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1. The Human Development Index - going beyond income

Each year since [1990](#) the Human Development Report has published the [Human Development Index \(HDI\)](#) which was introduced as an alternative to conventional measures of national development, such as level of income and the rate of economic growth. The HDI represents a push for a broader definition of well-being and provides a composite measure of three basic dimensions of human development: health, education and income. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's HDI is 0.760, which gives the country a rank of 64 out of 187 countries with comparable data. The HDI of Arab States as a region increased from 0.444 in 1980 to 0.641 today, placing Libyan Arab Jamahiriya above the regional average. The HDI trends tell an important story both at the national and regional level and highlight the very large gaps in well-being and life chances that continue to divide our interconnected world. [Learn more](#)

2. Human Development Index: Health, Education and Income

HDIHealthEducationIncome00.250.50.751Value

i. Qaddafi was loved by his people, Italian PM says

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said Friday that ousted Libyan leader Moammar Qaddafi was loved by his people and that the rebellion that toppled him was not a popular uprising.

"This wasn't a popular uprising," like in other north African countries "where the wind of freedom begins to blow," he told young supporters of his People of Freedom party gathered in Rome.

"Powerful men decided to give life to a new era by putting out Qaddafi," he said.

"This wasn't a popular uprising because Qaddafi was loved by his people, as I was able to see when I went to Libya."

Italy is Libya's former colonial ruler and enjoyed close economic and diplomatic ties with the Qaddafi regime prior to the conflict before joining international efforts against the leader.

He told party supporters that strengthening the country's position in Libya was "important for oil and gas supplies."

Eni, in which the Italian state holds a third share, was previously the main foreign hydrocarbon producer operating in Libya.

In order to maintain that situation Rome recently signed a deal with the new Libyan authorities.

<http://kucinich.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=231106>

2. Kucinich: Congress Must Protect Constitutional Authority as a Coequal Branch of Government, Cut off Funds for Libyan War

Dear Colleague:

As you consider supporting an amendment to cut off funds for the war in Libya, I want to call to your attention to the stark lack of information provided to Congress and the American people about the war.

Last night the President said it took one month to put together a response to the situation in Libya. During that time the President consulted with 28 member nations of NATO, 22 member nations of the Arab league and 15 members of the UN Security Council, ten of whom approved the resolution. There was also time for extensive coordination with France and Great Britain. **The President had time to consult with the international community, but had no time to come to the United States Congress?**

There is no question that the Administration should have followed the Constitution and received the approval of Congress before starting a war. Consulting with a few members is not the same thing as following the Constitutional requirements of Article 1, Section 8.

Further complicating the Administration's failure to come to Congress prior to ordering an attack is the fact that our primary partners in the war against Libya, France and Great Britain, had, according to a French military website, planned certain war games which now may have significance.

On November 2, 2010 France and Great Britain signed a mutual defense treaty, which paved the way for joint participation in a military exercise called 'Southern Mistral' (www.southern-mistral.cdaoa.fr). While war games are not uncommon, the similarities between 'Southern Mistral' and 'Operation Odyssey Dawn' highlight just how many unanswered questions remain regarding our own military planning for Libya.

The 'Southern Mistral' war games called for Great Britain-French air strikes against an unnamed dictator of a fictional country, "Southland." The pretend attack was authorized by a pretend United Nations Security Council Resolution. The 'Southern Mistral' war games were set for March 21-25, 2011.

On March 19, 2011, the United States joined France and Great Britain in an air attack against Muammar Gaddafi's Libya pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1973.

Scheduling a joint military exercise that ends up resembling real military action could be seen as remarkable planning by the French and British, but it also highlights questions regarding the United States' role in planning for the war. We don't know how long the attack on Libya has been in preparation, but Congress must find out. We don't know who the rebels really represent and how they became armed, but Congress must find out.

With so many unknowns, Congress' only path to protect both the Constitution and the institution of government of the people is to cut off funds for the war in Libya. A cutoff of funds would require the President to follow the Constitutional process with respect to going to war. He would have to seek Congressional approval.

Otherwise, we will have given our tacit consent to a policy that undercuts Congress' constitutionally-mandated role as a coequal branch of government. Moreover, since the Founders established Congress under Article 1 and the Executive under Article 2, Congress is first among equals, unless we refuse to be.

Please join me in cosponsoring an amendment to the next continuing resolution or omnibus appropriations bill that would prevent any U.S. funds from being used for the war in Libya.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich

Member of Congress

post-gazette.COM
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

3. Pittsburgh Post Gazette Ambassador Dan Simpson :Shame on us for pulverizing Libya

By Dan Simpson / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

approx. May 2011

Two questions troubled me over Memorial Day: Why is the United States destroying Libya, and why do I care?

For nearly three months America and its pony pal Pokeys -- Denmark, France, Italy, Norway and the United Kingdom -- have been busily destroying Libya.

The war started out as at least vaguely comprehensible and well-meaning. Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi had responded to the Arab Spring stirrings against his government with furious threats against the Libyan population. The U.N. Security Council, at the urging of three permanent members (France, the United Kingdom and the United States) but with significant abstentions by Brazil, China, Germany, India and Russia, agreed to military action to protect Libyan civilians from the potential ravages of the government's armed forces. That limited objective made some sense in humanitarian terms.

Libyan rebels launched an effort to oust Mr. Gadhafi from power but quickly ran out of gas. The allies began fighting under the banner of NATO, with the United States in principle having handed over leadership of the effort -- which became, clearly, aimed at regime change, allegedly a "no, no" for the regime of President Barack Obama because it saw this as a major fault of the preceding administration of President George W. Bush. The allies, having eliminated Mr. Gadhafi's air power, began bombing not only government military targets but also making parts of Tripoli, the Libyan capital, look like Joplin, Missouri, after the tornado. This was done in the name of hitting military installations, although it has become evident that Mr. Gadhafi himself was their real target.

The U.S. role moved into semi-clandestine mode. CIA and special operations forces were on the ground, helping with targeting and providing other intelligence support to NATO air forces as they demolished targets in Libya.

In the meantime, the rebels' provisional "government" in eastern Libya -- in Benghazi, formerly known as Cyrenaica -- continued to take an informal approach to military action, in principle taking advantage of the NATO air strikes to move westward toward Tripoli. In fact, it remains divided by tribe, ill-disciplined, indifferently led and, in the end, lightly motivated, in spite of all the bold talk about fighting for freedom. The "government" now has 40 ministers and has eliminated women from all significant positions of leadership.

When preparing to go to Libya in 1963 one of the first books I read was on the tribes of Cyrenaica. The Cyrenaicans still operate on a tribal basis. They oppose the tribes of western and southern Libya.

I haven't figured out yet whether the geniuses who run U.S. foreign policy don't know that, or whether their reasons for proceeding to destroy Libya as a nation were so compelling that they were willing to put their nickels on the eastern Libyans in spite of the legendary divisions among their tribes and the problems these present.

Mr. Obama is moving ahead even though he is in clear violation of the terms of the U.S. War Powers Act. So what is behind his adherence to a policy of pounding Libya?

It is oil, to a degree. Even though Libya produces only 2 percent of the world's oil, the companies that Libya nationalized after Mr. Gadhafi took power in 1969 were owned in part by British and American companies with long memories and a lot of lobbying clout in Washington due to their political contributions to parties and congressmen. France, the United Kingdom and the United States would just love to get their concessions back.

It is also clear that Mr. Gadhafi is not anyone's idea of an enlightened ruler. Even though he handed over his nascent nuclear weapons program during the Bush years, winning big points, he also took down Pan Am 103 in 1988. He paid compensation to victims' families but that tragedy remains an unsettled score between the United States and Libya. But is he worse than some of the Persian Gulf emirs -- not to mention Saudi Arabia's royalty -- that we cuddle up to for oil, arms sales, military bases and whatever else?

Which leaves the fundamental question, what business is it of the United States to decide who should rule Libya or any other country in the world that poses no threat to us? Do we see no conflict of principles between taking the greatest of pride in our own independence, glorifying our founding fathers and praising our troops who fight and die to preserve that independence, while at the same time bombing into rubble some other country's capital to try to change its current leaders?

My own personal question is, why do I care? Or at least, why do I care more than most Americans? There is no noticeable resistance among Americans or in Congress to the destruction we are bringing to Libya.

The answer is, I think, because I have seen and lived in the Libya that U.S. and NATO armaments are now pulverizing. It is hard for Americans to imagine Libya. There are places where robed women and men with donkeys raise water from wells just like the pictures in the books in Sunday school. There are green hills of Cyrenaica where it is possible to wander through Greek and Roman ruins alone.

It is also hard for Americans to imagine the destruction that modern arms can bring to a city. The videos of Joplin and eastern Japan give us some idea. Grainy black-and-white footage of post-war Europe shows us more. But why Libya? In the name of exactly what?

We as a people are acting in Libya like some maddened pit bull that just has to attack something. It is shameful.

Dan Simpson, a former U.S. ambassador, is a Post-Gazette associate editor (dsimpson@post-gazette.com , 412 263-1976).

4. "NATO warplanes flew thousands of sorties that dropped 7,700 bombs or missiles; because The Times did not examine sites in several cities and towns where the air campaign was active, the casualty estimate could be low."

From: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/18/world/africa/scores-of-unintended-casualties-in-nato-war-in-libya.html?pagewanted=all>

3. UN Resolution for Libya 1973 full text:

Alex Note: The expert panel cited at the end was never assembled or had huge gaps, with no visits to Libya until the West decided "no deal" basically in my view the West decided Gadaffi has to go, which is not in the resolution and would violate it as far as I can tell.

The Security Council, Recalling its resolution 1970 (2011) of 26 February 2011,

Deploring the failure of the Libyan authorities to comply with resolution 1970 (2011),

Expressing grave concern at the deteriorating situation, the escalation of violence, and the heavy civilian casualties,

Reiterating the responsibility of the Libyan authorities to protect the Libyan population and reaffirming that parties to armed conflicts bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of civilians,

Condemning the gross and systematic violation of human rights, including arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, torture and summary executions,

Further condemning acts of violence and intimidation committed by the Libyan authorities against journalists, media professionals and associated personnel and urging these authorities to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law as outlined in resolution 1738 (2006),

Considering that the widespread and systematic attacks currently taking place in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya against the civilian population may amount to crimes against humanity,

Recalling paragraph 26 of resolution 1970 (2011) in which the Council expressed its readiness to consider taking additional appropriate measures, as necessary, to facilitate and support the return of humanitarian agencies and make available humanitarian and related assistance in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

Expressing its determination to ensure the protection of civilians and civilian populated areas and the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian assistance and the safety of humanitarian personnel,

Recalling the condemnation by the League of Arab States, the African Union, and the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference of the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that have been and are being committed in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

Taking note of the final communiqué of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference of 8 March 2011, and the communiqué of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union of 10 March 2011 which established an ad hoc High Level Committee on [Libya](#),

Taking note also of the decision of the Council of the League of Arab States of 12 March 2011 to call for the imposition of a no-fly zone on Libyan military aviation, and to establish safe areas in places exposed to shelling as a precautionary measure that allows the protection of the Libyan people and foreign nationals residing in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

Taking note further of the Secretary-General's call on 16 March 2011 for an immediate cease-fire,

Recalling its decision to refer the situation in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya since 15 February 2011 to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, and stressing that those responsible for or complicit in attacks targeting the civilian population, including aerial and naval attacks, must be held to account,

Reiterating its concern at the plight of refugees and foreign workers forced to flee the violence in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, welcoming the response of neighbouring States, in particular Tunisia and Egypt, to address the needs of those refugees and foreign workers, and calling on the international community to support those efforts,

Deploring the continuing use of mercenaries by the Libyan authorities,

Considering that the establishment of a ban on all flights in the airspace of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya constitutes an important element for the protection of civilians as well as the safety of the delivery of humanitarian assistance and a decisive step for the cessation of hostilities in Libya,

Expressing concern also for the safety of foreign nationals and their rights in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

Welcoming the appointment by the Secretary General of his Special Envoy to Libya, Mr Abdel-Elah Mohamed Al-Khatib and supporting his efforts to find a sustainable and peaceful solution to the crisis in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya,

Determining that the situation in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the [United Nations](#),

1. Demands the immediate establishment of a cease-fire and a complete end to violence and all attacks against, and abuses of, civilians;
2. Stresses the need to intensify efforts to find a solution to the crisis which responds to the legitimate demands of the Libyan people and notes the decisions of the Secretary-General to send his Special Envoy to Libya and of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to send its ad hoc High Level Committee to Libya with the aim of facilitating dialogue to lead to the political reforms necessary to find a peaceful and sustainable solution;
3. Demands that the Libyan authorities comply with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, human rights and refugee law and take all measures to protect civilians and meet their basic needs, and to ensure the rapid and unimpeded passage of humanitarian assistance;

4. Protection of civilians

4. Authorizes Member States that have notified the Secretary-General, acting nationally or through regional organizations or arrangements, and acting in cooperation with the Secretary-General, to take all necessary measures, notwithstanding paragraph 9 of resolution 1970 (2011), to protect civilians and civilian populated areas under threat of attack in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, including Benghazi, while excluding a foreign occupation force of any form on any part of Libyan territory, and requests the Member States concerned to inform the Secretary-General immediately of the measures they take pursuant to the authorization conferred by this paragraph which shall be immediately reported to the Security Council;
5. Recognizes the important role of the League of Arab States in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security in the region, and bearing in mind Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, requests the Member States of the League of Arab States to cooperate with other Member States in the implementation of paragraph 4;

5. No fly zone

6. Decides to establish a ban on all flights in the airspace of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in order to help protect civilians;
7. Decides further that the ban imposed by paragraph 6 shall not apply to flights whose sole purpose is humanitarian, such as delivering or facilitating the delivery of assistance, including medical supplies, food, humanitarian workers and related assistance, or evacuating foreign nationals from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, nor shall it apply to flights authorised by paragraphs 4 or 8, nor other flights which are deemed necessary by States acting under the authorisation conferred in paragraph 8 to be for the benefit of the Libyan people, and that these flights shall be coordinated with any mechanism established under paragraph 8;
8. Authorizes Member States that have notified the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, acting nationally or through regional organizations or arrangements, to take all necessary measures to enforce compliance with the ban on flights imposed by paragraph 6 above, as necessary, and requests the States concerned in cooperation with the League of Arab States to coordinate closely with the Secretary General on the measures they are taking to implement this ban, including by establishing an appropriate mechanism for implementing the provisions of paragraphs 6 and 7 above,
9. Calls upon all Member States, acting nationally or through regional organizations or arrangements, to provide assistance, including any necessary over-flight approvals, for the purposes of implementing paragraphs 4, 6, 7 and 8 above;
10. Requests the Member States concerned to coordinate closely with each other and the Secretary-General on the measures they are taking to implement paragraphs 4, 6, 7 and 8 above, including practical measures for the monitoring and approval of authorised humanitarian or evacuation flights;
11. Decides that the Member States concerned shall inform the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States immediately of measures taken in exercise of the authority conferred by paragraph 8 above, including to supply a concept of operations;
12. Requests the Secretary-General to inform the Council immediately of any actions taken by the Member States concerned in exercise of the authority conferred by paragraph 8 above and to report to the Council within 7 days and every month thereafter on the implementation of this resolution, including information on any violations of the flight ban imposed by paragraph 6 above;

6. Enforcement of the arms embargo

13. Decides that paragraph 11 of resolution 1970 (2011) shall be replaced by the following paragraph : "Calls upon all Member States, in particular States of the region, acting nationally or through regional organisations or arrangements, in order to ensure strict implementation of the arms embargo

established by paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 1970 (2011), to inspect in their territory, including seaports and airports, and on the high seas, vessels and aircraft bound to or from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, if the State concerned has information that provides reasonable grounds to believe that the cargo contains items the supply, sale, transfer or export of which is prohibited by paragraphs 9 or 10 of resolution 1970 (2011) as modified by this resolution, including the provision of armed mercenary personnel, calls upon all flag States of such vessels and aircraft to cooperate with such inspections and authorises Member States to use all measures commensurate to the specific circumstances to carry out such inspections";

14. Requests Member States which are taking action under paragraph 13 above on the high seas to coordinate closely with each other and the Secretary-General and further requests the States concerned to inform the Secretary-General and the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution 1970 (2011) ("the Committee") immediately of measures taken in the exercise of the authority conferred by paragraph 13 above;

15. Requires any Member State whether acting nationally or through regional organisations or arrangements, when it undertakes an inspection pursuant to paragraph 13 above, to submit promptly an initial written report to the Committee containing, in particular, explanation of the grounds for the inspection, the results of such inspection, and whether or not cooperation was provided, and, if prohibited items for transfer are found, further requires such Member States to submit to the Committee, at a later stage, a subsequent written report containing relevant details on the inspection, seizure, and disposal, and relevant details of the transfer, including a description of the items, their origin and intended destination, if this information is not in the initial report;

16. Deplores the continuing flows of mercenaries into the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and calls upon all Member States to comply strictly with their obligations under paragraph 9 of resolution 1970 (2011) to prevent the provision of armed mercenary personnel to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

7. Ban on flights

17. Decides that all States shall deny permission to any aircraft registered in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya or owned or operated by Libyan nationals or companies to take off from, land in or overfly their territory unless the particular flight has been approved in advance by the Committee, or in the case of an emergency landing;

18. Decides that all States shall deny permission to any aircraft to take off from, land in or overfly their territory, if they have information that provides reasonable grounds to believe that the aircraft contains items the supply, sale, transfer, or export of which is prohibited by paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 1970 (2011) as modified by this resolution, including the provision of armed mercenary personnel, except in the case of an emergency landing;

8. Asset freeze

19. Decides that the asset freeze imposed by paragraph 17, 19, 20 and 21 of resolution 1970 (2011) shall apply to all funds, other financial assets and economic resources which are on their territories, which are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the Libyan authorities, as designated by the Committee, or by individuals or entities acting on their behalf or at their direction, or by entities owned or controlled by them, as designated by the Committee, and decides further that all States shall ensure that any funds, financial assets or economic resources are prevented from being made available by their nationals or by any individuals or entities within their territories, to or for the benefit of the Libyan authorities, as designated by the Committee, or individuals or entities acting on their behalf or at their direction, or entities owned or controlled by them, as designated by the Committee, and directs the Committee to designate such Libyan authorities, individuals or entities within 30 days of the date of the adoption of this resolution and as appropriate thereafter;

20. Affirms its determination to ensure that assets frozen pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 1970 (2011) shall, at a later stage, as soon as possible be made available to and for the benefit of the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

21. Decides that all States shall require their nationals, persons subject to their jurisdiction and firms incorporated in their territory or subject to their jurisdiction to exercise vigilance when doing business with entities incorporated in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya or subject to its jurisdiction, and any individuals or entities acting on their behalf or at their direction, and entities owned or controlled by them, if the States have information that provides reasonable grounds to believe that such business could contribute to violence and use of force against civilians;

9. Designations

22. Decides that the individuals listed in Annex I shall be subject to the travel restrictions imposed in paragraphs 15 and 16 of resolution 1970 (2011), and decides further that the individuals and entities listed in Annex II shall be subject to the asset freeze imposed in paragraphs 17, 19, 20 and 21 of resolution 1970 (2011);

23. Decides that the measures specified in paragraphs 15, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 21 of resolution 1970 (2011) shall apply also to individuals and entities determined by the Council or the Committee to have violated the provisions of resolution 1970 (2011), particularly paragraphs 9 and 10 thereof, or to have assisted others in doing so;

10. Panel of experts

24. Requests the Secretary-General to create for an initial period of one year, in consultation with the Committee, a group of up to eight experts ("Panel of Experts"), under the direction of the Committee to carry out the following tasks:

- (a) Assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate as specified in paragraph 24 of resolution 1970 (2011) and this resolution;
- (b) Gather, examine and analyse information from States, relevant United Nations bodies, regional organisations and other interested parties regarding the implementation of the measures decided in resolution 1970 (2011) and this resolution, in particular incidents of non-compliance;
- (c) Make recommendations on actions the Council, or the Committee or State, may consider to improve implementation of the relevant measures;
- (d) Provide to the Council an interim report on its work no later than 90 days after the Panel's appointment, and a final report to the Council no later than 30 days prior to the termination of its mandate with its findings and recommendations;

25. Urges all States, relevant United Nations bodies and other interested parties, to cooperate fully with the Committee and the Panel of Experts, in particular by supplying any information at their disposal on the implementation of the measures decided in resolution 1970 (2011) and this resolution, in particular incidents of non-compliance;

26. Decides that the mandate of the Committee as set out in paragraph 24 of resolution 1970 (2011) shall also apply to the measures decided in this resolution;

27. Decides that all States, including the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, shall take the necessary measures to ensure that no claim shall lie at the instance of the Libyan authorities, or of any person or body in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, or of any person claiming through or for the benefit of any such person or body, in connection with any contract or other transaction where its performance was affected by reason of the measures taken by the Security Council in resolution 1970 (2011), this resolution and related resolutions;

28. Reaffirms its intention to keep the actions of the Libyan authorities under continuous review and underlines its readiness to review at any time the measures imposed by this resolution and resolution 1970 (2011), including by strengthening, suspending or lifting those measures, as appropriate, based on compliance by the Libyan authorities with this resolution and resolution 1970 (2011).

29. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/russ-baker/whowhatwhy-factchecks-the_b_882419.html

5. Factchecking the Media: More Questions About the Libyan Sex Atrocity Reporting

Posted: 06/22/11 04:43 PM ET

Stories with a sexual component have always been instant hits in the ratings, and things are only getting worse. [According to](#) the Project for Excellence in Journalism, last week, media coverage of Congressman Anthony Weiner and his pornographic tweets filled 17 percent of the "news hole" (space and time devoted by the media). The economy, by comparison, accounted for 11 percent. The Middle East also got 11 percent.

Actually, a greater percentage had something in common when you count stories on wieners of all kinds. Because a rapidly spiraling scandal involves the allegation that the embattled Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi ordered his troops to commit mass rape--and gave them Viagra to help fortify them in this atrocity.

As we noted [previously](#), that story has been reported widely throughout the world. As we also noted, there's scant evidence that it is true--at least at this point. Moreover, it shows signs of being part of a larger disinformation effort of the sort that has always been part and parcel of war. (A war whose true purposes, as you can see from an earlier [analysis](#) we did, is consistently obscured.)

Despite reasons to be cautious, the media have picked up the ViagraRape story with the sort of enthusiasm they showed for the Anthony Weiner saga.

The Weiner story at least turned out to be true. Though that doesn't mitigate how the media pandered to public voyeurism--letting this one man's personal misdoings dominate and shut out more substantive reports, on things that actually affect us and our world.

The Libyan mass rape story is another thing entirely. As we have noted, the coverage has been characterized by recklessness and laziness. And in this case, much more is at stake than a single congressman's future.

Perhaps the ViagraRape story will turn out to be true. But so far there is no real evidence. There is also no logic in believing that a man in Qaddafi's dire position vis a vis public opinion would order something like that. As brutal as he has been, there is no previous track record of him ordering mass rapes. And there are many reasons to be suspicious of the story.

Now comes the latest [entry](#) in the gullibility sweepstakes. From the hallowed BBC, of all places.

...Libyan charities say they are getting reports that in the west of the country, which is particularly conservative, Col Muammar Gaddafi's forces have tended to rape women and girls in front of their fathers and brothers.

"To be seen naked and violated is worse than death for them," says Hana Elgadi. "This is a region where women will not go out of the house without covering their face with a veil."

Ms Elgadi is in a group of Libyan volunteers offering medical help and HIV tests. The organisation is also offering to pay for abortions for women who have been raped in the war.

Well, Ms. Elgadi is "in a group of Libyan volunteers". But she is not a Libyan volunteer herself, nor simply helping victims. She is an expat with a mission. On her [Facebook profile](#), she lists herself as "Hana FreeLibya Elgadi". She lives in London, and is an investment banker. Without in any way questioning Ms. Elgadi's intentions, the fact remains that she is a declared partisan of the forces seeking to overthrow Qaddafi, not an impartial or expert eyewitness.

More from the BBC piece:

"Time is against us," says Nader Elhamessi from the Libyan aid agency, World for Libya

"For the moment pregnancies can be disguised, but not for much longer. Many fathers will kill their own daughters if they find out they have been raped."

...The charity World for Libya has engaged imams across the border in Tunisia to preach that rape is not the victim's fault.

...World for Libya is trying to reach a group of teenage girls still inside Libya whose school was attacked by forces loyal to Col Gaddafi.

"The armed men separated the girls and raped those they deemed more attractive," says Nader Elhamessi. "One of the girls cut her wrists and killed herself rather than face the shame. The rapes were only reported to us by the girls who were left alone."

The reality is that rape has always been a byproduct of war and violence (involving [even American soldiers on occasion](#)) . But the best we have here is second-hand reports from teenagers who say they themselves were not harmed. That's just not good enough before spreading a story like this.

Another basic thing journalists should do is explain what organizations are. We looked up "the Libyan aid agency World for Libya" and found that its [website](#) is hosted by a [London ad agency](#). That agency is owned by Salah Mussa, a wealthy London-based [real estate magnate](#) and Libyan exile. His company, Chesterton, was [glad to do business](#) with Qaddafi not so long ago.

Chesterton hopes to open an office in Libya by November 2009 and work closely with the country's sovereign wealth fund there, the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA).

Unfortunately for Mussa, Goldman Sachs was there first, managing to lose 98 percent of \$1.3 billion the Libyan sovereign wealth fund gave it to invest. This was [reported](#) by the Wall Street Journal. Qaddafi, furious at the losses, became increasingly hostile to Western investors seeking Libya's riches.

Back to the BBC story:

One family who contacted Ms Elgadi needed medication for HIV.

"The mother, the father and the son were all raped by Col Gaddafi's forces. The mother came to us when they discovered they had contracted HIV/Aids as a result."

Viagra

...The International Criminal Court says it believes Col Gaddafi's forces are using rape as a weapon of war. The ICC says it has reason to believe orders to rape were given, and the drug Viagra was distributed to fighters.

For more on the ICC's claim, and how thin it is, see our [previous piece](#).

BBC, continuing:

A major in the Libyan army who has now deserted told the BBC the shipments of Viagra were widely known about, but neither he nor his colleagues saw them.

"The order to rape was not given to the regular army," says the major, who did not want his name to be used, because his family is still in Tripoli. "Col Gaddafi knew we would never accept it. It was given to the mercenaries."

So we are to take the word of an unnamed army major who deserted--and who himself says it was not the army, and that neither he nor his colleagues saw any Viagra in use. Just "widely known about" as it is "widely known about" by all of us who consume these "news reports."

Mr Jamal, the UNHCR's emergency co-ordinator for Libya, says it has not so far uncovered evidence that rape has been used as a weapon of war, although it has seen evidence of individual instances of rape throughout the country.

"We have also seen evidence that would seem to suggest that rape has been carried out by both sides, but we cannot say on what scale," he says.

Jamal's more balanced initial analysis appears late in the story, where it is easily missed by those who will naturally focus on the headline and lead paragraphs.

Libyan volunteers are advising international agencies on how to get Libyans who have been raped to come forward.

"A foreigner cannot go in there with a clipboard and a translator and get a response," says Ms Elgadi.

This of course cuts out exactly those with the credentials and objectivity who can really be trusted to assess the situation.

Again, one cannot rule out the possibility that Qaddafi personally ordered mass rape. Or that he supplied Viagra to soldiers or mercenaries following his orders. But this follows a long history of deliberate disinformation in war, notably the false stories conjured up by PR outfits during the Gulf War--including the notorious [made-up tale](#) of Iraqi soldiers throwing babies out of incubators at a Kuwaiti hospital. Congress bought that one, and the American people were up in arms, eager to support military action. The "mission creep" on Libya has expanded from an initial promise to "protect civilians" for a few days into what can only be described as yet another undeclared war.

Let the buyer beware.



Tyler Hicks/The New York Times

When NATO bombs hit an apartment building in Surt, Libya, on Sept. 16, Mahmoud Zarog Massoud's wife was killed. [More Photos »](#)

By [C. J. CHIVERS](#) and [ERIC SCHMITT](#)

Published: December 17, 2011

TRIPOLI, Libya — [NATO](#)'s seven-month air campaign in Libya, hailed by the alliance and many Libyans for blunting a lethal crackdown by Col. [Muammar el-Qaddafi](#) and helping to push him from power, came with an unrecognized toll: scores of civilian casualties the alliance has long refused to acknowledge or investigate.



[Interactive](#)

[Errant NATO Airstrikes in Libya: 13 Cases](#)



[Photographs](#)

[The Civilian Toll in Libya](#)



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By NATO's telling during the war, and in statements since sorties ended on Oct. 31, the alliance-led operation was nearly flawless — a model air war that used high technology, meticulous planning and restraint to protect civilians from Colonel Qaddafi's troops, which was the alliance's mandate.

"We have carried out this operation very carefully, without confirmed civilian casualties," the secretary general of NATO, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, said in November.

But an on-the-ground examination by The New York Times of airstrike sites across Libya — including interviews with survivors, doctors and witnesses, and the collection of munitions remnants, medical reports, death certificates and photographs — found credible accounts of dozens of civilians killed by NATO in many distinct attacks. The victims, including at least 29 women or children, often had been asleep in homes when the ordnance hit.

In all, at least 40 civilians, and perhaps more than 70, were killed by NATO at these sites, available evidence suggests. While that total is not high compared with other conflicts in which Western powers have relied heavily on air power, and less than the exaggerated accounts circulated by the Qaddafi government, it is also not a complete accounting. Survivors and doctors working for the anti-Qaddafi interim authorities point to dozens more civilians wounded in these and other strikes, and they referred reporters to other sites where civilian casualties were suspected.

Two weeks after being provided a 27-page memorandum from The Times containing extensive details of nine separate attacks in which evidence indicated that allied planes had killed or wounded unintended victims, NATO modified its stance.

"From what you have gathered on the ground, it appears that innocent civilians may have been killed or injured, despite all the care and precision," said Oana Lungescu, a spokeswoman for NATO headquarters in Brussels. "We deeply regret any loss of life."

She added that NATO was in regular contact with the new Libyan government and that "we stand ready to work with the Libyan authorities to do what they feel is right."

NATO, however, deferred the responsibility of initiating any inquiry to Libya's interim authorities, whose survival and climb to power were made possible largely by the airstrike campaign. So far, Libyan leaders have expressed no interest in examining NATO's mistakes.

The failure to thoroughly assess the civilian toll reduces the chances that allied forces, which are relying ever more heavily on air power rather than risking ground troops in overseas conflicts, will examine their Libyan experience to minimize collateral deaths elsewhere. Allied commanders have been ordered to submit a lessons-learned report to NATO headquarters in February. NATO's incuriosity about the many lethal accidents raises questions about how thorough that review will be.

NATO's experience in Libya also reveals an attitude that initially prevailed in Afghanistan. There, NATO forces, led by the United States, tightened the rules of engagement for airstrikes and insisted on better targeting to reduce civilian deaths only after repeatedly ignoring or disputing accounts of airstrikes that left many civilians dead.

In Libya, NATO's inattention to its unintended victims has also left many wounded civilians with little aid in the aftermath of the country's still-chaotic change in leadership.

These victims include a boy blasted by debris in his face and right eye, a woman whose left leg was amputated, another whose foot and leg wounds left her disabled, a North Korean doctor whose left foot was crushed and his wife, who suffered a fractured skull.

The Times's investigation included visits to more than 25 sites, including in Tripoli, Surman, Mizdah, Zlitan, Ga'a, Majer, Ajdabiya, Misurata, Surt, Brega and Sabratha and near Benghazi. More than 150 targets — bunkers, buildings or vehicles — were hit at these places.

NATO warplanes flew thousands of sorties that dropped 7,700 bombs or missiles; because The Times did not examine sites in several cities and towns where the air campaign was active, the casualty estimate could be low.

There are indications that the alliance took many steps to avoid harming civilians, and often did not damage civilian infrastructure useful to Colonel Qaddafi's military. Elements of two American-led air campaigns in Iraq, in 1991 and 2003, appear to have been avoided, including attacks on electrical grids.

Such steps spared civilians certain hardships and risks that accompanied previous Western air-to-ground operations. NATO also said that allied forces did not use [cluster munitions](#) or ordnance containing depleted uranium, both of which pose health and environmental risks, in Libya at any time.

The alliance's fixed-wing aircraft dropped only laser- or satellite-guided weapons, said Col. Gregory Julian, a NATO spokesman; no so-called dumb bombs were used.

While the overwhelming preponderance of strikes seemed to have hit their targets without killing noncombatants, many factors contributed to a run of fatal mistakes. These included a technically faulty bomb, poor or dated intelligence and the near absence of experienced military personnel on the ground who could help direct airstrikes.

The alliance's apparent presumption that residences thought to harbor pro-Qaddafi forces were not occupied by civilians repeatedly proved mistaken, the evidence suggests, posing a reminder to advocates of air power that no war is cost- or error-free.

The investigation also found significant damage to civilian infrastructure from certain attacks for which a rationale was not evident or risks to civilians were clear. These included [strikes on warehouses that current anti-Qaddafi guards said contained only food](#), or near businesses or homes that were destroyed, including [an attack on a munitions bunker](#) beside a neighborhood that caused a large secondary explosion, scattering warheads and toxic rocket fuel.

NATO has also not yet provided data to Libyans on the locations or types of unexploded ordnance from its strikes. At least two large weapons were present at sites visited by The Times. "This information is urgently needed," said Dr. Ali Yahwya, chief surgeon at the Zlitan hospital.

Moreover, the scouring of one strike site found remnants of NATO munitions in a ruined building that an alliance spokesman explicitly said NATO did not attack.

That mistake — a pair of strikes — killed 12 anti-Qaddafi fighters and nearly killed a civilian ambulance crew aiding wounded men. It underscored NATO's sometimes tenuous grasp of battle lines and raised questions about the forthrightness and accuracy of the alliance's public-relations campaign.

The second strike pointed to a tactic that survivors at several sites recounted: [warplanes restriking targets minutes after a first attack](#), a practice that imperiled, and sometimes killed, civilians rushing to the wounded.

Pressed about the dangers posed to noncombatants by such attacks, NATO said it would reconsider the tactic's rationale in its internal campaign review. "That's a valid point to take into consideration in future operations," Colonel Julian said.

That statement is a shift in the alliance's stance. NATO's response to allegations of mistaken attacks had long been carefully worded denials and insistence that its operations were devised and supervised with exceptional care. Faced with credible allegations that it killed civilians, the alliance said it had neither the capacity for nor intention of investigating and often repeated that disputed strikes were sound.

The alliance maintained this position even after two independent Western organizations — [Human Rights Watch](#) and the [Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict](#), or Civic — met privately with NATO officials and shared field research about mistakes, including, in some cases, victims' names and the dates and locations where they died.

Organizations researching civilian deaths in Libya said that the alliance's resistance to making itself accountable and acknowledging mistakes amounted to poor public policy. "It's crystal clear that civilians died in NATO strikes," said Fred Abrahams, a researcher for Human Rights Watch. "But this whole campaign is shrouded by an atmosphere of impunity" and by NATO's and the Libyan authorities' mutually congratulatory statements.

Mr. Abrahams added that the matter went beyond the need to assist civilians harmed by airstrikes, though he said that was important. At issue, he said, was "who is going to lose their lives in the next campaign because these errors and mistakes went unexamined, and no one learned from them?"

Human Rights Watch and Civic also noted that the alliance's stance on civilian casualties it caused in Libya was at odds with its practices for so-called collateral damage in Afghanistan. There, public anger and political tension over fatal mistakes led NATO to adopt policies for investigating actions that caused civilian harm, including guidelines for expressing condolences and making small payments to victims or their families.

"You would think, and I did think, that all of the lessons learned from Afghanistan would have been transferred to Libya," said Sarah Holewinski, the executive director of Civic, which helped NATO devise its practices for Afghanistan. "But many of them didn't."

Choosing Targets

When foreign militaries began attacking Libya's loyalists on March 19, the United States military, more experienced than NATO at directing large operations, coordinated the campaign. On March 31, the Americans transferred command to NATO.

Seven months later, the alliance had destroyed more than 5,900 military targets by means of roughly 9,700 strike sorties, according to its data, helping to dismantle the pro-Qaddafi military and militias. Warplanes from France, Britain, the United States, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Belgium and Canada dropped ordnance. Two non-NATO nations, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, participated on a small scale.

France carried out about a third of all strike sorties, Britain 21 percent and the United States 19 percent, according to data from each nation.

The attacks fell under two broad categories. So-called deliberate strikes were directed against fixed targets, like buildings or air-defense systems. These targets were selected and assigned to pilots before aircraft took off.

Deliberate strikes were planned to minimize risks to civilians, NATO said. In Naples, Italy, intelligence analysts and targeting specialists vetted proposed targets and compiled lists, which were sent to an operations center near Bologna, where targets were matched to specific aircraft and weapons.

For some targets, like command bunkers, NATO said, it conducted long periods of surveillance first. Drones or other aircraft chronicled the daily routines at the sites, known as "patterns of life," until commanders felt confident that each target was valid.

Other considerations then came into play. Targeting specialists chose, for example, the angle of attack and time of day thought to pose the least risk to civilians. They would also consider questions of ordnance. These included the size and type of bomb, and its fuze.

Some fuzes briefly delay detonation of a bomb's high-explosive charge. This can allow ordnance to penetrate concrete and explode in an underground tunnel or bunker, or, alternately, to burrow into sand before exploding — reducing the blast wave, shrapnel and risk to people and property nearby.

(NATO could also choose inert bombs, made of concrete, that can collapse buildings or shatter tanks with kinetic energy rather than an explosion. NATO said such weapons were used fewer than 10 times in the war.)

Many early strikes were planned missions. But about two-thirds of all strikes, and most of the attacks late in the war, were another sort: dynamic strikes.

Dynamic strikes were against targets of opportunity. Crews on aerial patrols would spot or be told of a potential target, like suspected military vehicles. Then, if cleared by controllers in [Awacs](#) aircraft, they would attack.

NATO said dynamic missions, too, were guided by practices meant to limit risks. On Oct. 24, Lt. Gen. Charles Bouchard of Canada, the operation's commander, described a philosophy beyond careful target vetting or using only guided weapons: restraint. "Only when we had a clear shot would we take it," he said.

Colonel Julian, the spokesman, said there were hundreds of instances when pilots could have released ordnance but because of concerns for civilians they held fire. Col. Alain Pelletier, commander of seven Canadian CF-18 fighters that flew 946 strike sorties, said Canada installed a special computer software modification in its planes that allowed pilots to assess the likely blast radius around an intended target and to call off strikes if the technology warned they posed too great a risk to civilians.

Colonel Julian also said that NATO broadcast radio messages and that it dropped millions of leaflets to warn Libyans to stay away from likely military targets, a practice Libyan citizens across much of the country confirmed.

A Blow to the Rebels

Civilians were killed by NATO within days of the alliance's intervention, the available evidence shows, beginning with one of the uglier mistakes of the air war: [the pummeling of a secret rebel armored convoy](#) that was advancing through the desert toward the Qaddafi forces' eastern front lines.

Having survived the first wave of air-to-ground attacks, the loyalists were taking steps to avoid attracting NATO bombs. They moved in smaller formations and sometimes set aside armored vehicles in favor of pickup trucks resembling those that rebels drove. Pilots suddenly had fewer targets.

On April 7, as the rebel armor lined up on a hill about 20 miles from Brega, NATO aircraft struck. In a series of attacks, laser-guided bombs stopped the formation, destroyed the rebels' armor and scattered the anti-Qaddafi fighters, killing several of them, survivors said.

The attack continued as civilians, including ambulance crews, tried to converge on the craters and flames to aid the wounded. Three shepherds were among them.

As the shepherds approached over the sand, a bomb slammed in again, said one of them, Abdul Rahman Ali Suleiman Sudani. The blast knocked them over, he said. His two cousins were hit.

One, he said, was cut in half; the other had a gaping chest wound. Both died. Mr. Sudani and other relatives returned to the wreckage later and retrieved the remains for burial in Kufra. The men had died, he said, trying to help.

“We called their families in Sudan and told them, ‘Your sons, they have passed away,’ ” he said.

Colonel Julian declined to discuss this episode but said that each time NATO aircraft returned to strike again was a distinct event and a distinct decision, and that it was not a general practice for NATO to “double tap” its targets.

This practice was reported several times by survivors at separate attacks and cited to explain why some civilians opted not to help at strike sites or bolted in fear soon after they did.

Colonel Julian said the tactic was likely to be included in NATO’s internal review of the air campaign.

An Errant Strike

NATO’s planning or restraint did not protect the family of Ali Mukhar al-Gharari when his home was shattered in June by a phenomenon as old as air-to-ground war: errant ordnance.

A retiree in Tripoli, Mr. Gharari owned a three-story house he shared with his adult children and their families. Late on June 19 [a bomb struck it](#) squarely, collapsing the front side. The rubble buried a courtyard apartment, the family said, where Karima, Mr. Gharari’s adult daughter, lived with her husband and two children, Jomana, 2, and Khaled, 7 months.

All four were killed, as was another of Mr. Gharari’s adult children, Faruj, who was blasted from his second-floor bed to the rubble below, two of his brothers said. Eight other family members were wounded, one seriously.

The Qaddafi government, given to exaggeration, claimed that nine civilians died in the airstrike, including a rescue worker electrocuted while clearing rubble. These deaths have not been independently corroborated. There has been no dispute about the Gharari deaths.

Initially, NATO almost acknowledged its mistake. “A military missile site was the intended target,” an alliance statement said soon after. “There may have been a weapons system failure which may have caused a number of civilian casualties.”

Then it backtracked. Kristele Younes, director of field operations for Civic, the victims’ group, examined the site and delivered her findings to NATO. She met a cold response. “They said, ‘We have no confirmed reports of civilian casualties,’ ” Ms. Younes said.

The reason, she said, was that the alliance had created its own definition for “confirmed”: only a death that NATO itself investigated and corroborated could be called confirmed. But because the alliance declined to investigate allegations, its casualty tally by definition could not budge — from zero.

“The position was absurd,” Ms. Younes said. “But they made it very clear: there was no appetite within NATO to look at these incidents.”

The position left the Gharari family disoriented, and in social jeopardy. Another of Mr. Gharari’s sons, Mohammed, said the family supported the revolution. But since NATO’s attack, other Libyans have labeled the family pro-Qaddafi. If NATO attacked the Ghararis’ home, the street logic went, the alliance must have had a reason.

Mohammed al-Gharari said he would accept an apology from NATO. He said he could even accept the mistake. “If this was an error from their control room, I will not say anything harsh, because that was our destiny,” he said.

But he asked that NATO lift the dishonor from the family and set the record straight. “NATO should tell the truth,” he said. “They should tell what happened, so everyone knows our family is innocent.”

A ‘Horrible Mistake’

In the hours before his wife and two of their sons were killed, on Aug. 4, Mustafa Naji al-Morabit thought he had taken adequate precautions.

When Colonel Qaddafi’s officers began meeting at a home next door in Zlitan, he moved his family. That was in July. The adjacent property, Mr. Morabit and his neighbors said, was owned by a loyalist doctor who hosted commanders who organized the local front.

About a month later, as rebels pressed near, the officers fled, Mr. Morabit said. He and his family returned home on Aug. 2, assuming that the danger had passed.

Calamity struck two days later. [A bomb roared down in the early morning quiet and slammed into their concrete home](#), causing its front to buckle.

Mr. Morabit's wife, Eptisam Ali al-Barbar, died of a crushed skull. Two of their three sons — Mohammed, 6, and Moataz, 3 — were killed, too. Three toes on the left foot of Fatima Umar Mansour, Mr. Morabit's mother, were severed. Her lower left leg was snapped.

"We were just in our homes at night," she said, showing the swollen leg.

The destruction of their home showed that even with careful standards for target selection, mistakes occurred. Not only did NATO hit the wrong building, survivors and neighbors said, but it also hit it more than two days late.

Mr. Morabit added a sorrowful detail. He suspected that the bomb was made of concrete; there seemed to be no fire or explosion when it struck, he said. NATO may have tried to minimize damage, he added, but the would-be benefits of its caution were lost. "I want to know why," he said. "NATO said they are so organized, that they are specialists. So why? Why this horrible mistake?"

It is not clear whether the mistake was made by the pilot or those who selected the target. NATO declined to answer questions about the strike.

On Aug. 8, four days after destroying the Morabit home, NATO hit buildings occupied by civilians again, this time in Majer, according to survivors, doctors and independent investigators. [The strikes](#) were NATO's bloodiest known accidents in the war.

The attack began with a series of 500-pound laser-guided bombs, called GBU-12s, ordnance remnants suggest. The first house, owned by Ali Hamid Gafez, 61, was crowded with Mr. Gafez's relatives, who had been dislocated by the war, he and his neighbors said.

The bomb destroyed the second floor and much of the first. Five women and seven children were killed; several more people were wounded, including Mr. Gafez's wife, whose her lower left leg had to be amputated, the doctor who performed the procedure said.

Minutes later, NATO aircraft attacked two buildings in a second compound, owned by brothers in the Jarud family. Four people were killed, the family said.

Several minutes after the first strikes, as neighbors rushed to dig for victims, another bomb struck. The blast killed 18 civilians, both families said.

The death toll has been a source of confusion. The Qaddafi government said 85 civilians died. That claim does not seem to be credible. With the Qaddafi propaganda machine now gone, an official list of dead, issued by the new government, includes 35 victims, among them the late-term fetus of a fatally wounded woman the Gafez family said went into labor as she died.

The Zlitan hospital confirmed 34 deaths. Five doctors there also told of treating dozens of wounded people, including many women and children.

All 16 beds in the intensive-care unit were filled with severely wounded civilians, doctors said. Dr. Ahmad Thoboot, the hospital's co-director, said none of the victims, alive or dead, were in uniform. "There is no doubt," he said. "This is not fabricated. Civilians were killed."

Descriptions of the wounds underscored the difference between mistakes with typical ground-to-ground arms and the unforgiving nature of mistakes with 500-pound bombs, which create blast waves of an entirely different order.

Dr. Mustafa Ekhal, a surgeon, said the wounds caused by NATO's bombs were far worse than those the staff had treated for months. "We have to tell the truth," he said. "What we saw that night was completely different."

In previous statements, NATO said it watched the homes carefully before attacking and saw "military staging areas." It also said that it reviewed the strikes and that claims of civilian casualties were not corroborated by "available factual information." When asked what this information was, the alliance did not provide it.

Mr. Gafez issued a challenge. An independent review of all prestrike surveillance video, he said, would prove NATO wrong. Only civilians were there, he said, and he demanded that the alliance release the video.

Ms. Younes said the dispute missed an essential point. Under NATO's targeting guidelines and in keeping with practices the alliance has repeatedly insisted that it followed, she said, if civilians were present, aircraft should not have attacked.

The initial findings on the Majer strikes, part of the United Nations' investigation into actions by all sides in Libya that harmed civilians, have raised questions about the legality of the attack under international humanitarian law, according to an official familiar with the investigation.

Homes as Targets

NATO's strikes in Majer, one of five known attacks on apparently occupied residences, suggested a pattern. When residential targets were presumed to be used by loyalist forces, civilians were sometimes present — suggesting holes in NATO's "pattern of life" reviews and other forms of vetting.

[Airstrikes on June 20 in Surman leveled homes](#) owned by Maj. Gen. El-Khweldi el-Hamedi, a longtime confidant of Colonel Qaddafi and a member of his Revolutionary Council. NATO has said the family compound was used as command center.

The family's account, partly confirmed by rebels, claimed that the strikes killed 13 civilians and wounded six more. Local anti-Qaddafi fighters corroborated the deaths of four of those killed — one of the general's daughters-in-law and three of her children.

General Hamedi was wounded and has taken refuge in Morocco, said his son Khaled. Khaled has filed a lawsuit against NATO, claiming that the attack was a crime. He said that he and his family were victims of rebel "fabrications," which attracted NATO bombs.

On Sept. 25, a smaller but [similar attack destroyed the residence of Brig. Gen. Musbah Diyab in Surt](#), neighbors and his family members said.

General Diyab, a distant cousin of Colonel Qaddafi, was killed. So were seven women and children who crowded into his home as rebels besieged the defenses of some of the Qaddafi loyalists' last holdouts, witnesses said.

By this time, tables in Libya had turned. The remaining loyalists held almost no territory. They were a dwindling, disorganized lot. It was the anti-Qaddafi forces who endangered civilians they suspected of having sympathies for the dying government, residents of Surt said.

On a recent afternoon, Mahmoud Zarog Massoud, his hand swollen with an infection from a wound, wandered the broken shell of [a seven-story apartment building in Surt, which was struck in mid-September](#). His apartment furniture had been blown about by the blast.

He approached the kitchen, where, he said, he and his wife had just broken their Ramadan fast when ordnance hit. "We were not thinking NATO would attack our home," he said.

Judging by the damage and munitions' remains, a bomb with a delayed fuze struck another wing of the building, burrowed into another apartment and exploded, blasting walls outward. Debris flew across the courtyard and through his kitchen's balcony door.

His wife, Aisha Abdjodil, was killed, both her arms severed, he said. Bloodstains still marked the floor and walls.

Provided written questions, NATO declined to comment on the three strikes on homes in Surman and Surt.

