enforcers and peacekeepers who are supposed to protect the community. When this occurs, human trafficking reduces and disrupts international institutions' ability to carry out their mission of promoting peace and stability (Bigio & Vogelstein, 2019).

Not only that, the high demand for forced labor and prostitution allows human traffickers to continue supplying humans to clients to obtain additional rewards for their

financial gain. Human trafficking also allows criminal groups to diversify their funding streams and criminal activities, namely in Mexico, large organizations involved in drug trafficking were broken up into smaller groups that specialized in certain forms of crime, including human trafficking. These groups have more skilled abilities and are more agile. Criminal organizations may also ‘multitask’ by carrying out human trafficking while carrying out other criminal activities—for example, using trafficking victims to transport drugs, from which the perpetrators will make large profits (Agustanti et al., 2021).

The next impact of human trafficking that can threaten global security is the health threat. Many victims, especially women, who are victims of human trafficking are infected with sexually transmitted diseases and even Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS). 38% of 287 women aged between 7 and 32, trafficked from Nepal to India and forced into sex work, were found to be infected with HIV (Dharmadhikari et al., 2009). According to research conducted in Andhra Pradesh, India, women who enter sex work that originates from human trafficking are more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS than women who enter sex work through other routes (Silverman et al., 2008). Findings from research conducted in South Asia show high rates of HIV/AIDS cases among female victims of human trafficking.

Female victims of human trafficking can be vulnerable to HIV/AIDS infection due to their lack of strength to refuse unprotected sex and their inability to negotiate for condom use due to fear and pressure from the perpetrator. In addition, the majority of human trafficking victims may not be aware that they are vulnerable to contracting HIV/AIDS infection due to the lack of education given to them (Zimmerman et al., 2008).

### **The Importance of International Cooperation**

Transnational crime is internationally organized crime. Since transboundary states are one of the elements of transnational crime, which is one of the main threats to international security, transnational crimes are tried under the jurisdiction of a country’s national law and are not subject to the jurisdiction of international courts. Therefore, to combat transnational crime, cooperation between countries is needed to help each other in completing the law enforcement process (Effendi, 2014). In addition, the use of information technology tools across national borders is growing, and those who traffic in humans utilize them in a variety of ways that are more sophisticated and challenging to detect. Therefore, there must be closer international cooperation (Agustanti et al., 2021).

According to the official website of the United States government in “2020-2021 Trafficking in Persons Report: Libya”, there are several reasons why international cooperation is needed to overcome human trafficking cases. The first is the lack of protection for victims as Libya has done little to protect victims of human trafficking. For victims of human trafficking, the government does not offer protection services such as counseling or legal assistance. The second is the limitations of the legal framework because as of 2021, Libya’s criminal justice system is not fully operational and there is no administrative or judicial body responsible for human trafficking issues. According to Time Magazine, conditions in Libya are so bad that Contreras, a photojournalist for the Carmignac Photojournalism Award, spent weeks in Libya documenting the migrant crisis there and discovered that Libyan laws did not apply until human trafficking was rife. The third is limited institutional capacity, especially the lack of law enforcement and military personnel, especially along the border. Therefore, international cooperation is very important in handling human trafficking cases in Libya.

### **Conclusion**

The EU and Libya share common interests in the field of migration. So, if a problem occurs within the scope of their migration, it becomes a shared responsibility. Libya and the EU are working together in

efforts to overcome human trafficking, of which there are quite a lot of cases. Efforts undertaken include the establishment of EUNAVFOR MED, the Malta Declaration, and collaboration with LCG and SAR with the assistance of Operation Sophia.

Human trafficking can threaten global security. This case could result in various fatal impacts, such as triggering conflict between countries and international security instability. Apart from that, many people will feel threatened and unsafe if these cases become more common and there are no efforts to overcome them. For this reason, inter-regional cooperation and the formation of organizations are needed to prevent the increase in human trafficking cases in the world.

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