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Yosof Ibderi was mayor of Gharyan in northwest Libya until militias led by Khalifa Haftar attacked and seized the city last month. Mayor Gherian, who was displaced to Tripoli, today released the following statement regarding the humanitarian crisis in the city of 200,000 under control of Haftar:

“The humanitarian situation is dire. Most of the residents are trapped in Gherian and have no place to go. There are no ways of bringing food items, cooking gas, or basic necessities into the town. Haftar’s militia’s created check points and instituted extreme security measures, including confiscating and searching phones, enacting strict curfews. There is no freedom of expression, assembly or movement. Even during the times of Qaddafi it wasn’t this bad. Residents live in constant fear, and at some have been killed or are missing. The occupiers are thugs, militias with very disturbing tribal vigilante inclinations. The few residents of Gherian who were initially supportive of Haftar are now 180 degrees against him after they saw the type of brutality his forces unleashed