C. J. Chivers reported from Libya, and Eric Schmitt from Washington, Brussels and Naples, Italy.

6. Nato bombs Libyan TV transmitters

Alliance attempts to silence Gaddafi's 'incitement to violence' against opponents as rebel unity is tested by Younis killing



A Libyan rebel at a checkpoint near the town of Nalut in western Libya. Overnight Nato bombing raids against the Gaddafi regime's TV transmitters have come as the rebels' unity is tested by the killing of Abdel Fatah Younis. Photograph: Bob Strong/Reuters

Nato warplanes have bombed Libyan state TV satellite transmitters in Tripoli in an attempt to stem the incitement of violence against those not loyal to Muammar Gaddafi, the military alliance has said.

A series of loud explosions echoed across the capital before dawn. There was no immediate comment from Libyan officials on what had been hit but state TV was still on the air in Tripoli on Saturday morning.

Nato said the airstrikes aimed to degrade Libyan ruler Gaddafi's "use of satellite television as a means to intimidate the Libyan people and incite acts of violence against them".

"Striking specifically these critical satellite dishes will reduce the regime's ability to oppress civilians while [preserving] television broadcast infrastructure that will be needed after the conflict," said a Nato statement.

The attempt to silence the government's TV broadcasts comes at a sensitive time for the rebels, who [appear to be in disarray after the mysterious death of their military chief](#). Abdel Fatah Younis's body was found on Thursday dumped outside the rebels' de facto capital of Benghazi, along with the bodies of two colonels who were his top aides. They had been shot and their bodies burned.

Nato too has been increasingly embarrassed by the failure of its bombing campaign, now in its fifth month, to dislodge Gaddafi's regime. With the fasting month of Ramadan due to start in August there is growing realisation that the costly campaign will drag on into the autumn and possibly longer.

Nato had originally hoped that a series of quick, sharp strikes would force Gaddafi out.

Eight Nato members have been participating in air campaign in [Libya](#): the US, Britain, France, Belgium, Canada, Norway, Denmark and Italy. They have carried out more than 6,500 strikes.

But the coalition has been gradually fraying amid growing public opposition in Europe to the costs of the campaign – estimated at more than €1bn – at a time of budget cuts and other austerity measures.

The US has been the first to limit its participation, deciding to only provide support to the European allies. Then Italy withdrew its only aircraft carrier and part of its air force contingent. Norway has announced it will pull out all of its F-16 warplanes by Monday.

Estimate of Libyan Armed Forces:

From Globe and Mail

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/libyas-military-how-strong-are-gadhafis-forces/article1931552/>

FACT CHECK

7. Libya's military: how strong are Gadhafi's forces?



Libya's military before the insurrection was on paper made up of some 100,000 troops, more than 2,000 tanks, 374 aircraft, a small surface navy and two patrol submarines.

Since the rebellion there have been defections by members of the armed forces and some military hardware has fallen into rebel hands.

The level of rebel strength is difficult to ascertain, but the best equipped and trained units have remained loyal to leader Moammar Gadhafi because they are outside the regular army structure and are commanded by family members or people in his inner circle.

Here are some details of Libya's armed forces, officially totalling about 76,000 active personnel, plus a reserve or people's militia of some 40,000.

GROUND FORCES - ON PAPER

Type:	Numbers:
Soldiers	50,000 (including 25,000 conscripts)
Main battle tanks	2,205 (many may be inoperable)
Reconnaissance vehicles	120
Armoured infantry fighting vehicles	1,000
Armoured personnel carriers	945
Artillery pieces	2,421 (including 444 self-propelled, 647 towed)
Mortars	500
Air defence surface-to-air missiles	424 (at least)

GROUND FORCES - IN REALITY

Even before the uprising, Libya's military strength was seen as having been seriously undermined by sanctions and neglect although Western powers had just began to sell it weapons again. Much of the equipment is seen as poorly maintained or unusable, leaving it hard to estimate genuine numbers.

Analysts say Mr. Gadhafi tried to emasculate the regular army to avoid the emergence of commanders who might rival his immediate family, relying instead particularly on three loyal "regime protection" units often of his own tribe. Many soldiers in the east have defected.

That leaves him with what most estimate to be some 10-12,000 loyal Libyan troops. The most reliable formation is seen to be the 32nd Brigade commanded by Mr. Gadhafi's son Khamis.

There are reports of African mercenaries flown in by Mr. Gadhafi, but exact numbers are impossible to obtain.

NAVY - ON PAPER

Type:	Numbers:
Soldiers	8,000 (including coast guard)
Submarines	2 patrol submarines
Surface vehicles	3
Patrol and coastal ships	14

NAVY - IN REALITY

Libya's two surviving Foxtrot class diesel submarines were delivered by the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, but outside experts have long questioned their reliability. According to IHS Jane's, in 2003 one was reported to be in dry dock and one was sea going -- although unlikely to be fully operational. It suggested both might already have been abandoned.

AIR FORCE - ON PAPER

Type:	Numbers:
Soldiers	18,000
Combat capable aircraft	374
Fighter aircraft	217 (3 Mirage F1-ED, 94 MiG-25, 75 MiG-23 and 45 MiG-21)
Helicopters	85 support helicopters 35 attack helicopters

AIR FORCE - IN REALITY

Analysts estimate many of Libya's fast jets are in fact no longer airworthy. Mr. Gadhafi has so far also lost at least four aircraft in the course of this uprising with two jets defecting to Malta and the crew of a third ejecting over the desert rather than bomb opposition targets as ordered. There have been reports that rebels brought down a helicopter.

OTHER FORCES

- There are also Air Defence Command forces which possess at least 216 surface-to-air missiles and 144 towed and 72 self propelled missiles.
- Again, maintenance may be an issue. Most analysts believe Libya's armed forces would not be able to seriously threaten outside air forces attempting to enforce a no-fly zone, saying Mr. Gadhafi's defence capabilities probably lag behind those of Iraq's Saddam Hussein before the U.S.-led 2003 invasion.
- The BBC reported a British RAF Hercules transport aircraft evacuating foreign nationals came under small arms fire but was not seriously damaged. Some suggested the attack might have come from opposition forces who mistook the plane for one of Mr. Gadhafi's aircraft on a bombing raid.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

- According to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Libya destroyed its entire stockpile of chemical weapons munitions in early 2004 as part of a rapprochement with the West that also saw it abandon a nuclear program.
- The OPCW told Reuters Libya did retain some 9.5 tonnes of deadly mustard gas at a secret
- desert location but no longer had the capability to deliver it.

END OF GLOBE AND MAIL ARTICLE:

(Not from article from **Alexander Hagen**: We need to verify any WMD claims for these types of invasion)

Conclusion: 7,000 missiles and bombs vs 35,000 (Libyan army size estimate by me, Bombs reported from NY Times, who cited NATO.

This would equal 1 bomb per 5 Libyan Soldiers!

US covertly allowed Islamic Extremists to overthrow Gadaffi since they were the driving force, along with many of the Eastern tribes, the Berber...

8. Treasure of Benghazi theft may be one of biggest in history

Nick Meo

November 1, 2011

The thieves ... drilled through a concrete ceiling and smashed open metal storage cupboards. Photo: Bobby Yip

TRIPOLI: A priceless collection of nearly 8000 ancient gold, silver and bronze coins has been stolen from a bank vault in the Libyan city of Benghazi.

The theft of the so-called Treasure of Benghazi, much of which dates from the time of Alexander the Great, is believed to have been one of the biggest in history.

Interpol has been alerted about the theft, which took place earlier this year. Libya's National Transitional Council is believed to have kept it quiet.

London's *The Sun* newspaper reported that a single coin similar to those in the Benghazi haul was sold for £268,000 (\$406,808).

Details of the robbery emerged at a conference held by the United Nations cultural body UNESCO in Paris last week.

Metal storage cupboards at the National Commercial Bank of Benghazi were smashed open and the red wax seals on the wooden trunks housing the collection were broken after the thieves drilled through a concrete ceiling. Items of lesser value were left untouched.

Meanwhile Libya's interim Prime Minister, Mahmoud Jibril, has confirmed the presence of chemical weapons in Libya and says foreign inspectors will arrive later this week to deal with the issue. He said Libya had no interest in keeping such weapons.

"We would like to assure you that the new Libya will be a peaceful Libya ... it is in our interest to have no [chemical] weapons in Libya," Mr Jibril said.

Last week the top UN envoy to Libya, Ian Martin, told the UN Security Council that undeclared chemical weapons sites had been located in Libya and expressed concern over their control. At the time, Mr Martin also expressed concern over command and control of chemical and nuclear material sites.

"There are international organisations taking care of this issue," Mr Jibril said, adding that representatives of those organisations were due to arrive in Libya later in the week.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/world/treasure-of-benghazi-theft-may-be-one-of-biggest-in-history-20111031-1ms6f.html#ixzz1wsslpBpQ>

1. [Libya: Al Qaeda flag flown above Benghazi courthouse - Telegraph](#)

[www.telegraph.co.uk](#) > ... > [Africa and Indian Ocean](#) > [Libya News](#)

Nov 1, 2011 – The black flag of **Al Qaeda** has been spotted flying over a public building in **Libya**, raising concerns that the country could lurch towards Muslim ...

2. [Al Qaeda Flags Parade in Gadhafi Hometown? - ABC News](#)

[abcnews.go.com](#) > [Investigative Unit](#)

Mar 26, 2012 – A new video purports to show **al Qaeda** flags flown by **Libyan** police and military vehicles in Sirte, **Libya**. (YouTube). Share. Email. Comments ...

9. [Libya speculates on potent figure with a past](#)

IRISHTIMES.com

Friday, May 4, 2012



Abdel Hakim Belhaj, head of the military council and former leader of a

group once believed to be aligned with al-Qaeda, in his office in Tripoli recently. The country's new leaders, and the US, say Libyan Islamists are sending signals that they are dedicated to democratic pluralism. Photograph: Moises Saman/New York Times

10. [In this section](#) »

- [Offer to Dowlers 'cannot absolve' News International](#)
- [Abuse lobby urges Pope not to meet victims in Germany](#)
- [Georgia sanctions execution of Troy Davis](#)

MARY FITZGERALD, Foreign Affairs Correspondent in Tripoli

1. [Post-Qaddafi Libya Hobbled as Misrata's City-State Thrives...](#)

BusinessWeek - Feb 29, 2012

Doctors Without Borders suspended its operations in **Misrata** on Jan. 26, saying detainees were being **tortured** and denied medical care. ...

3.

Boston Globe - Feb 14, 2012

The humanitarian group **Doctors Without Borders** suspended its work in prisons in **Misrata** in late January because it said **torture** was so rampant that some ...

theguardian

11. Libyan oil minister who defected from Gaddafi regime found dead in Vienna

Shukri Ghanem's body was found floating in Danube, close to his house in the Austrian capital

- ---

 - Associated Press in Vienna
 - [guardian.co.uk](#), Sunday 29 April 2012 19.54 EDT
 - [Article history](#)
-



Shukri Ghanem had been living in Vienna ever since he defected from Gaddafi regime, even after it was toppled and the late dictator killed by rebels last year. Photograph: Gregorio Borgia/AP

The former Libyan oil minister who last year announced he was defecting from [Muammar Gaddafi's](#) regime to support the rebels has been found dead in Vienna.

Police said the corpse of Shukri Ghanem, 69, was found floating in the Danube near his home, which he apparently left early morning on Sunday.

The body was dressed though it carried no identification; it also showed no signs of violence, but an autopsy will be carried out, a police spokesman said: "There would be no signs of violence if someone pushed him in. But it is also possible that he became ill and fell into the water." Police were alerted by a passerby who saw his body floating near his Vienna residence, close to the UN offices in the Austrian capital.

Ghanem left [Libya](#) for Tunisia and then [Europe](#) in June as insurgents were pushing to topple Gaddafi. He subsequently announced he would support the rebels.

With advanced degrees in law and economics, Ghanem served in senior positions at the Vienna-based Opec before his appointment as Libyan prime minister in June 2003, an office he held until 2006 when he took the oil ministry portfolio.

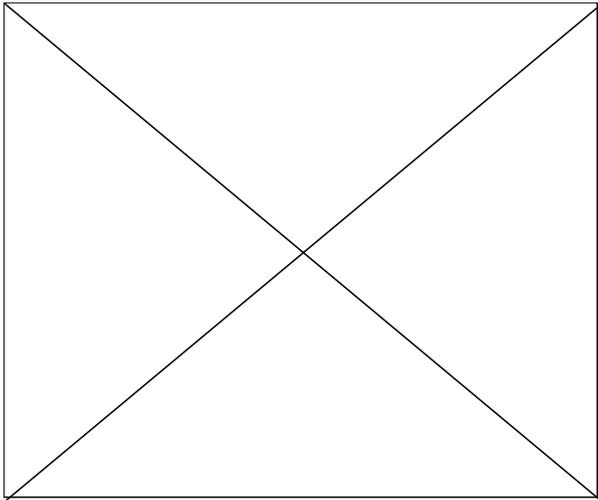
Considered a member of Gaddafi's inner circle until his defection, he insisted that Libya bore no responsibility for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

He also repudiated Libyan responsibility in the 1984 shooting during a protest in front the country's embassy in London, in which British constable Yvonne Fletcher was killed. The incident led to the severing of British-Libyan relations.

Ghanem continued to live in Vienna after Gaddafi was ousted, and later killed in the Nato-backed rebel campaign last year.

The Washington Post

[Back to previous page](#)



12. Libyan rebels target Gaddafi's last strongholds

By [Simon Denver](#) and [Thomas Erdbrink](#), Published: August 25, 2011 | Updated: Friday, August 26, 12:51 AM

TRIPOLI, Libya — Libyan rebels met fierce resistance from Moammar Gaddafi's last remaining stronghold in the capital Thursday and said they suspected they might even be closing in on the former leader or his sons.

But as rebels flocked to the neighborhood to join the assault, Gaddafi, ever defiant, appealed to his supporters in an audio message to march on Tripoli and "purify it" of the rebels, whom he called "rats, crusaders and unbelievers."

His spokesman, Moussa Ibrahim, then called the Associated Press to say Gaddafi was safely in hiding in Libya and remains in command. Moussa said Gaddafi is capable of leading the resistance for "weeks, months and years."

Meanwhile, the rebels' civilian leaders appeared to be making progress in their campaign for the funds they desperately need to rebuild their country after six months of civil war.

In Tripoli, fighting was focused on the poor and traditionally loyalist neighborhood of Abu Salim, and in particular a cluster of apartment buildings not far from Gaddafi's compound at Bab al-Aziziya, which the rebels stormed earlier this week.

"The people who are in Abu Salim are fighting strongly," said 26-year-old commander Ibrahim al-Madani. "We believe that Gaddafi or one of his sons are in Abu Salim."

Reporters on the scene said rebels were using antiaircraft guns to hammer at least 10 buildings sheltering Gaddafi loyalists. There were huge explosions, and the air was clogged with smoke. At least three of the buildings were burning.

"They are holding at least 10 tall buildings. They have heavy weaponry, maybe even a tank," Mohammed Karami, a rebel involved in the battle, told the Associated Press. Mahmoud Bakoush, a rebel commander at the site, said there were unconfirmed reports that one of Gaddafi's sons might be in the buildings.

At one point, six trucks of rebels from the coastal city of Misurata arrived to take out the snipers in the apartment complex, but journalists on the scene said they instead got preoccupied with removing a gigantic poster of Gaddafi in a general's uniform hanging on the side of a building nearby.

"We are here to deal with the snipers," said their commander, Nouri Sherkisi. But instead, his men started filling gasoline bombs to throw at the poster. Just as they were getting ready to burn it, gunfire crackled from all directions, and the rebels fled in their vehicles.

Outside Bab al-Aziziya, about a dozen bullet-riddled bodies lay face down in the grass, some with their hands tied behind their backs. It was not immediately clear who they were, but a number of Gaddafi sympathizers had camped out in a tent city on the grass for months. According to an earlier Reuters report, more than 30 men believed to be fighters loyal to Gaddafi were found shot to death Thursday at a military encampment in a central Tripoli traffic circle in an area that had been held by loyalists.

According to the AP, five or six bodies were in a tent erected on the traffic roundabout. One of dead still had an IV tube in his arm, and another body was completely charred, its legs missing. The body of a doctor, in his green hospital gown, was found dumped in a canal.

As the fighters tried to purge the capital of the last remnants of Gaddafi forces, there was still considerable chaos in the city.

A firefight erupted outside the Corinthia Hotel where many foreign reporters are staying. As bullets struck the hotel, rebels claimed it was a case of confused "friendly fire" between two groups of fighters communicating poorly.

Madani, the rebel commander, said rebel fighters now have full control of the airport but that Gaddafi loyalists were still shelling it with Grad rockets from outside. He said one civilian plane was destroyed this week.

Elsewhere in the country, rebels are trying to advance on the coastal city of Sirte, Gaddafi's home town and tribal power center, which lies roughly halfway between Tripoli and Benghazi, the de facto rebel capital.

One group of rebels, backed by NATO warplanes, has advanced eastward along the coast from Misurata, while another group, attacking from Benghazi, said their advance has been stalled at the oil refinery at Ras Lanuf, around 130 miles east of Sirte.

Talks with tribal leaders in the city to negotiate a surrender have been continuing for at least two days without progress.

"We hope for a compromise," said Col. Ahmed Bani, a spokesman for the rebel army. "We don't want to fight them. We don't want anybody else to die."

In Tripoli, supplies of food, water and medicines are running low, civilians are largely staying indoors for [fear of sniper attack](#), and the rebels are keen to prove to Tripoli's residents they are capable of running the city.

"There are still many snipers in eastern Tripoli," said one rebel fighter. "We'll finish them off, but it'll take time."

Victims of the snipers filled Tripoli hospitals. "There are around 60 here," said Tahr Kateb as he searched for the body of a nephew in a makeshift morgue at Tripoli's al-Zawiyah hospital. "And they are still bringing in bodies, because of the snipers."

At another hospital, Ali Modir said his mother was shot by a sniper when she left the safety of her house. "She wanted to go shopping," Modir said, weeping.

Rebels also reported fighting around the city of Sabha, another Gaddafi stronghold south of Tripoli with a strong presence of loyalist troops — and another possible place of refuge for the Libyan leader himself.

The [hunt for Gaddafi](#) is one of the priorities for many Libyans, and NATO is providing intelligence and reconnaissance help, while continuing to bombard loyalist troops from the sky, British Defense Secretary Liam Fox said.

"There was increased NATO activity last night including British fast jets, because there are areas of resistance by the regime which has had considerable levels of military expertise, still has stockpiles of weapons and still has the ability for command and control," Fox told Sky News.

"They may take some time to completely eliminate, and it is likely there will be some frustrating days ahead before the Libyan people are completely free of the Gaddafi legacy."

Many people in Tripoli say they will not feel secure until the man who has ruled them through fear for 42 years is killed or captured. The possibility of guerrilla warfare from remnants of the regime still hangs over Libya's future, and it is something Gaddafi has already considered, according to Abdel Salam Jalloud, a close ally who switched sides last week.

"He is sick with power," said Jalloud, according to Reuters news agency. "He believes he can gather his supporters and carry out attacks. . . . He is delusional. He thinks he can return to power."

In his audio message Thursday, Gaddafi himself continued to use fear as one of his main weapons, warning supporters that rebels would enter people's homes and rape their women. "Don't leave Tripoli for the rats. Fight them, fight them, and kill them," he said. "It is the time for martyrdom or victory." It was not clear when the audio message was recorded.

The country's former central bank chief said Gaddafi had been trying to sell the country's gold reserves to pay for his protection as he fled, possibly in the direction of the Algerian border.

"Now he is looking to pay and corrupt some tribes and some militia to have protection and to create further chaos," Farhat Bengdara, who has allied himself with the rebels, told the Italian daily, Corriere della Sera.

Those reserves would also be immensely useful for the rebels, who remain desperate for money to rebuild their country and warned that failure to get hold of Libya's frozen assets quickly would undermine stability.

They made progress on Thursday, with Italy agreeing to start unfreezing some \$500 million in Libyan funds held in Italian banks, and South Africa appearing to drop its resistance to the unfreezing of about \$1.5 billion in Libyan assets.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said he had called South African President Jacob Zuma on Thursday morning and that the two leaders "agreed that Libya now has the opportunity for transition to a peaceful, democratic and inclusive government." Cameron said he and Zuma "discussed how the international community should actively and urgently support this process."

Zuma agreed to the unfreezing of \$500 million for humanitarian reasons and said it would consult its African Union partners about unfreezing the rest, Downing Street said.

The United States asked the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday to unfreeze the Libyan assets as soon as possible, and diplomats said a vote could come on Thursday or Friday.

A delegation from the Transitional National Council arrived in Tripoli on Thursday to begin setting up offices and assessing security for the rebel council's move to the capital. The council plans to announce an interim Libyan government in Tripoli in two weeks, said Ahmed Jibril, spokesman for the council's foreign ministry.

Council officials said elections for a general assembly to write a new constitution would be held within eight months and national elections within 20 months of the declaration of the interim government, which would be led by the council's current leader, Mustafa Abdel Jalil.

A day after the freeing of foreign journalists held hostage at the Rixos hotel in Tripoli, there was more good news Thursday for the large and growing press corps covering the conflict in Libya.

[Four Italian journalists kidnapped](#) by regime sympathizers on Wednesday were freed after a raid on the house in Tripoli where they were being held, Corriere della Sera reported.

Freelance Maryland journalist [Matthew VanDyke was also freed](#) this week after months of solitary confinement in Tripoli's infamous Abu Salim prison. He had disappeared shortly after arriving in eastern Libya in March, and his fate had been unknown until he was released Wednesday.

Correspondents Leila Fadel in Benghazi and Karla Adam in London contributed to this report.

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<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/01/25/libya-un-rights-idINDEE8000520120125>

13. Detainees held by Libya rebels still tortured-UN



UNITED NATIONS | Thu Jan 26, 2012 3:08am IST

(Reuters) - Detainees from Libya's civil war held by revolutionary brigades continue to be subjected to torture despite efforts by the provisional government to address the issue, the U.N. human rights chief said on Wednesday.

Navi Pillay told the U.N. Security Council she was extremely concerned about thousands of prisoners, most of them accused of being loyalists of the toppled government of Muammar Gaddafi and many from sub-Saharan Africa.

"The lack of oversight by the central authorities creates an environment conducive to torture and ill-treatment," Pillay said. "My staff have received alarming reports that this is happening in places of detention that they have visited."

She said it was urgent that all Libya's detention centers be brought under control of the Ministry of Justice and General Prosecutor's Office and that detainees be screened so that they could be freed or receive a fair trial.

The government that replaced Gaddafi's administration has been struggling to take control of the detainees held by the revolutionary brigades who did the fighting, but has been hampered by lack of prison staff, U.N. officials say.

Ian Martin, the U.N. special envoy for Libya, told Wednesday's council meeting that the Justice Ministry had so far taken over six prisons from the revolutionary brigades.

Neither Pillay nor Martin gave any figures for the number of people held by the brigades. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a report last November that it was around 7,000.

Libyan Ambassador Abdurrahman Mohamed Shalgham told the council there were more than 8,000 prisoners in Tripoli alone but did not make clear if that included people held by the authorities. He said his government condemned the use of unauthorized detention centers.

"We have spoken to our brothers and we have said, 'Any individual who has not committed a crime, or who has not participated in massacres will have their passports,'" he said.

On allegations that NATO caused civilian casualties during a bombing campaign that helped the rebels overthrow Gaddafi last year, Pillay called on the alliance and other parties to cooperate with a Libya commission of inquiry set up by the U.N. Human Rights Council.

"Information so far indicates that NATO made efforts to keep civilian casualties at a minimum, but where civilians have been killed and injured, the alliance should disclose information about all such events and about remedial actions undertaken," she said.

Shalgham said Libya was aware of four incidents, but questioned whether NATO was at fault in any of them.

"Without NATO, hundreds of thousands of people would have died in Benghazi," the birthplace of the uprising, he said.

(Reporting By Patrick Worsnip; Editing by Xavier Briand)

07/26/2011

11. Settling Old Scores Tribal Rivalries Complicate Libyan War

By Mathieu von Rohr in Qawalish, Libya

The rebels in western Libya have captured the Nafusa Mountains and are only 80 kilometers from Tripoli, but have been unable to advance further. Meanwhile long-simmering tribal hostilities are complicating the situation, as rival groups clash and old resentments flare up. The inter-tribal conflict adds to a growing sense that the uprising against Gadhafi is turning into a civil war.



The decisive front in the war against Moammar Gadhafi runs through the dusty village of Qawalish, which consists of a mosque, a few dozen houses and a hill, behind which rebel fighters are entrenched.

At first glance, it is hard to understand why more than 15 rebels have been killed in this godforsaken place, and why Qawalish has changed hands three times in only two weeks.

Musbah Milad, a rebel fighter from the city of Zintan in northwestern Libya, is standing on the roof of a two-story building in the midday heat. He gazes out at the flat landscape and points to a row of trees at the other end of a vast plain. "There you can see him," he says. "Fucking Gadhafi." Through his binoculars, Milad can make out two trucks hidden in the shade of trees, about 6 kilometers (4 miles) away. Sometimes Gadhafi's forces fire a poorly targeted missile, prompting the rebels to return fire.

The fate of the Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi is being decided in these days and weeks in tiny villages in the Nafusa Mountains of western Libya. The region was almost unknown to the world before the Libyan revolution began in February.

Loosely Organized State

Since the outbreak of the war, the rebel offensive has made more significant advances in these hilly highlands than anywhere else in Libya. In the eastern part of the country, the rebels are still entrenched near Brega, a city they captured for the first time in February, only to lose it to Gadhafi's forces soon afterwards. Brega is more than 600 kilometers from the capital Tripoli.

In the west, on the other hand, the rebels have captured almost the entire mountain chain, where they have established a loosely organized state, complete with its own newspapers, a radio station and a makeshift airfield. The territory they control extends 200 kilometers eastward from the Tunisian border. And at the northern end of the Nafusa Mountains, the rebel fighters are now only 80 kilometers from the capital.

But the most important front lies in Qawalish. If the rebels manage to advance into the next town, which is 30 kilometers away, they will have cut off Gadhafi's key supply route, the road from Sabha to Tripoli.

However, the rebels have not made any progress in weeks. After taking Qawalish in early July, they were so heady with victory that they left the front and returned to their villages, leaving only a few 16-year-olds with Kalashnikovs in the village. Their mission was to hold the town, but the small rebel contingent didn't stand a chance when Gadhafi's troops attacked on Wednesday of the week before last.

In the ensuing six-hour battle, the rebels mobilized all of their forces to return to the front that they had so foolishly exposed. Troops rushed back to Qawalish from Zintan, Jadu and Kikla. By the end of a bloody day, they had regained control over the village, despite heavy rocket fire. Eight men died. It was a strange battle, and it showed how little Gadhafi's opponents in western Libya understand about waging battles. The rebel force there consists of a motorized horde that rushes to the front when it is needed and then quickly disperses.

Since then, the rebels have done nothing to advance farther to the east.

Limits of Their Strength

When Ramadan begins in a week, the fighters will not be allowed to eat or drink anything during the day, at temperatures of 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) in the shade. Some say that they are holding back because Gadhafi's forces have left thousands of mines in the vast
Page **35** of **154**

steppe, while others say that the rebels are trying to spare the pro-Gadhafi civilians in the next town.

There are also signs that the rebels in the west are gradually reaching the limits of their strength. Even their military leaders in Zintan admit that there are no plans to advance from the mountains in the coastal plain and hazard a march on Tripoli. Instead, they are waiting for a revolt in the capital. And on Sunday, they had to rebut another hard-fought attempt by Gadhafi's troops to take back the town.

The truth is that the uprising against Gadhafi is looking more and more like a civil war every day. At first, it seemed as if Libyans had all come together to revolt against the man who had controlled the country for the last 42 years. Much like the uprisings in neighboring Tunisia and Egypt, the Libyan revolt began in mid-February with peaceful protests, but this dictator refused to allow himself to be toppled and responded by waging a cruel war on the civilian population instead. This response was the reason behind the NATO mission.

But reality is more complicated than that, as evidenced in the Nafusa Mountains. The situation in Libya is made more difficult by the fact that it is a tribal society, not a nation state like its neighbors.

Most Libyans may be strongly opposed to Gadhafi, and yet there are still important tribes that largely support him, including the Warfalla, the Tarhuna and Gadhafi's own tribe, the Gadhadhfa. And despite the rebels' official claims to the contrary, this conflict is also a war among tribes.

(Alexander Hagen note in italic: The 3 tribes mentioned there are 1,800,000 people that is 1/3 of native Libyans, and it is only an example list) how can you say majority under these circumstances?)

Warmhearted

The rebels were so successful in the mountains because most of the tribes there are hostile to Gadhafi. The Berbers in the western part of the mountains, the country's original inhabitants, have liberated their traditional areas in recent months. Under Gadhafi, they were prohibited from speaking their own language. Most of the rebels in the eastern part of the mountains are Arabs, members of the Zintan tribe and its allies.

Zintan is their key city, the center of the rebellion in the west. Most of the rebel fighters are from Zintan, as are most of the dead. It is a small city with a population of about 25,000, a maze of narrow streets where canisters of gasoline smuggled

from Tunisia are sold, but where bread is hard to find these days. There are no women to be seen, but there are bearded men who show off their weapons and drive makeshift combat vehicles. The people of the town are as warmhearted as they are rough around the edges. They give food to outsiders, even though it is in short supply, and no one would think of demanding payment for accommodations.

The military council, the nominal leadership of the rebel army in the west, has its headquarters in Zintan. Last week, Omar Hariri, the military coordinator of the Transitional National Council, came to visit Zintan to talk about strategy. But many rebels from the town refuse to take direct orders from such officials. Instead, their allegiance lies with their local command center.

It is Gadhafi's army that has committed the heinous war crimes in this conflict. Nevertheless, a trip along the road that extends for 50 kilometers from Zintan to the front in Qawalish reveals that the rebels' behavior is not always exemplary.

Looting and Arson

Several towns along the route are now completely depopulated. One is Awaniya, a town of 15,000 people until the rebels captured it. The shops lining the highway in Awaniya were looted and are now littered with garbage. In some stores, even the shelves are missing. In the town itself, houses stand empty and ransacked, and some have been burned down. Other towns look similar. New houses are still burning days after the rebels took over, and trucks are removing anything that was overlooked during the initial looting: sacks of wheat as well as food and sheep.

A piece of graffiti on the wall of an empty supermarket in Awaniya berates the "Mashashiya traitors." The Mashashiya are the tribe that lived in Awaniya and two other nearby towns. Most of its members supported Gadhafi, as did the inhabitants of most of the remaining depopulated towns along the road from Zintan to the front, including Qawalish.

In a report, Human Rights Watch has sharply criticized the rebels for engaging in looting and arson. In an interview, a spokesman for the western Libyan military council admits that there have been isolated incidents of this nature, but he also insists that the rebels only set those houses on fire in which Gadhafi's troops had been holed up.

The rebels respond aggressively to anyone who tries to investigate. A SPIEGEL team was taken into custody in

Awaniya, escorted to the Zintan command post and interrogated.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/8754375/Gaddafis-ghost-town-after-the-loyalists-retreat.html>

14. Gaddafi's ghost town after the loyalists retreat

12. Andrew Gilligan visits the scene of what appears to be the first major reprisal against supporters of Gaddafi's regime.



Image 1 of 3

Tawargha, a once bustling town which supported Gadhafi, is now deserted Photo: HEATHCLIFF O'MALLEY



By [Andrew Gilligan](#), Tawargha

7:00AM BST 11 Sep 2011

Until last month, the town of Tawargha was home to 10,000 civilians.

But as dusk fell over it last week, the apartment blocks stretched, black and dead, into the distance, and the only things moving were sheep.

This pro-Gaddafi settlement has been emptied of its people, vandalised and partly burned by rebel forces. *The Sunday Telegraph* was the first to visit the scene of what appears to be the first major reprisal against supporters of the former regime.

"We gave them thirty days to leave," said Abdul el-Mutalib Fatateth, the officer in charge of the rebel garrison in Tawarga, as his soldiers played table-football outside one of the empty apartment blocks. "We said if they didn't go, they would be conquered and imprisoned. Every single one of them has left, and we will never allow them to come back."

The people of Tawarga and their neighbours in Misurata, 20 miles down the road, were on opposite sides in [Libya's](#) revolution. As the besieged Misuratans bravely fought to save their town from the Gaddafi forces encircling it, some of the artillery fire raining down on them came from Tawarga.

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"We urged them not to fight us, because they are our brothers, but they insisted on fighting," said Mr Fatateth. But he also appeared to concede that the civilians of the town had been caught in the middle, saying: "Gaddafi used to take the Tawarga people and use them as human shields when his troops approached Misurata."

Rebels say that civilian volunteers from Tawarga were with Gaddafi troops when they ransacked dozens of houses in Misurata in March. There are also claims, impossible to verify, of rape and other abuses by Tawargans. Mr Fatateth said that one young captured rebel had been tied up and used as a doormat in the town.

Whatever the truth, there appears little room for reconciliation in this corner of the new Libya. For the first time in the country's revolution, we saw large numbers of houses, and virtually every shop, systematically vandalised, looted or set on fire.

The inhabitants fled so fast that many had not time to take with them the photos of their own children. They, and other small personal treasures – a Barbie doll, a Calvin Klein T-shirt – still lay on the floors. Some valuables, such as televisions and stereos, had been stolen. But rather more often, they had just been smashed.

Even the local hospital had been vandalised. The beds were dragged out of the wards and ripped. Glass in the windows and doors was broken. Medicines, forms and computer printouts were scattered along the corridors, and the doctors and nurses had vanished with everyone else. Outside, you had to watch your step: anti-personnel mines lay on the pavement.

The clue to it all lay in the green Gaddafi flags still flying from many of the houses. There is no disputing that this was a centre of support for the regime. But that support appears to have been at different levels.

Some of the houses had apparently been used for fighting, with bullet holes in the walls. The majority of looted or vandalised properties, however, had not.

Mr Fatateh said that some had been taken over by pro-Gaddafi militias after the civilians had fled, and a two-day battle had ensued with rebel forces on the 10th and 11th of August.

And as so often in Libya, there is also a racist undercurrent. Many Tawargas, though neither immigrants nor Gaddafi's much-ballyhooped African mercenaries, are descended from slaves, and are darker than most Libyans.

Along the road that leads into Tawargha, the Misurata Brigade has painted a slogan. It is, it says, "the brigade for purging slaves [and] black skin."

"We have met Tawargas in detention, taken from their homes simply for being Tawargas," said Diana Eltahawy, a researcher for Amnesty International who is currently in Libya. "They have told us that they have been forced to kneel and beaten with sticks."

Even fleeing is not, it seems, enough to save you. Tawargas have also been arrested at checkpoints, seized from hospitals and detained on the street. "They are really afraid. They have nowhere to go," said Ms Eltahawy.

On Aug 29, Amnesty says it saw a Tawarga patient at the Tripoli Central Hospital being taken by three men, one of them armed, for "questioning in Misurata". Amnesty was also told that at least two other Tawarga men had vanished after being taken for questioning from Tripoli hospitals.

One 45-year-old flight dispatcher and his uncle were arrested by armed rebels while out shopping in the al-Firnej area of Tripoli on 28 August.

They were taken to the Military Council headquarters at Mitiga Airport just east of the capital. The men told Amnesty they were beaten with the butt of a rifle and received death threats. Both were held for several days in Mitiga and are still detained in Tripoli.

Many Tawargas are now cowering in makeshift camps around Tripoli. But even there, they are not safe. In one camp, a group of armed men drove in and arrested about a dozen Tawargas. Their fate is still unknown. Another woman at the camp said her husband left the camp to run an errand in central Tripoli, about a week ago. She hasn't seen him since.

"If we go back to Tawarga, we will be at the mercy of the Misratah brigade," said one refugee, who declined to be named. "When they entered our town in mid-Ramadan [mid-August] and shelled it, we fled just carrying the clothes on our backs. I don't know what happened to our homes and belongings. Now I am here in this camp, my son is ill

and I am too afraid to go to the hospital in town. I don't know what will happen to us now."

Any rebel abuses pale by comparison with those of the regime. People who saw the charred skeletons of prisoners, machine-gunned and burned by Gaddafi's retreating Khamis Brigade, or who witnessed the indiscriminate bombardment of Misurata, will not quickly forget the scenes.

But old Libyan habits of repression may be starting to reassert themselves.

And it is not the first time that pro-Gaddafi civilians have suffered reprisals. In July, as rebels swept through the Nafusa mountains, the village of Qawalish was subjected to a very similar fate. Many of the people there, pensioners and young children, simply could not have been part of any military action for the regime.

Back in ghostly Tawarga, there is little sympathy for the victims' plight.

Mr Fatateth said: "The military council will decide what will happen to the buildings. But over our dead bodies will the Tawargas return."

Ibrahim al-Halbous, another local rebel commander, put it even more simply.

"Tawarga no longer exists," he said.

15. Russia: arming Libya rebels is "crude violation"

- [Libya rebels prepare for fight over strategic town](#)

Thu, Jun 30 2011

- [Gaddafi's daughter acknowledges talks with Libya rebels](#)

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- [No "mission creep" in Libya, NATO chief vows](#)

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- [NATO not involved in French arms aid to Libya rebels](#)

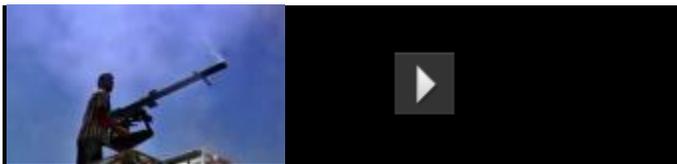
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- [Libya rebel chief says weapon deliveries will shorten war](#)

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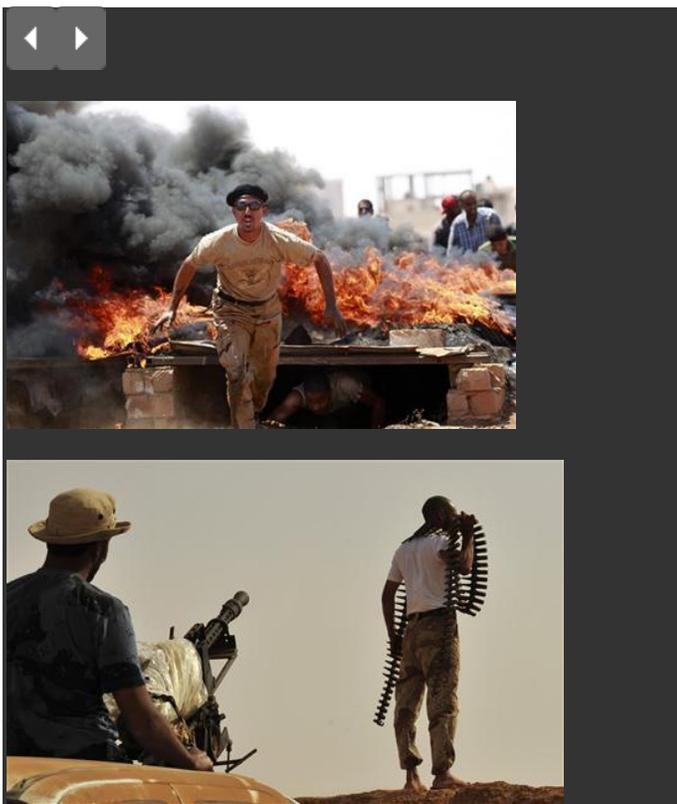
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14. [Rebels on the frontline in Libya](#)

Thu, Jun 30 2011

- [Rebels train near Misrata](#)



By Lutfi Abu-Aun

TRIPOLI | Thu Jun 30, 2011 6:18pm EDT

(Reuters) - Russia accused [France](#) on Thursday of committing a "crude violation" of a U.N. weapons embargo by arming Libyan rebels, while Washington said it was acting legally, creating a new diplomatic dispute over the Western air war.

France confirmed on Wednesday that it had air-dropped arms to rebels in Libya's Western Mountains, becoming the first NATO country to acknowledge openly arming the insurgency against Gaddafi's 41-year rule.

France, Britain and the United States are leading a three-month-old air campaign which they say they will not end until Gaddafi falls. The war has become the bloodiest of the "Arab Spring" uprisings sweeping North Africa and the Middle East.

Rebels acknowledged French support, saying it had helped sustain them in the region.

"There should be no doubt that Libyans in the Nafusa Mountain (Western Mountains) area are alive and safe today thanks to a combination of heroic Libyan bravery and French wisdom and support," Vice Chairman Abdul Hafeedh Ghoga of the Transitional National Council said in a statement of thanks to French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Though rebel advances have been slow, the insurgents scored a success in the region on Sunday in pushing to the outskirts of Bir al-Ghanam, within 80 km (50 miles) of Tripoli.

On Thursday the rebels surveyed the strategic town from a ridge overlooking the desert plateau that leads to the capital, in preparation for a possible attack. A Reuters journalist with them said they were waiting for NATO airstrikes to help them.

Libyan television broadcast a statement from tribal leaders condemning Sarkozy over the arms, calling the rebels in the Berber area "a product of France."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow "asked our French colleagues today whether reports that weapons from France were delivered to Libyan rebels correspond with reality."

"If this is confirmed, it is a very crude violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1970," he said. That resolution, adopted in February, imposed a comprehensive arms embargo.

Paris said on Wednesday it believed it had not violated the U.N. embargo because the weapons it gave the rebels were needed to

protect civilians from an imminent attack, which it says is allowed under a later Security Council resolution.

Washington agreed. "We believe that U.N. Security Council resolutions 1970 and 1973, read together, neither specified nor precluded providing defense materiel to the Libyan opposition," State Department spokesman Mark Toner said.

"We would respectfully disagree with the Russian assessment," he added. Nevertheless, although legal, arming the rebels was "not an option that we have acted on," he said.

Although [Russia](#) is not involved in the bombing campaign, its stance could add to reservations among some NATO countries wary over an air war that has lasted longer and cost more than expected. Moscow could also challenge Paris at the U.N. Security Council, where both are veto-wielding permanent members.

U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq said it was up to the Security Council to determine what is permitted by its resolutions.

France's weapons airlift, while possibly increasing the insurgent threat to Gaddafi, highlights a dilemma for NATO.

More than 90 days into its bombing campaign, Gaddafi is still in power and no breakthrough is in sight, making some NATO members feel they should help the rebels more actively, something the poorly-armed insurgents have encouraged.

But if they do that, they risk fracturing the international coalition over how far to go.

The World Bank's Libya representative said on Thursday Islamist militants could gain ground if the conflict wears on.

"If this civil war goes on, it would be a new Somalia, which I don't say lightly," said Marouane Abassi, World Bank country manager for Libya who has been in [Tunisia](#) since February.

"In three months we could be dealing with extremists. That's why time is very important in this conflict, before we face problems in managing it."

Even before news of the French arms supply emerged, fissures were emerging in the coalition with some members voicing frustration about the high cost, civilian casualties, and the elusiveness of a military victory.

Gaddafi says the NATO campaign is an act of colonial aggression aimed at stealing the North African state's oil. He says NATO's U.N.-mandated justification for its campaign -- to protect Libyan civilians from attack -- is spurious.

FRANCE ACTS ALONE

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen made clear on Thursday the weapons airlift was a unilateral French initiative. Asked by reporters on a visit to Vienna if NATO had been involved, he answered: "No."

"As regards compliance with the U.N. Security Council resolution, it is for the U.N. sanctions committee to determine that," Rasmussen said.

The rebel advance toward Tripoli's southwest outskirts from the Western Mountains has not been matched by progress toward the capital from the east, where they hold Misrata on the coast about 200 km (130 miles) from the capital.

The city has been bombarded for months by Gaddafi's forces. Six rockets landed early on Thursday near the oil refinery and port. A Reuters journalist there reported no casualties.

Britain's military said its Apache helicopters had attacked a government checkpoint and two military vehicles near Khoms, on the Mediterranean coast between Misrata and Tripoli.

Insurgents say Gaddafi's forces are massing and bringing weapons to quell an uprising in Zlitan, the next big town along the road from Misrata to the capital. Rebels inside Zlitan said they mounted a raid on pro-Gaddafi positions on Wednesday night.

"(We) carried out a violent attack last night on checkpoints ... and exchanged gunfire, killing a number of soldiers," a rebel spokesman, who identified himself as Mabrouk, told Reuters from the town.

WEAPONS DROP

Le Figaro newspaper said France had parachuted rocket launchers, assault rifles and anti-tank missiles into the Western Mountains in early June.

A French military spokesman later confirmed arms had been delivered, although he said anti-tank missiles were not among them. Despite the diplomatic storm, the rebels encouraged more arms deliveries.

"Giving (us) weapons we will be able to decide the battle more quickly, so that we can shed as little blood as possible," senior rebel figure Mahmoud Jibril said in Vienna.

The conflict has halted oil exports from Libya, helping push up world oil prices. Jibril said it may take years for oil exports to fully resume: "No, no oil is being sold. A lot of the oil well system was destroyed, especially in the east."

(Additional reporting by Hamid Ould Ahmed in Algiers, [Andrew Hammond](#) in Tunis, Maria Tsvetkova in Moscow, Fredrik Dahl and [Michael Shields](#) in Vienna, Chris Buckley in Beijing, [Andrew Quinn](#) in Washington and London bureau; Writing by [Christian Lowe](#) and Andrew Hammond; editing by [David Stamp](#))

16. Libya's Mustafa Abdul Jalil asks Nato to stay longer



Nato helped target Gaddafi loyalists as the former Libyan leader tried to flee from Sirte

The head of Libya's transitional authorities has called for Nato to extend its mission in Libya until the end of the year.

National Transitional Council (NTC) Chairman Mustafa Abdul Jalil said the extension was needed to help Libyans trying to control surplus weapons and to deal with Gaddafi loyalists.

Nato has delayed a making a formal decision on when to end its mission.

It had made a preliminary decision to end operations on 31 October.

Diplomats had been expected to confirm that date on Wednesday.

"We hope (Nato) will continue its campaign until at least the end of this year to serve us and neighbouring countries," Mr Jalil told a gathering in Qatar of states that have supported the NTC's military campaign.

He said his appeal was aimed at "ensuring that no arms are infiltrated into those countries and to ensure the security of Libyans from some remnants of [ex-leader Col Muammar] Gaddafi's forces who have fled to nearby countries".

Mr Jalil added that the NTC wanted help "developing Libya's defence and security systems".

Nato, which has been operating in Libya since March under a UN mandate to protect civilians, said it would now make a formal decision on the length of its mission on Friday.

"As agreed, NATO continues to monitor the situation on the ground, and retains the capability to respond to any threats to civilians," said Nato spokeswoman Carmen Romero.

"The situation remains calm as the NTC continues to establish its authority."

Rights concerns

Speaking on the sidelines of the Qatar meeting, Qatari chief of staff Maj Gen Hamad bin Ali al-Atiya told Agence France-Presse that his country had deployed ground troops in Libya.

17. "The numbers of Qataris on ground were hundreds in every region," he was quoted as saying.

The small but gas-rich Gulf state, which has played a dynamic role in Libya, had previously acknowledged contributing to Nato's air campaign there.

Meanwhile, the NTC came under pressure from human rights bodies following questions surrounding the death of Col Gaddafi last week, and allegations that NTC forces may have executed dozens of their opponents.

"I call on all the armed forces to avoid any act of reprisal and arbitrary repression against both Libyans and foreigners," said Philippe Kirsch, the head of a UN commission of enquiry on Libya.

Col Gaddafi was shot dead after he was captured alive in his birthplace, Sirte.

NTC officials have suggested he was caught in crossfire, but rights groups have voiced concerns that he and his son Mutassim were summarily executed.

In recent days, images have emerged from video footage of the moments after Col Gaddafi's capture that appear to show him being sodomised with a pole or knife.

In a statement, the NTC said it attached "great importance" to the humane treatment of prisoners and that fair trials would be guaranteed.

AH: One Non Western Source inserted here: I had difficulty finding Western articles evaluating compliance of UN 1973

18. Africa: The Execution of Gaddafi and the Attempted Humiliation of Africa

BY HORACE CAMPBELL, 27 OCTOBER 2011

- [Comment](#)
-
-
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-

ANALYSIS



Recent Gaddafi cartoon made for Cartoon Movement. (Photo Courtesy [Cartoon Movement/ RNW](#))

Horace Campbell reconstructs 'the decision at the highest levels' to execute Libya's Colonel Gaddafi and considers 'the urgency for organising to oppose the remilitarisation of Africa.'

The inability of the Western media and other 'information' sources to manage the news of the execution of Colonel Gaddafi was compounded by the news, according to the New York based Human Rights Watch, that 53 supporters of the ousted regime were executed at a hotel in Sirte with their hands tied behind their backs (Huffington Post October 26, 2011). Wall-to-wall news bulletins of the demise of Colonel Gaddafi, which should have been a moment of victory for the imperial forces, have now turned into a public relations disaster and nightmare for those military planners who want to distance themselves from the gruesome details of the executions. These immoral and illegal actions by the military forces and private contractors in Libya backed by NATO were furthered with disrespect for religious and cultural traditions where the mortal remains of Gaddafi and his son, Muatassim, were kept in a meat freezer until the bodies started to decompose.

