Why it's offensive and inflammatory: The term "abd" is offensive because it dehumanizes the target and, in the Libyan context, it is also associated with characteristics such as stupidity, hard-headedness, and being part of a lower class. It can be compared with the use of the n-word in the United States context. Respondents in several locations indicated that they had observed the use of this term offline in many different contexts and it often led to physical altercations. There is a widespread lack of awareness or acknowledgement of the presence of racism by the wider population in Libya, which may explain, to some extent, the continued use of this term. The word is considered particularly offensive when used against women, as traditional Libyan culture has typically not considered dark skin to be beautiful. This can have a significant psychological impact on women and girls who are labeled "abed."

A recent event that contributed to the sensitivity around this term was the forced displacement of the town of Tawergha in 2011. Tawergha had a black-majority population and was the only city in Libya to be entirely forcibly displaced during the fighting.[27] This increased tensions and grievances among black Libyans (particularly Tawerghans).

Note: There was some disagreement over the level of offensiveness of this term on the part of younger focus group participants. According to some youths, the term is used in certain situations as slang among friends (typically only male friends). For example, one participant in Tripoli noted, "A lot of people these days use it as a sign of respect, such as young generations, when they call him 'abd' that is 'my n***a.' It's a sign of respect. A lot of young people now see it as non-offensive." This usage, however, is very dependent on specific social contexts and overall the word is still considered very offensive in most situations. If it is used in reference to a political situation (e.g., Tawergha) or with someone the user does not know personally, it will be viewed as offensive.

Non-offensive alternative terms: أسمر / *asmar* (English translation: *dark complexion*); من أصول افريقيه (English translation: *of African origin*)

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5. ارهابيين / **Iirhabiayn (Terrorists)**

Other spellings and related references: إرهابي / *terrorist (singular)*; خوارج / *khawarij*; دواعش / *Daeshi*; انتحاري / *aintihariun* (English translation: *suicidal*); القاعدة / *al Qaeda*; كتيبة بوسليم (English translation: *Abu Salim Brigade—in Derna*); أنصار الشريعة / *Ansar al Sharia*

Sample Posts:

> **English translation:** *"#Tripoli. Some of the terrorist Misrata militias who are fighting against Libyan Armed Forces They are randomly hitting people's houses"*