

URGENT ACTION - AFRICAN REFUGEES IN THE SINAI

Translated by Google Translator - Soon in a better English

Refugees in the Sinai. Another group is located at El Gorah: called for MFO and UN intervention

Rome, January 19, 2011. Trafficking in human beings in the northern Sinai is a plague that Egypt is preparing to face in 2011, fielding a special anti-terrorism unit. "The Egyptian government is setting up a special body," say Roberto Malini, Matteo Pegoraro and Dario Picciau, co-presidents of EveryOne Group, "whose goal is to stamp out trafficking in human beings and weapons. The Special Corp uses tanks, helicopters and heavy artillery: a sign that the Egyptian government has reached an agreement with Israel for a derogation from the Camp David accords of 1978, which required the Egyptian security forces on the border use of small arms". Meanwhile, the Eritrean priest Mussiè Zerai came into contact with a second group of immigrants prisoners in the Sinai. "Don Zerai promptly launched the alarm," continue EveryOne, "and our group has carried out investigations to identify the locations where migrants are held. According to the information we have, the group included when the migrants leave Sudan 60 African individuals. Traffickers of the Rashaida tribe have asked each of them \$ 3000. In Sinai, however, the group has been split in two. The one with which we are in contact consists of 38 refugees, including 8 women. They are in a prison camp chained hand and foot, in metal containers. "The young prisoner in contact with Zerai has provided information useful for investigations of human rights defenders. "The group is located near the border with Israel near an airport used by a multinational force," say

EveryOne. "We have enough information to locate the place of detention: El Gorah, north-east of Sinai, where there is an airbase of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO). Near the airport of El Gorah, there are some properties of the Bedouin, already focused during investigations related to human trafficking. El Gorah is a stronghold of organized crime that has its center in the nearby Al Arish, the capital of North Sinai Governorate, controlled by Palestinians bosses born in Egypt along with members of the tribe Al Tarabin. Recent police operations have shown their links to Al Qaeda, Hamas and Fatah. Traffics are used to fund terrorism and this band - whose members call themselves 'Arabs' - is known for its violent responses to the local law enforcement, cost the lives of many agents. The 'Arabs' corrupt security forces and carry out their trade virtually undisturbed. Our group has received reports of other groups of migrants detained at El Gorah in large tents or confined in metal container buried, hidden in the Bedouin orchards of El Gorah. They work for the band of "Arabs" some Ethiopians and Eritreans, that communicate with the refugees in their own language. The name of the Eritrean guardian assigned to the new group of refugees is Araya Tesfamicael. Based on this information, the Agency Habeshia and EveryOne Group has asked for urgent action by the Egyptian government to free the migrants and control tents and orchards, Where we suspect there are other migrants. Humanitarian organizations ask the nations of the MF (above, in addition to Egypt, Israel and the United States), the UN and the EU institutions to activate their diplomatic means to To convince the Egyptian authorities to act now.