Relevant Links

- [No Tears for Gaddafi](#)
- [NATO Murdered Gaddafi](#)
- [Government Wants Investigation Into Gaddafi Killing](#)
- [Musings On the Death of Gaddafi](#)
- [Gaddafi Needed to Face a Fair Trial](#)

Finally a supposedly secret burial failed to resolve the tussle between those who had hijacked the body in the on-going struggle inside the National Transitional Council (NTC) between the three centers of power, Tripoli, Benghazi and Misrata. The factions fear each other and they have lost the one factor that united them, hatred for Gaddafi. With fear of other factions in the NTC, the Benghazi section is calling for the United Nations Security Council to extend the mandate of the no fly zone until 31 December 2011. There are members of the UNSC such as Russia who oppose this extension. The African Union must call for the immediate end to the mandate of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973.

It is now becoming clear that the Western leaders (especially those from Britain, France, Italy and the United States) used the cover of protection of civilian lives to go to Libya to carry out regime change. Gaddafi had vowed to fight to the end and he did. The destruction of Libya by NATO jets was totally unnecessary. Can the people of the West and their leaders say that Libya is now better off in October 2011 than it was in March 2011?

In a moment of revolutionary upheavals all over the world, the leaders of France, Britain and the United States intervened in Libya to divert attention from their problems and to derail the wave of revolutionary change that is now underway internationally. Italy, which is in the throes of a profound crisis, tagged along to protect its colonial heritage and oil contracts in Libya.

On Tuesday 25 October 2011 the Los Angeles Times reported that Libya had more than US\$200 billion in reserves. As outlined in my article, 'Global NATO and the Recolonisation of Africa', it is no secret that leaders such as France's Nicolas Sarkozy deeply want to get their hands on this money to save the banks in Europe and to save the Euro. But the crisis in the Eurozone area is too far gone and the depth of the structural and systemic crisis is too extreme to save the politicians who oversaw this military campaign inside Libya.

The NATO forces (meaning the countries of this Libya campaign) that were using international morality and international law to justify the recolonisation and destruction of Africa are now exposed. The attempt to humiliate Gaddafi was a failed effort to humiliate oppressed peoples and decent elements within the armed forces of these societies who are seeking another world. In this article, I seek to reconstruct the decision at the highest levels to execute Colonel Gaddafi and to analyse the urgency for organising to oppose the remilitarisation of Africa.

PLANNING FOR THE EXECUTION OF GADDAFI

When on Sunday 23 October 2011, US secretary of state Hilary Clinton said on the US television Channel NBC's 'Meet the Press' that she backed a proposal that the United Nations investigate Gaddafi's death and requested that Libya's TNC also look into the circumstances, it was clear that the execution had backfired. This was the height of hypocrisy, or what would be called a pre-emptive strike on her own reputation. Under international law and the Geneva Conventions, Hillary Clinton could be held to account for her statements in Tripoli on 18 October when she called for Gaddafi's capture or killing.

Security planners and military strategists of the Obama Whitehouse are now cowering in shame on the fallout from the failure of the Libyan quagmire and the exposure of the bankruptcy of the US military and imperial logic.

Back in March The New York Times reported that the National Security Council of the White House had debated the execution of Colonel Gaddafi. The article, 'Before Qaddafi's Death, U.S. Debated His Future', stated that the White House considered 'The killing of Colonel Qaddafi ... [as] one of the three scenarios considered last Wednesday.' The article in the Times also said, 'Putting the colonel on trial, either in Libya or The Hague, was one of a host of situations for which the administration planned.'

The next day Colonel Gaddafi was killed. What is being asked all over the world is why kill him? Why not put him on trial, what is it that the western leaders do not want to come out in a trial?

GADDAFI'S ESCAPE FROM TRIPOLI

'Mansour Dhao Ibrahim, one of the military leaders who survived the murder and execution of the Gaddafi entourage has revealed that Colonel Gaddafi had escaped from Tripoli to Sirte on 21 August. Reports in the international media are that the decision for Gaddafi to stay in Sirte was based on Muatassim, the colonel's son. The report continued that Gaddafi's son and the military entourage had 'reasoned that the city, long known as an important pro-Qaddafi stronghold and under frequent bombardment by NATO airstrikes, was the last place anyone would look.'

In August 2011, after the capture of Tripoli by the Qatari Army, the British Special Air Service and private military contractors to Tripoli, there was euphoria at NATO headquarters. Having declared that Tripoli had been 'liberated', the NATO headquarters had been issuing communiqués since August that all Libya was about to be liberated. There was anxiety when there was stiff resistance in Sirte and every other day, NATO was declaring that Sirte was about to fall.

NATO, which had started the war under the pretext of responsibility 'to protect', had destroyed the most of Libya . From the nature of the resistance, NATO and their satellite intercepts had found out that Gaddafi was in Sirte, hence the NSC meetings and deliberations.

The New York Times' report on the 'Last Days of Gaddafi' has revealed for posterity that:

'The colonel traveled with about 10 people, including close aides and guards. Muatassim, who commanded the loyalist forces, traveled separately from his father, fearing that his own satellite phone was being tracked. Apart from a phone, which the colonel used to make frequent statements to a Syrian television station that became his official outlet, Colonel Qaddafi was largely "cut off from the world".'

It was this satellite phone that was tracked so that when Sirte was bombed to smithereens, there was only one option left for Gaddafi, and that was to make a run to escape.

British news reports from both the Telegraph and The Independent UK since 21 August 2001 had been reporting that SAS and US Special forces were hunting for Gaddafi. British SAS forces and U.S. Special Forces had been scouring the Sirte area for Gaddafi, unable to find him.

According to these reports, when the resistance continued for two months, the British and US Special Forces on the ground disguised as Libyan NTC fighters had been coordinating the bombing campaign of

Sirte. These SAS forces synchronised the bombing and one or two weeks before the execution, 'NATO had pinpointed Gaddafi's position after an intelligence breakthrough.'

Once the SAS and the coordinating forces confirmed Gaddafi's position, 'an American drone and an array of NATO eavesdropping aircraft had been trained on his Sirte stronghold to ensure he could not escape.'

This was when the debates on execution intensified and the drones were deployed to ensure that Gaddafi did not escape from Sirte.

US DRONES VS. FRENCH JETS

'About two weeks ago, as the former rebels stormed the city center, the colonel and his sons were trapped shuttling between two houses in a residential area called District No. 2. They were surrounded by hundreds of former rebels, firing at the area with heavy machine guns, rockets and mortars. "The only decision was whether to live or to die," Mr. Dhao said. Colonel Qaddafi decided it was time to leave, and planned to flee to one of his houses nearby, where he had been born. On Thursday, a convoy of more than 40 cars was supposed to leave at about around 3 a.m.'

With the voice recognition technology picking up any call made by Gaddafi, the drones were called in when the convoy carrying Gaddafi was pinpointed by the drone.

According to The Daily Telegraph (as reported by Empire Strikes Back):

'They built up a normal pattern of life picture so that when something unusual happened this morning such as a large group of vehicles gathering together, that came across as highly unusual activity and the decision was taken to follow them and prosecute an attack.

'Electronic warfare aircraft, either an American Rivet Joint or a French C160 Gabriel, also picked up Gaddafi's movements as he attempted to escape.'

Hilary Clinton had flown to Tripoli on Tuesday 18 October and from The New York Times report on the debate on Gaddafi's future, Clinton made her position clear as reported in the international media when she declared that she wanted Gaddafi killed or captured.

Was this a clear message to the Special Forces on the ground that the NATO forces wanted Gaddafi killed? The Geneva conditions explicitly stated that prisoners of war should be humanely treated. In normal situations of the rule of international law this question of the manner of the execution would be taken up under the Geneva Conventions.

'In a Toyota Land Cruiser, Colonel Qaddafi traveled with his chief of security, a relative, the driver and Mr. Dhao. The colonel did not say much during the drive. NATO warplanes and former rebel fighters found them half an hour after they left. When a missile struck near the car, the airbags deployed, said Mr. Dhao, who was hit by shrapnel in the strike. He said he tried to escape with Colonel Qaddafi and other men, walking first to a farm, then to the main road, toward some drainage pipes. "The shelling was constant," Mr. Dhao said, adding that he was struck by shrapnel again and fell unconscious. When he woke up, he was in the hospital.'

Sensitive to the repercussions of this attack on the convoy, the British media declared early that the RAF had not been involved in the aerial attack. With great bravado, the French took credit for firing missile that stopped the car carrying Colonel Gaddafi.

French Defence Minister Gerard Longuet revealed that a French Mirage-2000 fired a warning shot at a column of several dozen vehicles fleeing Sirte.

MANAGING THE NEWS OF THE EXECUTION OF GADDAFI

It is now known that Gaddafi was alive after the airstrike by the French jets. With the clear mandate emanating from the discussions at the highest levels, the 'NTC forces' were on the ground to find the wounded Gaddafi. These newspapers would have the world believe that it was by chance that these 'NTC' fighters happened to find the wounded Gaddafi. Thanks to cell phone technology and alternative news sources, we know that when these 'NTC forces' captured Gaddafi, he was alive.

There are also visual images of the humiliation of the wounded Gaddafi and then later the dead body.

Once Gaddafi was executed with a bullet to the head, the great challenge for the NATO forces was how to manage the news of the execution, with the full knowledge that there were visual images of Gaddafi alive and then dead.

This was when the disinformation planners came up with the theory that Gaddafi was killed in crossfire. But the inconsistencies from the western news sources were so blatant that it was embarrassing for the psychological warfare experts of NATO. Was it crossfire, was it stray bullet, was it an assassination? There were too many cell phone images of what transpired for the western intelligence agencies to attempt to cover the clear violation of international law.

In this disinformation effort to convince the world that Gaddafi was killed in a crossfire or by a stray bullet, events were moving too fast so NATO could not control the disinformation and lies. Throughout the war, disinformation had been central to the operations.

As Lizzie Phelan had reported for Pambazuka News and other media, NATO had been willing and able 'to not just fabricate events but to create.' The fabrications now failed and it was clear that the manner of the killing of Gaddafi was meant to humiliate him. One does not have to support Gaddafi to realise that this kind of killing will not lay any basis for a society free from revenge killings. The disinformation backfired - even those who opposed the antics of Gaddafi in Africa were now opposed to the wanton disregard for international law.

From all corners of the world, NATO and the US Africa Command were being condemned. Despite efforts by western news agencies to place a microphone before those who would parrot the western line, the disregard for law and the hypocrisy of those who had used the mandate of the 'responsibility to protect' to carry out executions were too blatant. The Russians called for an end to the NATO mission and called for the UN Security Council to end the mandate of the no fly zone. At the United Nations, Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, who has repeatedly accused NATO of exceeding its UN mandate in Libya, has called for ending the mandate of the no-fly zone on October 31. Churkin said extending the UN authorisation beyond Monday October would be 'unrealistic.'

In Africa, even those who had been opposed to Gaddafi, especially when he called his people rats, were now seeing the real criminal actions being carried out by NATO. Former Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu condemned the killing of Gaddafi, saying mob justice and violence should always be deplored.

'The manner of the killing of Muammar Gaddafi on Thursday totally detracts from the noble enterprise of instilling a culture of human rights and democracy in Libya... the people of Libya should have demonstrated better values than those of their erstwhile oppressor.'

The same managers of disinformation realised that this manner of the execution revealed the true nature of the NATO/AFRICOM operations so the New York Times editorialised on October 20 that:

'But a gruesome video broadcast on Al Jazeera - apparently showing him being dragged, beaten and then, perhaps, shot to death by armed men - is deeply troubling, if it is real.

'Libyans must resist further reprisals and channel their passion into building a united, free and productive country. If not, they risk even more chaos and suffering.'

This same newspaper did not bring out whether there was any role of US Special Forces and the British SAS on the ground, but from all corners of the world, there were now Human Rights reports calling for an investigation into the manner of the killing. Bloggers and articulate writers were reminding the imperialists that the Third Geneva Convention clearly states (article 13): 'Prisoners of war must at all

times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity.'

The Fourth Geneva Convention (article 27): 'Protected persons are entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons, their honor, their family rights, their religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs. They shall at all times be humanely treated, and shall be protected especially against all acts of violence or threats thereof and against insults and public curiosity.'

The discovery of the 53 corpses at the Mahari hotel, and another ten dumped in a nearby reservoir reveal a glimpse of the bloodletting and indiscriminate killings.

Africans from sub-saharan Africa were being particularly targeted and the opposition to the NTC intensified all over the continent, if not over the world.

CAN NATO CONTROL LIBYA?

From the start of the war against the peoples of Libya in March 2011, it became clear that the objective of the war was regime change. Those decent humans who had been offended by the leadership of the Libyan society calling their people rats and feared for a massacre were soon shown the reality that it was the NATO bombing that was a greater threat.

The NATO-led air campaign was launched in March under a UN mandate to protect civilians from Gaddafi's forces trying to crush popular protests. It was clear that the objective of NATO was not to protect civilians and there was opposition to this NATO operation.

The destruction of Libya was meant to ensure greater western control over that society.

Throughout the war, the African Union spoke with one voice and called for a roadmap that would establish an inclusive government. Experience from Burundi and the work of the Nyerere and Mandela foundations point to the truth that it is in Africa where there is expertise to bring reconciliation. From the actions of the USA, France and Britain, they do not want peace and reconstruction in Libya. France continues to ensnare China in the spoils of war by promising reconstruction contracts. But if the BRICS societies support the African Union, there will be no contracts to be given out by France. National Transitional Council (NTC) Chairman Mustafa Abdul Jalil would like the UNSC to extend the mandate of the no fly zone on the grounds of controlling surplus weapons. However, Jalil has no means to exercise political leadership.

The NTC is divided. Three months after Tripoli was 'liberated' the leaders in Benghazi are still afraid to move to Tripoli. The Misrata elements of the 'uprising' hijacked the body of Gaddafi and kept the

body in a meat freezer in Misrata. Humiliation was piled upon total disrespect for religious and traditional customs as the bodies were made a public spectacle. When the bodies started to decompose, they could no longer keep the bodies and Gaddafi and his son were buried in the desert.

AFRICAN UNITY CANNOT BE HALTED

Fifty years after Patrice Lumumba was assassinated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1961, we now have another gruesome execution of an African leader with the objective of halting the liberation and independence of Africa. In normal circumstances NATO commanders, United Nations personnel, point persons for the Arab League, and other imperial actors would be required to testify before an impartial enquiry in order to justify their role if any in these atrocities. It required the tenacious work of peace loving persons to ensure that Belgium and the USA were named as the murderers of Patrice Lumumba.

Today, international law can only be enforced by a new international alliance of societies that want to avoid total destructions.

In the midst of this crisis, the criminal actions carried out in Libya point to the reality that we are not in normal circumstances. How can the United Nations or NATO investigate crimes committed on their watch? Under the cover of providing security from the air for the TNC, NATO, the UN, and the other imperial actors in this campaign, granted themselves the alibi now being espoused for cold blooded murder. It is unthinkable to believe that NATO and the UN did not know what the NTC and other special forces were doing on the ground. Given the turn of events in Libya, which erupted in the cold blooded bloodletting, what seems to be emerging is some kind of sinister plot to obliterate any remnants of the former regime. There is no justification for such bloodletting. These people, including Gaddafi should have been captured and brought to trial under international law. International law cannot be exercised in a piecemeal manner to suit the whims and fancies of big powers. International law must be applied equally in all circumstances and in all areas of the world.

What has emerged in Libya is a double standard.

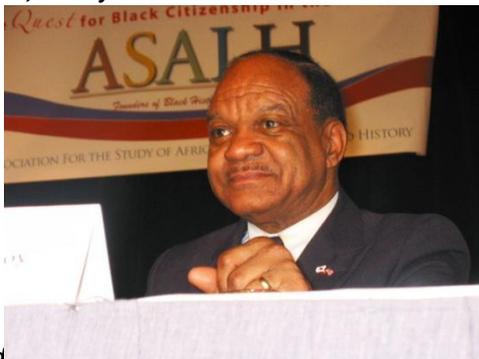
The same leaders who proclaim themselves as upholders of human rights applauded the humiliation and execution of Gaddafi. Decent human beings all over the world were outraged and it is now clearer that the decision to execute Gaddafi was made to silence one voice for anti-imperialism.

The execution had the opposite effect and the work for expelling foreign military forces from Africa will be now more intense.

15. <http://sfbayview.com/2011/walter-fauntroy-feared-dead-in-libya-returns-home-%E2%80%93-guess-who-he-saw-doing-the-killing/>

16. [Walter Fauntroy, feared dead in Libya, returns home – Guess who he saw doing the killing](#)

September 11, 2011 by Valencia



Mohammed

Walter Fauntroy, legendary champion of human rights, was elected in 1970 as the first member of Congress representing the District of Columbia. A founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1977, in 1984 he, Randall Robinson and Dr. Mary Francis Berry launched the Free South Africa Movement with their arrest at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. He retired from Congress in 1990, returning to New Bethel Baptist Church, where he had grown up, as full time pastor and becoming president of the National Black Leadership Roundtable and the Global Campaign for Middle East Peace. While in Tripoli, he told the U.K. Telegraph, “I came here over a week ago now and have been working on a long term effort to rally the genuine spiritual leaders of the world ... to work out a peace agreement.”

Special to the AFRO

Former U.S. Congressman Walter Fauntroy, who recently returned from a self-sanctioned peace mission to Libya, said he went into hiding for about a month in Libya after witnessing horrifying events in Libya’s bloody civil war – a war that Fauntroy claims is backed by European forces.

Fauntroy’s sudden disappearance prompted rumors and news reports that he had been killed.

In an interview inside his Northwest D.C. home last week, the noted civil rights leader told the Afro that he watched French and Danish troops storm small villages late at night beheading, maiming and killing rebels and loyalists to show them who was in control.

“What the hell’ I’m thinking to myself. I’m getting out of here. So I went in hiding,” Fauntroy said.

The rebels told Fauntroy they had been told by the European forces to stay inside. According to Fauntroy, the European forces would tell the rebels, “‘Look at what you did.’ In other words, the French and Danish were ordering the bombings and killings, and giving credit to the rebels.

Fauntroy watched French and Danish troops storm small villages late at night beheading, maiming and killing rebels and loyalists to show them who was in control.

“The truth about all this will come out later,” Fauntroy said.

While in Libya, the former congressman also said he sat down with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi for a one-on-one conversation. Qaddafi has ruled Libya since 1969, when he seized power in a military coup.

Fauntroy said he spoke with Qaddafi in person and that Qaddafi assured him that if he survived these attacks, the mission to unite African countries would continue.

The French and Danish were ordering the bombings and killings, and giving credit to the rebels.

“Contrary to what is being reported in the press, from what I heard and observed, more than 90 percent of the Libyan people love Qaddafi,” Fauntroy said. “We believe the true mission of the attacks on Qaddafi is to prevent all efforts by African leaders to stop the recolonization of Africa.”

Several months ago, Qaddafi’s leadership faced its biggest challenge. In February, a radical protest movement called the Arab Spring spread across Libya. When Qaddafi responded by dispatching military and plainclothes paramilitary to the streets to attack demonstrators, it turned into a civil war with the assistance of NATO and the United Nations.

Fauntroy’s account could not be immediately verified by the Afro, and the U.S. State Department has not substantiated Fauntroy’s version of events. Fauntroy was not acting as an official representative of the U.S. in Libya. He returned to Washington, D.C., on Aug. 31.

We believe the true mission of the attacks on Qaddafi is to prevent all efforts by African leaders to stop the recolonization of Africa.

When rumors spread about Fauntroy being killed, he went underground, he told the Afro in an interview. Fauntroy said for more than a month he decided not to contact his family but to continue the mission to speak with African spiritual leaders about a movement to unify Africa despite the Arab uprisings.

"I'm still here," Fauntroy said, pointing to several parts of his body. "I've got all my fingers and toes. I'm extremely lucky to be here."

After blogs and rumors reported Fauntroy had been killed, the congressional office of Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., announced on Aug. 24 that she had been in touch with authorities who confirmed Fauntroy was safely in the care of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Inside his home, Fauntroy pulled out several memoirs and notebooks to explain why he traveled to Libya at a time when it was going through civil unrest.



NATO propaganda seeks to hide a terrible and very serious news: renegade thugs have broken into **Sheikh Ali al-Ahwal** home in Bani Walid. The wise scholar of 80 years old was the head of the main tribe in the country, Warfala, and was the coordinator of the tribes. He had deep patriotic and anti-imperialist positions. He was killed of 12 shots in the chest. The chief was a man of peace and did not even have a hunting rifle at home. This crime is both an hideous act amongst others that have been committed by Nato and its mercenaries (under the protection of NATO and the CIA) and is a special event because it will turn against occupation plans. The tribesmen never forgive, they retaliate and refuse to give a high stability and support for a NATO protectorate in Libya. This murder has definitely shifted ALL the Libyan people against imperialist criminals. Libyans were deeply moved and felt indignation. They will defeat the traitors and foreign forces and rebuild an independent country.

Source: [Al Mukawama Resistencia](#)

20. Libya: Leaked UN report reveals torture, lynchings and abuse by rebel militias

4 4 ShareThis13

By Kim Sengupta, Solomon Hughes
Thursday, 24 November 2011



Libyan rebels fire their weapons into the air. – Photo: Francisco Leong, AFP

"This recent trip to Libya was part of a continuous mission that started under Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he gave me orders to join four African countries on the continent with four in the African Diaspora to restore the continent to its pre-colonial status," Fauntroy said.

"We want Africa to be the breadbasket of the world," he said. "Currently, all the major roads in every country throughout Africa lead to ports that take its natural resources and wealth outside the continent to be sold to the European markets."

Valencia Mohammed is a reporter for the Afro-American, the historic Black newspaper in Washington, D.C., where this story first appeared, on Sept. 7, and founder of Mothers of Unsolved Murders.

19. Libya: Nato mercenaries coldly murdered tribal chief Warfala to 80 years

Libyan revolutionary supporters cheer at a speech by Transitional National Council chairman Mustafa Abdel Jalil in Tripoli(AP)

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17. Related Articles

- [Libya government told to end human rights abuses](#)
- [Libyan rebels 'guilty of torture'](#)

Thousands of people, including women and children, are being illegally detained by rebel militias in Libya, according to a report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Many of the prisoners are suffering torture and systematic mistreatment while being held in private jails outside the control of the country's new government.

The document, seen by The Independent, states that while political prisoners being held by the Gaddafi regime have been released, their places have been taken by up to 7,000 new "enemies of the state", "disappeared" in a dysfunctional system, with no recourse to the law.

The report will come as uncomfortable reading for the Western governments, including Britain, which backed the campaign to oust Gaddafi. A UN resolution was secured in March in order to protect civilians from abuses by the regime, which was at the time mercilessly suppressing the uprising against the Gaddafi regime.

There was evidence, says the report by Ban Ki-moon, due to be presented to the Security Council, that both sides committed acts amounting to war crimes in the bitter battle for Colonel Gaddafi's hometown, Sirte. The Secretary-General who recently visited Libya, echoes the concern expressed by many world leaders over the killing of the former dictator by rebel fighters pointing out that Gaddafi was captured alive before being put to death.

The report also stresses that it is a matter of great praise that the country has been liberated after 42 years of totalitarian rule. The victorious opposition - which formed a new interim government this week - fully intends to follow a democratic path and introduce a functioning legal system, he says. The

report is due to be circulated among members of the UN Security Council, and discussed next week.

However, Ban Ki-moon also presents a grim scenario of the growing power of the armed militias that control of the streets of many towns, including those of the capital, Tripoli, and the settling of internecine feuds through gun battles resulting in deaths and injuries.

Meanwhile the lawlessness has resulted in the vast majority of the police force not being able to return to work. In the few places where they have been back on duty under experienced officers, such as Tripoli, their role has been restricted largely to directing traffic.

Libya is the only Arab uprising to have attracted direct Western military support, despite the closer links forged with the West in recent years by the Gaddafi regime. The resistance in London, Washington and elsewhere to Nato-led intervention in other Arab countries has centred largely on a lack of coherent opposition. Political backers of the air strikes in Libya had cited the National Transitional Council (NTC) as a credible alternative to the Gaddafi regime.

The scope of escalating strife, inside the country as well as the wider region, is highlighted by the caches of weapons abandoned by the regime and subsequently looted. These include shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles, known as Manpads, capable of bringing down commercial airliners.

The Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) states that: "Libya had accumulated the largest known stockpile of Manpads, of any non-Manpad-producing country. Although thousands were destroyed during the seven-month Nato operations, there are increasing concerns over the looting and likely proliferation of these portable defence systems, as well as munitions and mines, highlighting the potential risk to local and regional stability."

But the continuing human rights abuses, says the Secretary-General's report, are the most pressing concern. The report says that "while political prisoners held by the Gaddafi regime have been released, an estimated 7,000 detainees are currently held in prisons and makeshift detention centres, most of which are under the control of revolutionary brigades, with no access to due process in the absence of a functioning police and judiciary."

Of particular worry was the fate of women being held for alleged links with the regime, often due to family connections, sometimes with their children locked up alongside them.

"There have also been reports of women held in detention in the absence of female guards and under male supervision, and of children detained alongside adults," says the report.

A number of black Africans were lynched following the revolution following claims, often false, that they were hired guns for the Gaddafi regime. The city of Tawerga, mainly comprised of residents originally from sub-Saharan countries,

was largely destroyed by rebel fighters from neighbouring Misrata. The port city had withstood a prolonged and brutal siege in the hands of the regime forces during which, it is claimed, fighters from Tawerga were particularly aggressive and brutal.

The report says that "sub-Saharan Africans, in some cases accused or suspected of being mercenaries, constitute a large number of the detainees. Some detainees have reportedly been subjected to torture and ill treatment. Cases have been reported of individuals being targeted because of the colour of their skin."

The document continues: "Tawergas are reported to have been targeted in revenge killings, or taken by armed men from their homes, checkpoints and hospitals, and some allegedly later abused or executed in detention. Members of the community have fled to various cities across Libya."

The UN findings chart the vicious abuse carried out by the regime until the final days of the civil war. In a personal note in the document, Ban Ki-Moon said: "I was deeply shocked by my visit to an agricultural warehouse in the Khallital-Ferjan neighbourhood of Tripoli where elements of the Gaddafi regime had detained civilians in inhuman conditions, had subjected some to torture and had massacred as many as they could and burned their bodies.

"The international community must support the efforts to establish the fate of missing persons and to bring to justice perpetrators with the greatest responsibility for such crimes."

Independent

Read more: <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/world-news/libya-leaked-un-report-reveals-torture-lynchings-and-abuse-by-rebel-militias-16081902.html#ixzz1tvJxnX3S>

The debate revolves around the decades-old question of how much power the White House has to go to war without

Kucinich: Libyan foray represents 'new international gangsterism'

By Mike Lillis - 08/23/11 05:46 PM ET

An anti-war Democrat warned Tuesday that the Obama administration's foray into Libya sets the stage for a new era of "international gangsterism."

Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) said the five-month-old intervention — now being led by NATO — sets a dangerous precedent for unilateral attacks on sovereign nations. He said Western forces "illegally" picked favorites in Libya's civil war, and he called on the International Criminal Court to investigate potential war crimes by military leaders on all sides of the conflict.

"NATO's top commanders may have acted under color of international law, but they are not exempt from international law," Kucinich said in a news release. "If members of the Gadhafi Regime are to be held accountable, NATO's top commanders must also be held accountable through the International Criminal Court for all civilian deaths resulting from bombing.

"Otherwise, we will have witnessed the triumph of a new international gangsterism."

Obama has been under fire from some members of both parties since he launched the Libya campaign in March while Congress was in recess. The White House said quick action was needed to save tens of thousands of civilians from government troops controlled by longtime Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

But critics such as Kucinich maintain that the administration violated the Constitution by launching the mission without congressional approval. In June, Kucinich spearheaded a bipartisan effort to sue the White House on those grounds.

explicit approval from Congress.

Under the Constitution, the authority to wage war falls squarely with the legislative branch. But a 1973 law — the War Powers Act — empowers the president to launch military operations unilaterally in the face of imminent threats.

It was the War Powers Act that President Obama invoked when he entered Libya in March. The law requires presidents to secure congressional authorization within 60 days, or withdraw forces within the next 30. Instead, Obama ceded control of the forces to NATO.

Over the weekend, NATO-backed rebel forces moved into Tripoli, Libya's capital and the last remaining stronghold of Gadhafi supporters. By Tuesday, the rebels had stormed Gadhafi's Bab al-Aziziya compound, where they thought he was holed up. (There's no sign he was there, according to various reports).

Kucinich said the rebels' progress provides U.S. policymakers with an opportunity "to review the curious role of NATO and the future of U.S. interventionism."

"The foreign policy objectives of the Obama administration are cloudy," Kucinich said.

"Now that NATO, with the help of the U.S., has brought the rebels into the streets of Tripoli to fight, what follows? What's the plan?"

The Ohio liberal is urging the end of America's intervention in the conflict so those taxpayer dollars can be used to strengthen the economy at home.

"Resources which should be spent creating jobs in America are going to perpetuate war abroad," Kucinich said. "Resources which should be used to build bridges in America continue to be used to bomb bridges elsewhere."

21. Fighting erupts in Libya's Bani Walid

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2012/01/2012123182559826642.html>

Five fighters reportedly killed and green flag hoisted over town that was one of last to fall to anti-Gaddafi forces.

Last Modified: 24 Jan 2012 05:20



Bani Walid was the site of a prolonged battle before the NTC overpowered the town in October

[AFP]

At least five people have been killed in fighting in the Libyan town of Bani Walid between fighters still loyal to Muammar Gaddafi and forces supporting the country's transitional government.

Mohamed Bashir, the town's mayor, told Al Jazeera late on Monday that forces loyal to the National Transitional Council had pulled out of the town at 7pm local time after about four hours of fighting, while a town spokesman said the Gaddafi-era Libyan green flag had been raised over the town.

"We don't see fighting right now, but there are a lot of casualties," said Bashir. "Tomorrow morning, the situation will probably be much better... A military force [will] take over Bani Walid, to take back security," he said.

A resident of the town, about 200km southeast of Tripoli, said the fight on Monday used heavy weaponry, including 106-mm anti-tank guns, and that 20 people were wounded.

The assault was the first major offensive launched by Gaddafi loyalists since he was killed in October, weeks after being toppled from power.

"There are around 100 and 150 men armed with heavy weapons who are attacking. We have asked for the army to intervene, but the defence ministry and NTC have let us down," Mahmud Warfelli, a spokesperson for the Bani Walid local council, said.

"[The gunmen] took control and hoisted the green flag on some important districts in the centre of the city," he said, referring to the Gaddafi-era flag. "We've been warning about this for the past two months."

Last stronghold

Bani Walid, considered a bastion of the powerful Warfallah tribe, was one of the last towns in Libya to surrender to the uprising that toppled Gaddafi last year. Many people in the area still oppose the country's new leadership.

The violence in Bani Walid first broke out when members of the May



28 group arrested some Gaddafi loyalists.

That prompted other supporters of the former leader to attack the group's garrison in the town, according to the resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"They massacred men at the doors of the militia headquarters," the resident said.

Fathi Baja, a senior NTC member, said that ambulances had been unable to evacuate those wounded because there were "snipers positioned on a school and a mosque in the vicinity" of the attack.

Fotmani said later that Gaddafi loyalists had taken all the heavy weaponry from the NTC garrison, and set fire to the local council's main building.

"Yesterday they had distributed leaflets saying 'We will be back soon. We will take the rats out'," he said.

NTC struggling

Libya's NTC has already been struggling with violent protests in its stronghold city of Benghazi and the resignation of its second most senior official



An air force official told Reuters that jets were being mobilised to fly to Bani Walid. In Tripoli, there were signs of

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security being tightened, Reuters reporters in the city said.

During Libya's nine-month civil war, fighters opposed to Gaddafi fought for months to take Bani Walid.

Local tribal elders eventually agreed to let NTC fighters enter the town, but relations have been uneasy since and there have been occasional flare-ups of violence.

In November last year, several people were killed in Bani Walid when an armed group from Tripoli's Souq al-Juma district arrived in the town to try to arrest some local men.

Re-taking control of the town is a challenge due to natural defences. Anyone approaching from the north has to descend into a deep valley and then climb up the other side, giving defenders an advantage.

It was this landscape, in part, that prevented opposition fighters from taking the town during the civil war, despite the fact they were heavily armed.

22. Africa: Cynthia McKinney Tells It Like It Is

BY GARY S. CORSERI, 23 FEBRUARY 2012

INTERVIEW

BRQ Network 'The attack on Libya was an attack on Africa! It was an attack on my aspirations as a person of African descent to have a free and independent Africa. That's what was attacked!'

INTRODUCTION

I grew up in New York City, and have travelled and lived in different parts of the world, including about 18 years in the "Peachtree State" of Georgia. For almost as long as I lived there, I'd heard of Cynthia McKinney -- the first African-American woman to represent Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives. To be honest, a great deal that I heard from the Mainstream Media was negative, portraying Ms. McKinney as a crazy shrew, an over-the-top black radical who questioned the official story of 9/11; opposed the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan -- and, recently, in Libya; opposed Israeli policies, and supported Palestinian demands for statehood. About three years ago, I heard McKinney speak at a conference at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Instead of a crazy firebrand, I heard an intelligent, measured, if passionate, presentation of why she challenged US war policies.

When I returned to Georgia, I wrote a friend in the UK about my hope to interview McKinney. My friend related a story about the "Dignity" ship, carrying food and medical supplies to Palestine, in 2008, rammed by the Israeli Navy in international waters. McKinney was on that ship, and when it was rammed, she turned to my friend's brother and said, "David, I can't swim." Nothing I had ever heard about McKinney revealed her character more succinctly. This is a woman willing to put her life on the line in support of her principles. Missing from the mainstream media depictions were the human and humane aspects of her character. The MSM has too-often portrayed the struggle for justice as irrational, or even fanatical. I needed to know more.

THE INTERVIEW

GARY CORSERI: Let's start with a big one... about the day that changed everything--9/11.

[And, for a sense of the very sharp way McKinney performed her duties -- and the People's business - in the US House of Representatives, while on the Budget Committee, I recommend checking out this 9-minute 2006 YouTube video of her grilling Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, General Meyers, and Tina Jonas about 9/11 and related matters.]

In 2004, you signed the 9/11 Truth Movement statement, calling for new investigations of "unexplained aspects of the 9/11 events." More than 7 years have passed since then. What would you say are some of the more egregious "unexplained events"?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: ... How is it that the people of the United States can invest trillions of dollars in the military and Intelligence

infrastructure--and it failed four times in one day? ... That singular question has never been answered.

GARY CORSERI: Staying with 9/11. ... Distorted as they have been by the Mainstream Media, your views have caused uninformed Americans to question your patriotism. In 2005, you held Congressional briefings on the official 9/11 Commission Report--

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Yeah. ... the only official briefing on that subject held on Capitol Hill, period!

GARY CORSERI: Well... The Atlanta-Journal Constitution editorialized that--

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Oh... you mean, The Urinal-in-Constipation !

[General laughter in the room. ...]

GARY CORSERI: ... They editorialized that--

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: You call them legitimate? I won't even legitimize them with a response! Whatever they say is bogus! You got another quote from somebody?

GARY CORSERI: No... well, hear me out.

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: I'm not going to respond to anything they say!

GARY CORSERI: Well... you did, in fact, respond to an editorial they wrote when they editorialized that the briefings you were holding were to determine whether the Bush administration had prior knowledge of the attacks. That was their editorial! You replied..., but they refused to publish your response. ...So... how did you respond? Can you tell us now?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Oh, I can't even remember back that far..., but, I think the record now reflects what Bush knew... and I'm sure that part of what I said is that I would never try to go inside George Bush's brain to see what's there!

GC: Too many maggots?

[Laughter. ...]

GARY CORSERI: So, your main question is, Where was our air force, why didn't they prevent it--

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: We know where they were. ... The question is, Why didn't they follow standard operating procedures?

GARY CORSERI: And the other questions about buildings free-falling into their footprints... Building 7--

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Look... I spent last September '11 in the home of a woman who is afflicted with cancer... because she lived near the World Trade center. And all of that dust came into her apartment... and she had to clean it up. ... She will never figure into any of the statistics about who has been affected--her situation will never count... but it counts to me, and to all of the other members of the 911 Truth Community.

GARY CORSERI: Let's explore another controversial issue linked to you. ... Ms. McKinney, what does the number "88794" signify for you?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: That was the number that was assigned to me by the Israeli prison system when--on my second attempt to get into Gaza--I was kidnapped on the high seas in international waters and taken against my will to Israel and put in prison. ... David Halpin, the UK physician, and I sat next to each other because the volunteers--the activists that were on the boat--were international and spoke different languages... so I sat next to the English doctor... and he railed, he railed, he railed as the warship came close to us..., then backed off..., then approached us again--very quickly and very quietly--in this cat-and-mouse game. ... And he cursed my government... because it was with the assistance of the United States that those engines had been provided to the Israeli military so that they could do what they were doing to us.

GARY CORSERI: Did you join him in the cursing?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: No. ... In fact..., I do a lot of apologizing! I can say this: In the struggle for human rights, I consider prisoner # 88794 a badge of honor that I've acquired as a result of what I have chosen to do to assert my own right to recognize the human rights and the dignity of other people.

GARY CORSERI: Let's continue with this theme of recognizing other people's human rights. ... More recently, this past year, you were in Tripoli when NATO bombed Libya. What were you doing there... and can you describe that experience?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: I voluntarily went to Libya. ... Any time the War Machine rolls--I have to oppose that! Libya was a special case, a personal case... because I had just been to Libya. ... I had taken a delegation of independent journalists to go to Libya... because I did not believe the explanation that was given to the public about the necessity to bomb Tripoli and other cities in Libya. ... While we were there... we experienced what "shock and awe" is all about. The individual who went to the UN with allegations of thousands dying at the hands of Colonel Gadhafi and the Libyan government--when he was pressed to substantiate his claims, he couldn't.

GARY CORSERI: That reminds me of the allegations made against the Iraqis in Kuwait, back in 1990--that they were taking babies out of incubators and throwing them on the floor!

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: It's also a situation similar to that of the Cuban-American community congregated down in Miami... right after the Cuban Revolution in 1959 where we had a community of expatriates who were willing to unleash terror on their own country... and, a similar thing was happening in Libya... with the United States providing financing for these individuals willing to lie about what was happening.

This information is available on the Internet. Julien Teil interviewed the individual making these false claims at the UN. The interview can be found here. ...It's on YouTube, as well. Julien also interviewed the woman at Amnesty International who had claimed that "African mercenaries" were supporting Gaddafi's repression of his people; but, when challenged--and this was all after the devastation--she admitted that it was "just a rumor."

My colleague, David Josue, and I had been in Libya to attend a conference for Africans on the continent as well as Africans in the diaspora. And what the Jamahiriya government had devised was a call to Africans in the diaspora who were unhappy with their treatment at the hands of white Americans or white Europeans, etc.--to come back home to Africa and to help Libya rebuild Africa and rebuild itself.

[Interviewer's NOTE: (from Wikipedia): "Jamahiriya" is a term coined by Gaddafi, usually translated as "state of the masses."]

That was the purpose of this conference I had attended. ... And it was at that conference that the Jamahiriya committed 90 billion dollars to help in the creation of The United States of Africa. ... That would also include a million-person army for continental Africa to drive back the attempts of AFRICOM and others to occupy the African continent. ... That was in addition to the proposal for a gold-backed dinar for all of Africa. ... The daughter of Kwame Nkruma was at that conference; the son of Patrice Lumumba was at that conference... the grandson of Malcolm X was there. ... The atmosphere was electric with the idea of the re-building, the re-kindling of the movement that these African leaders--or their forebears--represented. Well... that was all put to an end by NATO's bombing.

[Interviewer's NOTE (from Wikipedia): The United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) is one of nine United Combatant Commands of the United States Armed Forces.]

The attack on Libya was an attack on Africa! It was an attack on my aspirations as a person of African descent to have a free and independent Africa. That's what was attacked!

GARY CORSERI: I've never had as complete a picture of that. ... I'd heard that Gaddafi wanted to set up a gold-backed dinar. ... In

fact, people like Ron Paul even talk about using gold-backed currency... so I've heard that as a rationale for what we were doing there--trying to prevent any challenge to the US dollar as the world's reserve currency. ... But..., nobody has described the situation as completely as you have.

My final question on Libya is this: You have praised Colonel Gaddafi's GREEN BOOK and the kind of "direct democracy" advocated therein. Can you give us a brief lesson as to how that "direct democracy" differs from our "representative democracy"?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Our "democracy" is neither democratic nor representative! But... let's start with what the Jamahiriya means to me. ... The only stake that I have is that I want to see a free and independent Africa..., but the type of government that Libya has should be determined by the Libyan people. I don't really have a say in that. ... And I shouldn't have a say in how they dispose of their governmental form. ... Therefore, it's inexcusable to ask another country to bomb your fellow countrymen if you really care about your country!

The Jamahiriya -- which had the highest living standard in all of Africa-- had free education up through the Ph.D. level; free health care; free utilities, subsidized--and free, if you were poor--housing; subsidized food; subsidized transportation, including car expenses... and so, the necessities of life were paid for by the direct democracy known as the Jamahiriya.

Can you imagine...? I have a cousin who is \$120,000 in student debt in the U.S. She has a Master's degree as a social worker. Now, if she had been born in Libya -- she would have no such debt. ... I went to a university outside of Tripoli and asked the students about their tuition fees... and the word didn't translate. I asked them about what they paid to attend the university. ... It was \$9.00 per year!

When I was in Congress, one of my allies was Senator Mike Gravel... and Senator Gravel's initiative is about "direct democracy." He had been to Libya... and he supported the establishment of the revolutionary committees which was the way Libyans determined how they would use their oil money.

A question under discussion when I attended the conference there was whether the subsidies for gas/petrol or the subsidies for education would be increased! (In the US, under "austerity" measures, people are being told which programs will be eliminated or eviscerated; in Libya, they were voting on which programs would get increased subsidization!)

What I have said publicly is that what we have been seeing is the Israelization of US policy. You know... the only reason the Libyans took any interest in me was that someone in Libya, looking at their television, saw me having all these problems trying to get into Gaza... and they said, "We want to know her!" That's why I was invited to

attend this conference on THE GREEN BOOK--to explain what I was trying to do in Gaza. And what I observed in Libya was the same kind of collective punishment I observed in Gaza. People supporting their own governments were being punished by outsiders who opposed those governments!

This is the kind of thing that happens in the absence of ethics in journalism. ... Because... we don't have journalists in the Mainstream--I call it the Special Interests Press--to educate and provide information to citizens so they can make a critical analysis of issues. That is absent. ... We need ethics in scholarship; ethics in journalism, as well. ...The journalistic community has gone along with the kind of death and destruction that has been visited upon Libya... and so many other countries. We're setting up drone bases all over Africa... and people here don't even know... don't begin to understand.

GARY CORSERI: You've mentioned many potent issues, including the "Israelization of US policy." I'd like to explore that, and also explore the theme of alliances--even unlikely alliances. ...

In the 2002 election to the House of Representatives, people like your father and the editor and commentator Alexander Cockburn alleged that your defeat by Denise Majette was a consequence of out-of-state Jewish organizations and Jewish money working against you---

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: That's not an allegation--that's a fact! I was informed that I had been targeted by the pro-Israel lobby by the media. ... I read about it in the papers! ... and the evidence is readily available. ...So, the fact of being targeted by the number-one special interest lobby in the United States means that there is an engagement in every aspect of one's political life.

GARY CORSERI: Well, ah, let's tackle this head-on: Are you anti-Semitic?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Well, I'm, ah... I'm no more anti-Semitic than any of the anti-Zionist Jews who I work with on an almost-daily basis to correct US policy. And, I would suggest that the real Semites are the Palestinians. And, therefore, I would suggest that I'm not anti-Semitic, but that there are people who are anti-human rights, and there are some people who are anti-peace, and there are some people who are pro-war... and no matter who they are, I will always be against that... because I. ... You see what my... my button says?

(She points to a button she is wearing on her blouse). My button says, "I'm a peace-keeper" And, this one says, "War is a crime!"

GARY CORSERI: "Blessed are the peace-keepers. ..."

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: When I was in Congress, I organized a press conference with organizations like "Jewish Workers for Peace," "Not in

My Name, Women in Black [www.womeninblack.org]-- we had about ten organizations at that press conference... and it was fantastic.

That night, the Atlanta News criticized me for associating with "fringe Jewish elements"! Now... what's a "fringe Jewish element"? It was the Anti-Defamation League that was casting this aspersion!

Now, the Anti-Defamation League that I knew about is supposed to be a Civil Rights organization. But... the Anti-Defamation League, in practice, filed an amicus brief with five white racists to dismantle the district--my district!--that provided an opportunity for black people in the black belt of Georgia to have representation! Those are the people who sent me to Congress to represent them! ... I stand on their shoulders, and I did my darnedest to represent them--and I was rewarded by the Anti-Defamation League filing an amicus brief and a lawsuit to dismantle that district and take representation away from those poor, black people.

GARY CORSERI: I can certainly understand your indignation. And I don't want to hammer this issue. ... But, this is on Wikipedia... and, as one researches you--this is what one comes across:

About that election with Majette, your father, a former state representative in Georgia, stated that "Jews have bought everybody... And then he spelled it, "J-E-W-S. ..." Now..., personally, I always make a distinction between Jews and Zionists--and you just did. ... I try to distinguish between people who follow a religious tradition and those who assert a political-nationalist ideology. ... And, ah... I think writers like Gilad Atzmon, for example, have been very clear about making that distinction in his recent work like The Wandering Who?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: I haven't read that, but--

GARY CORSERI: I haven't read it, but I've read about it--

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Gilad is coming to Atlanta this month --

GARY CORSERI: Is he? I'd like to meet him.

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Yes. ... You must come --

GARY CORSERI: I will! But, ah, anyway... do you think, in retrospect, you might recommend changing the terminology a bit - just to broaden the dialogue and widen the base of opposition to inhumane practices?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Well... let me tell you something. ... I want to talk to you about. ... The first time my daddy got into trouble was when he said, "racist Jew." And, I had a Jewish friend who was trying to smooth things over. And I asked her, "Is Jew a bad word? I didn't know "Zionist"--I didn't even know that word at the time... because... here's the thing: the Anti-Defamation League says that they represent all Jews--that's what they tell us. AIPAC, also. So... I didn't know that

there was a word called "Zionist" until I became involved with the Bertrand Russell tribunal on Palestine. ... And there was a famous Jewish lawyer who was one of the leaders in that tribunal, and I went to him and I said, "Daniel, how does your family feel about your being in this tribunal?" and he said, "My family are anti-Zionist Jews." And I said, "I don't know what that is!" I was 50-something years old, and I'd never heard the language! Now, of course, I've been exposed... and I'm more sensitive that there's a difference. ... Now... I have marvelous Jewish friends... and I understand the difference between Judaism and Zionism. Whoever prays to whatever God is fine with me..., but, a political ideology is quite different. ... I know I have a lot to learn when it comes to Zionism and Judaism. ... I'm not very religious... but I am spiritual... and I'm very interested in people's beliefs... but, I'm more interested in the way people behave. ... So, I would always say, Judge me on what I do more than on what I say. ... And, I acknowledge that I can be wrong about what I say. ... And, my father can be wrong about what he said.

GARY CORSERI: Thank you very much. ... I think you've clarified that for a lot of people. Now... this idea of building alliances. ... I'd like to discuss current events, namely, the Presidential election

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Um-ha.

GARY CORSERI: First, a re-cap: In 2008, disgusted with the Democratic Party, you were the Green Party candidate for president. That same year, you joined a press conference held by 3rd party and independent candidates, including Ralph Nader and Ron Paul. The participants agreed on 4 basic principles:

1. An early end to the Iraq War, and an end to threats of war against other countries, including Iran.
2. Safeguarding privacy and civil liberties, including repeal of the Patriot Act, the Military Commissions Act and FISA legislation.
3. No increase in the National Debt.
4. A thorough investigation, evaluation and audit of the Federal Reserve System.

My question is this: If these different elements of Independent thought could come together on these 4 basic principles in 2008, why can't they unite behind the same principles in 2012?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: They can.

GARY CORSERI: Isn't it possible to conceive a party that speaks for the majority of Independents, that unites Independents? The 4 principles that united Independents then are still very much with us--and in many ways the dangers are greater--the possibility of war with Iran looms larger now, and there's the National Defense

Authorization Act, as well as the other intrusions on privacy and civil liberties. More Americans classify themselves as "Independents" than as Republicans or Democrats. How can the varied strands of Independents work together to defeat the Republicrats?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: The answer to that question goes to the core of the kind of change we hope to initiate on a policy basis. ... So... how do we do that? I think the first thing is that we have to be willing to talk to each other. We have to recognize that there's commonality despite difference. So... the thing that allowed Nader and me and Paul to come together is that we were at least willing to see areas of commonality. We should be able to do that across the political spectrum. And, in fact, when I was in the Congress, I was forced to do that. ... As a Southerner, I -- and as someone who had to get votes -- not lose them -- I needed the endorsement of a leader in the community... and he was a Klan member... and I had no choice. ... I asked him for his support--and I got it! (After I sat there for over an hour and he described to me how "confused" the people were because of the way they judged the Ku Klux Klan to be racist!)

[Here, CM gives a strong, hearty guffaw!]

And... I sat there and found a place where we could have a meeting of the minds--and I did it!

GARY CORSERI: Related question then: I've been criticized because I wrote an article, about a month ago--"The Lion and the Ox" -- praising Ron Paul's stance on ending the wars, ending the Empire, auditing the Fed. I also think his views on our antiquated, absurd and minority-punishing drug laws are far more enlightened than anyone else's --with the exception of 2012 Green Party candidate, Jill Stein's. Paul makes a distinction between Capitalism and Corporatism -- an important distinction. Now, I'm not a Libertarian; I don't agree with "unregulated" Capitalism to the extent Paul and Libertarians do. But, I wonder: Given various points of convergence, how can the Green Party and Libertarians work together to overturn what we have in America today-- basically, a one-party system, a Corporate Party system, abetted by corporate media?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Well, one thing is that the Libertarians and the Greens could join forces -- kind of a united front. So... I'd like to see if those kinds of talks could get anywhere.

GARY CORSERI: A friend of mine suggested a Paul-McKinney ticket.

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: That was your friend, huh?

GARY CORSERI: Well, you know... when I first heard that, I thought, "That's crazy!" But... I thought about it, and I thought, "Why not? We live in crazy times. ..."

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Yeah... we do.

GARY CORSERI: I mean... look what we have to choose from: Santorum, Michelle Bachman, Hermain Cain, Gingrich, Romney-- all these crazy people.

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Every time there's a vote, it gets more outrageous, doesn't it?

GARY CORSERI: It does! Well... what do you think about Paul-McKinney?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Well... we're not there yet, so I don't have to think about it at all!

GARY CORSERI: Well.

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Let me put it this way. ... We do have overlapping constituencies. ... So... it would be wonderful if the two circles could expand beyond their points of intersection. ...And I'm not just talking about Paul. ... I'm talking about people on the Left in general. ... Because, there's no more Left and Right. It's only Right and Wrong now... and the old "Right" is Wrong... and the old "Left" needs to be more Right... does that make sense?

GARY CORSERI: Yes.

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Yeah, because the Left is being co-opted. ... So, the Left needs to be more Left!

GARY CORSERI: There needs to be a convergence where the Greens and the Libertarians can meet --

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: And the militia! You know... I have to deal with the militia, too. I'm from Georgia, right? They participate in the political system--to the extent that they do--and somebody needs to be talking to'em... because, ultimately, they're a part of the 99%. ... And that's the gift that the Occupy Movement has given to us--they've given us a way to self-identify. Now we know--it's not about color, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation--all of those things. At the end of the day--if you're part of the 99%, you're part of us... and if you're part of the 1%--you're part of them!

GC: Related question: Okay...also about Current Events: this is about the Occupy Movement, then.

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Okay.

GARY CORSERI: We live in a Surveillance State. Our license plate numbers are routinely recorded; we're finger-printed for jobs, our Social Security numbers serve as National I.D.'s, our e-mails are monitored for "code" words or phrases, our homes are surveilled by satellite mapping systems of Google, Yahoo, etc. Those who

protest, as in the Occupy Wall Street movement, are arrested, booked, and more closely watched. Now they have "records" that affect their employment. ... My question is: how do we battle this pervasive system? Do you get discouraged? What do you do when you are discouraged? Who are your "heroes"? To whom do you turn for inspiration?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Do I get discouraged? Yes! What do I do when I'm discouraged? ... find other people who are not yet discouraged!

Who are my heroes? Everybody! Everybody who has a tough row to hoe in life! Those are my heroes. Those are the people who give the most! When I was running for Congress back in 1992--for the first time--I was running to represent the second poorest district in Georgia... and, what I learned was that the poor people gave the most! The people who had... didn't give as generously as the people who didn't have! So... my first campaign theme was, "Warriors don't wear medals, they wear scars!" So... my heroes are the community and neighborhood warriors who have a whole lot of scars, a whole lot of dignity.

GARY CORSERI: I'd like you to talk specifically about what used to be called the Black Liberation Struggle. As a young, white man, I was inspired by the works of black writers like Richard Wright, James Baldwin, Leroi Jones (now called Baraka), Eldridge Cleaver, W.E.B. DuBois, and poets like Langston Hughes. Martin Luther King and Malcom X were inspirational leaders for all people; Rosa Parks was a woman of quiet, dignified courage. But, now, with the election of Obama, and with the prominence of people like Bill Cosby first, and Oprah Winfrey, the billionaire--the great struggles of the past almost seem quaint. What's your take on this? Who are the great black leaders today? What is the struggle about today?

[Note: There are 7 million Americans now under "correctional observation." More African-Americans' lives intersect with our prison-industrial-surveillance complex than there were African-American slaves in 1850!]

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: You asked me who are my heroes. ... One of my heroes is Glen Ford, who writes for The Black Agenda Report [<http://blackagendareport.com/>]. I view him as the most astute political observer of our times.

There's a whole lot of pundits who are in our faces every Sunday morning who think they are political observers..., but they are not astute! And they're also not independent. Glen Ford is independent, he's been through the wars and he has no special interests to kow-tow to. ... He just wrote a piece... "Can the Proud African-American Progressive Legacy Survive Another Four Years of Cowing to the Corporate Servant in the White House?" That's strong stuff..., but right on point!

We have a situation now... it was the Black struggle that really defined morality in the United States. It defined the moral imperative. And the character of the country was measured by how well it answered the call of Black people for justice. But what happens when Black people stop asking for justice? I think you get exactly what we've got now--a President who is dropping bombs on Africa... which is un-thought-of; I mean, it would have been un-thought-of four years ago that Africa would be bombed--routinely! But it's a routine matter now that the United States Africa Command [AFRICOM] would actively establish itself and militarize the US relationship with Africa. AFRICOM represents a kind of US imperial occupation of the continent that we haven't seen since the days of outright colonialism of the Europeans. We are being told about issues that are "important"..., but we're ignoring the real issues that are important! Henry Kissinger said that he couldn't believe the amount of good will that was embodied in this president! But... what people like Kissinger don't "get" is that this president sits on top of the historic Black struggle that characterized the United States to the world! People around the world thought that Barack Obama characterized the New United States! But... far from it! A lot of people got tricked and fooled and now... as philosopher Michel Foucault has observed--the every-day actions of ordinary people actually entrap them in "powerlessness". ... So, to break out of your powerlessness, you've got to break out of your existing paradigm. So, as long as Barack Obama is representative of the existing paradigm, this is what we're going to get... because the existing paradigm is war and more war!

GARY CORSERI: How do we "break out"? How do we fight the Mainstream Media that's constantly projecting that paradigm and hammering it into our brains?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: The literature suggests that people have to be confronted with a "disorienting dilemma" that causes them to reflect on what they've just experienced.

GARY CORSERI: Cognitive dissonance?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: That's right. ... Reflect on what you always assumed... and what you've been confronted with that contradicts your assumptions. ... For some people, it was the murder of JFK; for others, it was the murder of Malcom; for others, it was the murder of MLK; for a whole bunch of others, it was the murder of RFK; and for some people who began to look and pay attention like me... it was the murder of all of them and then add onto it the murder of the members of the Black Panther Party--who were attacked by our own government.

You could say that for me, my first "disorienting dilemma" was when I realized that I was black. I realized that the world around me was not like me, and that it didn't value my black skin! That, for me was when I began to pay attention and wake up!

GARY CORSERI: How old were you?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Seven or eight. ...You know... for some people it's religion, it's race, it's gender, it's, maybe, sexual orientation. ... Everyone has their moment of reckoning.

I think, ultimately... it's about the love we have for humanity and how we see something is wrong and we have to stop it!

So... by the time I got to Congress... I had had my "reckoning," and I had had my "break-out" moments, and I guess this gave me strength and vibrancy... and there were people who didn't like it. I wore my hair differently, I dressed differently from the other people in Congress. There was even a segment of the Capitol Hill police that didn't like that.

GARY CORSERI: What year was that?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: 1993.

GARY CORSERI: Wasn't there a much more recent incident with the Capitol Hill police?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: No, no, no. ... It happened for twelve years! ... Twelve years of harrassment from the Capitol Hill police! They considered it a "sport" to harass me! ... It's available on the Internet... if you go to YouTube and you put in "The Last Plantation."

GARY CORSERI: The infamous incident is when you apparently struck back at the officer who was harassing you. ... Is that correct?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: The officer had no business putting his hands on me! ... And I reacted like any normal person would react when being attacked by some great big, huge guy from behind! ... This was a "hit." It was a "hit"--a "sport"--for the white officers. You'll see if you go to that "Last Plantation" site that I had been targeted because I had written a letter of support for the Black Capitol Hill police officers.

GARY CORSERI: And this most infamous incident... that was the same day as House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was indicted?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: That's right. ... The Mainstream Media didn't want to lead with that indictment, did they? It was much more sensational and distracting to lead with the story of a black Congresswoman attacking a Capitol Hill police officer!

[Laughter]

GARY CORSERI: You're a pretty brave woman, aren't you?

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY: Everybody can be brave... they just need that break-out moment of recognition. ... I've stood on some big shoulders.

... As I said before -- my campaign theme: "Warriors don't wear medals... they wear scars."

Editor, teacher and writer Dr. Gary S. Corseri has taught in universities in the U.S. and Japan, and in public schools and prisons in the U.S. His articles, poems, fiction and dramas have appeared at Countercurrents, CounterPunch, InformationClearingHouse, CommonDreams, The New York Times, The Village Voice, and hundreds of other venues worldwide. His dramas have been produced on PBS-Atlanta, and he has performed his work at the Carter Presidential Library. His books include novels and poetry collections.

This article was first published by Countercurrents.

23. Lebanon Intercepts Arms Shipment To Syrian Rebels From Libya

By [RYAN VILLARREAL](#): Subscribe to Ryan's [RSS feed](#)

April 30, 2012 4:02 PM EDT

Lebanese intelligence officers are questioning crew members of a ship that set sail from [Libya](#) and was found to be carrying a cache of weapons that supposedly were intended to supply opposition forces in Syria.



Enlarge

(Photo: Reuters/Lebanese Army)

Ammunition is seen inside one of the three freight containers that were found on the ship Letfallah II after it was intercepted off Lebanon's northern coast and diverted to Selaata port, north of Beirut, and later

transferred to the naval base at the port of Beirut, in this handout picture released by the Lebanese Army website on April 28, 2012.

Lebanese authorities found weapons on board the ship intercepted in the Mediterranean which may have been trying to supply Syrian rebels, security sources said on Saturday.

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Eleven crew members of the cargo vessel Luftfallah II have been detained by Lebanese authorities after the Lebanese navy confiscated three shipping containers of weapons and ammunition, including heavy machine guns, artillery shells, rocket launchers and other explosives, found Saturday. The ship was registered in Sierra Leone, though it initially departed from [Libya](#).

The Luftfallah II was en route to the city of Tripoli in northern Lebanon when it was intercepted Thursday by the Lebanese navy and towed Saturday to Selaata, a small port village roughly 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of the capital Beirut.

According to [Al Jazeera](#), a Lebanese security official said the arms shipment was bound for the Free Syrian Army, a coalition group of rebel fighters seeking to overthrow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The Syrian government has repeatedly claimed that weapons are being smuggled through Lebanon to Syrian rebel forces.

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The Lebanese coalition government has been largely supportive of Assad. Hezbollah, a political party in Lebanon but deemed a terrorist group by the U.S., has publicly stated its firm support.

The U.S. and E.U. have imposed some sanctions on the Syrian government, though efforts to do so through the U.N. Security Council have met with resistance from [Russia](#) and [China](#).

A Year of Death and Violence

Syria has been embroiled in violence for nearly a year following the government's crackdown on an initially peaceful popular movement

that began with public demonstrations in January 2011, in the wave of Arab Spring uprisings throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

Protesters, unhappy over social inequity aggravated by high unemployment among young adults and suppression of [human rights](#), demanded Assad's resignation and an end to the Ba'ath Party's nearly five decades of political dominance.

The Syrian military began violently suppressing protesters in May after claiming 11 soldiers had been attacked and killed by "armed terrorist groups" in the city of Homs.

Armed rebel groups have since risen in numbers to fight the Syrian military, pulling the country into a protracted and bloody conflict, which the U.N. estimates has resulted in over 9,000 deaths since hostilities began.

U.N. peacekeepers have recently been deployed to Syria to uphold a tenuous cease-fire between the military and opposition forces, though reports of new casualties continue to stream in.

To report problems or to leave feedback about this article, e-mail: r.villarreal@ibtimes.com

To contact the editor, e-mail: editor@ibtimes.com

18. Libyan women being raped as spoils of Shariah law: group

BY [MARK DUNN](#), SENIOR NATIONAL REPORTER

FIRST POSTED: MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2011 04:58 PM EDT |

UPDATED: MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2011 09:01 PM EDT

OTTAWA - Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird can't guarantee Libya won't return to Stone Age laws and treat women as second-class citizens.

After an eight-month war to liberate the people, the leader of a rag-tag coalition says Shariah law would guide the country in a post-Gadhafi era.

It was unclear how much of the law Mustafa Jalil - a former Gadhafi justice minister - wants to adopt to appease followers of Islam.

But his comments have sparked concerns.

"We didn't send our troops, our pilots to help in the liberation of Libya in order to see any one group in Libyan society oppressed," interim

Liberal Leader Bob Rae said. "The liberation of Libya means the liberation of Libyan women as well as Libyan men."

Homa Arjomand of the International Campaign Against Sharia Court in Canada said the wives of men who worked under the Gadhafi regime as pharmacists, teachers and other occupations are already being targeted for rape.

"According to Shariah law, enemies' wives should be raped and they have started raping these women already," Arjomand said.

She said adopting an Islamic state like Iran would mean a lifetime of oppression.

"Women would be segregated from men and would be under complete limitations - from schools, to swimming, to dances, forcing them to marry at a younger age, to putting them in polygamous relationships."

In its most Liberal interpretation, Shariah law prohibits pre-pubescent girls from showing their faces and forces women to wear hijabs in public.

Homosexuals could be executed and adulterers stoned. Men can marry multiple partners.

Baird - one of the first dignitaries to visit Libya during the war and one of the first to recognize the National Transitional Council as the de-facto government - called for caution.

"I suspect we should hold our judgment," he said Monday, two weeks after returning from Libya, where he promoted women's rights.

"Let's see what that (Shariah) will entail. I suspect it won't look like what our conception of Shariah law is in this country."

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<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-279166-turkey-is-good-example-for-libya-to-follow-ambassador-says.html>

(Note From Alex – description of "Todays Zaman, yes from unreliable Wikipedia) [Today's Zaman - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Today's_Zaman

Today's Zaman is one of two English-language dailies based in Turkey. Established on January 16, 2007, the newspaper's main competitor is the older Hürriyet ...

19. Excerpt re: Civil War and partition implication

20. A committee to audit the economic agreements

The ambassador indicated that Turkish and Libyan authorities have agreed to establish a committee to audit the economic agreements of Turkish businesspeople, during a visit by Çağlayan to Libya. "We look

forward to seeing all Turkish contractors come back and start working [in Libya]. Some part of our budget will go to paying our dues, as long as they are legitimate," Mukhtar remarked. Although there has been a downward trend in trade and investment relations between the countries, Mukhtar said that the economic relations are very promising with Turkey in the post-Gaddafi period. "Libya has outstanding potential to rise again to the economic situation of the pre-revolution period," he said.

Mukhtar has singled out his country's experiences in the reconstruction period, in a region now renowned for countries that rose against their dictators, including Tunisia and Egypt. "Libya probably has the best potential of any other country in the post-revolution period, because it has the economic wealth to resolve its problems quickly," he said.

Libya is an important petroleum-exporting country and has the longest Mediterranean beaches of 2000 kilometers, which would bring an important interest in tourism revenues.

One of the leading problems in Libya is the ongoing security situation following the internal war. The armed militias drove Gaddafi from power with the help of a NATO military intervention led by France and the UK, between March and Oct. of 2011. However, those armed groups could not be disbanded and are now holding an important degree of power, blocking the restoration of stability in Libya in the post-Gaddafi era. The NTC has struggled to incorporate the militias into the military and police, seeking Turkish support also on that matter. Turkey has started negotiations with Libya to begin training the country's police force on January of 2013.

Turkey was also one of the first countries to recognize the NTC as the sole representative of the Libyan people, after NTC forces entered Gaddafi's compound in Tripoli in late August 2012 and stormed the symbol of his more than 40-year reign. Turkey has also provided Libyan people with humanitarian assistance, including medical equipment and food as well as financial assistance totaling \$200 million since the beginning of the uprising in February 2011. Mukhtar expressed gratitude to Turkish officials for extending support to Libyan people during their difficult time, noting that around 20,000 Libyan patients received free treatment in Turkey during the conflict. "Once we ousted Gaddafi, we started to take care of our own citizens in private and university hospitals in Turkey," he said.

The ambassador confirmed claims appearing in the media that Libyan patients are complaining over the high prices charged by some private

hospitals in Turkey and said that auditing operations in order to prevent such problems is ongoing. The ambassador also thanked Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for quickly becoming involved in the situation and holding responsibility for the troubles of Libyan citizens.

During a meeting with NTC Prime Minister Abdel-Rahim al-Keib in Istanbul in February, Erdoğan said he deplored such actions made by Turkish private hospitals and said such an attitude is "breaking with the values of the Turkish nation" and he guaranteed that these institutions will be called into question as soon as possible.

Mukhtar also lauded the efforts of the international community under the UN initiative supporting a free election in their country, which will enable Libyan citizens to write their own constitution. The scheduled date for the free Libyan elections is the end of June.

The ambassador played down federalist tendencies surfacing from different parts of Libya, in challenges to the interim rule of NTC.

"I don't think that Libya will be divided, Libya will be one country. People and media have made minor problems, big in Libya. Libyan people want everything to happen today and they don't want to wait [to see the NTC reforms come into effect]," Mukhtar maintained.

One of the scenarios political observers forecasted for a post-Gaddafi Libya is partition due to a shaky administrative system, which was not fully established during the history of the country, and the likelihood of tribal or religious polarization. Since 1951, Libya's administrative divisions have changed eight times. Since 2007, Libya has had 27 administrative districts. But the political differences between the three historical provinces of Tripolitania in the west, Fezzan in the south and Cyrenaica in the east still hold sway in Libya. For example, Cyrenaica gave full support to the Libyan rebels, while Tripolitania was not free of Gaddafi supporters.

Neither is Libya free of developments that serve as a reminder of such possibilities.

Earlier in March, civic leaders in Libya's eastern Cyrenaica province, home to most of the country's oil, declared the creation of a council to administer the province's affairs. The declaration does not carry official force but it puts the province -- unhappy for many years at what it regards as neglect by rulers in Tripoli -- on course for a confrontation with NTC, Reuters reported.

The country has banned political parties from the upcoming elections in June based on tribal, ethnic or religious lines in order to overcome the possibility of polarization, NTC spokesman Mohammed al-Harizy said on Thursday.

There is also rivalry over tribal lines, especially between Eastern and Western regions. In June 2011, armed clashes between the villagers of al-Zintan and al-Rayyaniya showed the potential severity of violent polarization, Omar Ashour stated in an article published by Today's Zaman in July.

Alex end note: I support Libyans aspiration for freedom and wish no Libyan ill – however the Western Intervention was not to help Libya, or if it was it was quickly coopted by the war machine.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/opinion/dan-simpson/a-problematic-victory-in-libya-311580/?p=0>

24. Pittsburgh Post: A problematic victory in Libya

2012-03-30 03:54:46

By Dan Simpson / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The U.S. role in the war to replace Moammar Gadhafi as leader of Libya that appears to be about to be completed gives me problems.

In terms of truth in lending I will say right up front that he was one of my students in an English class at the Royal Army Military College in Benghazi, Libya, in the 1964-65 period. I didn't know him well: There was almost no social contact between the officer cadets, which Mr. Gadhafi was at that point, and the faculty. He was nonetheless one of those students who always had his hand up, and one whom the other cadets clearly held in respect. Thus, I remember him.

The personal aspect isn't what bothers me now anyway. It is certainly clear over the years that he had become something of a monster. He did some good things for Libya. He got rid of the monarchy and the court hangers-on who profited from it while ordinary Libyans rode donkeys.

Mr. Gadhafi realigned Libya's foreign policy position to put it more in sync with its Arab neighbors. He got rid of the foreign (British and American) military bases on Libyan territory, a remnant of World War II. He wrested control of most of Libya's oil wealth -- some 2 percent of world production -- from the hands of foreign (American, British,

French, Italian) oil companies. He built Libya some fancy, maybe useful infrastructure, including a big pipeline to carry water from a desert aquifer to the greener coast. (NATO has bombed it.)

On the other side of the coin his biggest piece of destructive behavior was to have his agents blow up Pan Am 103 in 1988, killing 270. He provided financial support to a number of scruffy terrorist organizations, including the Irish Republican Army. He tried to grab part of Chad for Libya. He was a big supporter of African unity, useful behavior, but it was clear to the other African leaders that part of his idea was that he would be the head of the unified Africa.

He dressed funny. He acted weird. He put out a Green Book of his allegedly greatest thoughts. He was absolutely brutal to his internal Libyan opposition. As he got older it became clear that he had the idea that one or more of his sons would succeed him as leader. In balance, a mixed picture.

The real problem for me is severalfold. First, this makes the third Muslim, Middle Eastern, North African or South Asian country that the United States has absolutely trashed by military force. It's not because they are Muslim. I don't really think that we are gunning for Muslim nations. It is rather that we have involved ourselves in the affairs of at least three nations -- Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya -- and probably another two, Somalia and Yemen -- with military force and with the clear intent of determining who governs them.

Now how do we square those actions with America's avowed intent to respect the right to self-determination of other peoples? Never mind our stated devotion to democracy. Let's try the Atlantic Charter of 1941, agreed upon by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and United Kingdom Prime Minister Winston Churchill, one of the finest statements of dedication to freedom ever made. It was good enough to enable the United States basically to force the United Kingdom to free its colonies after World War II.

Point 3 of the Charter stated, "They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live" Now, how exactly, do we reconcile this declaration with getting rid of Moammar Gadhafi, Saddam Hussein and Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh of Iran in 1953, as examples?

President Barack Obama chose to take the United States to war with Libya in March without taking the matter to the Congress, the

representatives of the American people, in defiance of the War Powers Act, a decision that was controversial even within his administration.

The arguments against going in were, basically, that the United States was already involved in two major Middle East wars, Iraq and Afghanistan, that were stretching our military and financial resources, and that it was not clear at all that Libya was any of our business. This was the position taken, reportedly, by Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen.

The other point of view, that the United States should intervene, primarily on humanitarian grounds, was taken by Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan E. Rice and National Security staffer Samantha Powers. Mr. Obama chose intervention.

It has not yet become publicly known what role U.S. oil companies, which have been seeking to regain assets that Mr. Gadhafi nationalized for Libya in the 1970s, may have had in influencing Mr. Obama's decision, through lobbyists, with campaign contribution promises, or however. What is certain is that their representatives have been very active in U.S. planning for the post-Gadhafi years that are about to start.

The Libyan war, which has included more than 4,400 air strikes in that country, supported by U.S. intelligence and military actions, has cost the U.S. taxpayer an estimated \$1 billion so far. It could be argued that the U.S. military and intelligence operatives involved in the Libyan war have been used by Mr. Obama's administration as a mercenary force on behalf of American and other Western oil company interests.

So far the Obama administration has been cagey about telling the public how many Americans have been in Libya involved in the war -- if no "boots on the ground" what about Guccis or Tims or whatever CIA and Special Operations people wear? Or how much it has cost? Or how much it is going to cost us to rebuild Libya, even to put back what our air strikes have knocked down?

We have also not been told what the Obama administration thinks will be the successor government to Mr. Gadhafi's. Mr. Obama has called this moment "pivotal and historic." We are certainly ready to be hopeful. At the same time, it is hard not to notice that every time the Libyan rebels shoot someone or fire a volley into the sky they shout, "Allah akbar!" That's probably not a football cheer.

Dan Simpson, a former U.S. ambassador, is a Post-Gazette associate editor (dsimpson@post-gazette.com , 412 263-1976).

First Published August 24, 2011 12:00 am

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/prisoners-in-libya-languish-without-charge/2011/10/22/gIQAz0EZ7L_story.html

21. Washington Post Prisoners in Libya languish without charge



View Photo Gallery — After taking Tripoli, rebel fighters target Moammar Gaddafi's last bastions of support.

By [Mary Beth Sheridan](#), Published: October 22, 2011

MISURATA, Libya — Nearly 7,000 prisoners of war are packed into dingy, makeshift jails around Libya, where they have languished for weeks without charges and have faced abuse and even torture, according to human rights groups and interviews with the detainees.

The prisoners will pose an early test of the new government's ability to rein in powerful militias and break from the cruel legacy of Moammar Gaddafi, who was killed Thursday. Human rights groups have warned that the former dictator's death — which occurred in captivity after he was punched and kicked by swarming revolutionaries —



Which could constitute a war crime.



(Mary Beth Sheridan/ WASHINGTON POST) - Prisoners captured during the Libyan war stand in a massive dormitory at a makeshift prison run by revolutionary authorities in the city of Misurata. An estimated 7,000 Libyan detainees from the war are in crowded prisons around the country.

Video



WARNING: Graphic video. Libya's new leaders will declare liberation on Sunday, officials said, a move that will start the clock for elections after months of bloodshed that culminated in the death of longtime dictator Moammar Gaddafi. (Oct. 22)

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- [Hospital is a casualty of Libyan war](#)
- [Prisoners in Libya languish without charge](#)
- [For Libyan fighters, a hero's welcome in Benghazi](#)

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Many of Libya's makeshift prisons are run by local militia groups scarred by the eight-month war and angry at the prisoners, who

include Gaddafi fighters and supporters. The new government that is to be named in the next few weeks — after a planned declaration of Libya's liberation Sunday — will have to deal with both the militias and a crippled national justice system.

So far, the overwhelmed central government has not decided whether Gaddafi-era laws can be used to prosecute his forces.

“What we have been through is something unusual. We don't have a court that applies for that,” said Ali Sweti, a lawyer who works with the revolutionary government in Misurata, about 130 miles east of Tripoli.

Sweti, 27, runs a prison that reflects the rough wartime justice at work in Libya. The facility was set up at a high school, and it now holds 1,000 inmates — a tenfold increase since July. They sleep on mattresses laid side by side on the floor, guarded by revolutionaries as young as 19. One recent day, two dozen detainees were lined up waiting to use one small washroom.

The interim national government is planning an amnesty for Gaddafi fighters who have not committed war crimes and who agree to cooperate with the new authorities, according to one government adviser, who was not authorized to speak on the record. But it is unclear whether that will be acceptable in places such as Misurata, where residents endured especially bloody attacks by loyalist forces.

“Some of these [pro-Gaddafi] people raped, some killed. There was vandalism. They tortured us; they killed kids,” said Abdel Gader Abu Shaallah, who oversees two other makeshift prisons in Misurata. “We are emotionally destroyed.”

Militiamen from Misurata [captured Gaddafi on Thursday](#) in his home town of Sirte. [Cellphone videos](#) show revolutionaries punching and kicking him and pulling his hair, as gunshots ring out in the background. He died in captivity during what the interim government says was an exchange of gunfire with loyalist troops but what human rights groups say could have been an intentional shot to the head. Gaddafi's body was displayed publicly in Misurata for a second day Saturday.

Mona Rishmawi, a senior U.N. human rights official, said after visiting Libya this month that up to 7,000 prisoners were being held with no judicial process.

“This is, of course, a recipe for abuse,” she told reporters.



22. [Libya: Revoke Draconian New Law](#)

23. Legislation Criminalizes Free Speech

MAY 5, 2012



© 2011 Human Rights Watch

This legislation punishes Libyans for what they say, reminiscent of the dictatorship that was just overthrown. It will restrict free speech, stifle dissent, and undermine the principles on which the Libyan revolution was based.

Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch

(New York) – Libya’s National Transitional Council (NTC) should immediately revoke a new law that bans insults against the people of Libya or its institutions, Human Rights Watch said today. The law also prohibits criticism of the country’s 2011 revolution and glorification of the deposed former leader Muammar Gaddafi.

The law violates Libya’s provisional constitutional covenant and international human rights law, both of which guarantee free speech, Human Rights Watch said.

“This legislation punishes Libyans for what they say, reminiscent of the dictatorship that was just overthrown,” said [Sarah Leah Whitson](#), Middle

East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch. “It will restrict free speech, stifle dissent, and undermine the principles on which the Libyan revolution was based.”

Under Law 37, passed on May 2, 2012, spreading “false or vicious news” or “propaganda” that harms “military efforts to defend the country, terrorizes people, or weakens the morale of citizens” is a criminal offense, punishable with imprisonment for an unspecified amount of time. Included in “propaganda” is glorification of Gaddafi, his regime, and his sons. If the offensive statements damage the country, the law says, the offender can be sentenced to life in prison.

Anyone who does anything to “damage the February 17 Revolution” can be charged with a crime under the law and sent to prison. February 17 refers to the start of the popular uprising that overthrew Gaddafi in 2011.

Charges can also be brought against anyone who “insults Islam, or the prestige of the state or its institutions or judiciary, and every person who publicly insults the Libyan people, slogan or flag.”

The ban on damaging the February 17 Revolution is apparently based on article 195 of Libya’s current penal code, drafted and implemented under Gaddafi’s rule, which bans any “damage to the great al-Fateh Revolution or its leader.” The al-Fateh Revolution brought Gaddafi to power in 1969.

Under the previous government, criticizing Gaddafi or the al-Fateh Revolution was punishable by death. Individuals were regularly imprisoned for criticizing the government, some of them under article 195 of the Libyan penal code.

“It seems the NTC has done a ‘cut and paste’ job with the Gaddafi-era laws,” Whitson said.

A group of Libyan human rights lawyers told Human Rights Watch that they will challenge Law 37 before the country’s supreme court.

Libya’s constitutional covenant, passed on August 3, 2011, includes a chapter on human rights and freedoms. Article 14 ensures freedom of opinion and speech, as well as assembly.

Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR), governments may only restrict the right to freedom of expression to protect public morals if the restriction conforms to strict tests of necessity and proportionality and is non-discriminatory, including on the grounds of religion or belief. The newly enacted law fails to meet that test, Human Rights Watch said. Libya is a party to both the ICCPR and the African Charter.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee, in its 2011 General Comment on the ICCPR’s article 19, held that the right to freedom of expression protects speech that might be deemed offensive or hurtful to followers of a particular religion, unless the speech in question amounts to “advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.” It also said that “States Parties [to the ICCPR] should not prohibit criticism of institutions.” The Human Rights Committee is considered the authoritative interpreter of the ICCPR.

Human Rights Watch called on governments supporting Libya’s transition, as well as the UN mission in Libya, to condemn the newest law strongly, and other unlawful attempts to restrict free speech, expression, and assembly.

“This law is a slap in the face for all those who were imprisoned under

Gaddafi's laws criminalizing political speech, and who fought for a new Libya where human rights are respected," Whitson said. "Libya's new leaders should know that laws restricting what people can say can lead to a new tyranny."

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<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/government-should-do-more-to-prevent-human-rights-abuses-in-libya-says-watchdog-7777635.html#>

24. Government should do more to prevent human rights abuses in Libya, says watchdog

25.

Terri Judd

Tuesday, 22 May 2012

The Government should be doing more to prevent human rights abuses by the new Libyan regime, the Foreign Affairs select committee will be told today.

Seven months after the UK and NATO allies helped with the overthrow of Gaddafi rule and the installation of the National Transitional Council, human rights experts say there have been worrying developments including a draconian new law suppressing freedom of speech, reminiscent of the previous dictatorship.

Today David Mepham, UK Director of Human Rights Watch, will give evidence before the committee on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's 2011 report on Human Rights and Democracy.

He is expected to say that HRW is disappointed that the UK has not pushed harder for independent monitors of violations in the country, in particular recent developments that threaten imprisonment to anyone who speaks out against the Libyan people or institutions as well as amnesties granted to anti-Gaddafi forces who have committed war crimes.

"Given the UK's central involvement in Libya over the last 12 months we have a moral responsibility to promote greater respect for human rights and we are very concerned about the human rights situation," Mr Mepham said yesterday.

He will also call for a proper investigation into the 72 civilians the charity estimates were killed by NATO air strikes despite the alliance's assertions that the bombing campaign was executed with "unprecedented care and precision".

The situation in Libya is one of numerous issues expected to be raised by Mr Mepham today, insisting that while HRW supports much of the work being carried out by the FCO and wider UK Government it still

falls short of its policy commitments to "pursue every opportunity to promote human rights" and tackle violations.

Also speaking today will be Jeremy Croft, Head of Policy and Government Affairs for Amnesty International, who will urge the Government not "to trade away gains made in women's rights in negotiations with the Taliban in a bid to secure a hasty exit from Afghanistan".

http://www.menas.co.uk/App_Data/elib/8%20April%202012%20-%20Arab%20News.pdf

http://www.menas.co.uk/App_Data/elib/8%20April%202012%20-%20Arab%20News.pdf



1. **Libyan fighters clash with Gaddafi loyalists in Tarhouna, 2 killed**

Posted on [December 25, 2011](#) by [main](#)

A resident of a city in western Libya says at least two people were killed after gunmen ransacked a home in search of a regime figure once loyal to Moammar Gadhafi.

Basem al-Tarhoni says angry residents in Tarhouna retaliated by torching the headquarters of some 100 fighters who helped topple the longtime leader from



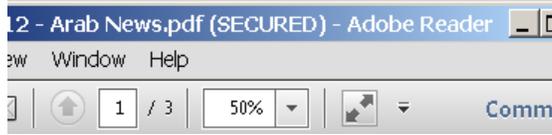
power.

Tarhouna was widely seen as a Gadhafi favorite, and its dominant tribe, also called Tarhouna, held many positions in the Libyan military. The city's residents are viewed with suspicion by former rebels.

Such clashes are a major challenge for Libya's new rulers.

The clashes took place on the same day security ministers announced a program for integrating former rebels in civil institutions. The ministers gave few details and offered no timetable for disarming fighters.

26. Gadaffi Era Rivalries Haunt Libya



Qaddafi-era rivalries haunt Libya

8 April 2012 – Arab News

More than seven months after Muammar Qaddafi was toppled from power, his legacy of divide, rule and suppress has bequeathed Libya with simmering grievances now boiling over into fierce turf wars, analysts say.

The latest instance came in ferocious fighting between rival towns in western Libya, which left more than a score of people dead this week as militias battled each other with tanks and artillery. The week before, internecine fighting in the remote desert oasis of Sabha between tribes killed about 150 people and left hundreds displaced. In both cases, the governing National Transitional Council (NTC) looked on helplessly.

"It's certainly worrying," Charles Gurdon, managing director of the British political risk consultancy Menas Associates, told The Media Line. "At the moment, the NTC really doesn't have control over the whole country and there isn't an army strong enough to maintain control. The most powerful forces in country at the moment are the major militias."

The failure of the NTC to maintain order threatens to undermine the country's transition to democratic rule and revive the economy.

Libyan government spokesman Nasser Al-Manaa told journalists in Tripoli on Wednesday that the instability could delay June elections for a constituent assembly. "Freedom does not have to mean chaos and rights should not be claimed by picking up arms," Manaa said, urging the sides to act with restraint.

Libyan oil production is up to 75 percent of pre-war levels and last month the local stock exchange opened for business. But an international trade fair opening this month in Tripoli will likely draw half the participants it did two years ago as foreigners fear traveling to the country. Libyan airlines were barred Wednesday from the European Union after the two sides agreed the country's jets didn't meet safety standards.

Moreover, the post-liberation chaos in Libya is almost certainly influencing world leaders hesitant to intervene in Syria, which remains gripped by fighting between the government and opposition. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper warned this week that by comparison with Libya — where NATO forces intervened to help what he termed an organized and united

opposition against a universally hated leader — Syria could be headed toward a period of worse violence.

Libya enjoyed more than four decades of political quiet under Qaddafi, but he accomplished that by ruling with an iron hand that suppressed the traditional tribal rivalries that are now breaking out in the new, freer

atmosphere. His "Africa-first" policy lured sub-Saharan Africans to the country, where they were often favored with jobs and other privileges that provoked jealousy among indigenous Libyans.

Last week's violence in the desert oasis town of Sabha, about 750 km south of Tripoli, was the result of clashes between Tibu, who arrived in Libya at Qaddafi's urging years ago from neighboring Chad, with ethnic Arabs who see them as outsiders.

Meanwhile, the rivalries of the country's five-month-long civil war are still being played out in places like western Libya, where militias in the town of Zuwara, whose largely ethnic-Berber population fought Qaddafi while their mostly Arab neighbors from towns like Regdalin and Al-Jumal remained loyal to the deposed leader.

Other turf wars are being fought over smuggling routes, particularly in western Libya where militias, criminal gangs and other interested parties are vying to take over in the chaos.

Qaddafi's style of personal rule prevented the creation of government institutions, which means the NTC has inherited little in the way of a bureaucracy or army to effectively rule Libya. The militias that rose up during the civil war are loath to put down their arms and many of them outgun the official forces because the NTC hasn't offered sufficient incentives, said Tarek Alwan, managing director of London-based consulting firm SOC Libya.

"If I have a gun and you would like to take it from me, you need to give me a reward in term of money, salaries, training programs, scholarships, jobs," Alwan told The Media Line.

Gurdon said a government program to pay civil war fighters a stipend has not only encouraged the militias to remain intact at state expense but has created a boondoggle. The number of actual fighters in the war was not very large, but with the economy in the doldrums and few jobs to be found, nonveterans have been staking claims.

"If you're being paid 500 dinars a month by the government because you were a revolutionary fighter, you become a revolutionary fighter. There is nothing else to do," Gurdon of the Menas consultancy said. When real militia men are integrated into the national army, they tend to be recruited though their militia rather than as an individual, so they remain loyal to their commanders rather than the army, he said.

The key date for Libya is June 23 when elections for a constituent assembly are scheduled. Despite government warnings that the chaos may force cancellation both Gurdon and Alwan predicted the vote would

go ahead as planned and, if it is conducted freely and fairly, would help establish the credibility of the government.

Will elections convince the militias to lay down their arms? "I don't think before [the vote], but definitely afterwards," Alwan said. "Some military groups have already given up arms, even though others are cautious, not fully convince that current government will lead the country to democracy."

He expressed confidence that the turf wars wracking the country would die down and that they do not constitute a fundamental threat to stability and order in the long run.

1. Dozens of Libya shrines destroyed

27. <http://www.canada.com/Dozens+Libya+shrines+destroyed/6649229/story.html>

28. Chaos that has followed fall of Moammar Gadhafi has resulted in Islamic extremists running amok

29. BY HADEEL AL SHALCHI, REUTERS MAY 19, 2012

Mohamed Salem believes it was divine intervention that saved the Muslim holy site where he works from being destroyed.

In early March, word reached the keepers of the ornate shrine, the most important of its kind in Libya, that ultra-conservative Salafis were on their way to destroy it as part of a campaign to wipe out any symbols they see as idolatrous.

The curators sent for help. Volunteer militia units came from nearby towns. They surrounded the shrine complex - which houses the tomb of the 15th-century Sufi scholar Abdel Salam al-Asmar - with pick-up trucks mounted with anti-aircraft weapons, and waited to repel the attack.

Then a sandstorm, rare at that time of year, whipped up and shrouded the mosque from view. The attack never came.

"The dust was so thick and the wind so strong you couldn't see your hand in front of you," said Salem, a caretaker and religious teacher at the complex. "God protected the grave of this scholarly man and protected us from harm."

Since last year's revolt ended Moammar Gadhafi's 42-year rule over Libya, people have grown used to looking to their own resources, or to God, to help them out, because they feel they cannot count on their government.

The struggle over this shrine in Zlitan, about 160 kilometres west of the Libyan capital, is the story of Libya as it struggles to reshape itself after Gadhafi's rule.

It is the story of the battle for the right to define what it means to be a Muslim in Libya, of theological arguments being settled by weapons, and of an interim government that is so weak that it cannot impose its authority over opposing factions.

Files from Gadhafi's internal security agency, seen by Reuters after the revolt, show there was a special department set up to track hardline Islamists. Anyone suspected of affiliation was denied the right to travel abroad, enrol in university or take public sector jobs.

Since that system of repression collapsed, Salafis have become emboldened. Some have acquired weapons and used them to enforce their ultra-purist view of Islam.

In the eastern city of Benghazi, organizers of a rap concert featuring a famous Tunisian artist were forced to cancel the event after being threatened by a Salafi brigade called Libya's Shield.

Worried that the Salafis would attack their joyful annual parades to celebrate the Prophet Mohammad's birthday in February, Sufi mosques sought safety in numbers and held a joint procession in Tripoli's walled old city. The event, which Salafis also consider idolatrous, went off without incident.

The government has a lot on its plate trying to run a country that, since Gadhafi's downfall, has been floating on a wave of hope and optimism but at the same time often seems close to slipping into chaos.

It is only beginning to build a state army and police force. There are still armed militias that answer only to their own commanders and refuse to disarm. It is trying to organize the country's first election next month.

In March, government chairman Mustafa Abdel Jalil met the mufti and representatives of Libya's Sufi and Salafi camps. Salem, the curator of Zlitan's al-Asmar shrine, was at the meeting. He said he asked for security for the complex.

Instead, the issue was fudged. Salem said he left the meeting with an order from Abdel Jalil to shutter the tomb and wait for further notice. "We received no security," he said.

Since then, official institutions have been passing the buck. The NTC said it is waiting for the mufti to make a decision on the religious legality of the grave sites. And the mufti's office told Reuters it is waiting for the government to make a final decision.

In the meantime, caretakers at the al-Asmar shrine have the more immediate concern of how to stop the complex from being destroyed by Salafis, without help from the state.

TRIPOLI (Reuters) - Libya's interim **finance** minister said on Thursday he would resign soon because of "wastage of

public funds", citing a now-halted scheme to compensate former fighters and pressure from them for payment.

Daily Press 2012-05-10: UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - Several prisoners likely were tortured to death at a detention center in Libya under government control, the **United Nations** said on Thursday as it urged the country to make stamping out such practices a top priority. Libya's **Justice Ministry** has control of 31 detention centers with some 3,000 detainees, but about 4,000 prisoners are still in the custody of **Libyan** revolutionary brigades, **U.N.** special envoy for Libya **Ian Martin** told the U.N. **Security Council.** **Government Death and Dying Customs Prisons Culture Civil Rights Human Rights** Justice and Rights **Wars** and Interventions **Tripoli... more »**

2. 'It was not necessary to kill Gaddafi'

Niger's president is anxiously watching events in neighbouring Mali that he says were triggered by the Libyan uprising.

[Talk to Al Jazeera](#) Last Modified: 02 Jun 2012 11:44

The colours of al-Qaeda are flying high in northern Mali, the new stronghold of Tuareg rebels who have merged with a hardline group, suspected of links with al-Qaeda's north Africa branch.

They took advantage of a military coup to forge ahead with their dream of an independent homeland. And now watching nervously is neighbouring Niger - which has also had its share of Tuareg rebellions - and Mahmadou Issoufou, the country's president.

The downfall of Gaddafi in Libya has only made matters worse.

"I have to say that what is happening in Mali is the result of the Libyan crisis - that's what caused a military coup which made things even worse," says Niger's president.

"I don't believe it was necessary to kill Gaddafi, especially the way he was killed."

Niger, already troubled by political and commercial interests, is a major uranium producer. On this episode of *Talk to Al Jazeera*, we speak to Mahmadou Issoufou, the president of a country in the crosshairs.



3. Tripoli airport back in our control, says Libyan government

International flights were diverted after militia protesting against reported kidnapping of their leader stormed airport

- [Chris Stephen](#) in Tripoli
- [guardian.co.uk](#), Monday 4 June 2012 13.27 EDT



The militia agreed to surrender control of the airport after Mustafa Abdul Jalil, the NTC chairman, promised that the missing commander would be found. Photograph: Burhan Ozbilici/AP

Armed militias stormed Tripoli international airport on Monday in a protest against the reported kidnapping of their leader. The militias, from Tarhuna, 40 miles south of Tripoli, captured the airport, firing shots as their vehicles careened across the runway in front of planes waiting to take off, forcing international flights to be diverted to the capital's military airport.

The attack on the airport, which was apparently unguarded, has raised fresh questions about the government's grip on security, coming a month after another militia occupied the office of the prime minister, Abdurrahim el-Keib, and little more than two weeks before planned national elections.

The government said on Monday night it had retaken control of the airport. In an interview with al-Jazeera, the head of the country's National Transitional Council, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, said the airport was attacked and held for several hours. He vowed it would not fall out of government control again.

"The attack on the airport is dangerous, but we dealt with it as a government, military and revolutionaries with intelligence," he said.

One witness, Adem Saleh, a Libyan oil worker, was on a bus being taken across the airport apron to board a flight to Benghazi when the militia struck.

"There was a government official in the bus behind me, he was talking on his mobile phone with someone about a militia who were angry. And he was saying: 'They can't come into the airport now, the negotiations are still going on,'" he told the Guardian. "I didn't know what he was talking about. Then out of the window I saw these Jeeps with guys with guns race across the runway."

He watched as the militia's vehicles swarmed around planes parked on the apron, and saw one unit dismount and confront the Libyan ground crew of an Alitalia plane. "They walked up to these guys, I could see they were shouting. Then they opened fire. I don't know if they shot the ground crew or they were firing near them, but I saw two guys, ground crew, later who were wounded."

Jalil said the militia were angry over the arrest of their commander, Abu Oegeila al-Hebeishi, on Sunday. The NTC said that by late afternoon the militia had agreed to surrender the airport after a promise from Jalil that the missing commander would be found.

The government's inability to secure key installations has left many Libyans rattled. "They cannot open the airport now, no way," said Saleh. "Its not safe."

Tripoli airport is no stranger to conflict: in December it was closed after machine-gun fire arced over the runway as the army tried to capture the airport from a militia from Zintan that had occupied it. The Zintan militia surrendered control of the airport in April, but a strike last month forced it to close for a day.

The attack will cause anxiety among international airlines which must now decide whether the government can guarantee security for what promises to be a turbulent time leading up to the elections.

British Airways resumed flights to Tripoli in May after suspending them when the Libyan revolution began in February last year.

Some airlines continue importing their own aviation fuel, or ensure jets land with enough fuel for the return journey, amid concerns that supplies in [Libya](#) may be contaminated.

The government's elite force, the Supreme Security Committee, whose forces remained deployed with machine-gun mounted jeeps near the airport on Monday night are in the spotlight after claims from the health ministry that they kidnapped and tortured a prominent heart surgeon last month.

The latest skirmish comes with the NTC facing fighting and upheavals across the country, hampering efforts to hold national elections on 19 June.

The southern towns of Sabbha and Kufra remain tense after inter-tribal battles, and engagements west of Tripoli last month saw the border crossing with Tunisia closed.

Meanwhile, the cities of Zintan and Misrata, home to the most powerful militia armies, which bore the brunt of last year's fighting, have become virtual fortresses, electing their own city councils and resisting attempts by NTC forces to impose their authority.

30. Update:

31. The Tarhouna and the Touareg make the news

32.

33. Conclusions

The public in the US at any rate – knew only one thing about Libya – creating a caricature of Gaddafi as a mad man who had killed 300 Americans and Brits over Lockerbie

Bear in mind that the same parties responsible for disinformation also have applied this type of caricature for Communists and Arab leaders, as well as domestic movements such as Occupy or the Libertarians.

4. Libya military court jails accused foreign mercenaries

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TRIPOLI | Mon Jun 4, 2012 1:07pm EDT

(Reuters) - A Libyan military court on Monday handed down long prison terms to a group of men from the former Soviet Union accused of serving as mercenaries for ousted leader Muammar Gaddafi in last year's war.

One Russian man, deemed the group's coordinator, was sentenced to life in prison, the court heard. Another Russian, three Belarussians and 19 Ukrainians were handed sentences of 10 years with hard labor. They had denied the charges.

The military trial was the first of its kind in Libya since a popular revolt ousted Gaddafi last year. The new government is trying to prove its judicial process is robust enough to try high-profile Gaddafi loyalists including his son Saif al-Islam.

"This is the worst kind of sentence," said Belarussian ambassador Anatoly Stepus who was present at the hearing. "We thought that even

if they were sentenced it would not be so strict. They have suffered a lot."

The 24 men, who were arrested in Tripoli in August as Gaddafi's forces fled, were found guilty of readying ground-to-air missiles for use against NATO fighters which supported the uprising against the former strongman, who ruled for 42 years.

Ukrainian ambassador Mykola Nahornyj told Reuters the men had come to Libya to work in the oil sector but after the war broke out were forced to stay in the country and work on building anti-aircraft material.

"We have evidence which the court has on file that they were threatened with weapons by Gaddafi forces to (take part in) the building and maintenance of anti-aircraft weapons," Nahornyj said, adding that the defendants would appeal.

The last of the fighting in Libya ended in October when Gaddafi was captured and killed by rebels.

Standing in a cage in the Courts Complex in Tripoli, the accused, most of them middle-aged and greying, acknowledged their presence when the judge called out their names. When the verdict was translated into Russian, the defendants looked shocked and one clasped his hand to his mouth.

According to Western security officials, both Gaddafi's forces and the rebels fighting them hired private military contractors to bolster their forces.

They said small numbers of private contractors turned up on the ground in Libya to work with rebels, while Gaddafi had long used foreign freelancers, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa.

