

REFERENCE: CERD/EWUAP/113thsession/2024/CS/BJ/ks

23 August 2024

Excellency,

I write to you in relation to the Committee's letter of 7 June 2024 under its early warning and urgent action procedure concerning the information received on the situation of Sub-Saharan African migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia.

In the abovementioned letter, the Committee expressed its concern regarding the allegations on the conduct of two forced evictions incidents of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from south of the Sahara, while deploying excessive force, and forcibly transferring them to unknown location. The Committee was also concerned about reports that human rights defenders, members of civil society organizations, activists, journalists and lawyers have increasingly become targets of intimidation, harassment and reprisals, including arrest, and detention and prosecution as a consequence of their work to support and defend the rights of non-citizens. It was also concerned about reports that hate crime and online racist hate speech, including in social media, against Sub-Saharan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and Black Tunisians.

The Committee regrets that the State party did not respond to the abovementioned letter and remains concerned that these allegations may amount to a violation of the provisions of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

In this context, the Committee reiterates its call on the State party to adopt all necessary measures to address the allegations mentioned above and to protect the rights of Sub-Saharan African migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia. The Committee requests the State party to provide detailed information on measures to protect the rights of Sub-Saharan African migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia and on the abovementioned allegations during the presentation of its twentieth to twenty-second periodic reports of the State party.

His Excellency Mr. Sabri Bachtobji
Permanent Representative of Tunisia
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Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Tunisia, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Michal Balcerzak
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination