



Fact Sheet

- Two large flocks of 40 Black Kites (Astun Iswed), a protected bird of prey, reached our islands.
 - The hunting season is presently closed although many use the loophole of rabbit hunting season to roam the countryside with shotguns
 - Flock of around 40 arrived on Monday 22nd August in the evening and tried to roost in the areas around Mtarfa and Mgarr.
 - Hunters started shooting at the birds late the same evening and the Environment Protection Unit within the Police Force were unable to attend to the report. EPU function till 9pm. Hunters escaped with their catches
 - During the night BirdLife Malta received reports of gunshots in the same area leading it to believe that the few remaining survivors were targeted once again.
 - In fact on Tuesday 23rd August morning only some individual Black Kites were seen leaving the roost site. Gunshots were heard again and at that time EPU were present. A hunter was caught with his shotgun, although it seems he had no birds in his possession.
 - On Tuesday 23rd August evening a flock of 28 were seen coming in over Gozo and circling around Ramla Bay valley. The same scenario happened in Gozo with hunters aiming their guns on these magnificent birds.
 - When contacted to report this, the Gozo Police explained that they had no resources to be on site. This lack of law enforcement allowed the hunters to easily hunt down every single bird that tried to roost in the valley.
 - Species targeted is the Black Kite (Astun Iswed in Maltese & scientific name: *Milvus migrans*) A protected species across Europe and Malta.
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