(Reporting by Hadeel Al-Shalchi and Ali Shuaib in Tripoli and [Richard Balmforth](#) in Kiev; Writing by Hadeel Al-Shalchi; Editing by Rosalind Russell)

34. Drone Strike Killed No. 2 in Al Qaeda, US Official Says

New York Times - 13 hours ago



BBC News - At least 16 killed in two days of Libya clashes

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - Al Qaeda's deputy leader, Abu Yahya al-Libi, was killed in a drone strike... success in the controversial campaign's eight-year history in the ...

Fighting between government forces and tribesmen in southern Libya continues

for a second day, bringing the death toll up to at least 16.



Libya - fights in Sebha and Zuwara (Libya news 4)

www.youtube.com

http://www.facebook.com/GreenLibyaTV



ICC sends team to Libya after delegation detained

www.reuters.com

My ongoing documentation of the Libya Conflict...

TRIPOLI (Reuters) - Representatives for the International Criminal Court flew into Tripoli on Sunday



Donald Hessler It's interesting that Zintan is not only keeping him alive, but in fact treating him relatively well.

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The Hindu : News / International : Libya election postponed over logistics problems

www.thehindu.com

Elections in Libya for a constituent assembly, originally set to be held by June 19, are to be postponed

Alexander Hagen this is actually slowed down by witch hunt of candidates

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CIA gets clearance to unleash Pakistan drone strikes

Libya's Civil War Rages On

www.philly.com

KABUL, Afghanistan - Expressing public and private frustration with Pakistan, the Obama administration Thursday the last few weeks, approving strikes that might have been vetoed in the past for fear of angerin...

Alexander Hagen



BBC News - Al-Qaeda commander Abu Yahya al-Libi killed - US officials

www.bbc.co.uk

Friday via The Guardian

Massacres in Syria. Who benefits ? Follow the money

Syrian rebels tried to get me killed, says Channel 4 correspondent

www.guardian.co.uk

Alex Thompson says crew was led to 'free-fire zone' as deaths would discredit Bashar al-Assad's regime

http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/



Threat Matrix - By The Long War Journal

www.longwarjournal.org

The accelerating use of drones in Yemen, as well as the recent resumption of airstrikes in Pakistan, has a "covert" program. The new focus on drones raises a number of important issues, not least o...

How to Prevent Drone Pilot PTSD: Blame the 'Bot

www.wired.com

The human operators who control America's killer drones are susceptible to the same psychological str



Libya's fiery revolution - timesofmalta.com

www.timesofmalta.com

An early book on the aftermath of Muammar Gaddafi's 1969 coup was subtitled The Elusive Revolution even more fiery than it is elusive.

https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=111611283754323549630.00047e

U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan - Google Maps

maps.google.com

Find local businesses, view maps and get driving directions in Google Maps



'It was not necessary to kill Gaddafi'

www.aljazeera.com

Niger's president is anxiously watching events in neighbouring Mali that he says were triggered by the

Wikileaks cable reveals US funneling millions into Syria opposition group

www.examiner.com

"The US government was working to promote democratic processes in Syria and elsewhere in the wor

This is v interesting...critical to the re-establishment of peace in the country

6. [Libya's highest court hears appeal on speech law - The Sacramento Bee](#)

www.sacbee.com

[Libya's Supreme Court is reviewing an appeal from rights groups to revoke a law that criminalizes speech that endangers the state.](#)

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90883/7732455.html>

[China opposes armed intervention or forcing "regime change" in Syria - People's Daily Online](#)

english.peopledaily.com.cn

[UNITEDNATIONS, Feb. 17 \(Xinhua\) -- China opposes armed intervention or forcing a so-called regime change in Syria.](#)

"One theory is that it may have emanated from a mysterious pirate radio operator called 'Filipino Mon'... excerpt from this article

Alexander Hagen

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The US president has been likened by former supporters to 'George Bush on steroids'. Paul Harris reports

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Ray McGovern: It is a moral and legal impossibility to square "kill lists" for extrajudicial killing with the

[Latin American leftists fear Libya-style endgame in Syria](#)

www.reuters.com

[CARACAS \(Reuters\) - A bloc of left-wing Latin American governments accused Western nations on Monday of](#)



Syrians in U.S. speak up about MSM crisis coverage

www.youtube.com

As clashes in Syria continue, the mainstream media in the U.S. remains the official speaker for the position

<http://globalciviliansforpeace.com/2011/11/25/noam-chomsky-and-the-manufacture-of-consent-dan-glenn>



35.

36. Noam Chomsky and The Manufacture of Consent

globalciviliansforpeace.com

By whitewashing the Libyan rebels and demonising the Gaddafi regime did the leading US intellectual... D...

mind blowing



Glenn Greenwald: Obama's Secret Kill List "The Most Radical Policy"

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DemocracyNow.org - The New York Times revealed this week that President Obama personally oversaw

<http://globalciviliansforpeace.com/2011/11/25/noam-chomsky-and-the-manufacture-of-consent-dan-glenn>

<http://ordinary-gentlemen.com/eliasisquith/2012/05/31/arab-public-opinion-on-libya-one-year-later/>

Arab Public Opinion On Libya, One Year Later

ordinary-gentlemen.com Considering the White House's claim that intervening in Libya was beneficial

plurality in all nine Arab countries surveyed and the region of Somaliland opposed NATO intervention in Libya. Residents in several North African countries, including Morocco (12%), Egypt (13%), and Algeria (14%) were the least likely to say they were in favor of NATO intervention. In Tunisia, where the region's first successful revolution was publicly denounced by the late Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, attitudes were significantly more mixed (33% in favor vs. 40% opposed).

At the time, the President, the Secretary of State, and other White House officials argued that intervening in Libya would endear the US to a generation swept up in the Arab Spring. In so many words, that's how Clinton defended the decision in [an interview with Time last October](#):

[A]s we look at how we manage the Arab Spring, we are trying to influence the direction, with the full recognition that we don't have ownership and we don't have control. And there's a lot that's going to happen that is unpredictable, but we want to lead by our values and our interests in ways that, regardless of the trajectory over the next decade, people will know the United States was on the side of democracy, on the side of the rule of law, on the side of economic opportunity, on the side of rights for all, in particular women. And that will, I hope, be a strong antidote to the voices of either fatalism or extremism...

It's much too soon to say definitively whether or not this goal was achieved — and there's more than one legitimate argument to be made saying intervention was still the right thing to do, even if it's not. It's worth remembering that antipathy toward the United States and the West in general — especially as concerns military intervention — is, understandably, rather engrained in the Arab world. The ultimate outcome in Libya remains unclear, too, so it's hardly as if the respondents in this poll are stubbornly refusing to give credit where it's due.

Still, for those who'd hoped the ousting of Gaddafi would quickly reap dividends for the West, this Gallup result must be disconcerting.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztTh_2b8jjs&feature=g-u-u

37. Rebels tighten control of Mali's north

Analysis:

1.

38. Analysis: Nato Sponsored TNC

Near Civil War conditions:

Libyan Police State: Opposition Candidates Banned.

Public statements in support of Socialism punishable with prison

Stumble: Fress Saif Al Islam Al Gadaffi

ElectionUS NATO Qatari Arms Libyan Islamic Fighting Group Alliance:

Page 73 of 154

No 2 Al Qaeda "The Libyan" killing

Al Qaeda in Libya:

US Kills no 2 "The Libyan", Arms his colleagues to witch hunt terrorize Libyan Loyalists

Touareg ally with Al Qaeda affiliate to establish break away states spanning Mali & Niger

Evidence:

Qatar second largest purchaser of US Weapons 2010

Qatar Arms Militants in Libya Uprisings, nearly all former Libya Islamic Fighting Group members

Hakim

Conclusion June 11 12

: The story of Libya is a story in which the west and Qatar armed the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, one of whose key members was the much touted no 2 kill in Pakistan recently, Al-Libi. We kill Al Qaeda in Pakistan and allow them to spread through Africa and Syria. Then we can embrace those African leaders threatened by AQM or topple them. This is a story that does not need to even pick up the issue of whether the LIFG has legitimacy – until the Western leaders publicly explain why they are fueling Islamist insurgencies in enemy states – and killing them in client states. What pawns they appear to be.

Gadaffi had already surrendered his WMDs and paid billions in compensation for Lockerbie. Commercial ties were expanding and the economy was growing 10% from only 1 source (normally I double source)

I am not telling you how to put these facts together – I leave you to do that. I am not exactly certain myself. Was it poor scholarship in warning not to underestimate Gadaffi support levels – or for potential for blowback (Syria BRIC entente) The E-7 are noticing the term applied to them and will probably collaborate closely: Mexico Indonesia Turkey & BRIC. Was it Obama Administration Hawkishness in craving a cheap and easy victory by plunging a dagger into the arse of a dying Gadaffi, rich plunder for no fighting? Was it ignorance ? or “International Gangsterism”, or was it worth it? Will what follows justify the savage means of obtaining it?

Who benefits?

Page 74 of 154

What evidence do we have about motivations?

Libya was 1 of 7 countries selected for attack by the US after 9/11 according to Gen. Wesley Clark.

Gadaffi had insulted and infuriated Sarkozy and the Arab League.

A Gadaffi-ist Libya could have exploited and influenced Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions adversely to US interests. This could have been the thinking. Instead the US would be thanked given more business – and a base in Africa.

In the current crisis the Islamist / Salafist / Cyrenaicans wanted Gadaffi gone. But many now wonder what they have traded for. Libya was a peaceful country. You could drive around freely. Now each city has its own militia. Can you imagine travelling in a highly ethnically charged atmosphere like that?

The Obama administration if it looked strong on defense could manipulate the voters on the right to vote for him ???? A cheap victory in Libya would bring him into a strong position in the election. Couldn't we save our consciences lying to ourselves how we saved tens of thousands of lives – “Susan Rice, Hilary Clinton” Stop Killing your own people Gadaffi – killing people is a NATO Al Qaeda Monopoly !

What will happen to all the rich and powerful in the Arms Industry in Surveillance and Anti Terrorism, do you know how much money has been larded out in efficient contracts of largely zero utility – if we don't keep an enemy out there to fight. We recruit for Al Qaeda by killing people over the world by the bushel.

What is going on in Libya, today? Does it portend a brighter future for Libya? Will being forcibly converted into an Iraq like state – eventually help the people. To decide that you have to know the real past of Libya. And it was quite different from the stereotypical view given by a Western Media that virtually never had been to Libya, though travel in and out of Libya was increasing.

For those who did not have a way to control their own affairs or have a voice in Gadaffi's Libya – for whom a chance at political expression would make years of degraded living conditions and violence 100s of times greater than prior to the NATO sponsored overthrow of the Libyan Jamahiriya created by Gadaffi.

For Gadaffi supporters it has been a horrendous nightmare – and they may exceed the number supporting NATO regime change – certainly it appears that the majority would have preferred to do it with out American French Danish and British Bombers and fighters bombing from above.

Let us suppose Gadaffi sympathizers consist of ¼ to ½ of the Libyan population – that would mean 1 to 2 million people who have been severely disenfranchised.

1. Not allowed to participate in politics.
2. Not allowed to have freedom of speech.
3. Mass imprisonment without trial, with widespread multiply corroborated accounts that either the majority of the thousands in prison for having supported Gadaffi being tortured.

If one was to sympathize with these people for a moment – you would see the irony – of the LIFG armed in violation of UN 1973 to overthrow the Libyan Jamahiriya – that the West would be anxious for their enemies to put them on trial. The potential for show trials ala Stalinism would be huge. We shall see.

There is widespread lawlessness terrorism and still pockets of resistance all over the country. The tribes opposed to the winners –already know they must advocate as a tribe and not as Loyalists.

Some would say this sort of oppression of the vanquished is common – such as in Nazi Germany – but Libya was not an aggressor state and the overthrow took so much aid from the West that it frankly has a tenuous claim on legitimacy – and by prohibiting Gadaffi supporters –they ensure we will never know if they have a mandate – and it indicates they may not – by simple logic. They have NATO and The Gulf ready to supply them with limitless firepower – yet they fear a

Loyalist even making the squeak of a mouse in public. See Churchill.

Then there is the tragic case of Saif Al Islam Al Gadaffi. Two brothers gruesomely murdered, a niece and nephew murdered – his father murdered – his own fingers blown off by a drone. Abused in Prison to what extent we do not know. A reformist who freed the very people who killed his father. These people now seek to lay their hands on Saif. One would be tempted to recall Shakespeare's accounts of murder of kings sons – by the imposters to the throne.

I call upon all viewers to register their opposition to allowing him to stay in this extremely dangerous situation –where the potential to be killed is extremely high on a daily basis.

Kill him and all with blood on their hands will sleep soundly.

What is the composition of power in Libya today?

LIFG Al Qaeda and Militias Of Libya

A great one is giving foreign aid so the countries will buy stuff from our military contractors

7. Libya Update June 12, 2012

a. Libyan jihadis an claims US consulate attack: SITE

An alleged Libyan jihadist group has claimed responsibility for last week's bombing of the US consulate in Libya's main eastern city of Benghazi, the SITE monitoring service said.

The "Brigades of the Imprisoned Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman" said the attack was to avenge the death of Al-

Qaeda number two Abu Yahya al-Libi in a drone strike in Pakistan, said the US-based SITE, which monitors jihadi websites.

The Brigades also said the June 6 bomb attack at the US diplomatic mission - in which one person was wounded - had come in response to the use of "American drones flying in Libyan skies," SITE said.

The group said it had "planted an explosive device in a wall of the consulate, targeting a group of 'Christian overseers' who were preparing to receive one of the 'heads of instigation' from the State Department, SITE said.

The statement added that the group - which also claimed responsibility for a May attack on the Benghazi offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross - would soon release its footage of the consulate attack.

The group is named after Abdel Rahman, 73, who received a life sentence in the United States for his involvement in plots to hit New York targets and a plan to assassinate former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak.

Abdel Rahman, known as the "Blind Sheikh," is also cited as one of the inspirations for the first attack on the World Trade Center, which killed six people and injured more than 1,000 in 1993.

The US State Department had earlier said there was no reason to suspect the attack was in retaliation for a US drone strike in Pakistan that killed a Libyan citizen.

The same group - which is named after an Egyptian sentenced to life in prison in the United States - claimed a May 22 attack on the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the security official said.

Deputy Interior Minister Unis al-Sharef last week said the attack had been claimed by the "Prisoner Omar Abdelrahman Group", but downplayed the significance of the organization.

"These are religious groups and these acts are just reactions. There are not coordinated operations," he stressed.



39. After Libya's War, Acts Of Vengeance



John W. Poole/NPR



John W. Poole/NPR



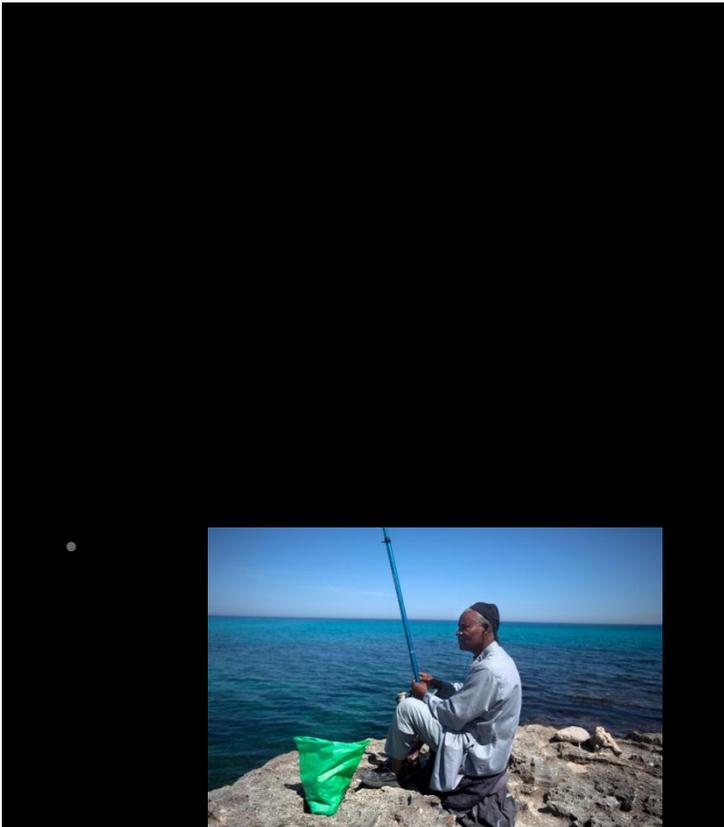
John W. Poole/NPR



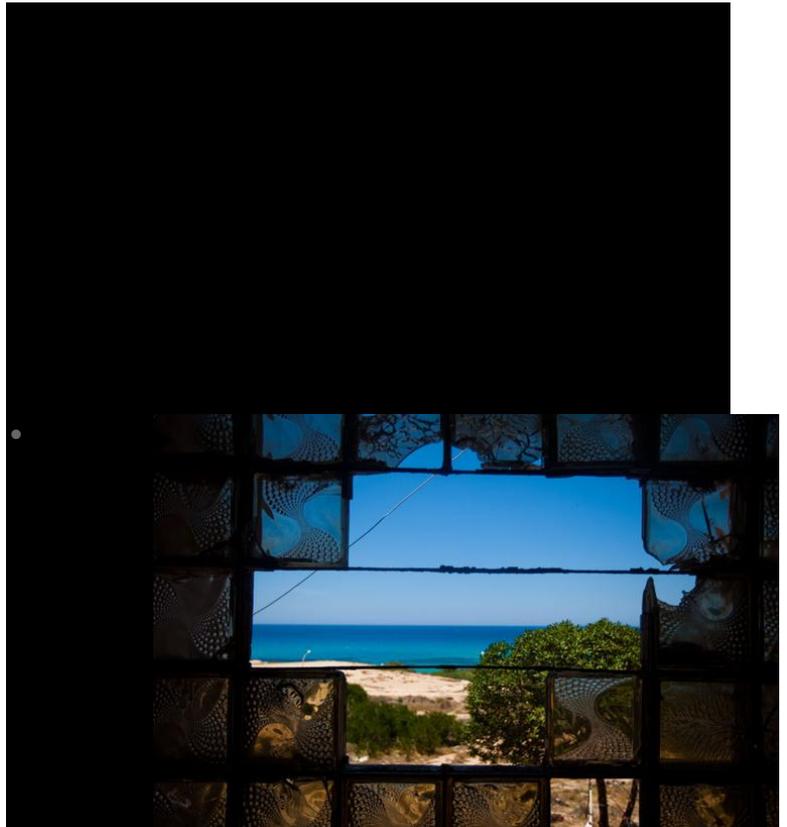
John W. Poole/NPR



John W. Poole/NPR



John W. Poole/NPR



John W. Poole/NPR

June 12, 2012

NPR Morning Edition host Steve Inskip is taking a Revolutionary Road Trip across North Africa to see how the countries that staged revolutions last year are remaking themselves. Steve and his team are traveling some 2,000 miles from Tunisia's ancient city of Carthage, across the deserts of Libya and on to Egypt's megacity of Cairo. Near the Libyan coastal city of Misrata, he looks at violence that took place after the revolution.

I was talking with the newly elected head of the local council in Misrata, Libya, when he made a passing remark about the disturbed minds of his people.

I wanted to know more. "Do you think," I asked the councilman, Yusuf bin Yusuf, "that so many years under such a dictator affected the minds of Libyans?"

He answered immediately. "Gadhafi's regime has ended, but there is a small Gadhafi in everyone's brain."

It was hard to know if bin Yusuf found any irony in the statement. His city suffered cruelly at the hands of Moammar Gadhafi's troops. Gadhafi had famously promised to hunt down protesters against his rule "street by street, house by house, alley by alley," and he almost made good on that threat when his forces besieged Misrata.

But when his forces were driven away, it was the Misrata rebels who moved into a neighboring town accused of supporting Gadhafi, and destroyed it completely. Street by street, house by house, alley by alley.

Months after the war, tens of thousands of people remain homeless, with an uncertain future. The refugees are overwhelmingly black, referred to by their tormentors as "slaves."

Misrata's attacks on the people of Tawargha are so severe that the United Nations has labeled them "war crimes."

Misrata's destruction of Tawargha is not an easy story to tell, because Misrata residents fought and died to overthrow a dictator. In Misrata, you see burned and blasted buildings from last year's fighting. Very little has been repaired.

The city has created the Misrata War Museum, which includes some of the trophies of victory, ranging from Gadhafi's green chair to weapons captured from Gadhafi's forces.



Enlarge John W. Poole/NPR

An English class in the Tawargha refugee camp. Students here are studying a new history textbook that makes almost no mention of Gadhafi.

Yet after the gunmen of Misrata helped to win the war, they staged their act of retribution in Tawargha.

No Apologies

Misrata leaders are not apologetic, as we learned when we had coffee with a businessman and political leader from the city. We found him in an upscale coffee shop in Tripoli.

Mohammed Ben Ras Ali has lived his entire life in Misrata and was present during the siege of his hometown, which lasted four months.

The many dead included two American photojournalists, Chris Hondros and Tim Hetherington.

Ben Ras Ali says the neighboring town, Tawargha, committed atrocities in support of Gadhafi's siege.

"They have tortured and killed and displaced, and burned fields and houses, and they have committed the ultimate sin in our culture and our religion, which is rape, and all coming from supposedly a good neighbor," he says.

Asked if those neighbors should be allowed to return, he says:

"Not in my lifetime, I don't think. And this is coming from somebody who is very moderate, I would say."

There's one more fact about the town that was destroyed. In this overwhelmingly Arab nation, most of Tawargha's population was black.

And Misrata residents have made an explosive charge: that this city of some 30,000 black people rose up as one, marched into Misrata and raped Misrata women.

Though the U.N. Human Rights Council has found little evidence of this claim, it was used to justify the destruction of a town.

40. Qatar admits sending hundreds of troops to support Libya rebels

Qatari chief-of-staff reveals extent of involvement, saying troops were responsible for training, communications and strategy

-
- **Ian Black** in Tripoli
 - guardian.co.uk, Wednesday 26 October 2011 13.33 EDT
-



A Qatari jet fighter takes off for a mission over Libya in March. Until now, Qatar had acknowledged only that its airforce has taken part in Nato operations. Photograph: Louisa Gouliamaki/AFP/Getty Images

Qatar has admitted for the first time that it sent hundreds of troops to support the Libyan rebels who overthrew Muammar Gaddafi's regime.

The Gulf state had previously acknowledged only that its air force took part in Nato-led attacks.

The revelation came as Qatar hosted a conference on the post-Gaddafi era that was attended by the leader of Libya's ruling National Transitional Council, Mustafa Abdel-Jalil, who described the Qataris as having planned the battles that paved the way for victory.

Abdel-Jalil also said he was asking Nato to extend its mission beyond the end of the month, when it had been due to end, until the end of the year. Help was needed because regime loyalists posed a threat from neighbouring countries, he said.

Gaddafi relatives and other key figures have fled to Algeria and Niger, amid speculation about the whereabouts of the deposed leader's son Saif al-Islam.

A Libyan military official with the NTC told Reuters that Saif and the former intelligence chief Abdullah al-Senussi are proposing to hand themselves in to the

international criminal court. A spokesman for the ICC, however, said it had received no confirmation of the claim.

The Associated Press meanwhile reported an adviser to Niger's president, Mahamadou Issoufou, as saying Senussi was in their country.

It also has emerged that now the fighting is over, Qatar is to lead international efforts to train the Libyan military, collect weapons and integrate often autonomous rebel units into newly established military and security institutions – seen by the UN and western governments as the key challenge facing the NTC.

Qatar played a key role in galvanising Arab support for the UN security council resolution that mandated Nato to defend Libyan civilians in March. It also delivered weapons and ammunition on a large scale – without any clear legal basis.

There were repeated rumours about and occasional sightings of Qatari special forces in Libya during the war. Until now, however, there had been no official confirmation of actions that were not explicitly authorised by the UN.

The Qatari chief-of-staff, Major-General Hamad bin Ali al-Atiya, said: "We were among them and the numbers of Qataris on the ground were hundreds in every region. Training and communications had been in Qatari hands. Qatar ... supervised the rebels' plans because they are civilians and did not have enough military experience," AFP quoted him as saying. "We acted as the link between the rebels and Nato forces."

Qatar, whose gas reserves and tiny population make it one of the richest countries in the world, has long pursued an activist foreign policy, promoted by al-Jazeera, the Doha-based satellite TV channel.

But there was still surprise when it sent most of its air force to join Nato's operation and delivered large quantities of what were described as defensive weapons but which included Milan anti-tank missiles to the rebels.

Qatari special forces are reported to have provided infantry training to Libyan fighters in the western Nafusa mountains and in eastern Libya. Qatar's military even brought Libyan rebels back to Doha for exercises. And in the final assault on Gaddafi's Bab al-Aziziya compound in Tripoli in late August, Qatari special forces were seen on the frontline. Qatar also gave \$400m to the rebels, helped them export oil from Benghazi and set up a TV station in Doha.

Libyan gratitude is clear. The maroon and white flag of Qatar is often flown at celebrations and Algeria Square in central Tripoli has been renamed Qatar Square in honour of the country's support in toppling Gaddafi. Some, however, express concern at the emirate's support for Islamist elements such as the 17 February Martyrs Brigade, one of the most influential rebel formations, led by Abdel-Hakim Belhaj.

Ali Salabi, an influential Libyan Islamist cleric, lived in exile in Qatar for years before this year's revolution. For some analysts the emir's strategy is to support democratic forces selectively in the Arab world, partly to improve the country's international standing while diverting attention from the Gulf, where anti-regime protests have been crushed in Bahrain and bought off in Saudi Arabia.

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41. UNHCR report: 800,000 people forced to flee across borders in 2011

The UNHCR's 2011 Global Trends report shows a record 800,000 people forced to flee across borders in 2011.

<http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/en/newsdetails/news/world/UNHCR-report-800-000-people-forced-to-flee-across-borders-in-2011-20120617>

42. Libya: UN Envoy Calls On Authorities to Address Root Causes of Recent Conflicts

17 JUNE 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201206180032.html>

The top United Nations envoy in Libya has voiced his concern at renewed fighting in several localities that has led to a number of deaths, injuries and displacement, and called on the authorities to address the causes of the conflicts and protect civilians.

"It is of the utmost importance that the Government acts swiftly to de-escalate these conflicts and to ensure the protection and well-being of civilians," the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Ian Martin, said in a statement.

"The wounded need to be able to urgently access medical care, and basic humanitarian support and services must be restored to the people affected by the fighting in accordance with international humanitarian law," he added.

Mr. Martin welcomed the steps taken so far by the Government, and urged the Libyan authorities and all sides to end the fighting, particularly in Kufra and in the Zintan-Shaqiqa area.

He also reminded all concerned of their obligation to ensure the protection of civilians and avoid the targeting of civilian areas. Sustained efforts are needed, he added, to address the causes and consequences of local conflicts.

Mr. Martin told the Security Council in May that armed clashes in recent months between various groups have tested the reach and authority of the Government's security apparatus and ability to impose the rule of law. A key issue related to public security, he added, is the

integration or demobilization of the revolutionary fighters and the control of weapons.

Human rights, transitional justice, and national reconciliation are among the other issues that need to be addressed during the ongoing democratic transition in Libya, where Muammar al-Qadhafi ruled for more than 40 years until a pro-democracy uprising last year led to civil war and the deposing of his regime.

8. Libya: Candidates Should Address Torture, Illegal Detention - National Strategy Needed for Justice System

18 JUNE 2012

PRESS RELEASE

The individual candidates and political entities competing in Libya's July 7, 2012 national election should explain how they plan to end the ongoing problem of torture and illegal detention, which continues to affect thousands of people.

At a minimum, the authorities should ensure that anyone detained in official custody has been brought before a judge and, if there is evidence, has been charged with a criminal offense, Human Rights Watch said. All detention outside the law and abuse in detention, including by militias, should be treated as a criminal act.

"Torture and illegal detention are an ongoing national crisis that Libya's future leaders need to address," said Fred Abrahams, special advisor at Human Rights Watch. "Libyans deserve to know how the candidates for this landmark election will solve these serious problems and reform the justice system after decades of abuse."

The electoral campaign formally begins on June 18, with 2,501 individual candidates and 1,206 candidates from 142 political entities. The 200-member national assembly will enact legislation, appoint a provisional government, and name a body to draft a constitution before another election in 2013.

Human Rights Watch conducted extensive inquiries into torture and detention conditions during and after the 2011 conflict, which ended with the fall of Muammar Gaddafi. Researchers visited more than 35 detention facilities across Libya and interviewed hundreds of detainees, as well as Libyan government officials, military and civilian prosecutors, lawyers, and judges.

At least 7,000 people who were detained during or after the conflict are currently in detention, according to Libyan government officials and the United Nations. Roughly 4,000 of them are being held by various militias across the country in both formal and secret detention facilities. The rest are in facilities run by the government.

The judicial police told Human Rights Watch that, as of June 13, it had custody of 3,058 people, including Libyans and foreigners. From these people, 194 had been sentenced.

The interior ministry and military police are also holding detainees.

In April, Justice Minister Ali Hamiada Ashour told Human Rights Watch that he did not know the exact number of militia-held detainees, in part because militias were holding some people in secret prisons.

"The time for secret prisons should have passed with Gaddafi's fall," Abrahams said. "The Libyan government should know the name, age, and location of every person in detention, and should have brought charges."

Most detainees are Gaddafi security force members, former Gaddafi government officials, suspected Gaddafi loyalists, suspected foreign mercenaries or migrants from sub-Saharan Africa. Some have been detained for more than a year without being brought before a judge, as required by international law. Most have been denied access to lawyers, and in many cases, there appears to be no legal basis for their detention.

Some detainees held by the government and militias allegedly committed serious crimes before or during the conflict for which they should face justice, Human Rights Watch said. But many are apparently being held only because they fought with Gaddafi forces, or because of family, tribal, or political affiliations.

To have fought with Gaddafi forces as a Libyan or a foreign mercenary is in itself not a crime under Libyan or international law, Human Rights Watch said. Only those

who violated the law by committing unlawful killings, torture, sexual violence, or other crimes can be prosecuted.

Some militia commanders told Human Rights Watch that they were refusing to transfer their detainees to the government because they did not trust the transitional authorities to deliver justice. Others are apparently using the detainees as bargaining chips for power, Human Rights Watch said.

A new law passed on May 2, Law 38, On Some Procedures for the Transitional Period, says that the interior and defense ministries must refer all "supporters of the former regime" currently detained by militias, if there is sufficient evidence against them, to the competent judicial authorities by July 1, 2012. It is not clear what will happen if militias fail to hand over all their detainees by that date.

Torture in Detention

In militia-run detention facilities especially, torture and other ill-treatment are a major concern, Human Rights Watch said. Human Rights Watch documented a dozen cases of deaths in detention and heard credible reports of more.

For the vast majority of these cases, the government has apparently not opened an investigation. In one prominent case, the January 2012 torture and killing in detention of a former diplomat, Omar Brebesh, the authorities arrested nine suspects, one of whom was then released. Their trial is expected to begin soon.

In government-run facilities that Human Rights Watch visited, the detainees seem to be treated better, even though most detainees had not been formally charged. Some families of detainees held in these facilities have alleged that their detained relatives were abused, including at Ayn Zara prison in Tripoli.

On May 1, the United Nations mission in Libya called for an investigation into the April 13 deaths of three detainees at the Zaroug detention facility in Misrata, which the UN said it believed had resulted from torture. The facility is controlled by the Supreme Security Committee, which is under the interior ministry.

Five days before the alleged deaths, Human Rights Watch had written to the civilian and military leaders of Misrata expressing concern about the abuse of detainees in Misrata and noting that the city's officials

could be held criminally responsible for torture and other rights violations by forces under their command. The civilian and military councils of Misrata wrote back saying they would not tolerate abuse.

Holding accountable those responsible for abuse is key to ending torture and ill-treatment in custody, Human Rights Watch said. But recent legislation passed by Libya's ruling National Transitional Council seems intended to shield militia members from justice.

The new Law 38 states that there shall be no penalty for "military, security, or civil actions dictated by the February 17 Revolution that were performed by revolutionaries with the goal of promoting or protecting the revolution." This law could be used to protect those responsible for torture and other serious violations of Libyan law, Human Rights Watch said.

Due Process Violations

Due process violations against detainees in Libya are the norm, Human Rights Watch said. Libyan government officials told Human Rights Watch that very few detainees have been formally charged and that very few of the cases have been reviewed by a judicial authority, which is required by Libyan and international human rights law.

The vast majority of detainees interviewed by Human Rights Watch did not know the charges against them and had not been able to contest the legal basis for their detention. Libya's police have been slow to refer cases to prosecutors. Libya's criminal courts have begun working in places, but few conflict-related cases have reached the courts. Only 194 people detained during or after the conflict have been sentenced, the judicial police said.

Libya will face many challenges in prosecuting people accused of crimes because evidence can be difficult to collect and many cases have been tainted by torture, Human Rights Watch said.

The power of local militias, which in most towns and cities are stronger than the army and police, has complicated the rebuilding of Libya's justice system. Unknown assailants apparently linked to militias have threatened police, prosecutors, and judges. As one prosecutor told Human Rights Watch about some politically motivated murders: "We have suspects for these killings, but we don't have the power to arrest them."

Improving security in courtrooms and prisons, and for judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, is an essential requirement for getting the justice system to function properly, Human Rights Watch said. The government will have to recruit and train more judicial and military police to help secure courtrooms and protect justice officials.

According to the judicial police, it currently has 3,000 officers. Three thousand more people are gradually being trained.

The newly elected national assembly, and the provisional government it appoints, should not continue to delay reforming the justice system, Human Rights Watch said. Human Rights Watch urged the provisional and future governments to develop a coordinated national strategy that will:

Transfer all detainees from militias to the custody of competent state authorities;

Treat humanely all detainees in accordance with international standards, and punish those in positions of authority who are responsible for torture or other ill-treatment or for detention outside the law;

Expediently screen all detainees in government custody, ensure all are brought promptly before a judge, and release those for whom there is no evidence of having committed a crime; and

Promptly charge those implicated in wrongdoing, and prosecute them in accordance with international due process guarantees, including providing immediate access to legal counsel.

Libya's leaders should also seek assistance from governments, the United Nations, and nongovernmental organizations to address transitional justice, Human Rights Watch said.

"The failure to build a functioning justice system has undermined Libya's transition and threatens to destabilize the country for many years," Abrahams said. "The candidates running in these elections should make this urgent need a top priority and explain how they plan to ensure justice for all victims, no matter the person's family, tribe, or political view."

43. Gunmen attack Tunisian consulate in Benghazi

June 18, 2012 | Reuters

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-06-18/news/sns-rt-us-libya-gunmen-tunisiabre85h1v6-20120618_1_british-embassy-convoy-consulate-al-tommy NEWS

BENGAZI, Libya (Reuters) - A group of armed gunmen stormed the Tunisian consulate in the Libyan city of Benghazi on Monday to protest against an art exhibition in Tunisia which they said insulted Islam, a security guard who works inside the building said.

Kamal al-Gehani said the group of about 20 young men carrying Kalashnikovs forced their way into the building and burned the Tunisian flag *inside*.

"They knocked on our gates and pushed into the building. It was a holiday so no one was working inside except security," he told Reuters.

Suleiman al-Gehani, an official with the foreign ministry who was called to help defuse the situation, said security officers had to negotiate with the group until they were convinced to leave.

He said no shots were fired and no one was injured.

"We had to convince them this wasn't the civilized way to protest. They were very angry over the art work from Tunisia," he said.

Thousands of hard-line Muslim Salafis rioted in Tunis this week to protest against the art exhibition which features a work that spells out the name of God using insects.

The Tunisian embassy in Tripoli was not immediately available for comment.

A Reuters reporter on the scene said there was a heavy police presence around the Tunisian consulate and that the roads leading to the building were blocked off by security cars.

Monday's incident is the latest in a series of attacks on embassies and international buildings and convoys this year which have raised serious security concerns ahead of Libya's first democratic elections slated for July 7.

Last week a British embassy convoy was hit about 300 meters (yards) from the British consulate office in Benghazi's al-Rabha neighborhood.

On June 6 an explosive device was dropped from a passing car outside the offices of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi. The blast that followed slightly damaged the gate in front of the building.

The fragile transitional government is still struggling to restore stability after the revolt and arms and explosives looted from former leader Muammar Gaddafi's arsenals are easily available.

(Reporting By Mohamed al-Tommy; Writing By Hadeel Al-Shalchi; Editing by Myra MacDonald)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Xp0n-6ET3s&feature=youtu.be&a>

44. Malians flee to Burkina Faso amid drought

The UN refugee agency says that a record 800,000 people were forced to flee across borders last year.

Many of them were displaced by conflicts in their home countries.

Mali is one example. More than 320,000 people have been forced from their homes since January because of fighting between government forces and Tuareg rebels.

Many are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries - which are struggling to cope with the influx.

The situation is particularly precarious as the Sahel region is going through a major drought.

Al Jazeera's Laura Kyle reports from Burkina Faso's Mintao camp and May Welsh reports from Mali's Timbuktu.

45. Dangerous business: Libya, UAE, Indonesia and more sell wares at military tech event

A military supply company from China shows off boots, dress shoes and riot gear to the world at the Eurosatory 2012 show in Paris. (FoxNews.com / Allison Barrie)

By [Allison Barrie](#)
War Games
Published June 20, 2012
FoxNews.com



Military, police and special forces began to take delivery on Promtechnologies Group Orsis T-500 sniper rifles in September of last year. This was the rifle of choice for the team that won the Sniper World Cup earlier this month. (Orsis)

A military supply company from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) shows off its wares to the world at the Eurosatory 2012 show in Paris. (FoxNews.com / Allison Barrie)



A 49-ton main battle tank T-90MS from UralVagon carries three men and comes with a "hunter-killer" panoramic sight for target engagement. (UralVagon)

And he's right: Those cuts mean that Western militaries are being forced to do things "differently." It's an opportunity these countries are clearly targeting.
'The expanded participation by Russia and China was a challenging juxtaposition.'

- Mark Phillips, head of land warfare for defense think tank RUSI
That's why India, South Korea, UAE, Indonesia all had a dramatic increase in the number of exhibitors -- but it was Russia and China that really went big, both countries revealing equipment for the first time outside their home countries.



CHINA: Sky Dragon

The top supplier to the People's Liberation Army, China North Industries Corp. (NORINCO), unveiled a major missile system. Sky Dragon is a medium range SAM (surface-to-air missile) that can engage targets up to 31 miles away and 12 miles high. The company says there is a minimum 80 percent probability that a single shot from the Sky Dragon will take down a fighter jet.

Reportedly near completion, it can provide target guidance for 12 missiles at the same time and the radar can detect approximately 140 targets at a maximum range of 80 miles.

CHINA: Blue Arrow 7

NORINCO also introduced a new air to surface missile called Blue Arrow 7. This export version of the missiles used by China's Z-10 attack helicopter is similar to an AGM-114 Hellfire. The company says the range on these missiles is between 1.2 and 5 miles.

CHINA: Anti-Riot Suits

The Chinese Zhejiang Yingfu company specializes in anti-riot suits and military knee and elbow pads. The company revealed at the show a new "[Anti Riot and the Riot Control Suit](#)."

Designed to protect from piercing daggers in, say, an attempted stab to the chest, the company says it also protects against "a steel ball of 7.5 kilograms [16.5 pounds]."

CHINA: The "Great Riot Wall"

The company also revealed a new clear polycarbonate Connectable Riot Shield that includes a clip for a club and an integrated handle. The shields are designed to be able to connect to build a "continuous wall" of shields.

RUSSIA: MRAP

Russia showed its MRAP (mine-resistant ambush-protected) vehicle in an outdoor land vehicle park at Eurosatory -- its first trip outside of Russia. Made by Ural Automotive Works, the Ural-ZA is powered by a 450 horsepower diesel engine and can hit 65 mph. It can carry fourteen warfighters including the driver and commander and weighs about 24 tons.

RUSSIA: Shotgun

Russian firearms manufacturer Izhmash revealed [the Saiga-12 shotgun](#) for law enforcement, with its shortened barrel and Picatinny rail for sighting devices. The semiautomatic shotgun can use both ordinary ammunition and "stop-power" ammo such as buckshot and rubber bullets.

RUSSIA: "Hunter-Killer" Tank

The Special Equipment Division of UralVagonZavod brought information on its suite of tanks. [The 49-ton main battle tank T-90MS](#) carries three men and comes with a "hunter-killer" mode with panoramic sight for target engagement. It has the latest 125mm smooth bore gun with automatic loader, a roof mounted 12.7 mm remote-controlled weapon system and laser-guided projectile to a range of 3.1 miles.

RUSSIA: "Terminator" Tank

The tank-support [fighting vehicle BMPT Terminator](#) -- one of the most heavily armed in this category -- was also revealed for the first time. The first ten of these were sold to Kazakhstan in 2011. It has four launchers for Ataka anti-tank guided missiles, a 7.62 machine gun, a 30-mm AGS-17

This semiautomatic shotgun from Russia supplier Izhmash can use both ordinary ammunition and "stop-power" ammo such as buckshot and rubber bullets. (Izhmash)

[Next Slide](#) [Previous Slide](#)

Military supply companies from Russia, China, UAE, Indonesia, Korea, and Libya showed off tanks, missiles and other weapons in Paris at Eurosatory 2012, the largest international military technology show focused on land warfare. At the event, 53 countries were represented by more than 1,400 exhibitors for the 55,000 visitors, the United States leading with 158 companies. But a surprising trend was evident: This year, the number of companies from non-Western countries that showed off new weaponry boomed -- especially Russia and China.

SUMMARY

[Eurosatory 2012](#) tradeshow is gathering place for land and air defense

1,400 exhibitors showed off wares from 53 countries

An increasing presence of non-Western countries signals growing battle for military dollars

Indeed, three new countries were on display at [the Eurosatory 2012 show](#) from June 10 to 15: Pakistan, Cyprus and Libya all had companies with booths showing guns, vehicles and more.

There were thirty-four national pavilions with Indonesia, South Korea, Pakistan, Turkey and UAE presenting national pavilions for the first time and reportedly more than 120 official delegations exploring the show, seeking new military gear. I asked Mark Phillips, head of land warfare for the defense think tank [Royal United Services Institute](#) (RUSI), what that trend heralds.

"Western armed forces generally, and land forces in particular, are facing significant cuts in capability," he told me. These smaller countries with weaker economies are seeing dollar signs, in other words -- who cares the denomination.

"The expanded participation by Russia and China was therefore a challenging juxtaposition: These countries ... are increasingly producing high specification equipment," he said.

automatic grenade launcher on both sides of the hull and a two-person turret with two 30mm 2A4w dual-feed cannons.

RUSSIA: Orsis Sniper Rifle

Military, police and special forces began to take delivery on Promtechnologies Group [Orsis T-500 sniper rifles](#) in September of last year. Available in a .338 Lapua Magnum and .308 Winchester, this was the rifle of choice for the FSB Alpha Group -- a team that won the Sniper World Cup earlier this month.

U.S. companies showed off their military might as well with 158 companies taking part. At a time of dramatic defense cuts in the U.S., the new presence of Russia, Chinese and other non-Western countries certainly made it clear they have gone in a different "go big or go home" direction.

Ballet dancer turned defense specialist Allison Barrie has travelled around the world covering the military, terrorism, weapons advancements and life on the front line. You can reach her at wargames@foxnews.com or follow her on Twitter [@Allison_Barrie](https://twitter.com/Allison_Barrie)

Read

more: <http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2012/06/20/dangerous-business-libya-china-russia-and-more-sell-military-wares/#ixzz26J2U4Cy0>

9. Snatched and detained: Libya's "jungle law"

Analysis & Opinion



By Marie-Louise Gumuchian
TRIPOLI | Thu Jun 21, 2012 10:28am EDT

(Reuters) - Abdunnasser Ruhuma was asleep in his bed when the militia fighters barged into his Tripoli home. The shouting woke the Libyan bank worker and he rushed downstairs to find around 40 men pointing their rifles at him.

Moments later they started beating him. Ruhuma's wife and relatives begged the intruders to stop but they dragged him and his uncle away. Punched, hit with rifle butts and cut with knives, Ruhuma was taken to a makeshift detention center in the middle of the night.

In a stark reminder of the lawlessness that prevails in Libya eight months after the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi, the gunmen never told Ruhuma why they abducted him. He says it stems from a family issue - a relative wanted revenge, so he called on the help of an armed brigade.

"We weren't told anything, we were just beaten - our hands, our legs, our bodies," the 42-year old father-of-two said.

"I thought I would never make it out alive."

Libya's aspirations to replace Gaddafi's repressive rule with an ordered, democratic nation are being undermined by increasingly wayward volunteer militias who operate outside the control of fragile state institutions.

The militias attract most attention when, mounted on their battered pick-up trucks with anti-aircraft guns

welded to the back, they fight pitched battles in city streets against rival groups, usually over some perceived slight or a dispute over territory.

But it is their less visible activities that have done the most to puncture the sense of euphoria and freedom that followed Gaddafi's downfall.

Human rights groups have documented a series of cases of militias going to people's houses, spiriting them away and, often, beating and torturing them.

Ruhuma was released only after his relatives called government security forces for help. They found him a few hours later.

"We hear on television that Libya is secure, but after what I have seen, there is no security. How is this possible? There are armed gangs pretending to be revolutionaries," Ruhuma said.

"This is some kind of jungle law."

THE REAL POWER ON THE GROUND

Militias spearheaded the rebellion that ended Gaddafi's rule. While many have scaled back their activities, gone back to their home towns or merged into national security services, others have yet to lay down their arms.

The lack of an effective national police force and army mean many of the militias have more power on the ground than Libya's official rulers.

In the last few weeks, Reuters reporters have heard of cases of Libyans taken from their homes or from the street by armed groups. One of Reuters' Libyan members of staff was briefly detained and beaten following a dispute over a parking space.

"We have received complaints about people being tortured - taken, detained for a few hours," said Abdelbaset Ahmed Abumzirig, deputy head of the national council for freedom and human rights.

"Some have been passed on to the police and prosecutor general and we are following them up. We know that the authorities are weak."

International campaign groups have identified armed militias as one of the biggest challenges to stability as Libya's new rulers try to build new institutions and prepare for the first election in a generation on July 7.

In the last month, Tripoli's international airport was seized by an armed group for several hours. One person was killed and several injured when militiamen protesting outside the prime minister's office started shooting.

Deputy Prime Minister Mustafa Abu Shagour told Reuters the government planned to increase security on the streets and set up more checkpoints to stop people bringing heavy weapons into cities.

"This revolution came to eliminate the era of human rights violations, but unfortunately these incidents have happened, these are crimes," he said.

On top of the rise in abductions, rights groups say they are also concerned about the fate of thousands of people captured by the authorities and militias during and immediately after the uprising.

Human Rights Watch says at least 7,000 are still in detention, citing government officials and the United Nations. Roughly 4,000 of them are held by various militias in both formal and secret detention facilities. The rest are in facilities run by the government.

The U.N. human rights agency and aid groups have accused brigades of torturing detainees, many of them sub-Saharan Africans suspected of fighting for Gaddafi's forces last year.

Accusations of the mistreatment and disappearances of suspected Gaddafi loyalists are embarrassing for Libya's ruling National Transitional Council, which had vowed to make a fresh start after Gaddafi.

It is also awkward for the Western powers that backed the rebellion and helped install Libya's new leaders.

"The government, essentially the police through ministry of interior has to develop its capacity to check that. It's not acceptable of course," the U.N envoy to Libya, Ian Martin, told Reuters when asked about the abductions.

"I don't think there's a problem of will to deal with that, I believe the intentions of those in authority in Libya is one that wants to protect human rights but more needs to be done."

"THE HONDA CIVIC"

The good intentions may be there. But the abductions have continued.

Al-Amin Al-Sahli was at home when four men from a brigade arrived in a pick-up truck and asked him to go to their headquarters. They did not say why.

The 38-year-old, a state employee living in Libya's third largest city Misrata and the brother of a Reuters cameraman, decided to comply and arrived at the base half an hour later.

"They took my phone, my things and then led me through the back door to another office. Then they covered my eyes and tied my hands," he said as he lay in hospital after his ordeal.

"They started beating me, torturing me. They put me on a device - they called it a Honda Civic," he said, describing it as a metallic frame to which his arms and legs were tied.

"They beat me with cables and sticks and everything they had on my back, my legs and all sensitive areas of my body."

The 38-year-old, covered in bruises and whip marks, said his detention stemmed from an old argument over a piece of land. He was only freed after other militia groups arrived demanding his release.

During his detention, he said he was put in a cell with other prisoners, some of them with broken legs. "I've never seen anything as criminal as this before."

(Additional reporting by Reuters Television; Editing by Andrew Heavens)

46. Libya ex-PM Mahmoudi extradition from Tunisia 'illegal'



Mr Mahmoudi was transferred to jail after being taken back to Libya by helicopter

[Continue reading the main story](#)

47. Libya Crisis

Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki has said that his country's extradition of Libya's former Prime Minister al-Baghdadi al-Mahmoudi was "illegal".

Mr Mahmoudi, 70, had fled to Tunisia during the uprising against Col Muammar Gaddafi last year.

Mr Marzouki's office said in a statement that the decision to extradite Mr Mahmoudi was taken without consultation and without his agreement.

Mr Mahmoudi is the first senior Libyan official to be returned for trial.

Mr Marzouki had promised earlier this year to hand over Mr Mahmoudi if he were guaranteed a fair trial in Libya, but in May he said he was in principle opposed to the move.

