

Accra, Ghana, November 30 (Infosplusgabon) - The Ghanaian authorities have repatriated 168 citizens detained in Libya after facilitating their release in the wake of reports of Africans being sold as slaves in the North African country.

The returnees, who are illegal migrants, arrived at the Kotoka International Airport in Accra on Wednesday night with chilling stories of dehumanizing treatment meted out to them.

At least three Ghanaian migrants are among those who were auctioned as slaves in Libya.

The local media quoted some of the returnees as saying illegal migrants were robbed and murdered.

One of the returnees, Komla Adom, was quoted as saying he travelled with 17 others from Takoradi, in the Western Region, but only four were able to return, adding that seven of his colleagues were killed.

He said in a detention centre that held about 3,000 illegal migrants, "people went mad everyday...people died everyday", adding they never bathed. "When you have to eat you are beaten, if you want to drink water you are beaten."

Another said he was kept in an uncompleted building for six months where he was given food once a day. He said even children robbed illegal migrants at gun point.

The returnees were met by government officials and NGOs who gave them food and water. The government will give them 400 Ghana cedis (just under US\$1.00) and assist them to return to their hometowns.

A shocking revelation by the US television network, CNN, of the auctioning of Africans as slaves in Libya for as little as US\$400 triggered a global outrage.

Libya is the main transit point for refugees and migrants attempting to reach southern Europe by sea. The migrants come from countries like Nigeria, Eritrea, Guinea, Ivory Coast,, Gambia, Senegal, Sudan and Somalia.

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