

# Libya Slave Trade Shows How Africans Are Treated as Subhuman

By [Fred Muvunyi](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Police State & Civil Rights](#), [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

*The slave auctioning of Africa migrants in Libya shows how humans are deprived of all dignity. We should renounce all forms of ideology and prejudice that reduce people to merchandise, writes DW's **Fred Muvunyi**.*

They are not animals, car spare parts or items of merchandise. They are Africa's men, women, and children who are on the road to Europe, in search of a better life. Now they are being held in Libya and turned into slaves.

It beggars belief but they are indeed being offered up for sale, and the buyers are there, ready to pay any price, even as little as \$400 (338 euros). The stature and age of those on sale determine how much the auctioneers can take.

Apparently, as seen in a [CNN video](#), young men attract buyers quickly at an affordable price.

**Click image to access CNN Video**

# People for sale

Where lives are auctioned for \$400



By Nima Elbagir, Raja Razek, Alex Platt and Bryony Jones

The auctioneers are heard advertising a group of West African migrants as big strong boys for farm work. I never thought that the slave trade that flourished between the 16th and 19th centuries would return today, in the 21st century. Rights groups and governments are silent when such crimes against humanity are committed.

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