Human rights groups had asked Tunisia not to extradite him, saying he could be subject to human rights violations in Libya.

Trial concerns

A Tunisian government statement said the extradition did not require the president's signature.

It said the decision to extradite had been made following a report by a Tunisian delegation to Tripoli, which found that the conditions for a fair judicial process had been met.

However, the statement from Mr Marzouki's office insisted that the decision affected foreign policy, which is "within the purview of the president of the republic".

The extradition "threatens the image of Tunisia in the world, making it appear like a state which is not committed to... respecting the elements of a fair trial," the statement went on.

Mr Mahmoudi was transferred by helicopter on Sunday.

He had served as prime minister from March 2006 but fled Libya when Col Gaddafi's forces lost control of Tripoli and was arrested in Tunisia in September for illegal entry.

A sentence of six months' imprisonment for that offence was overturned on appeal, but Mr Mahmoudi had remained in Tunisian custody following the extradition request from Libya.

Mr Mahmoudi's lawyers have expressed fears for his life, saying he now has sole knowledge of many of the state secrets from Gaddafi's time in power.

Libya's new government has pledged to treat all detainees fairly.

→ This last line should be examined as it fly's in the face of reality

June 23, 2012

48. Libya Democracy Clashes With Fervor for Jihad

By **DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/24/world/africa/libya-a-jihadis-offer-2-paths-democracy-or->

DARNAH, Libya — Abdul-Hakim al-Hasadi first took up arms nearly 20 years ago to try to bring Islamic law to Libya. He studied under the [Taliban](#) in Afghanistan, and during last year's uprising he led a local militia council here in a city famous as a cradle of Islamic jihad.

But now Mr. Hasadi has refashioned himself as an eager politician running for local office, looking to the ballot box to promote his Islamic values. "There is no reason for weapons now," he said. "Words are our weapons. Politics needs politics. It doesn't need force."

In the same town, [Sufian bin Qumu](#) leads a militia that flies the black flag of militant Islam. A former truck driver for Osama bin Laden who spent six years as a prisoner at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, Mr. Qumu says the Koran is the only constitution he knows. He insists that he will remain armed until Libya adopts a Taliban-style Islamic government.

"I lived in Kabul, in Afghanistan, when it was under Islamic law," he said approvingly in a recent local radio broadcast that has been his only public statement. "If an Islamic state is established here, I will join it."

In an unfolding contest here over the future of the Islamist movement, Mr. Hasadi's vision of peaceful change appears ascendant. For the West, his success may represent the greatest promise of the Arab Spring, that political participation could neutralize the militant strand of Islam that has called thousands to fight and die in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

That hope for democracy, however, is now imperiled by lawlessness in Libya, signs of sectarian war in Syria and military rule in Egypt. In Egypt, especially, the generals' attempts to thwart an Islamist electoral victory could

validate militant arguments about the futility of democratic reform.

Some in the West fear militants will find new staging grounds. In Darnah, which the United States Army says sent more jihadis to fight the United States in Iraq than any other town its size, Mr. Qumu and other militants still command a following, according to local officials and residents. Many blame Islamist militants for a spate of violent crimes, including the bombing of Mr. Hasadi's empty Mercedes-Benz.

But many former jihadis here say they have put their faith in elections, starting with a vote for a Libyan national assembly expected next month.

"We want our politics to be like Israel," said Mosab Benkamaial, 25, referring to the Jewish state's melding of religious identity and electoral democracy. Mr. Benkamaial, who was captured by United States troops in Baghdad, now runs Darnah's most popular restaurant, a kebab grill called Popeye's.

Other prominent Libyans who once traveled abroad to fight in the name of Islam are also moving in the same direction. [Abdel Hakim Belhaj](#) led an Islamist insurgency in Libya, fought the Soviets in Afghanistan and later joined the Taliban before the C.I.A. captured him in Malaysia. The leader of the Tripoli Military Council, he has founded a political party modeled after Turkey's loosely Islamic governing party.

"We are not an Islamist party," said Anas al-Sharif, a former spokesman for the Islamist insurgency.

There are, however, still signs of division among Darnah's jihadis. During last year's rebellion, graffiti proclaimed "No to Al Qaeda." Now the word "no" is blacked out. A few weeks ago, after Mr. Hasadi spoke at

a mosque about the coming elections, militants blew up his car.

“For sure we have extremists,” said Mohamed el-Mesori, 52, who leads the local governing council.

“There are people who are not with Hasadi because he speaks about democracy and elections,” he said, adding: “Sufian bin Qumu is not yet convinced of that, but we think he is open. People are trying to show him that this is the only way to convince people of your ideas.”

Surrounded by mountains pocked with deep caves, Darnah has been a natural center of guerrilla resistance since the [Ottoman Empire](#). In the 1980s, some of its young men joined the fight against the Soviets in Afghanistan, then returned in the 1990s to form the core of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, which for a brief time threatened Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi.

After its defeat, many, including Mr. Qumu and Mr. Hasadi, fled to Afghanistan.

Most remain deeply suspicious of the West. “So far I have never seen anything good in American politics,” said Mr. Benkamaial, the restaurateur, who spent years in a United States-run prison in Iraq.

Approached by a Libyan intermediary working for The New York Times, Mr. Qumu shouted “Go to hell!” through his door. “I was in Guantánamo for six years, and the Americans weren’t interested in talking to me! Why would I talk to an American now?”

Mr. Qumu, who completed only the seventh grade, was sentenced to 10 years in prison in 1993 for a drug crime. He escaped, according to government records, and fled to Sudan, where he first fell in with Bin Laden.

He was captured in 2002 by Pakistani intelligence and taken to [Guantánamo Bay](#). In 2008, he was transferred to a Libyan prison.

Now Mr. Qumu has become a lightning rod for fears of renewed Islamist violence, especially among followers of unconventional schools of Islam.

Ultraconservatives who sat out the revolt for religious reasons say they live in fear of the armed jihadis. “My heart is in pain,” said an ultraconservative imam, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Sufis — Muslim mystics — say militants destroyed their place of worship. One prominent Sufi psychiatrist said that Mr. Qumu visited to argue about Islamic law on beards. “Grandiose,” said the doctor, Monsifa Moussa.

When Mr. Qumu appeared on the radio program in January, callers accused him of ordering killings and harboring foreign fighters, and they demanded to know why he had not taken a more active role in civic life like Mr. Hasadi. “What is it about the city that Sheik Sufian doesn’t like?” one asked.

He pleaded for acceptance, reminding callers of his years in isolation in Guantánamo Bay. “If I speak about it now, you will not hold your tears.”

He said he did not order killings — “You have to be an emir to give such orders” — and would never force women to wear a veil. “Out of the question!”

It is impossible to know how many in Darnah stand behind Mr. Qumu. But some former jihadis and others in their milieu seem embarrassed by his views. “They think they are the only real Muslims in the city,” said Faris el-Ghariani, 32.

Others were open to compromise, like bending the current prohibition to allow alcohol in tourist hotels. “We want Islamic law, but we also want help from the West,” said Mahir el-Musmari, 37, who traveled to Iraq to fight after the American invasion. “We will have to meet halfway.”

Mr. Hasadi, the jihadi turned politician, boasted that he had just asked a woman to become his fourth wife. He recommended that the West try Islamic corporal punishments, like cutting off thieves' hands, as a deterrent.

But he is trying to broaden his appeal. Once a schoolteacher, he leads prayers at a local mosque, hosts television and radio programs and courts the local and international news media. He says the Taliban were wrong to restrict the careers of women (they will vote in Libya).

He and Mr. Qumu remain friends, Mr. Hasadi said, and he was working on persuading Mr. Qumu to trust in democracy and lay down his weapons, or at least take down the jihadi flag over his compound.

“You are sullyng our image,” Mr. Hasadi said he had told him. “It is fine to have that flag, but if it scares people, why do you have it? You can’t do anything. Why not leave this place?”

10. Libya Election Panel Battles Ghosts

[Article](#)

[Comments \(2\)](#)

[MORE IN MIDDLE EAST »](#)

By [MARGARET COKER](#)

TRIPOLI—Libya's interim authorities, eager to avoid the political chaos of neighboring Egypt, are going to great lengths to keep people associated with the former regime from regaining power.

A vetting panel called the Commission for Integrity and Patriotism has scrutinized the approximately 4,000 candidates vying in Libya's first post-Gadhafi election, which is scheduled for July 7. The goal: find and block those with ties to Moammar Gadhafi and

his family or considered traitors to the revolution that overthrew him.

[Enlarge Image](#)



European Pressphoto Agency

Workers at a Tripoli design house prepare election posters on Tuesday, a day into the campaign season.

At the start of campaigning this week, the panel said it had rejected 320 would-be candidates from taking part in the July poll, while the election commission disqualified 650 others—a significant share of those who sought to run for office.

Now, some 2500 people will contest 120 seats reserved for individual candidates, while over 100 parties will compete for the remaining 80 seats in a

200-body parliamentary body that will have full control over national security, foreign affairs and Libya's oil wealth.

In contrast to Egypt, which is now ruled by its ousted president's military and could see one of his colleagues succeed him, Libya's leaders—all top opposition figures—have marshaled a full-scale campaign to dismantle the country's authoritarian system and lay a new political foundation.

Getting Started

Four parties likely to dominate July 7 polls

- **National Front**
Affiliated with a 1980s-era anti-Gadhafi group, the party is led by Mohammed al-Magariaf, an exiled intellectual dissident leader from a prominent eastern Libyan family.
- **Justice and Construction Party**
The political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood. Leader is Mohamed Sowan, a Gadhafi-era political prisoner.
- **Libyan National Party**
Islamist group led by religious scholar Ali al-Salabi and former Islamist militant Abdul Hakim Belhaj.
- **National Forces Alliance**
An umbrella coalition of liberal parties led by Mahmoud Jibril, the head of the rebel government that received Western support for efforts to overthrow the Gadhafi regime. Mr. Jibril isn't on the list of candidates.

Their most pressing national-security concern has been to keep those affiliated with Gadhafi out of public life—though human-rights groups have criticized many policies for violating the rule of law, such as the indefinite imprisonment by revolutionary militias of hundreds of people accused of being Gadhafi loyalists.

Libyans have jumped at the chance to participate in their first multiparty election since Gadhafi took over in 1969. Many voters say they hope the new governing body will solve the growing lawlessness that has been the hallmark of life in Libya over the past several months.

Approximately 2.7 million Libyans signed up to vote—80% of eligible voters, according to statistics released by the national electoral commission.

The 200-seat assembly will establish a new constitution and political road map after decades of one-man rule. It will also run the country until the new constitution is approved by a national referendum.

Libya's monthslong, internationally supported military campaign to oust Gadhafi left smoldering anger and suspicion toward those who prospered under his 40-year regime. That has added widespread public support for the work of the Commission for Integrity and Patriotism, despite the lack of transparency about the standards it used in its decisions.

Neither the commission nor the election commission explained the reasons for its decisions about disqualification of particular candidates. They didn't respond to emails requesting comment.

The multistage vetting system was established as part of an arduous electoral law passed this spring. Those prohibited from standing for the election include officials who held upper-level governmental positions under Gadhafi, worked for charity organizations affiliated with his family, or had their education paid for by Gadhafi's government. People with commercial ties to Gadhafi's family or stole public funds are also barred from office.

According to election officials, candidates had to submit to a criminal-background check conducted by the new Interior Ministry and a separate check by the Defense Ministry to ensure that candidates aren't members of the country's new security or military bodies. The vetting committee also assessed the financial, educational and political backgrounds of each candidate.

It remains unclear what burden of proof the committee used to determine guilt. Since the revolution last year, Libya's courts haven't yet convicted any Gadhafi-era official of any crimes.

Members of the vetting commission encouraged citizens to submit complaints about potential candidates, lending a sometimes informal quality to the process.

On a sunny morning in May, a middle-age, mustachioed man from the Sharqiyah neighborhood of Tripoli arrived at the district electoral center to register as a candidate. As he filled out his paperwork, the din-filled room fell silent while word spread that he resembled a Gadhafi-era functionary.

The head of candidate registration called the integrity commission after the man finished and left. "Put an asterisk by his name so we know to put him at the top of our list," the commission member said, according to an official who overheard the conversation. Members of the integrity commission didn't respond to requests to comment.

Write to Margaret Coker at margaret.coker@wsj.com

11. BBC promises to review Jeremy Bowen's workload

Middle East editor to be encouraged to 'travel less' following trust report into corporation's coverage of Arab spring

Ben Dowell

guardian.co.uk, Monday 25 June 2012 12.21 EDT

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A girl raises her hand with her fingers painted with flags of Yemen, Egypt, Syria, Tunisia and Libya. Photograph: Khaled Abdullah/REUTERS

The [BBC](#) has promised to review the workload of its Middle East editor, Jeremy Bowen, following a [BBC Trust](#) report urging that he be encouraged to "travel a little less".

Bowen, who has been in the post for seven years, is taking too many foreign trips and needs to be centrally located where he can lend his expertise to the BBC's strategic thinking about its coverage of the region, a report by former UN director of communications Edward Mortimer concluded.

[Mortimer's report](#) into the accuracy and impartiality of the BBC's coverage of the Arab spring, published on Monday, urged executives to limit Bowen's travel "so that he would have more time to share his insight and provide them with overall strategic guidance".

The report quoted an email from Bowen to Mortimer, a former foreign affairs columnist for the Times and Financial Times, in which the journalist referred to his "full" schedule.

The report concluded: "There is clearly a tension here, or a gap not easily bridged between the role of an inspired leader on the ground who has a huge patch to cover and does it superlatively well, and the role of people running the news machine back at base who continually have to make choices in terms of people, resources and audience engagement, and who perhaps cannot always get the advice they need, at the moment when they need it, from an expert who is out in the field."

Mortimer's report noted that in 2010 alone Bowen visited Yemen twice, Egypt twice, Washington twice, Syria once, Israel and the Palestinian territories at least four times, Lebanon once, Geneva once, as well as interviewing the Lebanese prime minister in London.

In its written response BBC management said it will "review the balance " of Bowen's work and the "emphasis we place on his strategic guidance" and hinted that it may limit his work on documentary features.

"We also conclude that there are dangers in releasing key broadcasters, such as the Middle East editor, to work on current affairs documentaries in the middle of a major story," the BBC added.

"While this undoubtedly enriched the BBC's output of the Arab spring as a whole, it mean that for a period daily news editors had less contact with his expertise and guidance of the coverage than they would otherwise have had."

At the press briefing for the report on Monday, Mortimer said Bowen did not volunteer the suggestion about his workload but that he "broadly does agree" with the report's findings.

Bowen was given the post seven years ago in order to lend more consistency to the BBC's coverage of the region, but his tenure has not been without incident.

In 2009 the BBC Trust ruled that he was guilty of inaccuracies in two stories, a January 2008 report for Radio 4's From Our Own Correspondent describing the history of the Israeli settlement Har Homa, near Jerusalem, in the 1960s; and a 2007 BBC website story, How 1967 defined the Middle East, about the legacy of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Bowen later attacked the ruling when accepting the British Journalism Review's Charles Wheeler award for an outstanding contribution to broadcast journalism.

"As Middle East editor for the BBC, I'm under pressure from lobbyists," he said. "I am recognised by my peers as also being able to stick to my guns."

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49. List of Unexploded Arms in Libya Is Seen as Limited June 25, 2012

By [C. J. CHIVERS](#)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/26/world/africa/nato-gives-un-list-of-unexploded-bomb-sites-in-libya.html?>

The release by [NATO](#) of a list of unexploded munitions from the alliance's military action in [Libya](#) has been both welcomed as a step toward postconflict accountability and criticized as a half-measure that falls short of protecting civilians and specialists trying to rid the country of its hazards.

The [United Nations](#) said this month that NATO, in an exchange not publicly disclosed, had shared details of 313 possible sites of [unexploded ordnance](#) from the alliance's action against Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi's government last year. The alliance provided the latitude and longitude for each site, the weight of the ordnance and a description of the means of delivery (fixed-wing aircraft, helicopter gunship or naval vessel).

With the widespread use of sophisticated targeting sensors, with which aircrews record infrared video of the impact of a missile or bomb, air forces have a greater capacity than ever to know exactly where weapons struck and when they have failed to function properly. Such data is routinely gathered as part of what militaries call battle damage assessment. It is used to determine whether a target has been destroyed or should be hit again, and to assess the reliability and effectiveness of various missiles and bombs.

The data also presents options for humanitarian and cleanup efforts. When shared, it can allow for governments and mine-clearing organizations to alert residents of specific risks at specific places, and to focus efforts on removing high-explosive remnants of war. Its existence also suggests an opening for Western militaries to adopt a new standard for responsibility in air campaigns.

For these reasons, the United Nations, which had asked NATO for the data last year, welcomed the list, even though it contained limited information.

“It is helpful, because at least we know where these are,” said Max Dyck, program manager for the [United Nations Mine Action Service](#) in Libya. “We’re not waiting for someone to call up and say, ‘Hey, I have this great big dirty something in my garden.’ ”

Without such data, weapons containing volatile explosives and, in some cases, toxic propellants stand to be found randomly or in drawn-out surveys, raising the risk of accidental discovery — and detonation — by rubble-clearance crews, farmers’ plows, children or anyone else.

But the data has also been a source of disappointment and irritation, because NATO provided no information about the types of unexploded weapons, or the fuzes used to arm each missile or bomb.

This information, along with what are known as “render-safe procedures” for each type of weapon, is considered essential by ordnance-clearance teams. It is routinely recorded by modern military forces, via so-called bomb-build sheets, in which each component of a weapon is documented as a weapon is armed and prepared for an aircraft.

Colin King, a former British Army bomb disposal officer and an analyst for [IHS Jane’s](#), said he could see no reason for NATO to withhold ordnance-specific details. “If the damn thing didn’t go off, why wouldn’t you share what it was?” he asked. “People are going to find it anyway. It’s going to be lying on the ground, and it might cost someone their life.”

“It is irresponsible,” Mr. King added. “You are not going to give away much in the way of vital intelligence by saying what it was.”

NATO, which said that it “has contributed to the timely removal of these munitions and therefore to the improvement of security for the Libyan people,” declined to answer why the types of weapons and render-safe procedures were not provided. “We do not comment on technical operational details,” Oana Lungescu, the alliance’s spokeswoman, said by e-mail.

NATO has said that its air campaign over Libya resulted in the release of [7,700 missiles or bombs](#). Almost all of the suspected duds — 303 — that NATO acknowledged were released from warplanes. Six were from helicopters, and four from warships.

The NATO campaign appears not to have involved potentially harmful radioactivity or [cluster munitions](#), which scatter small bombs or mines that typically have high dud rates and are prone to exploding when disturbed.

In an e-mail late last year, Col. Gregory Julian, a United States Army officer serving as an alliance spokesman, said NATO and its partners had not used cluster or depleted uranium rounds in Libya. He also said NATO had not used free-falling “dumb bombs.” All of its airstrikes in Libya, he said, were made with guided missiles and bombs.

The NATO release was the latest development in what mine-clearance teams describe as a slowly evolving process of Western combatants' sharing airstrike information with nonmilitary ordnance-disposal technicians.

In the 1990s, the United States released extensive data on its bombing of Laos during the Vietnam War, after years of resisting requests from [Mines Advisory Group](#), a nonprofit ordnance-clearance organization in Britain.

The information, made public decades after American pilots carried out the secret bombing campaign, has since been used in a detailed mapping project, as an advocacy tool, and to help with the cleanup of the remnants of a little-covered military action carried out on a vast scale.

After the Kosovo war ended in 1999, NATO released geographic information on its airstrikes there, though mine-clearers said the value of that release was undermined by the inaccuracy of much of the data. (In that case, Mr. King and Sean Sutton, a spokesman for Mines Advisory Group, said ordnance teams went to many sites NATO had said it struck and found nothing, and found areas that had been hit with cluster munitions that NATO had not disclosed.)

The United States military has also provided nonmilitary ordnance-clearance teams limited information about airstrikes in Iraq.

The data release on Libya contained one new element: This was the first time a military force shared dud-specific locations for a campaign, according to Mr. King. In the past, he said, militaries described locations of airstrikes generally, and they did not differentiate between ordnance known to have exploded and ordnance suspected of having failed.

Mr. Sutton said he hoped that combatants in other conflicts would release similar data, but that more information would be included. "Amongst the mine-action actors, obviously we have no political interest in this," Mr. Sutton said. "It is simply a matter of how quickly and safely we can do our jobs."

50.

Africa's Islamist militants 'co-ordinate efforts in threat to continent's security'

Editorial Note From Alexander Hagen, compiler of this Libya compendium: My notes indicate this had disinformation in it – but valuable clues

Head of US Africa Command says Boko Haram, al-Shabaab and al-Qaida in north Africa sharing money, explosives and training

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- [David Smith](#) in Johannesburg
 - guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 26 June 2012 11.30 EDT
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According to General Carter Ham, al-Shabaab militants (above) and their counterparts in Boko Haram and al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb are increasingly co-ordinating their activities. Photograph: Feisal Omar/Reuters

Three of [Africa's](#) most dangerous Islamist militant groups are striving to co-ordinate their operations and represent a deepening threat to security on the continent, the US has warned.

General Carter Ham, head of the [US military's Africa Command](#), said there were signs that [Boko Haram](#) in [Nigeria](#), al-Shabaab in Somalia and [al-Qaida](#) in the Islamic Maghreb were sharing money and explosive materials and training fighters together.

"Each of those three organisations is by itself a dangerous and worrisome threat," Ham told an African Centre for Strategic Studies seminar in Washington. "What really concerns me is the indications that the three organisations are seeking to co-ordinate and synchronise their efforts – in other words, to establish a co-operative effort amongst the three most violent organisations ... And I think that's a real problem for us and for African security in general."

Al-Shabaab is active in Somalia and has been blamed for attacks in Kenya. Last year, the group, which is allied to al-Qaida, claimed responsibility for the death of the Somali interior minister, Abdi Shakur Sheikh Hassan. It has, however, suffered setbacks in recent months. Last month, the US classified three of the alleged leaders of Boko Haram, an Islamist sect based in remote north-east Nigeria, as "foreign terrorists", but it declined to blacklist the organisation to avoid boosting the group's profile internationally.

Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), an affiliate of al-Qaida based in north Africa, is mainly a criminal organisation operating in the Sahel region. It kidnaps westerners for ransom and fuels Africa's drug trade, according to intelligence officials.

US and regional officials fear that a power vacuum in northern Mali after a military coup in March may open an expanded area of operations for Islamist militants. Some western diplomats talk of the country becoming a "west African Afghanistan".

Ham, addressing senior military and civilian officials from Africa, the US and Europe, said AQIM was operating "essentially unconstrained" throughout a large portion of northern Mali, where Islamists have imposed an extreme version of sharia law.

He added: "Most notably I would say that the linkages between AQIM and Boko Haram are probably the most worrisome in terms of the indications we have that they are likely sharing funds, training and explosive materials."

Africa Command has its headquarters in Germany. Its actions vary from the use of drones against al-Shabaab to the training of armies in various countries. Ham insisted that the US, which has about 2,000 troops in Djibouti, is not planning to expand its military role on the continent. "A large permanent presence in the continent of Africa is not, I think, what any of us desire."

A 100-strong US special forces contingent assisting in the hunt for the Ugandan warlord Joseph Kony also comes under Ham's command. He said: "This is an African-led effort. It is the African Union increasingly taking a leadership role with a little bit of support from the United States military. We think that is the right approach."

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Al Qaeda threatens Arab Spring nations- UK spy chief



Tue, Jun 26 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/26/uk-britain-security-idUSLNE85P00620120626>

By [Guy Faulconbridge](#)

LONDON (Reuters) - Al Qaeda militants are using the countries which toppled their leaders in the Arab Spring as bases to train radical Western youths for potential attacks on Britain, the chief of the MI5 Security Service said on Monday.

In his first public speech for nearly two years, Security Service Director General Jonathan Evans said the Arab Spring revolts in Tunisia, Libya, Yemen and Egypt offered long-term hope of a more democratic Middle East.

But Britain's domestic spy chief said al Qaeda, which moved to Afghanistan from Arab countries in the 1990s and thence to Pakistan after the fall of the Taliban, was once again trying to gain a foothold in the Arab world.

"Today parts of the Arab world have once more become a permissive environment for al Qaeda," Evans said, according to an advance text of a rare speech in London outlining the key threats to British interests.

"A small number of British would-be jihadis are also making their way to Arab countries to seek training and opportunities for militant activity, as they do in Somalia and Yemen. Some will return to the UK and pose a threat here."

"This is a new and worrying development and could get worse," said Evans, a career officer who has served as head of the Security Service since April 2007.

The Arab Spring was lauded by Western leaders who hoped the revolts would usher in prosperity and freedom to the Middle East and North Africa, though Islamists have come to power in elections in Tunisia and Egypt.

Libya has been racked by turmoil while al Qaeda militants are expanding their foothold in the south of Yemen. A plot by al Qaeda in Yemen to blow up an airliner over the Atlantic was foiled in May by a British spy.

British officials say one of the biggest threats to the realm is likely to come from a domestic cell of militants who have received training or support from al Qaeda in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia or Yemen.

OLYMPICS - "ATTRACTIVE TARGET"

Evans, who joined MI5 in 1980 after graduating from Bristol University with a degree in Classical Studies, said preparations

for the Olympic Games in London were going well though the event was an attractive target for Britain's enemies.

Britain's national threat level is assessed at "substantial" - meaning an attack is a strong possibility - but that is still one notch lower than for most of the past decade.

"The Games present an attractive target for our enemies and they will be at the centre of the world's attention in a month or so," Evans said. "No doubt some terrorist networks have thought about whether they could pull off an attack."

But Evans warned against complacency, quipping that when intelligence folk smell roses they look for the funeral.

Though al Qaeda has made no successful attack on Britain since 2005, the threat has not evaporated, he said, adding that Britain has been the target of credible terrorist plot every year since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

"In back rooms and in cars and on the streets of this country there is no shortage of individuals talking about wanting to mount terrorist attacks here," Evans said. "It is essential that we maintain pressure on al Qaeda."

Some 100-200 British residents are thought to be involved in militant activities in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, mostly young men from cities such as London and Birmingham between the ages of 18 and 30.

Evans said MI5, which now employs about 3,800 people up from 1,800 on the eve of the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York, had shifted some its focus to reflect the changed appreciation of the wider threat to British interests.

He said about half of MI5's priority casework now focused on Afghanistan or Pakistan dimensions, down from 75 percent a few years ago. As the threat from al Qaeda in Pakistan declines, it has risen in Yemen, Somalia and the Sahel, he said.

Evans said companies should seek to defend themselves against organised crime groups or states seeking to steal secrets or sow turmoil in their computer systems.

He cited the case of an unnamed London-listed company which lost 800 million pounds as the result of a state cyber attack.

Russia or China are thought to be behind the attack.

"The extent of what is going on is astonishing - with industrial-scale processes involving many thousands of people lying behind both state-sponsored cyber espionage and organised cyber crime," he said. (Editing by Ralph Boulton)

51. Extradition of Gaddafi Deputy Plunges Tunisia into Political Crisis

TIME World

<http://world.time.com/2012/06/26/extradition-of-gaddafi-deputy-plunges-tunisia-into-political-crisis/>

The extradition from Tunisia to Libya of Al-Baghdadi Ali al-Mahmoudi, former deputy to the late Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi,

may be cheered in Tripoli. But it has exposed the growing power struggle between Islamists and secularists in Tunis

By VIVIENNE WALT | @vivwalt | June 26, 2012 |

With political upheaval in Egypt and Libya and calamitous violence in Syria, the one stable point of the Arab Spring seemed

to be Tunisia, where the wave of revolutions began 19 months ago. Now even that looks in doubt. Before dawn last Sunday,

Tunisian officials dragged the country's highest-value detainee — Muammar Gaddafi's last Prime Minister, Al-Baghdadi Ali

al-Mahmoudi — from his prison bed, then handed him to Libyan officials, who flew him to a Libyan jail an hour away. Why

the cloak-and-dagger extradition? The operation occurred under the nose of Tunisia's own President, who at the time was

sound asleep in his sprawling seaside palace, just a few kilometers away.

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With political upheaval in Egypt and Libya and calamitous violence in Syria, the one stable point of the [Arab Spring](#) seemed to be Tunisia, where the wave of revolutions began 19 months ago. Now even that looks in doubt. Before dawn last Sunday, Tunisian officials dragged the country's highest-value detainee — Muammar Gaddafi's last Prime Minister, Al-Baghdadi Ali al-Mahmoudi — from his prison bed, then handed him to Libyan officials, who flew him to a Libyan jail an hour away. Why the cloak-and-dagger extradition? The operation occurred under the nose of Tunisia's own President, who at the time was sound asleep in his sprawling seaside palace, just a few kilometers away.

The political furor in Tunisia has since laid bare deep rifts between the country's secular liberals and Islamists, two factions wrestling for the country's future in wake of the dictatorship's collapse in January 2011. In some ways, the conflict mirrors the political struggles playing out in Libya and Egypt too, as all three countries try to rebuild after decades of one-man rule. In Tunisia, a three-way coalition has ruled the country since the first democratic elections last October, with the popular Islamic party Ennahda — long outlawed under the dictatorship — controlling the government under a Prime Minister, and the two major secular parties in control each of the presidency and the constitution-writing assembly.

But the clamor over al-Mahmoudi's fate now threatens to torpedo the arrangement, placing the Islamists in firm control over the most secular country in North [Africa](#).

(**MORE:** [Controversial Court Case Signals Political Divide in Tunisia](#))

For months, Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki fiercely opposed Libyan requests to send al-Mahmoudi back. As the argument dragged on, it became a litmus test not only for what kind of justice system the new Tunisia might have, but also for what kind of President there will be once the new constitution is approved some time next year: one with big powers, like the American President, or a figurehead — as some suspect the newly elected Egyptian President Mohamed Morsy might ultimately be.

A longtime human-rights activist and a former political prisoner himself, Marzouki, who returned last year from exile in Paris, argued that the Libyan risked being tortured and executed back home and that under the Geneva Conventions, Tunisia was obligated to keep him until it ruled on his request for political asylum; al-Mahmoudi was nabbed by Tunisian border police after fleeing Libya last September, when Gaddafi's 42-year dictatorship was on the verge of collapse. In a statement on Monday, Marzouki's spokesman Adnen Manser said al-Mahmoudi's extradition on Sunday was “unilateral and without consultation, approval or signature of the President” and that “it deviates significantly from the principles of the current coalition, which threatens the image of Tunisia in the world.”

It also deeply embarrassed Tunisia's President — and not for the first time. In early May, a Tunisian court [convicted Nabil Karoui](#), director of Nessma TV, a hugely popular cable-television network that airs across North Africa. Karoui had been charged with broadcasting *Persepolis*, a French-American animated film that features the Prophet Muhammad as a talking character — an offense in the eyes of conservative Muslims. Sitting in his palace that same day with [the sun](#) streaming through the open doors, Marzouki told TIME that he feared the Islamists might try to limit free speech under a new constitution and create a

more stringent Islamic society. Tunisia depends heavily on European tourists (Paris is a two-hour flight away), and with no restrictions on alcohol — a rare feature in the Arab world — the country is known for its fine wines. Steps from the palace, women bathe in bikinis on pristine Mediterranean beaches. But the Nessma TV trial was seen as a test of whether such easygoing rules might endure, given that more Tunisians voted for the Islamists than the secular parties last October. Marzouki opposed the charges levied on Karoui. “I am opposed to any kind of censorship,” he told TIME. “I prefer the bad side effects of free expression.”

But Marzouki, and secular liberals like him, might now be in the minority. During days of rioting earlier this month, protesters slashed paintings, which they said were offensive to Islam, at a gallery exhibition in the upscale Tunis neighborhood of La Marsa; one painting spelled out the word *Allah* with ants, while another portrayed a nude woman. On Monday, a Tunisian court upheld the 7½-year jail sentence for a young Tunisian convicted of posting a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad online.

For Marzouki, Sunday’s extradition of the Gaddafi official might prove one slight too many. His spokesman Manser told the online news site Tunisia Live that “there is a possibility that Marzouki will resign in response to the extradition,” which he described as “a transgression of Marzouki’s prerogatives.”

While al-Mahmoudi’s extradition does not involve issues of religion, Tunisians have seen it as a sign of the Islamists’ growing strength and the weakening position of their secular President. “It is very, very clear now that the President has no power,” al-Mahmoudi’s attorney in Tunis, Mohammed Salah Hassan, told TIME by phone on Tuesday. “There is a strong brotherhood between the Islamists regionally, and between those in Tunisia and Libya, and the great majority of Tunisians voted for Ennahda.” That connection, he added, was behind the hurried extradition of al-Mahmoudi, over the President’s objections.

For Libyan officials, al-Mahmoudi is a prize catch. For months, they argued hard for his return, saying they

intend to put him on trial in Libya. The extradition request to Tunisia included charges of abusing public funds, threatening officials with weapons and incitement to commit rape during the war last year, according to an account by Amnesty International on Monday, which said the organization had been shown a copy of the document.

Al-Mahmoudi is the first top Gaddafi official in exile to be returned to Libya, but hardly the only one. Libyan officials are seeking. Others include Libya’s former security chief Abdullah al-Senoussi, who was arrested in Mauritania; Gaddafi’s former Foreign Minister Moussa Koussa, who was recently filmed by the BBC eating at a five-star hotel in Qatar; and several Gaddafi family members, including his daughter Aisha, who have fled to Algeria and Niger.

But al-Mahmoudi himself is “very, very precious,” said his Tunis lawyer Hassan, who believes he could hold key information for Libya’s new leaders, including where the Gaddafis might have hidden billions of dollars. The former physician, 66, held a series of top jobs under Gaddafi and in recent years ran the Libyan Investment Authority, one of world’s largest sovereign-wealth funds. As secretary of Gaddafi’s General People’s Committee — the closest equivalent to a Prime Minister — during the late 2000s, al-Mahmoudi might also know intimate details about backdoor deals during the years when U.S. sanctions against Libya ended and Western countries poured billions into Libya. Al-Mahmoudi has claimed, for example, to have proof that Gaddafi gave former French President Nicolas Sarkozy \$62 million for his 2007 election campaign — an issue that French journalists have debated furiously for months and which Sarkozy has denied. Al-Mahmoudi might now get his chance to present that proof in court.

Related Topics: [Al-Baghdadi](#), [Ali Al-Mahmoudi](#), [Ennahda](#), [extradition](#), [Islamists](#), [Libya](#), [marzouki](#), [secularists](#), [Tunisia](#), [Africa](#), [Egypt](#), [Middle East](#), [Tunisia](#)

12. Kids of War: Libyan Children Fight a New Battle at School

by [Danielle Shapiro](#) Jun 30, 2012 4:45 AM EDT

53. While Libya lurches forward to its landmark parliamentary election, its children face a brutal conflict on the playground.

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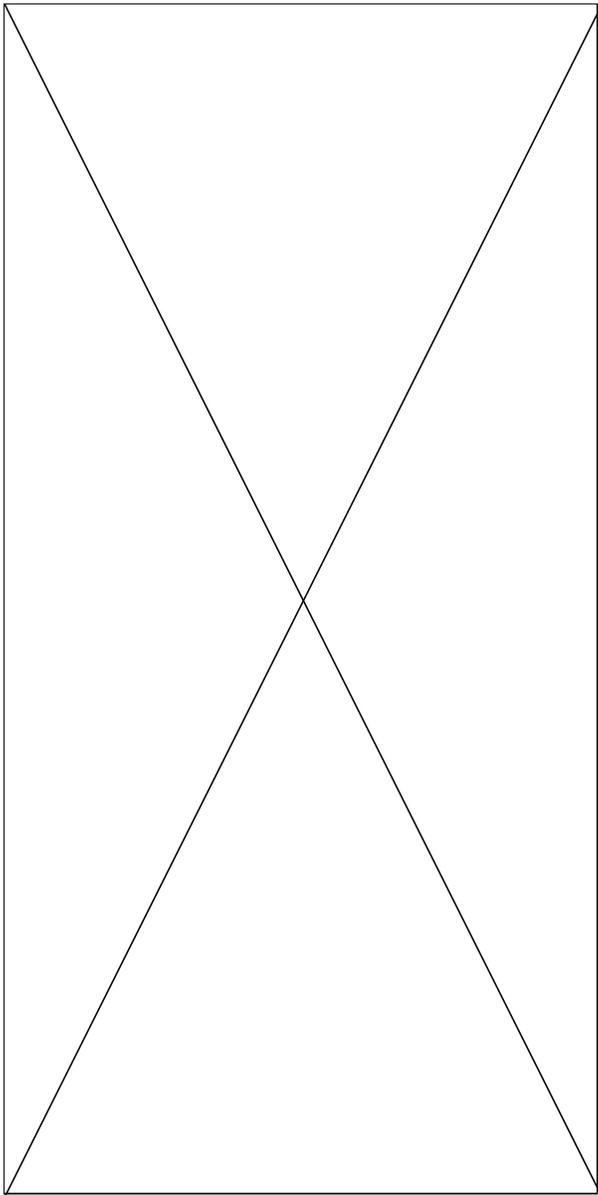
As Libya gears up for its parliamentary election in July, a battle roars on in an unexpected place—the schoolyard. In burned-out neighborhoods riddled with bullet holes, toppled roofs, and crumbled walls, children find themselves at a new kind of war on the playground, as some come from families that supported Muammar Gaddafi, while others hail from homes that encouraged the revolution. These kids fight over things they do not quite understand, as they struggle to move on from the past.

[Left Behind in Libya \(PHOTOS\)](#)



A student at her bombed-out school in Sirte. (Susan Schulman)

“I have decided not to remember the war,” said Muammar Abdulsalam, a chubby-cheeked 13-year-old in the seaside neighborhood of Sirte, the hometown of Gaddafi. Here, empty bullet casings litter the sidewalks; graffiti heralding the revolution is everywhere. War is hard to forget.



regime, and the last Libyan city to fall to rebel hands. By war's end, this young boy's part of town, known as Area Two, would be Sirte's most damaged neighborhood.

For young Muammar, the suffering began even before the bombs fell on his home. His father, a soldier in Gaddafi's army, was killed in July, according to his mother, Salma Abdullah, 32. Her son has been deeply affected, she said, explaining that he has become much more attached to her and doesn't sleep well anymore; he's easily startled when she wakes him in the morning. The traumas of war cling stubbornly to his everyday life.

The destruction the fighting wrought throughout this city is inescapable. As residents pick their way through the rubble of their lives, they must also tread carefully to avoid explosive conflicting allegiances. In Sirte, as in much of Libya, there is criticism of the transitional government and concern about a flow of weapons. Tensions between those who supported Gaddafi and those who supported the rebels that overthrew him seem only thinly veiled.

At the same time, unexploded weapons lurk beneath the rubble. Ali-Marc Wazne led mine-risk education programs in Sirte for an organization called the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, noting that the danger is extreme. From December through January, his group cleared 1,200 unexploded weapons.

Nowhere are the challenges of rebuilding and reconciliation played out more powerfully than in the lives of the city's children. For many, just walking to school has become fraught. In Muammar's neighborhood, his path to school passes crumbling building after building, gaping with bomb holes, some almost perfect circles strafed with marks like the rays of a sinister sun. Everywhere there are shattered windows and the black stains of fire. Garbage piles are ubiquitous. The city aches with damage.

Sitting in his family's first-floor apartment, with the bombed-out remains of his neighbor's homes around him, he was trying to erase his past on a late January afternoon, three months after the end of Libya's violent revolution that toppled Gaddafi's 42-year dictatorship.

He and his family spent 30 terror-filled days last fall hiding in the dank, dark basement of their building in Sirte, as rockets blasted and gunfire rattled, until Gaddafi was captured and killed. Sirte was not only Gaddafi's hometown, but a bastion of support for his

Friends and teachers are
missing from school.
Parents and relatives are
dead. A new flag flies;
children sing a new
national anthem. Even
friendships are dangerous
to navigate.

Inside the Taleah Alnaser school, where about 675 first-grade through ninth-grade students gather, Muammar's classmate, Asel Salam, 12, opened the door to what was once her second-grade classroom. Dressed in jeans and carrying a pink Hannah Montana backpack, her head covered in a delicate white scarf, she looked around at her former classroom, covered in dust and debris. An oblong bomb-hole marked the back wall, and windows were empty of their glass. "So scary," Asel said quietly.

Other classrooms are in better shape, and school has resumed, but the signs of conflict are inescapable. Concentrating under the circumstances, Asel said, is not easy. "I am trying," she said.

Abdulsalam Suwaysi, 12, another one of Muammar's friends, lives in the same apartment building as his pal. Like Muammar, he no longer sleeps well. A gentle boy with curly hair slicked back into a mini mohawk, he recounted a recurring nightmare. "I remember I dreamed that our building had been hit and I was the only one who survived and I was crying and I saw all my family dead," he said. "I dreamed similar to this dream every day. After I woke, I saw that none of this had happened, but now I thank god everything now is OK."

The symptoms of Sirte's children—bedwetting and nightmares, difficulty sleeping and concentrating in school, refusal to think or talk about the war, over-

attachment to their parents—can be signs of post-traumatic stress disorder, according to experts. Rune Stuvland, director of the Center for Stress and Trauma Psychology in Oslo, traveled to Libya in January to help the United Nations Children's Fund and the Libyan Ministry of Education assess the psychological needs of children and plan intervention programs. "It shatters a child's understanding of their community—of what is safe, what is not safe," he said of the man-made violence. The usual reassuring routines and structures for kids—schools, churches—are chaotic in war. Nothing can be counted on.

In Sirte, nearly everything in children's lives has changed. Friends and teachers are missing from school. Parents and relatives are dead. A new flag flies; children sing a new national anthem. Even friendships are dangerous to navigate. Often, children who come from families that supported Gaddafi pick fights with friends who come from families that supported the revolution, and vice versa.

At the Taleah Alnaser school, the simmering tensions erupted on a crisp but sunny late January morning, when students lined up in the cement schoolyard. Teachers led them in brisk, mostly stationary, calisthenics. They bent at the waist; they circled their arms. When they finished, about 20 girls and boys were selected to stand in front of their peers and sing the country's new national anthem. Called "Libya! Libya! Libya!" it is the anthem adopted in 1951 upon Libya's independence. When Gaddafi took over in a bloodless coup in 1969, he discarded the song. The country's interim government, the National Transitional Council, brought it back last year.

Not all the children knew the words, and it soon became clear that some didn't want to learn them. As the students filed back into their rows, a tussle ensued between two boys in Muammar's class—one had sung the anthem, and the other was not happy about it. Quickly, a teacher approached the latter boy, yelling and grabbing him by the ear.

“Put your hands down!” the teacher said.

“I didn’t hit him! He came in front of me!” protested the 15-year-old boy, named Ramadan Al Gaddafi Ramadan.

“This is something we all have to accept whether we like it or not,” the teacher yelled.

Ramadan stared straight ahead. He said nothing, though a subtle smirk crept across his lips.

“OK, finish. We raise the flag and that is it,” the teacher said.

The scuffle was not an isolated occurrence, students and teachers said. Asel, who was among those singing the national anthem, said she has found her friends deeply divided. “Some like Muammar Gaddafi,” she said. “And others not. They like all of this destruction.”

Still, despite the countless challenges for the residents of Libya, there are flickers of hope. Offices, restaurants, and shops are now open in Sirte. They might operate on a building’s first floor—with the second a nearly collapsed, charred shell—but they operate. Boys play soccer on a pitch outside Muammar’s apartment. Girls walk home from school, all a-giggle; they suck on lollipops, whisper to their friends, share rides on a partially broken pink scooter.

And some children, like Abdulsalam Suwaysi, Muammar’s neighbor, manage to think about the future. “I want to be an engineer,” he said. “I want to rebuild my country.”

Susan Schulman contributed to this story.

54. Continued destruction of Mali shrines called 'war crime'

Members of the group Ansar Dine have destroyed the mausoleums of Sufi saints in Timbuktu for a second day.

Sunday's destruction, utilising pick axes and guns, comes after a statement by the International Criminal Court (ICC), calling the on-going campaign of destruction of ancient Islamic shrines in northern Mali "a war crime".

Al Jazeera's Dominic Kane reports

55. F-Se! Landscapes Of Libya Freedom Or a Short List of Libyan Rebels HUMAN RIGHTS Praxis.

This hyperlinks to a gallery of gruesome reprisals against alleged Gadaffi supporters.



57. Gadhafi-Era Spy Tactics Quietly Restarted in Libya

By MARGARET COKER in Tripoli, Libya, and PAUL SONNE in London

Updated July 2, 2012, 10:15 p.m. ET

Libya's caretaker government has quietly reactivated some of the interception equipment that fallen dictator Moammar Gadhafi once used to spy on his opponents.

The surveillance equipment has been used in recent months to track the phone calls and online communications of Gadhafi loyalists, according to two government officials and a security official. Two officials say they have seen dozens of phone or Internet-chat transcripts detailing conversations between Gadhafi supporters. One person said he reviewed the transcript of at least one phone call between Saadi Gadhafi, the exiled son of the former dictator, and one of his followers inside Libya. Saadi Gadhafi, who is in Niger, couldn't be reached for comment.



Edu Bayer for The Wall Street Journal

A sign at a Gadhafi-era spy office last year read: 'The weapons are in the hands of the people.'

Libya is among the post-Arab Spring nations grappling with a difficult question as they move toward democracy: Whether or not to use the security tools left behind by former dictators. Libya plans elections this Saturday.

One of the government's main security concerns is to keep the country safe from a pro-Gadhafi counterrevolution. The risk is that Libya could follow a pattern seen in other post-authoritarian countries, from Russia to Iraq, in which new leaders weaken the rule of law in the interest of power or stability.

Since Gadhafi's overthrow in a bloody conflict last year, Libya's caretaker government has created two new national-security agencies—one called Preventive Security, for domestic intelligence, and one called Foreign Security, for operations abroad.

The effort is headed by 50-year-old Salem al-Hasi, a long-exiled anti-Gadhafi activist and Islamic scholar who, in just months, has gone from working as a

language teacher at a U.S. military college in Georgia to serving as Libya's new national intelligence chief.

Electronic surveillance is a sensitive subject for Libya's new leaders. In an interview, Mr. Hasi's deputy denied that Libya has put Gadhafi-era surveillance gear to use. "We don't have the staff or know-how to do this," said Mustafa Nu'ah, the deputy, in a brief phone interview.

Mr. Hasi didn't respond to requests for comment.

Two government officials and a high-ranking security official, however, confirmed that such operations have begun. These people say they receive routine security briefings, including readouts of intercepted phone calls and Internet chats. One of the officials said he has seen "dozens" of intelligence files of suspected Gadhafi loyalists plotting against the new government. They declined to explain the process or criteria used to decide whether someone is placed under surveillance or considered a threat.



& State University

North Georgia College

Libya's new intel chief, Salem al-Hasi.

Many in Libya's caretaker authority—the National Transitional Council, or NTC—said the value of the tools is obvious. Ahead Page **110** of **154**

of the anniversary of the country's uprising, for example, officials went on heightened alert and switched on phone-interception equipment, fearing an attack by Gadhafi loyalists, according to one individual with knowledge of the matter.

Some Libyan activists say the lack of transparency on security issues suggests a shaky commitment to the rule of law. "In a few short months, the NTC has shown a pattern of creating bad laws that breach human rights," says Elham Saudi, a British-trained lawyer and head of the nongovernmental group Lawyers for Justice in Libya, the group that the International Criminal Court worked with to gather evidence of possible war crimes by Gadhafi. "The lack of respect for rule of law is astonishing."

There are some signs the new government is defining potential enemies of the state in a way that reaches beyond the former dictator's family members or henchmen. "The revolution must use all means necessary to rid the country of enemies," says Adel al-Morsi, who in April became the commander of the Tripoli branch office of Preventative Security. He says his definition of security threats includes schoolteachers who don't let children sing the new national anthem and businessmen who became wealthy in Gadhafi's time.

Mr. Hasi was appointed by the NTC, Libya's unelected caretaker parliament. It remains unclear whether he will be required to resubmit his candidacy after this week's planned elections. The vote will be the first since before Gadhafi seized power in his own revolution in 1969.

In some of his only public statements since taking his new job, he acknowledged the lingering toxic effects of Gadhafi's police state and emphasized his commitment to reform. There is a "long way to go" before Libya can "put the security services at the service of the state, not the rulers," Mr. Hasi said in a February interview with the Arabic-language newspaper Asharq al-Awsat.

Since taking power last fall, the caretaker government has aggressively sought to root out Gadhafi sympathizers. An organization called the Committee for Integrity and Patriotism, for instance, vetted election candidates for ties to the former

regime and has excluded at least 320 of them from running, or roughly 7% of all candidates who registered.

The committee didn't respond to requests for comment and hasn't made public the reasons for blocking candidates.

The NTC also passed a law that, among other things, prohibits acts that "glorify" the former regime. The Libyan Supreme Court has ruled the law unconstitutional, but it is unclear how the court can enforce the decision. NTC members say such strict laws are necessary in the current period of political upheaval.

In another episode, a regional militia that arrested Gadhafi's son Seif al-Islam Gadhafi recently detained a legal team visiting from the International Criminal Court at The Hague for allegedly passing the younger Gadhafi a letter containing coded communications. The younger Mr. Gadhafi is wanted on war crimes by the court at The Hague, but Libya wants to try him inside the country instead. The ICC, which called the detention illegal and a violation of attorney-client rights, said Monday that its staff had been released after nearly a month in detention.

