

discussants indicated that this phrase was primarily used during Gaddafi’s regime to refer to the opposition and Islamist militants, and was reportedly associated with directing violence towards those labeled as such. “Stray dogs” has since become less common, though it is still used in certain circumstances, particularly when the person employing the phrase supports Gaddafi’s way of using force and imprisonment in dealing with Islamists (militants or non-militants).

Why it’s offensive and inflammatory: The comparison to an animal is dehumanizing and these phrases are reportedly employed with the aim of defeating, removing, killing, prosecuting, or isolating the person being targeted by the language. Referring to someone as a “kalab,” or “dog,” is inflammatory because it implies that the person is owned by someone else and does not have power over their own decisions. The phrase “dogs of Haftar” is particularly inflammatory at the moment, given the ongoing fighting involving Haftar’s forces in and around Tripoli. As one respondent in Sabha stated, “The term strongly implies hatred. I mean, when you really think about these terms, what are we saying? We are saying when anyone calls you, you answer like a dog to his master...When the master calls, the dog comes running. And he is happy to abide by his master. Just look at what is happening in Tripoli right now. I mean, if I saw a ‘Haftar dog’ of course I would hate him. There is so much violence right now. Haftar calls and then they abide by the master.” The use of this phrase is extremely inflammatory in any conversations between opponents and supporters of Haftar.

Non-offensive alternative terms: موالى لحفتر (English translation: *loyal[ist] to Haftar*); مشجع لحفتر (English translation: *supporters of Haftar*)

7. الشرقية / Shargawe (Eastern)

Other spellings and related references: شرنقش / *shrenqish*; فاصوليا / *fasoolya* (*beans, i.e., a common dish in the east*); المصريين / *almisriiyn* (English translation: *Egyptians*)—due to eastern border with Egypt; *shlaftiya* (English translation: *low class*); شرقا / *sharqa* (English translation: *east*)

Sample Posts:

English translation: [*sarcastically, with picture of injured men*] “This is Shrenqish, they said, they have army!”

Definition: This term literally translates to “eastern,” but it has become politicized and is used to stereotype and denigrate people from the eastern part of Libya. In its use as a hateful term, it is associated with characteristics such as backwardness, savagery, stupidity, and