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UPDATE FROM ERITREAN REFUGEES IN LIBYA: ESCAPE TO TUNISIA

The America Team received calls today from members of both the Group of 10 and Group of 80 that it has been assisting while in Tripoli.

Representatives from both groups had ventured out of their apartments in Tripoli and have made the 100 mile trip to the Tunisia border. They went by bus. There were many check points, and they were shaken down for money before finally crossing the border.

There they were checked in by UNHCR. Conditions are bad, but they are safe and "free". We have to check with others of the group of 10 who were still in Tripoli as of Monday, to see where they stand, and discuss what might be done.

Those of the Group of 80 know that their interrupted case for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) interviews for consideration to come to the USA, will be continued.

One fellow from the Group of 10 who made it, and his wife, have visa approval for Switzerland, obtained by his cousin who is in Uri. We will help coordinate their actually getting the visa and arranging passage to Switzerland. The International Red Cross in Tunisia has been consulted. Airfare and pocket money will have to be provided.

The following recent article relates conditions in Tripoli. It refers to Bishop Martinelli, who has been assisting refugees in Tripoli. Neither the Catholic nor the Coptic church in Tripoli are able to accommodate refugees overnight, and those remaining in Tripoli generally must continue to find shelter in apartments where they have been in recent weeks.

www.uscatholic.org/news/2011/03/canadian-says-africans-who-sought-refuge-libya-especially-vulnerable

Those wishing to determine if family members are now located in Tunisia can submit a request to the International Red Cross by e-mail mail to: tun_tracing@icrc.org