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International

Jewish, Muslim, Christian peace mission crosses Sahara, gets turned away by Libyans

Sallum, March. 22 (AP): After a grueling two-week trek across the Sahara Desert, a group of Jews, Muslims and Christians on a peace mission from Jerusalem to Tripoli were refused entrance into Libya on Wednesday.

The nine-member team, sponsored by the Berlin-based nonprofit group Breaking the Ice, spent the night in no-man's land between Egypt and Libya, waiting for a Libyan response. The head of Libya's border authority turned them away early Wednesday, telling them they would be arrested if they did not leave immediately.

The group, back in the Egyptian border town of Sallum, is talking to high-level Libyan officials in a last-ditch effort to receive permits to enter Libya without visas and to complete their mission in Tripoli.

The group, which includes two Israelis, did not apply for visas because Israel and Libya have no diplomatic ties and the group wanted to cross borders without visas as part of their message of peace.

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