



Center *for* Research Libraries  
GLOBAL RESOURCES NETWORK

The Center for Research Libraries scans to provide digital delivery of its holdings. In some cases problems with the quality of the original document or microfilm reproduction may result in a lower quality scan, but it will be legible. In some cases pages may be damaged or missing. Files include OCR (machine searchable text) when the quality of the scan and the language or format of the text allows.

If preferred, you may request a loan by contacting Center for Research Libraries through your Interlibrary Loan Office.

### **Rights and usage**

Materials digitized by the Center for Research Libraries are intended for the personal educational and research use of students, scholars, and other researchers of the CRL member community. Copyrighted images and texts may not be reproduced, displayed, distributed, broadcast, or downloaded for other purposes without the expressed, written permission of the copyright owner.

### **Center for Research Libraries**

Identifier: 4a5564d5-34c4-4949-9549-9e14676101ab

Range: Scans 001 - 004

Downloaded on: 2022-05-25 14:24:37

AFRICA. No. 7 (1893).

---

PAPER

RELATING TO

SLAVE TRADE IN BENGAZI.

---

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.  
August 1893.*

---

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
BY HARRISON AND SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE,  
PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HER MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from  
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, EAST HARDING STREET, FLEET STREET, E.C., AND  
32, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.; OR

JOHN MENZIES & Co., 12, HANOVER STREET, EDINBURGH, AND  
90, WEST NILE STREET, GLASGOW; OR

HODGES, FIGGIS & Co., Limited, 104, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

[C.—7105.] Price  $\frac{1}{2}d.$

## Paper relating to Slave Trade in Bengazi.

*Consul Alvarez to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 12.)*

My Lord,

*Bengazi, May 16, 1893.*

I HAVE the honour to make the following report with reference to various cases of slave trading, as to which I venture to solicit your Lordship's attention:—

1. On the 22nd April, in consequence of information I had received that the widow of Mahomet-El-Fahfah intended to take with her to Alexandria on board the British steam-ship "Antona," W. Black, master, a black female slave who had not been emancipated as the law requires, I determined to search the vessel on its departure.

When I went on board Dr. A. Mizzi, Sanitary Commissioner for the Ottoman Government to inquire into the recent epidemic of typhus at Bengazi and in the interior of the country, and Dr. Vella, with Surgeon-Captain M. L. Hughes, of the Army Medical Staff, delegated by the Malta Government for the same purpose, accompanied me, these gentlemen being bound for Alexandria. The captain was not then on board, but on his arrival I informed him of the object of my visit, and had a locked cabin, where I had reason to suspect the negress was confined, opened. The girl was produced, and, in answer to my questions, said her name was Khadija, and her country Darfur, and that she was free, but she had no letter of emancipation. As she replied to the latter questions with great hesitation, had no papers of any kind in her own possession, and was evidently prompted to say she was free, there was no doubt that she was a slave. A document, in Arabic, purporting to be a letter of emancipation granted by her late master, but not bearing any confirmation by the Local Government, and a Turkish passport, were now hurriedly produced, having evidently been left by her mistress. The passport erroneously stated that her country was Bornou, and that she was going to the Hedjaz. No letter of manumission, such as is issued by the Ottoman Government when a slave is really emancipated, was produced, for the very good reason that, as I had been informed, the Acting Governor, Ahmed Hamdy Efendy, had refused to grant what would, under the circumstances, have been a fictitious one.

I at once handed her over to the custody of Captain Black, with hurriedly written instructions to deliver her to the Consulate-General at Alexandria, with a view to the slave's emancipation, and a thorough inquiry being made into the case. The so-called emancipation paper and passport were also given to him for the same purpose.

2. I have the honour to state that, on the 1st instant, the unusually protracted trial of Haji Salyim Schetwan for the sale of Mereisila, of Baghermy, was brought to a close by the Court of First Instance's Judgment, condemning Haji Salyim Schetwan and Suleyman, son of Haji Salyh, the Cretan, to one year's imprisonment each, and payment of costs of the trial. Haji Salyh himself and Ahmed Ben Katho were acquitted for lack of sufficient evidence in the opinion of the Court to warrant their conviction. The condemned men have appealed, and will, on the first occasion, leave for Tripoli. In view of the importance of the confirmation of this sentence by the Tripoli Court of Appeal, I have begged of Consul General Moore to watch the case. In the event of its confirmation and enforcement, the Law of December 1889 will have become a reality.

3. With regard to the cases of Mesuda, of Dajo, and Mereisila, of Banda, who took refuge at this Consulate in September last, after they had been sold by Rakia Schetwan and Abdul Jelib Sellak respectively to Salyim Er Rayd, I have the honour to report that on the 30th April the Court acquitted Salyim Er Rayd, a notorious slave-dealer, and Abdul Jelib Sellak, for lack of sufficient evidence against them. Rakia Schetwan was found guilty, and was condemned to one year's imprisonment, which penalty she is now undergoing.

4. On the 10th and 11th May I informed Her Majesty's Consul-General at Smyrna, through Her Majesty's Consul for Crete, that on the night of the 9th instant 13 slaves were put on board the "Bahr Jedid," an Ottoman steamer of the Makhsussé Company,

which left the following morning. In consequence of the failure of the captain to obtain from the men in the boat from the guardship, who were on the watch to prevent slaves being put on board, that they should allow a boatfull of slaves to pass, the steamer left its anchorage about 11 o'clock, and proceeded to a spot off the garden of a certain Haschbur, near Manghar, a place on the coast about an hour's distance from the town. While there it was seen at about 11:30 by my cavass and two policemen, who were on the look-out for the embarkation of slaves. On the beach in front of the garden above-mentioned the fresh foot-prints of many persons and the hoof-marks of five or six horses were noticed by my cavass and the others. There can be no doubt that the slaves were put on board from this spot. The sentry on guard at the barracks saw the steamer leave its anchorage at the time above stated, and one or two hours later it had returned. In the morning the police reported to the Acting Governor that the "Bahr Jedid" had slaves on board. When that official ordered Daud Bey, the Captain of the Port, to make a search, he only gave the order for a search to be made when, from the "Bahr Jedid," my cavass was seen to put off from the shore. The steamer then left, and was quickly out of sight.

On account of the epidemic of typhus, which till recently existed here, the "Bahr Jedid" will have to undergo ten days' quarantine at Clazomenae, and it is therefore just possible that the sailing-vessel by which I sent a telegram and despatches to Canea for Smyrna on the 12th instant may have arrived in time to allow Consul-General Holmwood having the seizure of the slaves effected at Clazomenae.

This is the first time that slaves have been taken on board in such a barefaced manner, and I have, therefore, thought it my duty to call upon the Acting Governor to make a thorough inquiry, and to make the necessary arrests should the captain and officers of the "Bahr Jedid" return here.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) JUSTIN ALVAREZ.

---

AFRICA No. 7 (1893).

---

PAPER relating to Slave Trade in Bengali.

---

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Com-  
mand of Her Majesty. August 1893.*

---

LONDON:  
PRINTED BY HARRISON AND SONS.