Ajami al-Ateri, a spokesman for the regional militia, said the ICC team's work was "not in the national interest" of Libya.

Gadhafi's police state cast a dark shadow over his nearly 42 years in power. Libyan assassins roamed the globe, killing exiled political dissidents. Opponents who remained inside the North African country say Gadhafi used arbitrary arrests and torture to terrorize them.

More recently, Gadhafi quelled dissent with help from secret electronic surveillance tools, which were first documented in detail last summer by The Wall Street Journal. The equipment, sold to the Gadhafi regime by companies in France, China and South Africa, allowed Libyan agents to monitor phones and capture email and Internet chats.

Intelligence files recovered and reviewed last year by the Journal showed that many of Gadhafi's surveillance targets were Libyan human-rights activists and people critical of the dictator or his family. Much of the equipment was switched off last year, when Gadhafi was fighting for survival, and stayed dark until at least last autumn, according to people familiar with the situation.

But by the end of 2011, security chaos was spreading. Hundreds of local militias acting as vigilante gangs set up makeshift prisons and instituted business shakedowns. Human-rights groups estimate that upward of 3,000 people remain jailed by militias without judicial review.

The caretaker leaders blamed unrest on pro-Gadhafi insurgents. Some Libyan militia commanders began lobbying for access to Gadhafi-era phone taps and Internet interception equipment.

Mr. Morsi, a 42-year-old former semiprofessional soccer player from Benghazi who was jailed five times by Gadhafi's secret police, says he has seen several transcripts of monitored phone calls and Internet chats showing that dissidents are plotting an armed insurgency with exiled Gadhafi family members. "We won't be safe until they are all eliminated," he said.

He declined to confirm or deny whether Gadhafi-era security equipment was back in use.

The full breadth and depth of the current intelligence operations across Libya are unknown. It isn't clear how much of the old surveillance apparatus has been reactivated.

One person familiar with the setup said some of the online tapping devices have been removed from Libya's main Internet service provider since the regime's fall. At the same time, the number and type of people subject to interceptions isn't clear, nor is the process by which people are deemed targets. People with knowledge of the operations declined to say whether they led to arrests.

Senior government officials bristle at the suggestion that any new Libyan security official would abuse his power. "The

Masi once worked for a soccer-equipment store in Roswell, Ga., and taught Arabic locally.

people who are now taking care of government are patriots and heroes," said Amin Belhaj, a member of the NTC's security committee who supports electronic surveillance. "They are devoted to changing the country for the better." Included on Mr. Belhaj's list of heroes is Mr. Hasi.

Mr. Hasi, originally from the Libyan town of Shahat, is known for his onetime membership in the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, a 1980s-era anti-Gadhafi group that had ties to the Central Intelligence Agency, according to a book by Bob Woodward on CIA history. In 1984, the group tried and failed to assassinate Gadhafi. Some of the members, including Mr. Hasi, moved to the U.S.



Edu Bayer for The Wall Street Journal

Exterior of Tripoli's main Internet surveillance and security office around the time of Gadhafi's fall last year.

From 1997 to 2000, Mr. Hasi worked as an assistant manager at a soccer-equipment store in Roswell, Ga., according to a résumé he posted on his website. He later opened a flier and brochure-making business in the Atlanta area, the website says.

He also kept up with events in Libya and volunteered at Amnesty International, where he served as an expert on North Africa from 2004 until the end of last year, according to a spokeswoman for the nonprofit. She described Mr. Hasi as a long-standing human-rights activist.

Eventually, Mr. Hasi settled on teaching Arabic continuing-education classes at Atlanta-based Emory University. In 2009 he started an Arabic program at North Georgia College & State University, one of the U.S.'s six senior military colleges. Most students he taught were military cadets.

"He was a very regal, respectful, calm presence who really had a knack for teaching," said D. Brian Mann, department head for foreign languages at North Georgia. Mr. Mann said some students "were practically in tears to see him go," but they understood his motivation. "Obviously he had this on his mind for 30 years."

Within the Libyan-American expatriate community, Mr. Hasi is known as a devout Muslim. He wrote theological commentary for a popular Cairo-based online Islamic forum for English-speaking Muslims. Queries he answered range from the esoteric—such as "Was Eve made of the rib of Adam?"—to those of a political nature.

In a spring 2003 post discussing what Islamic law said about the treatment of U.S. soldiers taken hostage in Iraq, he wrote that mistreatment was forbidden. "It is safe to say that if any prisoner of war was mistreated, as revenge or for any other reason, then he/she was treated against the guidelines of Islam on this particular issue," his post said.

Mr. Mann says Mr. Hasi requested a leave of absence and left for Libya, for the first time in years, around early September 2011. Around that time, rebels had ousted Gadhafi from Tripoli. Mr. Hasi told his boss he wanted to see his sick mother and aid his brothers who were fighting in the uprising.

He didn't return to teaching. In December 2011, he called his boss to say he wouldn't be coming back to teach because he had been offered a high-level position in the Libyan government. In

February, Libya's 71-member parliamentary body voted Mr. Hasi into the security job.

He returned to the U.S. around that time and stopped in to see Mr. Mann. "He was still the same Salem, but he just carried himself a bit differently," Mr. Mann said.

In his interview in the Arab-language newspaper, Mr. Hasi credited his selection to the ideas he presented about reforming Libya's security agencies. "I hope God will help us to get rid of the image and the bad reputation the Libyan security services had in the world," he said in the published remarks. He described turning Libya's security apparatus "into civilized services at the service of the country, based on the protection of the country and the citizens."

THINK AFRICA PRESS

58. Libya: Saif Gaddafi - the Human Rights of a Man Reviled

Tagged: Human Rights, Legal Affairs, Libya, North Africa

BY CHARLES OKWIR, 5 JULY 2012

ANALYSIS

Is Saif al Islam Gaddafi's right to a fair trial being upheld in Libya?

Saif Gaddafi has been in custody in Zintan since November 2011, when he was captured in the wake of the uprising which overthrew his father's four-decade-long rule. He has been implicated in the torturing and killing Libyan civilians as well as financial corruption. The Libyan government and the International Criminal Court (ICC) have since been at odds over where he should face prosecution.

In April, reports circulated widely that a deal to try him in Libya was "close to being agreed". However, following the arrest of four ICC lawyers visiting him in detention on suspicion of passing coded documents to him, the issue looks far from resolution. After being held for four weeks, they were released on July 2. But this has brought a wider debate to the fore: Does Saif al-Islam Gaddafi's deserve to have his basic human rights upheld?

That, it seems, is the question Saif Gaddafi's friend Mishana Hosseinioun wanted the ICC to answer when she instructed barristers Geoffrey Nice and Rodney Dixon to apply for "leave to submit observations before the Pre-Trial Chamber" of the ICC on matters concerning Saif's treatment. The application argues that the ongoing detention and interrogation of Saif Gaddafi, in circumstances where he has no access to lawyers or to friends and family, is a violation of his rights under the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights.

The Libyan government has insisted that Saif will be tried by Libyan judges, but the ICC and some human rights organisations say the country is unable to give him a free and fair trial. And calls for Saif's handover to The Hague have grown louder amidst reports the defendant has been physically attacked, kept in isolation, and denied contact with family and friends.

What has been exposed is the tension between the values of law and justice on the one hand, and the cold reality of politics on the other.

The guiding principle

Courtenay Griffiths QC, the British lawyer who defended former Liberian President Charles Taylor, is very clear about what ought to be the guiding principle in any attempt to resolve questions of 'rights vs. politics'. "I was taught at law school that whether you are a princess or prostitute, you are treated equally before and in the eyes of the law", he declared to resounding applause at a recent conference in London.

This does not necessarily appear to be the case in Libya's post-revolution judicial system. Serious questions have been asked of Libya's ability to prosecute and investigate effectively, and the issues raised by the lawyers go to the heart of the debate about the independence, impartiality, and fairness of criminal proceedings in Libya. This includes the fundamental issue of Saif's pre-trial rights and, in particular, whether he has access to counsel and is being treated properly whilst in detention.

In her application, Mishana Hosseinioun says that she has been trying since January 2012 to get access to Saif Gaddafi, but that she has not been able "even to make a single phone call to him". This, Hosseinioun's lawyers argue, "is an astonishing situation for a country whose authorities claim in their filings [at the ICC] to be adhering to international standards".

When Mishana's lawyers contacted the Zintan authorities, they were told that the prosecutor-general of Libya's ruling National Transitional Council (NTC) needs to provide written permission for any visit or contact with Saif Gaddafi to be allowed. In his filings at the ICC however, the prosecutor-general is reported to have said something completely different by laying the blame on the Zintan authorities for, as he put it, "not co-operating to facilitate access to Mr Gaddafi".

Mishana's application for leave to submit observations to the ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber was also accompanied by a separate annex detailing the steps - all thirty two of them - she took in trying and failing to get access to Saif. One of the most telling of these was a call to the Libyan embassy in London by her lawyers to establish whether their client's messages to the Libyan prosecutor-general, attorney-general, and justice minister had been received.

In response, Ms Salwa, an official at the embassy, said they had "heard nothing back". When asked if there was any other way to contact the prosecutor-general, or indeed any other government official, Ms Salwa said this information "is not for you".

London to Tripoli via Addis Ababa

Another route Hosseinioun took was to contact the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Addis Ababa and request that matters concerning Saif Gaddafi's human rights be heard by the African Court of Human Rights. The Commission subsequently asked the Libyan authorities to submit their response on the issue of upholding Saif Gaddafi's rights. No direct response from the Libyan authorities was received.

However, in their admissibility application at the ICC, Libyan authorities maintained that Saif Gaddafi has been able "to receive visits from NGOs and family members". Louis Moreno-Ocampo, the ICC's Chief Prosecutor at the time, also told the UN Security Council that Saif had "received visits from the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross], NGOs and family members".

Mishana, however, disputes all that, insisting in her application to submit observations to the ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber that to the best of her knowledge, "no access to family has been granted and that the ICRC has not had any visits since its one visit back in November 2011".

There are also disputes over allegations that Saif Gaddafi may be suffering physical abuse in detention.

The Libyan authorities dismiss such allegations as "irresponsible and patently false", and claim "no evidence has been tendered to support them". In their submissions however, Mishana's lawyers insist that their client "could provide evidence which the Libyan authorities claim does not exist".

All these things could suggest one of two things, both of which the NTC is no doubt keen to distance itself from. First, that it is presiding over a dysfunctional government, and second, that it has a "flexible attitude" toward the strict observance of human rights.

Charles Okwir is a Ugandan journalist, writer and political analyst currently based in the UK. He is the author of Portrait of a Despot and is on attachment with Think Africa Press. Follow him on twitter at @COKwir.

Read the [original](#) of this report on the [ThinkAfricaPress site](#).

[59. Human Rights Watch \(Washington, DC\)](#)

[60. Libya: Ensure Due Process for Detained Ex-Prime Minister](#)

6 JULY 2012

PRESS RELEASE

Tripoli — The Libyan authorities have yet to bring former prime minister Al-Baghdadi al-Mahmoudi before a judge or inform him of the charges against him though he was extradited from Tunisia on June 24, 2012, Human Rights Watch said today after visiting al-Mahmoudi in his prison cell in Tripoli. Al-Mahmoudi said that he had not suffered any abuse during his detention in Libya, but that he had been physically abused in detention in Tunisia.

Providing access to visit al-Mahmoudi was a positive move, but Libyan authorities should ensure that al-Mahmoudi is granted all his rights as a suspect, Human Rights Watch said. He should promptly be brought before a judge to determine the basis for his detention and to be informed of the charges against him. The Tunisian authorities should ensure a prompt and transparent investigation into his allegations of abuse in that country, Human Rights Watch said.

"Tunisia extradited al-Mahmoudi after receiving assurances that Libya would not mistreat him," said Eric Goldstein, deputy Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch. "It is now up to Libya to keep its word to respect al-Mahmoudi's rights, both for him and to show its good intentions toward the 7,000 other people detained across Libya by various authorities."

The Libyan General Prosecutor's Office needs to make sure that al-Mahmoudi and all other detainees get a fair trial and due process, Human Rights Watch said.

Al-Mahmoudi, Gaddafi's prime minister from 2006 to 2011, fled Libya in September 2011. The Tunisian authorities arrested him that month for illegal entry. Tunisia's government was split over whether to extradite him to Libya, with interim President Moncef Marzouki contending that Tunisia should not extradite al-Mahmoudi because he would be at risk of torture in Libya. However, interim Prime Minister Hamadi Jbali said Libya had promised that al-Mahmoudi would not be mistreated and, on June 24, Tunisian authorities flew al-Mahmoudi to Libya, where he was immediately placed in custody.

Human Rights Watch visited al-Mahmoudi on July 3 in the prison in Tripoli where he and eight other former Gaddafi officials, including former head of foreign intelligence Abu Zaid Dorda, are being held. Human Rights Watch spent about 30 minutes speaking with the former prime minister in what appeared to be full confidentiality, in an office in the prison.

Al-Mahmoudi expressed no complaints with the facility where he is now detained. "I am afraid to be subjected to ill-treatment by random people and militias," al-Mahmoudi said. "But I feel safe in this facility."

He added that upon his arrival, he spoke by phone with Mustafa Abdeljalil, chairman of Libya's ruling National Transitional Council. "I was intimidated at the time and concerned that something could happen to me, but he reassured me that I was now with my own people and would be well received," al-Mahmoudi told Human Rights Watch.

Human Rights Watch was not in a position to assess whether al-Mahmoudi felt he could speak freely and honestly to its representative about his treatment at the hands of Libyan and Tunisian authorities.

The prison where al-Mahmoudi is held is run by the judicial police. Human Rights Watch was taken on a tour of the premises by the prison director, who said that al-Mahmoudi was being kept separately from the other inmates. During this tour, Human Rights Watch saw a clinic with medical staff, as well as a small courtyard that the director said prisoners can use when let out of their cells. Al-Mahmoudi is being kept in a prison block on his own, which includes four cells adjacent to a common area for recreation as well as separate sanitary facilities in the same block.

Al-Mahmoudi told Human Rights Watch that while he was held in the Mornaguia prison in Tunis, guards threatened him and beat him with sticks, boots, and a plastic whip. He also said Tunisian authorities did not allow him to meet with his lawyer, prompting him to begin a hunger strike.

One of al-Mahmoudi's lawyers in Tunisia confirmed to Human Rights Watch that lawyers had been unable to talk with him in prison during one week at the end of May.

Al-Mahmoudi told Human Rights Watch that Tunisian officials told him on June 24 that he was being taken to receive medical care, but that instead he was put on a Tripoli-bound plane. On the plane, "The chief of staff of the Libyan Army, General Youssef al-Mangoush, was waiting for me and he reassured me that I would be well treated and not harmed," al-Mahmoudi said.

Upon his arrival in Tripoli, he said, authorities sent him for a medical examination. Then investigators from the General Prosecutor's Office interrogated him, he said. He has not yet been informed of the charges he faces, though, or been brought before a judge who can review the lawfulness of his detention.

Al-Mahmoudi said he asked for a lawyer during the investigation phase, which began shortly after he arrived in Libya. Authorities offered to assign him counsel, but he said he preferred to appoint his own. His family was selecting a lawyer, he said.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by Libya in 1970, states that anyone facing criminal charges has the right "to be informed promptly and in detail in a language which he understands of the nature and cause of the charge against him." The ICCPR also requires Libya to ensure that anyone detained is brought promptly before a judge

or equivalent. The right to judicial review of all detainees without delay is non-derogable.

Human Rights Watch called on the general prosecutor's office to ensure al-Mahmoudi and other detainees get their full due process rights and subsequently a fair trial. Human Rights Watch also calls on the Tunisian authorities to investigate the allegations of ill-treatment at the hands of the prison authorities, and to punish anyone found to have abused or ordered abuse.

"For Libyans to achieve justice, the Libyan authorities need to ensure that the rule of law is respected and detainees are granted their full due process rights," Goldstein said.

61. Before Vote, Old Rivalries Threaten Fresh Start in Libya



Tomas Munita for The New York Times

Supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood chanted slogans on Thursday at Martyrs' Square, in the center of Tripoli, two days before the elections in Libya. [More Photos »](#)

By [DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK](#)

Published: July 6, 2012

BENGHAZI, Libya — The first election in more than four decades was supposed to forge a new Libya but threatens instead to tear it apart.

Multimedia



Slide Show

[In Libya, a Divided Nation Prepares to Vote](#)



[Enlarge This Image](#)



Mohammed Abed/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

A Libyan extinguished a fire at a warehouse in Ajdabiya that was used to store material like ballots for Saturday's election. [More Photos »](#)

Protesters angry at the distribution of seats in the congress shot down a Libyan Air Force helicopter delivering ballots here on Friday, killing an election official, the United Nations said.

In Tripoli, a militia member threatened an international monitor with a knife in the street while a brigade of other fighters controlled a hotel housing the main observation teams.

Farther west, in Bani Walid, the last bastion of support for Col. [Muammar el-Qaddafi](#), local officials were vowing armed resistance if the

interim government tried to send soldiers or police officers to protect the polls.

Libya has been riven for decades by recurring battles among regions and tribes, each vying for a cut of the oil wealth and other privileges.

Many here still hope that the election of a new national congress, scheduled for Saturday, will offer a more peaceful way to resolve differences and divvy up the spoils without the iron fist or outstretched palms of the Qaddafi government.

And if Libya succeeds in building a new democracy, it will become not only a rarity in the Arab world, but also unique among the major oil exporters of the developing world.

But even before the voters head to the polls, the forces of tribal and regional rivalry that have driven Libyan politics for more than half a century are endangering the dream of a fresh start. In every neighborhood or town in the country, politicians say, residents complain that they were “marginalized” for decades under Colonel Qaddafi and deprived of their share of Libya’s wealth. And from the revolution’s birthplace here in Benghazi to Colonel Qaddafi’s last citadel in Bani Walid, many discontents now say that they fear new neglect under a more democratic Libya.

“Politics in Libya has been all about patronage,” said Diederik Vandewalle, a Libya scholar at Dartmouth College visiting Tripoli for the vote, “and it is only going to intensify after the election.”

The weak, self-appointed Transitional National Council that has tried to govern Libya since the fall of Colonel Qaddafi initially promised to hold

an election for a national congress that would govern the country for 18 months while it also drafted a new constitution. Electing the same body to govern and draft a constitution was considered the best practice, because it would reduce the possibility that some temporary external authority would attempt to influence the constitutional debate.

But faced with mounting protests over the regional distribution of the congress’s 200 seats — 100 for the west around Tripoli, 60 for the less populous east around Benghazi and 40 for the southern desert region — the transitional council has chipped away at its initial plan in a vain attempt to placate the unrest.

First, the council changed its plan so that the national congress would not draft the constitution itself, but would instead pick a 60-person body, with 20 members from each region, to write a new charter.

Then, on Thursday, in its last meeting before the election, the council stripped the proposed congress of any role in drafting the constitution, drastically changing the function of the chamber for which candidates were running. Instead, the council decreed that there would be a second public vote to choose the members of the 60-person constitutional panel. So the original 200-member congress would be responsible mainly for forming a new transitional government to run the country for the next 18 months, when a new constitution is expected to be in place and yet another round of elections held.

The concession to regional equality also did not stop the increasingly violent protests against the election system. On Thursday, an attack on an election office in the eastern town of Ajdabiya

destroyed so many ballots that people there may be unable to vote. Protesters had already stormed election facilities in Benghazi and Tobruk, destroying computers and burning piles of ballots.



PATRICK COCKBURN

Sunday 8 July 2012

62. Patrick Cockburn: Libyans have voted, but will the new rulers be able to curb violent militias?

World View: The armed groups who helped depose Gaddafi are now committing human rights abuses of their own, Amnesty warns

Libyans voted in their first democratic election yesterday to choose an interim national assembly to rule the country after the overthrow of Mu'ammer Gaddafi. International interest in this crucial election has been sparse compared to the wall-to-wall coverage by the foreign media during the eight-month war.

Throughout the Libyan crisis, human rights organisations have on the whole performed better than television, radio and print press in describing what was happening in Libya. Too many journalists and media outlets decided early on that Gaddafi's forces were the black hats and the insurgents the white hats. They pumped out anti-Gaddafi atrocity stories, often without checking the facts, such as a supposed campaign of mass rape by government troops. Investigations by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and a United Nations team discovered no evidence for this, but their findings were largely ignored by the media. The insurgents claimed that they had found the bodies of government troops executed by their own side when they

tried to defect, but Amnesty uncovered a video of the same men alive and being aggressively interrogated by the rebels, who most likely shot the soldiers themselves.

Last week Amnesty produced a devastating report – "Libya: Rule of law or rule of militias?" – based on meticulous and lengthy investigations, portraying Libya as a country where violent and predatory militia gangs have become the real power in the land. They jail, torture and kill individuals and persecute whole communities that oppose them now, did so in the past, or simply get in their way. A few actions by these out-of-control militiamen have gained publicity, such as taking over Tripoli airport, shooting up the convoy of the British ambassador in Benghazi, and arresting staff members of the International Criminal Court.

But the widespread arbitrary detention and torture of people picked up at checkpoint by the *thuwwar* (revolutionaries) is not publicised because the Libyan government wants to play them down, or people are frightened of criticising the perpetrators and becoming targets.

Take the case of Hasna Shaeab, a 31-year-old woman abducted from her Tripoli home last October by men in military dress and taken to the former Islamic Endowment Office in the capital. She was accused of being a pro-Gaddafi loyalist and a sniper. She was forced to sit in a chair with her hands handcuffed behind her back and was given electric shocks to her right leg, private parts, and head. Guards threatened to bring her mother to the cell and rape her, and urine was poured over her.

After she was freed from the chair, her torturers could not open her handcuffs with a key so they shot them off her, fragments of metal cutting into her flesh. On being released after three days, Ms Shaeab had a doctor confirm her injuries and complained to the authorities about what had happened to her. They did nothing, but she received a threatening phone call from the militiaman who first arrested her and shots were fired at her house.

Ms Shaeab's story is uncommon only in that she made an official complaint which many others are too frightened

to do. They have reasons for their fear. The government estimates that it holds 3,000 detainees and the militias a further 4,000. The latter prisoners are almost invariably tortured to extract confessions. The Amnesty report says "common methods of torture reported to the organisation include suspension in contorted positions and prolonged beatings with various objects including metal bars and chains, electric cables, wooden sticks, plastic hoses, water pipes, rifle-butts; and electric shocks." Burning with cigarettes and hot metal is also used.

Diana Eltahawy, the Amnesty researcher who carried out many of the interviews on which the report is based, says that "things are not getting better" and, what makes things worse, is that in May the ruling National Transitional Council (NTC) passed a law giving immunity to the "thuwwar" for any act they carry out in defence of the 17 February Revolution last year. The NTC has also decreed that interrogations by militias, though these very often involve torture, should carry legal weight. Ms Eltahawy says there is "a climate of self-censorship" within the post-Gaddafi government about abuses.

Not everybody survives mistreatment. Amnesty has detailed reports of 20 people tortured to death, the reason for their detention often obscure. For instance, on 10 May Hisham Saleh Fitouri, 28, a member of al-Awfiya militia, was arrested at a checkpoint after a confrontation with members of the Misrata militia. Two weeks later, his family located him in Misrata morgue where an autopsy report said that he had died of natural causes. But when his body was brought to Tripoli, a second examination showed he had deep bruises all over it and that he had died of renal failure and internal bleeding.

The militias have become used to meting out casual violence to anybody who annoys them. The middle-aged owner of a café on the beach in Tripoli complained about militiamen from Misrata firing their guns into the air in celebration. In retaliation, they beat him unconscious and destroyed his café with a rocket-propelled grenade. At the other end of the scale, there is the continuing persecution and violence against migrants from further

south in Africa, as well as clashes between rival tribes and communities leaving hundreds dead.

Will a new government legitimised by the ballot box be able to rein in the militias and re-establish law and order? Or will Libya become like Lebanon during the civil war, when militias who had begun as defenders of their local community swiftly turned into gangsters running protection rackets? An advantage in Libya is that the population is almost entirely Sunni Muslim and there are not the same sectarian divisions as in Lebanon, Syria and Iraq. The Libyan government, unlike the Lebanese, has substantial oil revenues and could buy off the militias or build the state security forces to the point where they can establish order.

It might happen. For all the black propaganda of the recent war, Libya does not have the tradition of ferocious violence of Iraq and Syria. Gaddafi may have had a demented personality cult and run a nasty police state, but he never killed people on the scale of Saddam Hussein or Hafez al-Assad. The legacy of hatred is not quite so bad in Libya as in other countries where militias have established their rule.

The stranglehold of the militias in Libya has been established without the outside world paying much attention. Many Libyans still hope that the "thuwwar" are only flourishing in the interregnum between the Gaddafi regime and a democratically elected successor government. Some still see the militiamen as heroes of the revolution (and many did fight heroically), even though it was Nato that destroyed the old regime.

A difficulty for foreign governments and media alike is that, having rejoiced in the overthrow of Gaddafi last year, they do not want bad news to besmirch their victory. Ms Eltahawy says that part of the problem in getting people to pay attention to what is happening these days is that since the fall of Gaddafi "Libya is always portrayed as a success story".

63. "My life with Gaddafi family" (Eng. and sub. in all languages)



64. West Africa: The Plunder of Timbuktu

BY KHADIJA PATEL, 5 JULY

2012 **DAILYMAVERICK**

ANALYSIS

Northern Mali — 'Islamist rebels' have been blamed for a campaign of plunder in Timbuktu this week, but who exactly are they and what do they want?

As momentum builds outside Mali to launch some kind of military intervention into rebel-held territory, the conflict in northern Mali has grown increasingly complex in recent weeks. Even as reports of rampaging Islamists in Timbuktu proliferate our news bulletins, however, the complexity of the conflict has been steadily ignored.

It has been several months since rebel groups wrested control of Northern Mali from government forces. One group, a Tuareg tribal militia known as MLNA, was armed by former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and

fought for him during in the Libyan war last year. When Gaddafi fell, the MLNA raised guns for their old cause - a state of their own. They are ethnic nationalists, embittered against colonialism. And as the MNLA gathered their forces, they formed an alliance with other militias in Northern Mali, all of them rebels with separate causes - but, crucially, a common enemy.

One of these groups, Ansar Eddine (Arabic for helpers of the faith), has been described by commentators as the Taliban of the Sahel. This is the group currently in control of the town of Timbuktu, a city that once was the hub of cultural and intellectual pursuits in Africa.

The MNLA captured Timbuktu without a fight after the Malian army abandoned the city. A day later, however, Ansar Eddine drove out the MNLA, and has held the city ever since. Andrew Lebovich, a Washington DC-based researcher on the Sahel, says that although Ansar Eddine was formed late last year, its leader, Iyad Ag Ghali, has long been a power broker in northern Mali. Analysts say Ag Ghali's importance as a leader lies more in his kinship and tribal roles in northern Mali than in his new-found role as the leader of a so-called Islamist faction. Ag Gali has repeatedly fallen out with the MNLA, who accuse him of humiliating them.

The MNLA, then, was drawn into conflict with Ag Ghali. Crucially, though - and unlike the MNLA - Ansar Eddine's Islamist credentials have increasingly been linked to the Al-Qaeda branch in west Africa (AQIM). "Reports indicate that Ag Ghali has grown more religious in recent years, but initially Ansar Eddine appeared no different to the MNLA," Lebovich tells Daily Maverick.

Other analysts say Ag Ghali has emerged as a committed Salafist in recent years, and declared his intention to put all Mali under Sharia law - angering the MNLA, who disagree with his interpretation of what the identity of the new Malian state should be. Negotiations between the two factions have been futile. What is becoming clear is that Ansar Eddine does have stronger links with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb than previously suspected. "There is a general belief that much of the support lent to Ansar Eddine came from AQIM," Lebovich says, noting that this includes weapons, money and ideological support. There is, however, very little credible information on the exact nature of the influence of AQIM on Ansar Eddine.

65. Islam has no link with these thugs

Islam has no link with these thugs

- By Tariq A. Al Maeena | Special to Gulf News
- Published: 00:00 July 8, 2012

GULF NEWS



Image Credit: Luis Vazquez/©Gulf News

Ag Ghali's embrace of the Salafi brand of Islam is significant to understanding Ansar Eddine's rampage on the heritage of Timbuktu in the last week. Salafists believe that any innovation from the original version of Islam, as practised in the Arabian Peninsula in the time of Mohammad, is akin to polytheism - blasphemy. Now that Ansar Eddine has firm control over Timbuktu, they've started to purge the city of its religious relics and destroy historic cultural sites deemed blasphemous.

Great mosques and mausoleums to local saints - of unique architectural design - were erected in the 15th and 16th century, and the city is home to a long tradition of a local Sufism, which is an Islamic mystic tradition.

It's little wonder, then, that this campaign has been compared to the Taliban's 2001 destruction of the Buddhas of Bamiyan.

As international condemnation of the destruction of United Nations world heritage sites in Timbuktu grows, so, too, do the calls for international intervention in northern Mali. Lebovich, however, is sceptical of the prospects of international intervention taking place, let alone succeeding. "Everyone knows that international intervention will be very difficult. This is one of the harshest climates in the world, infrastructure is poor, international interventional may not be favourably received in Mali and then it's not clear what these groups actually want," he explains.

Attempts by regional body ECOWAS to negotiate with rebels in northern Mali have yielded nothing so far. As one negotiator put it, "We're in talks at the moment, but obviously they're not going well because we want different things." Rebels with separate causes defeated a common enemy, but now it remains to be seen which cause will trump the other.

The rebel insurgency in northern Mali began as yet another expedition in the life and times of the Tuareg people to win sympathy from the world.

But while the MNLA will win some sympathy for being victims of Ansar Eddine, in the end, the prospect of broad international support for a Tuareg state is now in tatters, much like Timbuktu.

DM

There is a war of sorts going on today in Timbuktu in Mali, a West African country. It is a war against culture and civilisation. And those perpetuating it are a band of thugs and criminals who are operating under the cloak of 'Islamists'.

Since the 11th century, Timbuktu, an ancient Saharan trading depot for salt, gold and other resources, had developed into a renowned seat of Islamic learning and survived occupations by hordes of foreign invaders. By the 12th century, Timbuktu had become a famous centre of Islamic learning, with three distinguished universities and more than 180 schools.

Many call it the golden age of Africa. This love for knowledge and the arts that had brought Islam to medieval Europe in the Dark Ages and led to many great scholars and discoveries continued in this African city for several centuries as well. Books were not only written in Timbuktu, but were also imported and copied there. At

the time, there was an unparalleled book industry flourishing in this fabled city. The universities and private libraries contained incomparable scholarly works.

In 1893, the French colonised Mali and Timbuktu came under French control until Mali regained her independence in 1960. However, many manuscripts and books that once were part of Timbuktu's libraries were plundered and can be found in French museums and universities.

Article continues below

The country has been going through a period of instability and lawlessness since a military coup sparked fighting in March of this year. Much of the country is still in grave turmoil, with an armed gang of thugs calling themselves the Ansar Dine controlling much of the north of the country, where the city of Timbuktu is located.

These thugs, who were on the fringes until the rebellion, took advantage of a power vacuum created by the coup in the capital to seize ground in the north.

This band of terrorists has recently turned their guns and fanaticism against the historical shrines that had made the city of Timbuktu a beacon of learning through so many centuries. They have used pick-axes, shovels, hammers and guns to destroy earthen tombs and shrines of local saints in the desert city of Timbuktu, claiming that they are doing so to defend the purity of their faith against idol worship. They are behind the destruction of at least eight Timbuktu mausoleums and several tombs, centuries-old shrines in what is known as the 'City of 333 Saints'.

The group stated its intent to destroy historic sites in Mali's northern city of Timbuktu before they implement strict Sharia law, while Mali's government looks on helplessly. "We're going to destroy everything before we apply Sharia in this city," said a spokesman for these rebels. The government did condemn the destruction, and stated that "The council of ministers has just approved, in principle, the referral to the International

Criminal Court and a working group is working to this end."

There has also been immediate condemnation from both within and outside Mali. Souleymane Bachir Diagne, a professor at New York's Columbia University and an expert on Islamic philosophy in Africa stated: "They are striking at the heart of what Timbuktu stands for. Mali and the world are losing a lot."

Bouya Ould Sidi Mohammad in Timbuktu stated that the historic city has long had Muslim roots. "Timbuktu was an Islamic city since the 12th century, and we know what the religion says about the saints' tombs. Contrary to what the Islamists or the Wahabis of Ansar Dine say, here in Timbuktu, the people don't love the saints like God, but just seek the saints' blessings because they are our spiritual guides."

Mahamadou Hima Dit Nourou who was among the tens of thousands Malian refugees who fled to neighbouring Niger lamented: "I think this kind of madness of Ansar Dine is horrible. The entire place for history is in Timbuktu, this is not Sharia. Even if you see what they did, the destruction in Timbuktu, maybe the mosque, the big mosque, the cemetery for person who died, they said is no good — who tell them that? Who tell them it is not in the Quran? We never read that."

The International Criminal Court has already issued a statement calling the destruction of Timbuktu's religious landmarks a potential war crime. "My message to those involved in these criminal acts is clear: stop the destruction of the religious buildings now," said Fatou Bensouda, an ICC prosecutor.

The Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC), deplored the destruction of historical sites in Timbuktu by religious extremist groups, and said that the sites were part of the rich Islamic heritage of Mali and should not be allowed to be destroyed and put in harms way by bigoted extremist elements.

That is exactly what these rebels are. Thugs, bigoted extremists, and power-mad opportunists who now want

to implement their brand of skewered faith in an uncontrolled part of Mali.

For having the gall to label themselves Islamists, they should be rounded up and put in front of an execution squad. No excuses. Islam has no links in relation to the acts of these thugs.

— *Tariq A. Al-Maeena is a Saudi socio-political commentator. He lives in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.*

66. Bani Walid invasion force goes missing as Libya Herald visits frontline at Bir Dufan

By George Grant. *Libya Herald*

Bir Dufan, 13 July:



Just 25 men and a dozen armoured 4x4s were found at Bir Dufan, the site of a reported invasion force (Photo: George Grant)

In the 42-degree heat, 25 men sit under makeshift tents at a checkpoint some 20 kilometres northeast of Bani Walid awaiting their orders.

Armed with Kalashnikovs and around a dozen flatbed 4x4s mounted with heavy machine-guns and rocket-

launchers, this does not constitute much of an invasion force

This is Bir Dufan, where over 1,000 men armed with tanks and heavy artillery were reported to have mustered for a potential assault on Bani Walid following the capture of two journalists from Misrata last Sunday.

With the deadline for the journalists' release having expired last night, this force was reported to have begun encircling Bani Walid in preparation for an attack.

"I can tell you we have no tanks and no artillery here", the station's commander, Hadi Al-Kabir, told the *Libya Herald* this afternoon. "This is a checkpoint just to keep this area safe, because some guys from Bani Walid have kidnapped people around here. We have about 25 men, and that has been the same for the last three months."

With Bir Dufan the final checkpoint before Bani Walid, a number of guards warn us not to proceed any further: "If you go, they will shoot at your wheels and they will take you", one says. "Three Misratans went down that road yesterday, and they have not come back."

We ask Kabir whether there are any more forces mustered down the road or moving to encircle Bani Walid. "No, there are not", he says. "I have not received any information about whether the army will arrive, but it is not true that they have surrounded Bani Walid."

At Al-Soeh, another checkpoint some five kilometres back from Bir Dufan, two T-54 tanks can be seen sitting behind walls of sand, their gun-barrels pointing forwards down the road. We ask the men here if the tanks are operational. "No, they are broken", one says. "They are for decoration."

Such are the difficulties of reporting at present in Libya. This evening, a *Libya Herald* source in close contact with the Misrata's military commanders insisted the force did exist.

"There is a big force", he said. "It was at Bir Dufan, but last night they started to turn back to Misrata

because approval to move forwards from the Ministry of Defence did not come. Those men at Bir Dufan may not have been telling you the truth.”

Either way, what does seem certain is that this crisis remains far from over. If the report of the guards at Bir Dufan is true, then five Misratans are now being held in Bani Walid, or worse.

This afternoon, a large demonstration was held in Misrata demanding the journalists’ release, and on Wednesday NTC Chairman Mustafa Abdul Jalil warned that the state was ready “to take all necessary measures” if Bani Walid did not release the men voluntarily.

As the rapid response to the [capture of Tripoli airport](#) by militiamen from Tarhouna recently demonstrated, the government retains the capacity to deploy sizeable forces at short notice where necessary.

In spite of the widespread reports to the contrary, however, it does appear that there is no invasion force surrounding Bani Walid at present.

It may well be that the government is happy to allow such rumours to persist, if only to frighten Bani Walid into releasing the captives without resort to force. With the roads in and out of the town now effectively closed, Bani Walid is increasingly isolated, with reports of food and fuel shortages starting to emerge.

Negotiations with the town are ongoing, and the government currently looks set on finding a peaceful resolution to the situation.

With just weeks to go before they hand power to the National Congress, Libya’s transitional leaders will be acutely conscious of the dangers of an assault on Bani Walid being one of their final acts of office.

67. Government bans unlicensed protests

Tripoli, 14 July: Libya Herald

The Ministry of the Interior has announced that no individuals, organisations or civil society groups will in future be allowed to hold demonstrations without permission from the ministry.

In a statement issued on Friday, it said that it would hold anyone who violated the order responsible for any consequences that might occur as a result, such as injuries or damage to property.

The decision has been condemned by the Libyan Human Rights Observatory. It called it an attack on freedom, saying it denied Libyans their right of peaceful assembly. As such, it undermined one the most important gains of the revolution.

Observatory president Nasser Hawari said that the decision was a return to the Qaddafi era when demonstrating was a crime. He called the order unconstitutional and demanded the NTC reverse it, stating that it went against the principles and values of the 17 February Revolution.

He also urged human rights organisations to condemn it.

It is reported that strikes will also require ministry permission, but the *Libya Herald* has been unable to verify this.

Human rights worse after Gaddafi

By Mel Frykberg
Friday, 07.20.2012, 10:55pm

TRIPOLI — "The human rights situation in Libya now is far worse than under the late dictator Muammar Gaddafi," Nasser al-Hawary, researcher with the Libyan Observatory for Human Rights, told IPS.

Hawary showed IPS testimonies from families whose loved ones have been beaten to death in the custody of the many militias that continue to control vast swathes of Libya.

"At least 20 people have been beaten to death in militia custody since the revolution, and this is a conservative figure. The real figure is probably far higher," says Hawary, pointing to photos of bloodied bodies accompanying the testimonies.

Hawary is no fan of the Gaddafi regime. The former Salafist and political opponent of Gaddafi was imprisoned numerous times as a political dissident by Gaddafi's secret police. Hawary emerged from his periods of incarceration beaten and bloodied, but not broken. Far worse happened to his Islamist friends under the Gaddafi regime which was fiercely opposed to Islamic fundamentalism.

Hawary eventually escaped to Egypt where he remained until Libya's February 17 revolution in 2011 made it safe for him and other Islamists to return.

Revenge attacks, killings and abductions against former Gaddafi supporters and against black men, who the rebels perceive as having worked as mercenaries for Gaddafi during the war, continue well after the "liberation" of the country.

Several months ago Muhammad Dossah, 28, was abducted by armed militia men at a checkpoint in the northern city Misrata as he was driving his employer Forrester Oil Company's car from the city Ras al Amoud to the Tripoli.

"I don't know if he is dead or alive. We haven't heard from him since he disappeared from the militia checkpoint and the police investigating his disappearance say the trail has gone cold," his brother Hussam Dossah, 25, tells IPS.

The police managed to trace the car through several cities down the eastern side of Libya but there the trail ended. There has been no sighting of Muhammad since then, and his family has no idea what has happened to him.

"He could have been abducted because he is black or because the gunmen wanted the car he was driving. We are Libyan but my father is from Chad," says Hussam.

Hussam's story is one of many of abductions, random killings, torture and robbery as militia men continue to take the law into their hands.

Despite the interim National Transitional Council's (NTC) pledge to bring the more than 6,000 detainees currently in detention to trial or to release them, only some have been freed while the atrocities committed by pro-revolutionary rebels have been overlooked.

Armed militias controlling the streets and enforcing their version of law and order is a problem even in the major cities where the NTC has supposedly retaken control.

Gunfire punctuates the night regularly in Tripoli, and sometimes the day. "All the young men here have guns," former rebel fighter Suheil al Lagi tells IPS. "They are accustomed to sorting out political differences and petty squabbles this way, or they rob people using weapons. The high unemployment and financial hardship are aggravating the situation."

While security is an issue in Tripoli, the situation in the provinces is worse. Unshaven, ragtag militia men dressed in mismatching military fatigues often extort money from people traveling through their checkpoints, particularly if they are foreign or black.

68. Qaddafi intelligence officer assassinated in Benghazi drive-by shooting

By Michel Cousins Libya Herald

Tripoli, 29 July:

A senior Qaddafi-regime military intelligence official was assassinated in Benghazi yesterday in what is being described as a hit list killing.

Suleiman Buzraidah was killed on Saturday evening by a single shot fired from a white Chevrolet while he was going to Isha prayers near his home in the city's Al-Leithi district. He was rushed to Benghazi Medical Centre but died shortly afterwards.

"It was a very professional killing", said one Benghazi resident who lives nearby. "They were clearly waiting for him."

It is being reported that Buzraidah was number 12 on a death list drawn up by a supposedly Islamist vigilante group. The list is rumoured to contain 106 names of Qaddafi-era officials. Buzraidah was a colonel in the former regime but was said to have continued to work for the NTC.

On Thursday, another Qaddafi regime official, Hameed Ali Kunduz, was assassinated in the city in a remote control car bombing. He had worked with the Internal Security Agency. He is believed to have been killed by the same shadowy group as killed Buzraidah.

Last month, Saleh Al-Warfali, another retired Qaddafi-era intelligence colonel, was assassinated in front of his home in the city.

Meanwhile earlier today, Sunday, it was reported that a group of unknown assailants, in 20 armed vehicles, threatened to attack the National Security Headquarters in the city's Hawari area unless a number of prisoner were freed.

On Friday, bombs containing at least 40 kilos of explosives were found behind the Criminal Investigation Department building and the Police Patrol Department of Benghazi Directorate in Hawari.

The bombs were defused by members of the specialized Department of Explosives. According to one of the technicians involved in dismantling them, the bombs were fitted with a car alarm system which could be easily set off by a remote signal.

The bombs were said to be strong enough to cause extensive damage to the building departments as well as surrounding structures including the houses opposite the Directorate.

Also on Friday morning, a grenade was thrown at the north court in central Benghazi. No one was hurt. It is reported that a Sudanese man has since been arrested in connection with the attack.

The north court was extensively damaged in a triple bomb attack on 27 April.

The Buzraidah killing and the attacks are reported to have increased fears in the city that there will be more bloodshed.

"People very nervous about it," said Salah Benali who works for a UN agency in Benghazi. "They fear that it will start revenge attacks and that there will be more killings."



Rebels from Misrata clean their weapons at Bir Doufan checkpoint, about 70 km (43 miles) from Bani Walid July 12, 2012.
REUTERS/Youssef Boudlal

Traveling from the Sallo um border crossing with Egypt to Tripoli

involves crossing dozens of checkpoints manned by numerous militias, comprising local clans with divided loyalties.

At a Misrata checkpoint that this IPS correspondent passed, a bearded militia man decided that foreigners would have to undergo Aids tests before they could have their travel documents returned. Only intervention by others prevented this.

At a number of checkpoints in the Tobruk area, migrant Egyptian laborers were forced to pay bribes of up to 30 dollars each by militiamen before their passports were returned.

"We are aware of the problems facing our country and are trying to resolve the issues, says Hassan Issa, member of the NTC from Ajdabia city. "It is not easy for us to bring all the groups under control at this point in time," NTC member Abdel Karim Subeihi tells IPS.

"This is not the new Libya we fought for and we may have to take up arms again if the corruption and greed continue. This time against the new government," warns al Lagi.

69. Gadhafi's son seeks travel ban waiver, lawyer says

By **Nic Robertson**, CNN

updated 10:46 AM EDT, Tue July 31, 2012



Saadi Gadhafi, pictured in January 2010, is under a travel ban.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Saadi Gadhafi is under United Nations sanctions that bar him from international travel
- He wants to leave Niger because he fears for his safety, his lawyer Nick Kaufman says
- The lawyer won't say where Saadi Gadhafi wants to go
- Niger won't hand Gadhafi over to Libya, saying he won't get a fair trial

(CNN) -- Saadi Gadhafi, one of the late Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi's sons, has asked the United Nations to let him travel outside the African nation of Niger, his lawyer says.

Gadhafi is under a travel ban because of international sanctions imposed on Libya by the United Nations Security Council last year.

The international police agency Interpol has also issued a "red notice" for him, calling for his arrest. But he fears for his safety in Niger, his lawyer Nick Kaufman said. Saadi Gadhafi fled to Niger as his father's regime collapsed last year.

"There has been at least one assassination attempt," although Gadhafi is under government protection, Kaufman told CNN on Monday. They also fear that instability in nearby Mali could affect his safety.

First election since Gadhafi's ouster

Foreign business returns to Libya Kaufman has applied to the U.N. Sanctions Committee for a one-time waiver of Gadhafi's travel ban, Kaufman said.

"He wants to leave," the lawyer told CNN. "I've made an application."

Kaufman said Niger's minister of justice, Marou Amadou, said he did not object: "He told me he has no problem with him [Saadi] leaving the country." Libya wants Gadhafi handed over to face charges, but Niger has refused, saying Gadhafi will not get a fair trial and his life could be in danger if he returns to his home country.

That puts Gadhafi in "a bizarre situation," Kaufman says: He is "under virtual house arrest and not free to gallivant around the city" that he wants to leave for his safety.

Kaufman says Justice Minister Amadou wants Gadhafi gone as long as it is done legally. He said Amadou was concerned that the International Criminal Court would object to Gadhafi's travel, but the lawyer pointed out that the court currently has no charges outstanding against Saadi Gadhafi.

Kaufman says Gadhafi is "grateful to Niger" but adds that it's in Niger's interests for Gadhafi to leave.

When asked where Gadhafi would go, the lawyer said: "He has certain destinations he like to go to."

He refused to elaborate.

Gadhafi's brother Saif al-Islam Gadhafi, once seen as their father's heir apparent, is in Libyan custody and is the subject of a tussle between Libya and the International Criminal Court, both of which want to put him on trial.

Kaufman says he made the application to the U.N. Sanctions Committee for the one-time travel waiver about a month ago. He says that when he didn't get a response in the customary five days, he followed up and was told that no decision had been reached. He was informed that a party or parties on the sanctions panel "had placed the request on hold," he said.

Kaufman says he fears the block is political.

He says he and his client are not entitled to know which country or countries on the Sanctions Committee have placed a hold on the decision. Such requests normally get a simple yes or no, he said.

The 15 nations on the Security Council have representatives on the sanctions panel.

A block placed by a nation is lifted only when that nation's term on the Security Council expires. If one of the permanent five council members has placed the hold, the block on the waiver request could last indefinitely.

70.18 detainees freed by Supreme Security Committee in Tripoli

By Nihal Zaroug.

Tripoli, 30 July:

Members of the Supreme Security Committee (SSC) freed 18 illegally detained individuals yesterday, after a raid on the headquarters of the Saraya brigade in Tripoli. According to a Libyan security official, the detainees had been tortured.

The SSC arrested a group of guards who held the detainees. They have begun investigations into the reasons why the 18 had been seized and held.

Illegal detentions are all too common in the absence of a functioning judiciary and strong police force. Human Rights Watch (HRW) has made several appeals to the government to take 'immediate steps

to assume custody of roughly 5,000 detainees still held by militias’.

HRW has said it expects the judicial police to bring to due process not only the detainees held by militias, but also to the nearly 4,000 detainees currently in state custody.

“There is no place for detention outside of the rule of law in the new Libya. The newly elected National Conference needs to take a stand to end these practices, and to create a justice system that works”, Sarah Whitson, the HRW director for the Middle East and North Africa region, has said.

Although some detainees have been released, charged or have had their “cases” brought before a judge to be sentenced or reviewed, these individuals represent a small group according to HRW. Since the passing of Law 38 in May, those watchful of the detainee situation expected the powers granted to the Ministries of Interior and Defence to be used more effectively and more often. However, the fact that the militias are well armed and can challenge the ministries has reduced the latter’s ability to act.

Under the law, there was a deadline of 12 July for *thumar* to refer “all supporters of the former regime” presently detained and the evidence against them to judicial authorities. That has passed.

Law 38 does not define “whether arbitrary detention is a criminal offense, nor is it clear on the possible consequences of holding people outside of the law”.

Meanwhile, elders in Mizdah on Sunday also appealed to the NTC and the government put an end to such acts. Their call follows the seizure of two members of the Mashasha tribe on Saturday at Tripoli International Airport, reportedly by Zintani brigadesmen.

The elders were due to travel to Tripoli today to lobby the government to intervene. According to sources in Mizdah, this is the third instance of kidnapping of Mashasha members by Zintanis.

Calls to Zintan officials have so far been unanswered.

71. Worrying signs of lawlessness in Libya

Seven Iranian Red Crescent members were abducted in downtown Benghazi yesterday. Today there were bomb blasts and a jail break.

By [Dan Murphy](#), Staff writer / August 1, 2012



People gather to inspect the damage to the Libyan intelligence building after a bomb explosion, in Benghazi, on Aug. 1.

Esam Al-Fetori/Reuters

A lot has gone right in [Libya](#) since the successful war to topple the regime of [Muammar Qaddafi](#) last year. An [election was finally held](#) last month and the country’s new political leaders have avoided open fighting for power that some feared would follow in the wake of Mr. Qaddafi’s ruinous time in power.



[Dan Murphy](#)

Dan Murphy, who has reported from Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, and more than a dozen other countries, writes and edits Backchannels. The focus? War and international relations, leaning toward things Middle East.

The Christian Science Monitor
Weekly Digital Edition

But some of the militias who fought Qaddafi resemble little more than criminal gangs today. Generally untouchable, they continue to swagger through Libya’s towns and cities, demanding special treatment

as a reward for their role last year. Many of them are now technically integrated into the security services, but continue to operate with impunity.

[The Associated Press reports](#) that a bomb blast hit a military intelligence building in [Benghazi](#) early this morning, and overnight a militia raided a local jail, releasing Salem al-Obeidi, who is accused of being behind the [murder of Abdel Fateh Younes outside of Benghazi last summer](#). Mr. Younes was a longtime military enforcer for Qaddafi who defected to the rebellion. He was vying for its military leadership at the time of his murder.

It hasn't been a good week for security in Benghazi, Libya's second largest city and at the heart of the uprising. In the early hours yesterday, seven Iranian members of that country's [Red Crescent](#) were kidnapped there. The Iranians were invited there for a conference to discuss coordinating aid efforts with their Libyan counterparts and were kidnapped as they sought to return to the high-rise Tebesti Hotel where much of the foreign press that covered the war based themselves. [Amnesty International writes](#):

"At 1am on Tuesday, the delegation was intercepted on a road in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi and driven away by a group of unidentified armed men, who did not present an arrest warrant. The exact fate and whereabouts of the seven Iranian Red Crescent members remain unknown. Their Libyan driver was left untouched and allowed to go free... According to (Libyan Red Crescent) General Secretary Abdulhamid Elmadani, efforts to approach all known security, military and civilian bodies in Benghazi have not yet been successful in locating the Iranian delegation's exact whereabouts or identifying their captors."

Kidnapping that many people requires organization, advanced knowledge of their movements, and a place to hold the captives. [Agence France-Presse reports](#), citing an unnamed Libyan "security official," that the group is being held for questioning by a militia.

"Members of the brigade holding the Iranians are

questioning them to determine whether their activities and intentions aimed to spread the doctrine of Shiite Islam," AFP quoted the security official as saying. [Iran](#) is a Shiite state, while Libya is overwhelmingly Sunni Arab.

While it's probably safe to assume that a negotiated release of the Iranians will eventually occur, as has happened with other abductions and arrests in the past, this is yet another black mark for the new Libya.

A [New Zealand](#)-born documentary maker was arrested and held for three days last month after interviewing Qaddafi loyalists from Tawergha who have been homeless since the end of the war. She was accused of spying before being released and expelled from the country. An Australian lawyer seeking to represent [Saif al-Islam](#), one of Qaddafi's sons, was detained for 26 days last month (also on allegations of "spying") before her eventual release. To be sure criminal behavior by militias has been an ongoing thorn in the side of the emerging order, rather than the disaster that many feared. A militia seized and briefly held the main airport in Benghazi in February, for instance, but [order was soon restored](#). But the steady drumbeat of problems is worrying. If it isn't dealt with, "rat-a-tat-tat" can transform into "boom."

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72. [David Blair](#)

David Blair is the Chief Foreign Correspondent of the Daily Telegraph.



73. [Putin thinks Cameron conned him over Libya. He won't allow that to happen again with Syria](#)

By [David Blair](#) [World](#) Last updated: August 2nd, 2012



Vladimir Putin, the newly restored president of Russia, is visiting Britain for the first time in seven years. And he's over here not primarily for reasons of diplomacy, but to see the Olympics. That alone tells you something about the state of his relations with the West. Putin will meet David Cameron today and the two leaders will certainly discuss Syria. The Prime Minister will no doubt try to convince his guest that Russia's continuing support for Bashar al-Assad's regime is futile and self-defeating, as well as being immoral.

But my bet is that this will continue to be the diplomatic equivalent of banging your head against a brick wall. Putin's stance on Syria has ceased to be merely a calculation of national interest, based on the value of arms exports to Assad and the importance of his country as a base for Russian influence in the Middle East.

Instead, you can sense how Russia's position has become almost a matter of personal dignity for Putin. In blunt terms, he thinks the West cheated him over Libya last year. In his mind, Russia acted out of genuine humanitarian concern by allowing the imposition of a no-fly zone over Libya. Then Britain and France turned this into a de facto campaign of

regime change that duly overthrew Gaddafi. What was billed as a humanitarian intervention ended up with a convenient outcome that favoured Western strategic interests. Russia's then president, Dmitry Medvedev, was supremely naïve to have believed otherwise. Or at least that's how Putin would see things.

That makes him doubly determined to make sure that nothing similar takes place over Syria. Putin thinks that Russia was fooled once, and he will not allow that to happen again. Would anything lead him to reconsider? The only possibility I can imagine is that if events on the ground in Syria were to become even more awful, with the fighting escalating to the point where Assad's downfall really was imminent. Then Russia would be confronted with the futility of trying to stave off the absolutely inevitable. Unless and until that moment arrives, Putin will probably remain implacable.

[74. The forgotten millions facing starvation in the slow-motion crisis of Africa's Sahel belt](#)

By [MICHAEL BURLEIGH](#)

PUBLISHED: 05:24 EST, 1 August 2012 | **UPDATED:** 07:37 EST, 3 August 2012

Many crises are so visually dramatic that people respond generously very quickly. Last year a massive earthquake hit northeastern Japan, indirectly threatening a nuclear catastrophe at Fukushima. Floods in Pakistan triggered a similar response, as did the earthquake that devastated Haiti in 2010 or the huge Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004.

The Sahel belt of states is not well known.

It runs beneath the Sahara from West Africa to the Red Sea and includes huge countries like Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso and Senegal. Some of these are huge states, with Mauritania much bigger than France.



Delicate: Millions of people in West Africa are facing starvation. It is a delicate environment, dependent on a few months of monsoon-like rain between July and September, when warm air from equatorial Africa bumps into the dry desert climate to the north. The region is susceptible to long-term drought; apparently the latest cycle began in the 1960s when rainfall dropped off.

At present some 15 million people across the Sahel are on the brink of starvation. They have already cut back on food, while withdrawing children from school, or sending older ones to work in such towns as there are.



Upheaval: The Sahel states are facing an influx of refugees following the fighting in Libya.

This crisis only partly reflects what is undoubtedly a major regional drought or current global volatility in food prices because of drought (the US and Russia) or excess rainfall (much of Europe).

As is usual, many of the Sahel's problems are man-made. The war in Libya has led to the expulsion of many West African remittance men, who worked there and sent their families most of their wages, because Gaddafi's forces included large numbers of mercenaries lent by states like Chad. Black Africans are not popular in the new Libya.

Then there are internal displacements of refugees. Mali and Mauritania have major problems with both armed Islamists and Tuareg separatists, all armed to the teeth with weapons purloined from Libya, from whom large numbers of people have fled. Niger has had to accommodate about 200,000 people fleeing strife-torn Mali. Very few of the Sahel states can cope with their existing populations, never mind when these are suddenly augmented by hundreds of thousands of indigent refugees.

Islamists have also helped shut down one major source of potential relief. The activities of the Islamist terror organisation Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria have made it too dangerous for traders to take food from there to the neighbouring Sahel states. The main border crossing point near Maiduguri is Boko Haram's main base.

Last but not least, we are talking about eight contiguous states. Moving food supplies around means endless border and customs checks, with every official seeking a bribe. This in itself slows down any attempt to bring speedy relief to people who are starving. The looming crisis in the Sahel may not have the visual impact of vast amounts of water sloshing around Japanese cities, but it is no less deadly for that as UNICEF is warning that 1.5 million children are facing starvation.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2182003/The-slow-motion-crisis-Africas-Sahel-belt.html#ixzz26KRwulFO>

75. Slow to turn on Qaddafi, Bani Walid now struggles in a post-revolution Libya

Bani Walid's resistance to joining the uprising against Muammar Qaddafi earned residents a reputation for being regime loyalists, leaving them marginalized in the new Libya.

By John Thorne, *Correspondent* / August 2, 2012



A Libyan militiaman from Zlitan guards a check point in the desert near the border of Bani Walid in Misrata, Libya, July 15. Tensions between the National Army and the former Qaddafi stronghold of Bani Walid have eased, following the release of kidnapped journalists Abdelkader Fusuk and Youssef Baadi.

Manu Brabo/AP

BANI WALID, LIBYA

Last September a young regime fighter named Faouzi was posted near a replica castle overlooking the

entrance to his hometown of Bani Walid when it suddenly crumpled in a cloud of dust.

“It was [NATO](#),” he says. “You couldn’t see the rockets, of course – only hear them.”

Eight months earlier, he had been protesting in the street against [Muammar Qaddafi](#). But within weeks, he was fighting for Qaddafi’s regime.

His journey illustrates the complex loyalties in play during [Libya](#)’s civil war, and the challenge of reconciliation between those who backed revolution and those who stood against it. Today both sides express feelings of betrayal.

A coalition of parties that won Libya’s first post-Qaddafi elections last month has called on Libyans to unite, and many in the country support that message. But many also distrust those who backed Qaddafi during last year’s civil war. If divisions persist, they could undermine or even reverse progress made toward building a stable democracy.

Bani Walid is often seen as a hotbed of loyalist sentiment. While that may exist, residents say tribal loyalty and a sense of persecution have motivated them the most.

“People there are proud,” says Mustafa Fetouri, a [Brussels](#)-based Libyan academic who is from Bani Walid. “Trying to break it by force only made them more reluctant to support the revolution.”

76.A history of defying control

The town, situated about 75 miles southeast of [Tripoli](#), is small, but as the ancestral home of the large Warfalla tribe, it is important. Two centuries ago, the English traveler George Lyon found modest houses hugging a wadi, or seasonal river, and impoverished inhabitants.

“They were once a brave daring set of men, who defied the government of Tripoli,” he wrote, describing Warfalla support for the Ottoman pasha’s son against his father.

In 1993, Warfalla officers in the Libyan army attempted to stage a coup against Qaddafi. Several were executed. Today locals in Bani Walid voice bitterness toward fellow Libyans they say abandoned them.

When revolt erupted in February 2011, Bani Walid’s response was mixed. Faouzi joined an anti-Qaddafi protest that was assailed by regime supporters.

“I was on one side and my brother on the other,” says Faouzi. “And we threw stones.”

But days later, while visiting Tripoli, he says he saw police arresting people with bags of pills as Qaddafi accused rebels of taking drugs. He quickly joined a militia led by Qaddafi’s son, Saadi.

Outside [Benghazi](#), he was shocked to see the column of regime forces hit by an airstrike. It was enough to convince him to quit the militia on the spot and return home.

In Bani Walid, a local rebel militia brawled with locals in May 2011, killing several before leaving town, says Meftah Jabarra, a law professor and member of a committee of elders and prominent citizens in Bani Walid.

After Qaddafi’s regime collapsed in last August, rebel militias encircled Bani Walid and NATO pummeled it with air strikes amid reports that the ousted leader’s son, [Saif al-Islam](#) Qaddafi, was hiding there.

As Mr. Jabarra sees it, “NATO opened the door for the revolutionaries rather than sticking to their mandate and protecting civilians.”

At least once, he says, civilians were killed. Five members of the Jfara family died when bombs destroyed their two houses in August 2011. NATO said strikes in Bani Walid that day targeted command centers and an ammunition store.

Once again, Faouzi took up arms – this time, he says, simply to defend his home.

"I used a Kalashnikov, RPG's, a 14.5 mm machine-gun – anything," he says. "I don't know if I actually hit anyone."

77.A problematic reputation

The city fell in October 2011. Many houses were looted by rebel militiamen, says Jabarra, while the home-grown rebel May 28 Brigade showed a talent for bullying.

Last January their detention of local man Mohamed Shlebta for reasons that remain unclear sparked a shoot-out, Jabarra says. Several people were killed and the May 28 Brigade was run out of town. Media initially portrayed the incident as a pro-Qaddafi revolt, reinforcing Bani Walid's loyalist image.

That image already had roots, says Mr. Fetouri, the academic. Qaddafi brought many Warfalla into the security services in efforts to win the tribe's support. Today, that reputation has made Bani Walid a target, says Jabarra.

Over 400 residents, including his brother, Mabrouk, have been detained by militias around the country, he says. [Human Rights Watch](#) said in a July report that militias hold around 5,000 detainees in ad-hoc jails. "Everyone wanted change. But I wanted it through dialogue," says Ahmed Abusalah, 26, who spent the war working at a café. "Reforms from Qaddafi would have been better than the weapons and militias we have today."

Relations with interim authorities appear shaky at best, with Tripoli's influence over Bani Walid limited. After two journalists from [Misurata](#) were detained last month in Bani Walid, men from the town of Jadu – not the government – mediated their release.

The replica castle, built by Qaddafi as a vacation home, is now a heap of broken concrete decorated with graffiti. Some is pro-Qaddafi, some

not. Otherwise, signs of allegiance are scarce in Bani Walid.

Both Qaddafi's green flag and Libya's new flag appear absent. So do references to Sept. 1, the day in 1969 when Qaddafi seized power, and Feb. 17, the day the revolt against Qaddafi began in 2011.

Instead, on a wall beside a checkpoint on the road from Tripoli, "Our date is 93" is painted – a reference to the time when people in [Bali](#) Walid say they stood alone.

Libya's Tribal Cleansing: Why is the World Silent Now? - Al-Monitor: the Pulse of the Middle East al-monitor.com/pulse/original...via @AlMonitor

78. Three armed men killed in Libya as violence escalates

(Reuters) - Libyan security forces on Sunday killed three armed men suspected of being behind seven failed bomb plots, a state spokesman said, in the first incident of its kind since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in October.

Several violent incidents have rocked Libya in recent days and on Sunday the International Committee of the Red Cross announced it was suspending its activity in the country's second biggest city after one of its compounds was attacked with grenades and rockets.

Security forces surprised the three armed men inside a farm near Aziziya, 25 miles south of Tripoli, in possession of the same kind of explosives used in seven previous bomb plots, said Saleh Darhoub, spokesman of the National Transitional Council.

Five members of the security forces were wounded during the clash, Darhoub told reporters without giving details on the nature of the targets, which he described as "vital", or saying whether there were possible links between the armed men and recent explosions.

On Saturday, a car bomb exploded near the offices of the military police in Tripoli, three days after a strong explosion rocked military intelligence offices in the eastern city of Benghazi.

On Sunday, a security source blamed the car bombing, which slightly wounded a Tunisian national, on a personal vendetta.

On Tuesday, seven Iranian relief workers were abducted in Benghazi by a group of armed men. The aid workers had just started a mission in the country as guests of the Libyan Red Crescent Association.

(Reporting by Ali Shuaib; Writing by Souhail Karam; Editing by David Brunnstrom)

13. Red Cross attacked with rockets, grenades in Libya

August 05, 2012 | By Stephanie Nebehay and Ali Shuaib | Reuters

GENEVA (Reuters) - Unknown assailants attacked a compound of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Libyan port of Misrata on Sunday with grenades and rockets, forcing it to suspend its work there and in the eastern city of Benghazi, the agency said. The ICRC said seven of its aid workers were inside their residence when it came under attack. No one was hurt, but damage to the building was extensive.

79. Exclusive – Interior Ministry communications system hacked as Qaddafi loyalists overheard discussing Tripoli blasts

By George Grant.



Interior Ministry communications coordinating the response to the blasts were broadcast live in a public chat-room by self-declared Qaddafi loyalists.

London, 19 August: *Libya Herald*

Qaddafi loyalists have been recorded discussing this morning's car bomb attacks in Tripoli both before and after the explosions took place, suggesting prior knowledge of the events.

The men, who remained anonymous, were using the public chat-room service Paltalk, a site previously popular with opponents of the Qaddafi regime during last year's revolution.

The conversation was overheard by a Libyan living in London who frequently joins the chat-room to hear what Qaddafi loyalists are saying on various issues.

Of significant concern to the authorities will be the revelation that the loyalists' confirmation of the blasts was received directly through the Interior Ministry's communications system, which appeared to have been hacked by one of the men last night.

"It was extremely disturbing", Mohammed Eljarh told the *Libya Herald*. "I was listening to them talking about the attacks before they actually happened.

"One of them was saying, 'Allah is the greatest; now we are going to target Tripoli'.

It is not known whether the men involved were communicating from inside or outside of Libya at the time of the blasts.

“Initially I thought it was just their usual waffle, as they frequently like to talk about how they’re going to do this or that, but when I heard reports that the attacks had actually happened, I thought my goodness, this is for real”.

Eljarh says that it was at this point that he first suspected the men were listening in to the Interior Ministry’s communications network.

“There was a live podcast of events on the ground, and you could hear radio communications from what appeared to be security officials reporting the blasts and then ordering their personnel to go to various locations”.

Listening devices can be purchased in Libya without much difficulty, and many Libyans are familiar with how to use them, making it possible to overhear phone calls and other wireless communications. It would be assumed, however, that official communications would be more securely protected.

After the attacks took place, the men in the Paltalk room are overheard celebrating the blasts.

“We have done it, we have done it”, one person is heard reporting back to the room.

Shortly afterwards, an administrator is heard to say “all explosions are remotely controlled and executed. They can’t arrest us; these rats can’t arrest us.”

In reference to the targeting of civilians, another is heard to say “to hell”.

One individual who did identify himself in the room was Hamza Altohami, a prominent pro-Qaddafi journalist under the former regime.

“He was celebrating the explosions with the others, but it did not sound like he was involved in planning the attacks”, Eljarh said.

After the blast outside the Interior Ministry and the two on Omar Mukhtar street, another man is heard

discussing a possible fourth explosion, although the place and timing are never confirmed.

It is understood that police did subsequently intercept a fourth bomb on Al-Sreem street, near to the Immigration Ministry.

“From what I could hear, I do not think they were targeting the ministries”, Eljarh added. “Their targets seemed just to be streets, including civilians”.

This morning, Interior Ministry Under-Secretary Omar Al-Kadrawi offered his condolences to the victims of the attacks and pointed the finger of blame squarely at Qaddafi loyalists.

“This is the first Eid without Qaddafi and his regime, and Qaddafi’s diehards are responsible for these attacks to disrupt the celebrations of Libyans during the festival and these holy days”, the under-secretary said.

“Qaddafi’s loyalists are resorting to hit-and-run tactics; these are the cowardly acts we are facing now. However, I guarantee that this is all they can achieve and execute. We will not allow this to happen again”.

Reports are now emerging that one of the perpetrators has been captured and taken to hospital in Abu Salim, although this has not been confirmed.

The Interior Ministry has said that units have been deployed across Tripoli in an effort to prevent any further attacks.

This morning, checkpoints had also been erected around key locations such as the Prime Minister’s office, and cars were being stopped and searched on a frequent basis.

80. Further bombs found in Tripoli



Five rounds of tank ammunition wired to a detonator were found on Omar Mukhtar street.

Tripoli, 21 August:

Yet more bombs have been found in Tripoli today, according to the Supreme Security Council. This comes two days after Sunday's attack on the city that left two people dead.

An explosive device was found this morning on Omar Mukhtar street, and an unspecified number of bombs were found in a waste disposal unit in the city's Abu Salim district.

Omar Mukhtar street, where one of the bombs was found, was also the street where two of Sunday's car bombs were detonated; it consisted of five rounds of tank ammunition wired to a detonator that could be triggered remotely.

Thirty-two men were arrested yesterday in connection with Sunday's attack, they are believed to be Qaddafi loyalists. It is as yet unclear whether these incidents are related.

81. UPDATE 1-Libya Islamists destroy Sufi shrines, library-military

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/25/libya-islamists-idUSL6E8JP1F720120825>

Sat Aug 25, 2012 8:30am EDT

* Hardliners have attacked Sufi sites in Libya, Egypt, Mali

* Conservatives emboldened and armed by Arab Spring revolts

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* Libya has struggled to contain groups after revolution (Adds detail, background, quotes)

By Ayman al-Sahli

ZLITAN, Libya, Aug 25 (Reuters) - Ultra-conservative Islamists used bombs and a bulldozer to destroy the tomb of a 15th century Sufi scholar in the Libyan city of Zlitan, witnesses said on Saturday, the latest attack in the region on sites branded idolatrous by some sects.

The attackers reduced the revered last resting place of Abdel Salam al-Asmar to rubble on Friday and also set fire to a historic library in a nearby mosque, ruining thousands of books, witnesses and a military official added.

A Reuters journalist in Zlitan, about 160 km (90 miles) west of the Libyan capital, said the mosque's dome had collapsed and a minaret was pockmarked with holes.

The attackers appeared to have removed the last signs of the shrine with a bulldozer, which was abandoned nearby.

Libyan authorities have struggled to control a myriad of armed factions that have refused to give up their weapons following the revolution that ousted Muammar Gaddafi last year.

The latest destruction followed two days of clashes between tribal group in Zlitan which killed two people and injured 18, according to military council counts.

"The extremist Salafis took advantage (of the fact) that security officials were busy calming down the clashes and they desecrated the shrine," Zlitan military council official Omar Ali told Reuters, referring to conservative Muslims who see many Sufi sites as idolatrous.

Hardliners, emboldened and armed by the Arab Spring revolts, have targeted a number of sites sacred to Islam's mystical Sufi tradition in Libya, Egypt and Mali over the past year.

The assaults recalled the 2001 dynamiting by the Taliban of two 6th-century statues of Buddha carved into a cliff in Bamiyan in central [Afghanistan](#).

Sufism is a mystical strain of Islam which includes hymns, chanting and dancing among its devotions.

Followers have built shrines to revered holy men and make pilgrimages to them. Even Gaddafi, with his ambivalent attitude to religion, did not try to interfere in a practice deep-rooted in Libyan culture.

Salafis believe Islam should keep to the simple, ascetic form practiced by the Prophet Mohammed

and his disciples. Followers reject any later additions to the faith - including lavish tombs or grave markings.

A Facebook page titled "Together for the Removal of the Abdel Salam al-Asmar Shrine" congratulated supporters on the "successful removal of the Asmar shrine, the largest sign of idolatry in Libya." It posted photographs and YouTube footage of the destruction.

"We are distraught at the destruction of this historical and spiritual place in Libya," Mohamed Salem, caretaker of the mosque, told Reuters.

Salem said he had to flee Zlitan weeks ago after an increase of death threats against him from Salafis threatening to destroy the shrine. (Writing By Hadeel Al-Shalchi; Editing by Andrew Heavens)

82. Top Libyan officials implicated in mosque desecrations



Bulldozers cleared what remained Monday of the Sidi Shaab Mosque in Tripoli. | Mel Frykberg/McClatchy Newspapers

By Mel Frykberg | McClatchy Newspapers

TRIPOLI, Libya — Members of the Libyan government and its military have been implicated in the destruction by Islamists over the weekend of several mosques affiliated with the Sufi branch of Islam, an indication that the government that replaced Moammar Gadhafi after a months-long NATO bombing campaign is having difficulty controlling its extremist elements.

On Sunday, the ruling General National Congress summoned Interior Minister Fawzi Abdel Al, Defense Minister Osama Jweili and several other military and intelligence officers for questioning after the Sufi shrines were attacked Friday and Saturday. General

National Congress speaker Muhammed Magarief slammed the desecrations as "disgraceful acts."

Magarief went as far as to suggest that there may have been official collusion in the attacks, saying that those responsible "are unfortunately aligned with some in the Supreme Security Committee (SCC) and ex-revolutionaries." The security committee is responsible for organizing Libya's armed forces.

Abdel Al subsequently handed in his resignation while the positions of the other officials appear tenuous, especially Jweili, whose appointment is widely thought to have been part of a deal with a powerful militia group from the city of Zintan, 90 miles south of Tripoli. Jweili was formerly the head of Zintan's military committee.

The Zintan brigade captured Saif al Islam Gadhafi, the second son and former heir apparent of Moammar Gadhafi, in November and agreed only last week to allow him to be tried next month in Zintan in exchange for political favors, one of them reportedly being the appointment of Jweili.

Sufis believe in a mystical brand of Islam that some conservative Muslims label heretical. The attacks on the shrines began early Friday, when ultraconservative Islamists used bombs and a bulldozer to level the tomb of a 15th-century Sufi scholar, Abdel Salam al Asmar, in the town of Zlitan, 100 miles east of Tripoli. The radicals also destroyed thousands of historical books when they burned a library in a nearby mosque to the ground.

The tomb's destruction followed fierce clashes between two of Zlitan's heavily armed tribes that killed several people. Three journalists who covered the assault for a local TV station were arrested as security forces tried to impose a media blackout.

As dawn broke Saturday, Islamists emboldened by the success of the Zlitan attack struck the Sidi Shaab Mosque, which housed the shrine of the Sufi mystic of the same name, opposite the Mahari Radisson Blu hotel and overlooking Tripoli harbour.

Members of the security forces stood guard as militants, some of them members of the Supreme Security Committee, used heavy equipment to smash the shrine and then a bulldozer to raze the mosque. Police at the scene failed to intervene but enforced the blocking of the road that leads to the mosque and kept journalists from filming or taking pictures.

A moderate imam who tried to reason with the extremists was beaten and taken away, and a group of Libyans protesting the destruction was violently confronted. Reports allege that Salafist clerics in Saudi Arabia have instructed Libya's Salafists to destroy religious shrines, which they consider objects of idolatry.

The latest desecration of religious sites is a repeat of attacks by Islamists on Sufi shrines in Libya, Mali and Egypt during the last year. It brings back memories of the Taliban's 2001 destruction of sixth-century statues of Buddha carved into a cliff in Bamiyan in central Afghanistan.

Militias have thwarted numerous other attempts to desecrate Sufi shrines in Libya. Armed committees went on high alert Sunday night in Janzour, on the outskirts of Tripoli, to protect shrines there from what was thought to be an imminent attack.

The developments highlight the ideological differences that fracture the government and the competing loyalties that reign in the security forces. Those divided interests have made it impossible for the government to unite the hundreds of militias that fought to topple Gadhafi under one central command and have proved a major impediment to establishing security, perhaps Libya's No. 1 problem. One of the justifications for the security forces' failure to intervene in the desecration of the shrines was the fear of more violence.

The involvement of Salafist members of the security forces in the shrine attacks follows admissions by the General National Congress that Gadhafi loyalists have infiltrated its military units.

Libya's intelligence service recently arrested 30 pro-Gadhafi soldiers from the Suq al Ahad military base in Tripoli after it was alleged that they were involved in the recent string of car bombings in Tripoli.

A shootout between security forces and the loyalists connected to the Suq al Ahad military barracks took place last week in the town of Tarhouna, 50 miles southeast of Tripoli, leaving several dead and more wounded. After the confrontation, the Libyan military confiscated 100 tanks and 30 anti-aircraft rockets.

Frykberg is a McClatchy special correspondent.

Read more here:

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2012/08/27/163686/top-libyan-officials-implicated.html#storylink=cpy>

83. Orly Weinerman, Saif Gaddafi's Israeli Lover, Pleads For Help From Tony Blair

Posted: 09/04/2012 12:50 pm Updated: 09/04/2012 12:51 pm



The playboy son of Muammar Gaddafi, [on trial in Libya](#) for killing protestors in the uprising that ended his father's regime, appears to have an unusual advocate pleading on his behalf: an Israeli model and soap opera actress who now admits they were lovers.

Orly Weinerman, the long-rumored girlfriend of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, on Sunday dropped her previous denials, according to the British tabloid the *Daily Mail*, and said that the two shared a six-year relationship that ended in 2011 when Libya's civil war broke out and he went on the lam. The 41-year-old Weinerman [has steadfastly denied](#) the romance since it was first reported by Germany's *Der Spiegel* in 2006, Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* adds.

But with Saif facing a possible death penalty, Weinerman reportedly broke her silence and appealed to former British Prime Minister Tony Blair to intervene. According to the *Sunday Times*, the dictator's son previously [described Blair](#) as a personal friend of the family and claimed that the former PM acted as a consultant to the Libyan Investment Authority -- something Blair has always denied.

"The two are old friends -- it is time that Mr. Blair returned some loyalty," [Weinerman said](#), according to the *Daily Mail*, noting that the British politician had helped Saif while he was studying for a doctorate at the London School of

Economics. "Mr. Blair is a man of God – as a Christian he has a moral duty to help a friend in need."

She added, "Killing him will achieve absolutely nothing, beyond punishing him for who his father was. Absolutely everything must be done to save him."

Human rights groups have condemned the Libyan judicial proceedings as rigged and efforts by the International Criminal Court to have Saif Gaddafi extradited to the Hague have fallen on deaf ears. Instead, three Libyan judges in the mountain town of Zintan, where he was captured, [will soon open his trial](#), which is expected to last six months.

Concerned about his fate there, the Israeli actress decided to open up about the "discreet" affair. She told the Mail it began in London in April 2005 when the two were introduced by mutual friends.

Weinerman said they had talked of marriage but the relationship was fraught with tension over religion and background. Not only is she Jewish and he Muslim, but Saif's father was a vocal critic of Israel. Early last year, Muammar Gaddafi [called on Palestinians to rise up](#) against the Jewish state to capitalize on the Arab Spring uprisings, Reuters explains. Shortly after, [protests erupted](#) in his own country and eventually led to his downfall and [violent death](#). Despite all that, the actress said she considered converting to Islam but her parents fervently opposed. The Israeli press also attacked her after the *Der Spiegel* piece.

The Times of Israel reported that Weinerman late Monday wrote on her Facebook page, that "for a long time I have had trouble falling asleep at night, revealing my anxiety among good friends and between the living room walls. But now, with injustice displayed proudly on the world stage, I challenge you to lend me a hand and save another victim from hatred, prejudice and moral corruption."

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84. Heritage of Islam faces threat from within

LINDSEY HILSUM

The Irish Times - Wednesday, September 5, 2012

AFTER THE Libyan revolution last year I spent several evenings in an open-air cafe next to the al-Sha'ab al-Dahmani mosque in Tripoli, drinking hot sweet tea with almonds and talking politics with Libyan friends.

Col Muammar Gaddafi had fallen and for the first time in their lives they felt free. Now their liberty is under threat. At the end of August, a group of armed, bearded men seized a bulldozer and destroyed part of the mosque because it contains the graves of 16th-century Sufi saints. Such shrines, they said, are idolatrous.

I don't suppose the men in the bulldozer had heard of William Dowsing. He was a Christian, not a Muslim, English, not Libyan, and he lived in the 17th century, not the 21st.

But as "commissioner for the destruction of monuments of idolatry and superstition" he was similarly determined to obliterate objects venerated by a different sect of his own religion.

It was during the English civil war when the Puritans, led by Oliver Cromwell, set about destroying crosses, statues of the Virgin Mary and all emblems of Catholicism (as well as wreaking terror across Ireland – but that's another story).

"We pulled down two mighty great angells, with wings, and divers other angells . . . and about a hundred chirubims and angells," wrote Dowsing after leading his henchmen into Peterhouse college chapel in Cambridge in December 1643. Countless works of art were lost to history.

Today's Puritans are the Salafists, who follow the strict Wahhabi form of Islam practised in Saudi Arabia, and equate mystical Sufism with black magic.

They are not restricting themselves to Libya. I have just returned from Mali, where Salafists, led by al-Qaeda in the Maghreb, have taken control of the north of the country.

In July they demolished Sufi shrines in Timbuktu with pickaxes and mallets shouting "Allahu akbar" – "God is great". The shrines, which date back to the 15th and 16th century when

Timbuktu was a centre of Islamic learning, are made of mud, but residents of the fabled city rebuild them after each rainy season and still pray to the Sufi saints whose remains lie inside.

What disturbs people in both countries is the weakness of their governments in the face of these assaults. In Mali, the army ran away from a rebellion in the north. As politicians and soldiers squabble, the Islamists are on the march – last weekend, they took the small town of Douentza, south of Timbuktu, on the road to the capital, Bamako.

In Libya, uniformed men from the supreme security council, part of the ministry of interior, folded their arms and watched the destruction of the shrine.

The interior minister, Fawzi Abdelali (who resigned and then reinstated himself), told journalists the attackers were too heavily armed, adding: “I can’t enter a losing battle to kill people over a grave.”

Yet a grave is living history.

“People who destroy the mausoleums are killing the people of Timbuktu,” said Samuel Sidibé, director of the National Museum of Mali. “Heritage is important because we all need to have the sense that we have an existence in the past.”

The last time we witnessed this kind of religious vandalism was when the Taliban blew up the Buddhas at Bamiyan in 2001.

Then, it mobilised world opinion. Now the appetite for international intervention is diminished. Nato already acted to help oust Gadafy – most Libyans I know think they can no longer rely on foreigners but must create their own strong institutions to resist the Islamists. When they elected a new parliament, they chose not religious extremists and iconoclasts but technocrats. Those who have been elected now have to act.

Ironically, the rebellion in Mali was an unintended consequence of the revolution in Libya. Gadafy armed the nomadic Tuareg, who fought on his behalf. After his death, hundreds of heavily armed Tuareg fighters returned to northern Mali and started a rebellion. They teamed up with Islamists who were already operating in the area and drove out the weak government forces. Now the Tuareg fighters have also fled, leaving al-Qaeda and its allies in control.

William Dowsing was acting on the orders of the English parliament, which passed an ordinance on August 28th, 1643,

stating that “all monuments of idolatry and superstition should be removed and abolished”.

The following year the ordinance was rescinded and Dowsing fell out of favour. Cromwell’s government was ousted and King Charles took back the throne. The fear today is that much more of the priceless Islamic heritage of the Sahara will be destroyed before the governments in Mali and Libya install law and order, and stop the latter-day Dowsings from doing their worst.

Lindsey Hilsum is international editor of Channel 4. She is appearing at the Mountains to the Sea Festival at the Pavilion Theatre, Dún Laoghaire, at noon next Sunday.

85. Libyan Islamists and the security forces: Iraq 2.0?

By AYMENN JAWAD AL-TAMIMI

09/04/2012 22:20 The factionalization of the security forces is making the task of reigning in militias that remain independent of the central government difficult.



PHOTO: REUTERS

The Libyan elections in July that saw a poor performance on the part of Islamist parties were justifiably hailed by many commentators, who saw Libya as a notable exception to the theory of a universal regional ascendancy for the Islamists. I myself had wrongly predicted that the Islamists would gain the lion’s share of the votes.

However, the election results should not lead to complacency.

As Reuters reports, armed Islamists have demolished Sufi shrines in Tripoli and Zlitan, with Libya's Interior Minister Fawzi Abdel A'al affirming that he would not want the security forces to engage in an armed confrontation with these religious radicals.

What's more, the destruction of the shrine in Tripoli took place by day in the open, and many of the perpetrators are reportedly members of the very same security forces.

In my article on the outcome of the Libyan elections- "Rethinking Libya" (July 15 2012) – I suggested that looking at developments in Iraq post-2003 serves in many ways as a useful guide to understanding how things might pan out in Libya.

IN THIS particular case, analogy with Iraq is helpful, for it is clear that the post-Gaddafi Libyan security forces are being built up in much the same way as the new Iraqi security apparatus was created and developed following the fall of Saddam's regime.

That is, facing a situation of chaos caused by competing militias, the post-Gaddafi Libyan government has understandably pursued a policy of trying to build up the new security forces as quickly as possible – an approach that was also adopted by the United States in Iraq.

However, the major problem is that the focus is on quantity, not quality, and so political factions and other ideologues can take advantage of the situation, flooding the ranks of the new security forces with their own partisans.

In Iraq, the result has been the large presence of Kurdish Peshmerga fighters and Shi'a Islamist militiamen.

The former means that Baghdad cannot risk an armed clash with the Kurds, as illustrated by a recent stand-off between the two sides at the disputed Rabia bordercrossing town, located near the Syrian border. The incident resulted in no actual armed conflict.

As for the Shi'a Islamists, their presence in the security forces means that they can enforce their rules in many areas with impunity, something that was apparent in the reports earlier this year of targeted

killings of dozens of "emos." Even if the Iraqi government wanted to do something about this string of killings, it would likely refrain from action, lest elements of the security forces should effectively be at war with each other.

And so it is with Libya. Filling the ranks of the new security forces with their own partisans serves as a useful alternative to elections for Islamists to wield influence and authority in the country. In this context, the remarks of the General National Congress speaker Muhammad Magarief who – according to a McClatchy report – first alleged that those responsible for the acts of desecration of Sufi shrines "are unfortunately aligned with some in the Supreme Security Committee and exrevolutionaries."

THE SAME report also notes admissions by the General National Congress that Gaddafi loyalists have infiltrated the security forces. This development provides an interesting contrast with the experience in Iraq where – in light of the de-Ba'athification process – loyalists to the prior regime have not been able to join the Iraqi security forces. Instead, they have simply been waging an active insurgency campaign against the government, most recently under the banner of the militant Naqshibandi movement that works with al-Qaida in Iraq.

At the same time, it should not be concluded that the Gaddafi loyalists are refraining from violence against the new order. Already they have been suspected of committing a series of car bomb attacks in Tripoli, and it is hardly implausible that they are behind such operations.

Indeed, entry into the security forces could be viewed as a mere stepping-stone to acquire the necessary weaponry and funding to begin an active insurgency campaign.

The factionalization of the security forces is not only allowing Islamist militants to get their way with impunity, but is also making the task of reigning in militias that remain independent of the central government all the more difficult. Low-level violence – with perhaps dozens of casualties on a monthly basis – looks set to dominate the Libyan scene for quite some time. On the other hand, this problem is unlikely to impede economic growth. As in Iraq, foreign

investment will be deterred by violence, but the intact oil infrastructure that is unlikely to be dismantled will ensure that there is no shortage of money.

The writer is a Shillman-Ginsburg Fellow at the Middle East Forum and a student at Brasenose College, Oxford University. His website is <http://www.aymennjawad.org>

86. Amazigh in Libya: From Gaddafi's Denial to Near-Crippling Silence

Recently the use of the term "Arab spring" intentionally mischaracterises the demographics of the region. The Amazigh played an integral role in the fight against Gaddafi, and helped topple his regime and their brigades in the liberation of Tripoli, argues Mohamed Eljarh.

Middle East Online

Amazigh are indigenous inhabitants of Libya with a cultural heritage that spans over thousands of years in the North African country. Their existence in Libya predates that of the Arabs by thousands of years. However, they have suffered from continuous attempts to destroy their heritage, culture and identity throughout history.

Historically the Amazigh survived different invasions to their land, and managed to protect their heritage, culture and identity. However, there seems to have been clear decline in the distinct Amazigh culture and identity post the Islamisation of North Africa, when Arab took on the duty of spreading Islam to the rest of the world. Following the Islamisation of North Africa and subsequently Libya, the Arabisation of the Amazigh inhabitants became more radical and there was huge decline in the Amazigh identity and presence in Libya. Current estimation of the Amazigh population in Libya is in the region of 5-10% of the entire population.

Furthermore, Amazigh suffered greatly under Gaddafi's regime, as he repeatedly and on many

occasions denied the existence of Amazigh in Libya. In addition, Gaddafi always stressed that Amazigh tribes have totally disappeared and that their language Tamazight is insignificant, and criticized radio broadcasts in Tamazight from countries like Morocco. He also, accused Amazigh Congress of having western agenda to destabilize the region and use the Amazigh issue as strategic and political bargaining chip.

More recently, regional and western media and literature have been harsh to the Amazigh culture and existence in North Africa, by using terms such as "Arab Maghreb" a term that used during the rise of Arab nationalism in the region. In addition, recently the use of the term "Arab spring" intentionally mischaracterises the demographics of the region. The Amazigh played an integral role in the fight against Gaddafi, and helped topple his regime and their brigades took part in the liberation of Tripoli. However, using labels such as the "Arab spring" disregards the valuable contribution of Amazigh in Libya during the revolution.

Also recently, Libya's current foreign minister Ben Khayal made unfortunate remarks supporting the name "The Arab Maghreb" which as stated earlier mischaracterises the actual demographics of the region, and denies existences of other ethnic groups like the Amazigh.

Libya has a young population, majority of which lived under Gaddafi's regime. Thus, many Libyans lacked awareness about Amazigh heritage, culture and identity. There is no surprise there as Gaddafi repeatedly and continuously denied the existence of Amazigh in Libya, and deprived them from their cultural and identity rights.

Many of the Amazigh I speak to fear that the rest in Libya does not value their contribution to revolution in Libya. The previous National Transitional Council made numerous promises vague promises that the rights of the Amazigh would ensure and protected without guarantees or elaboration on the matter of any kind.

On numerous occasions, Amazigh in Libya demonstrated peacefully to make their voice heard to

Libya's new political elite. However, politicians continuously choose to ignore the Amazigh calls and demands. The issue is socially sensitive as to the majority of Arabs in Libya, Amazigh culture and identity does not exist, just like Gaddafi propaganda machine made them believe. In addition, there is still a sense of Arab nationalism amongst Libyans, which make it harder for them to accept and acknowledge the existence and rights of the Amazigh in Libya.

The concept of diversity is an alien to Libya and Libyans. Some of my Arab friends view the acknowledgement of the Amazigh culture and identity in the constitution as a threat to the Arab authority and control in the region, and subsequently threat to the existence of Arab identity and culture.

The Amazigh in Libya would like to see their culture, heritage and identity safeguarded and protected by the country's constitution. This could prove to be hard to achieve, the furthest the constitution would possibly go in this regard is by clearing up some of the vague statements made by the previous National Transitional Council in its Constitutional Declaration.

If the leaders of the new Libya are serious about supporting the Amazigh and their cause, and are ready to protect their rights, then the constitution should not fall short from naming Tamazight as one of the main languages in the country. In addition, clear and precise statements concerning the protection of the Amazigh culture, heritage and identity.

Instead of official silence toward the issue, Libyan authorities should start campaigns to educate people about the importance and beauty of diversity. Libyans need to appreciate the importance of the Amazigh heritage and culture; the picture painted by Gaddafi and his propaganda machine needs reversing by educating people and telling the truth.

The silence and ignorance by authorities, officials and politicians in the new Libya constitutes acceptance of Gaddafi's denial of the Amazigh language, culture and identity. Therefore, Libya should be upfront about this issue, and address in the most appropriate manner through dialogue, tolerance and understanding between Arabs and Amazigh.

New Libya should view diversity and multiculturalism as source of strength and wealth, and celebrate it. Diversity will bring much needed tolerance, understanding and respect to the Libyan society.

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Women in Libyan Public Life: A Seismic Shift | Libya Herald

By Amena Raghei.



Defaced image of female candidate for Libya's General National Congress (Photo: © Amena Raghei)

During the Qaddafi regime, women's participation in Libyan public life was perceived as little more than a tool in Qaddafi's arsenal of oppression. Recent interviews with female activists and candidates repeatedly echo the sentiment that, unlike today, women who took on public roles during Qaddafi's time were considered women of ill repute, literally tarnished by Qaddafi's hands.

While this attitude has been entrenched in the Libyan cultural mindset, it is currently undergoing seismic shifts. As a result of the 17 February Revolution, women have started participating in

public life at unprecedented levels. For some members of Libyan society, these changes have been difficult to accept. Nevertheless, Libya's newly empowered women seem undeterred and determined to protect their new few found public roles.

What it once meant in Libya to be a woman in public

In Libyan society, it was once implicitly understood that women holding positions in the Qaddafi government or public positions in general had been chosen not for their ostensible bureaucratic qualifications but, more often than not, as an expression of the "brother leader's" personal interests, tastes and worse. Libya's traditionally patriarchal society did not easily allow women to be objects of public scrutiny, especially as decreed by the arbitrary rules of a silently hated dictator.

Qaddafi's infamous female bodyguards, Benghazi's female mayor, Huda Ben Amir (better known as Huda the Executioner), and the ubiquitous Revolutionary Committees (which were known to recruit young women and girls to satisfy Qaddafi's perverse predilections) are a few of examples of female public positions abhorred by the average Libyan.

In order to avoid these negative associations and protect themselves, women often willingly took a backseat to men and refrained from participating in political – or any other public – activities. While this may have preserved women's reputation, it also created a culture where women's social roles tended to be restricted mainly to the household. In cases where women ventured outside the home, they were often limited to traditionally acceptable posts with little public exposure or decision-making ability. Their involvement in society remained socially acceptable as long as they stayed away from the limelight and did not seek public attention.

The revolution of 17 February would see a quick and decisive change in this attitude as women, out of necessity, became active, productive and respected members of a national movement. No longer would their political activity carry Qaddafi's imprimatur.

Elections, democracy and what it means to be a woman in public life in today's Libya

This summer marked a turning point in Libya's swift evolution from dictatorship to democracy. It was doubly special for Libyan women, who made their voices heard and took their role in building the new Libya very seriously. Women's new political roles extended from and even surpassed the contributions made during the revolution. They not only helped in their country's rebirth, but also took on a new identity as collaborative members in Libya's public sphere.

On Election Day, 7 July, over 600 Libyan women, from all over Libya and representing all sectors of society, presented themselves as candidates for the General National Congress (GNC). Alongside their male counterparts, these women campaigned as individuals and party members, displaying a hunger for democracy and public representation hardly imaginable to any Libyan – male or female – just one year earlier.

Women candidates uploaded their CVs to [the candidate site](#) and readily presented their backgrounds, credentials, pictures and political agendas to their constituents. They gave interviews to local and foreign media. They campaigned with posters, pamphlets and radio ads. They met with and rallied voters on the streets and in town halls. They joined women's groups, held campaign awareness events and encouraged Libyan women and men to get out and vote.

In the end, thirty-three women were voted into the two hundred-member GNC. While this number represents less than one quarter of the Libyan congress, when viewed within the context of Libyan culture and the de-facto taboo against female political participation, it is an impressive achievement. Most notably, in their first run for public office in Libya's nascent democracy, women achieved what it took the United States over two centuries to accomplish – 16 percent congressional representation.

Backlash and Cultural Insecurities

Now that Libya appears to be well on the path toward democracy, general comfort levels with women's public participation have begun to decline.

For some members of Libyan society, it is a cultural struggle to balance Libyan women's new identity with their traditional roles. For these individuals, the perceived "need" for women's public participation was not expected to extend beyond the revolution or to become as serious as it has.

The clearest example of these emerging sentiments came on 8 August when power was transferred from the outgoing National Transitional Council (NTC) – the governing body that guided Libya through its revolution and governed the country through the election – to the incoming GNC.

Minutes into the ceremony, the female presenter, Sarah El-Mesallati, was heckled by a male GNC member who told her to "cover (her) head." When she ignored the heckler, the outgoing chairman of the NTC, Mustafa Abdel Jalil, asked El-Mesallati to leave the podium. She obliged out of respect for the chairman and was replaced by a male presenter who took over for the remainder of the ceremony.

In a population now accustomed to voicing its thoughts and opinions without hesitation, this incident immediately sparked a national debate on women's personal freedoms in Libya. Overnight, the Facebook page [*We are all Sara El-Mesellati*](#) was created, garnering 1,500 "likes" by 10 a.m. the next morning.

Debates took place between men and women in social media spaces, as well as on the floor of the GNC. As evident in a [*video*](#), made by the Libyan freelance journalist Huda Abu Zaid, congress member Salah El-Din Badi expressed his distaste for El-Mesallati and accused her of having a hidden agenda. Others interviewed on the video accused the congressman himself of infringing on El-Mesallati's personal freedoms.

The El-Mesellati incident is only the tip of the iceberg. It pales in comparison with other life-threatening instances of open attacks against women's civil liberties this summer, including increasingly common stories of harassment and

abduction of Libyan women, as noted in a recent [*article*](#) by the well known Libyan activist Niz Ben-Essa.

In August, the Libyan activist, Majduleen Abeida was kidnapped at gunpoint by a group of men while conducting a workshop in Benghazi. There was no apparent reason for her abduction other than her vocal human rights' activism and perceived tolerance of other religions. Although she was released a few days later, the incident sparked public outrage and led to the creation of the Facebook page [*We are all Majduleen*](#).

Gradually, a picture is emerging of a Libya where women's safety is at risk and their security compromised largely because of their public exposure and political activities. This is not to say that all was well before the legislative elections. As Libya drew nearer to elections and the number of campaign posters increased in the streets, so too did the defacement of posters with female images. In some cases, women's images were entirely blacked out or cut out of posters while the images of male candidates, side by side on the same posters, were left untouched.

Despite these clear statements against women's public participation, many female candidates remained undeterred and replaced their vandalised posters with new ones. As one female candidate made clear in Benghazi, "these acts upset me and just made me print more posters." On the other hand, one female candidate in the more conservative city of Misrata said that, in order to avoid harassment, she had opted not to display her image on campaign posters.



(Photo: © Amena Rachei)

Increasingly severe attacks on women's personal freedoms and security have inspired many Libyan women to stand together and speak out. Exercising their new freedom of speech, scores of Libyan women (and men) have responded loudly and clearly, using social media outlets as well as their positions in newly formed human rights and advocacy organizations to speak out against these assaults.

In direct response to the apparent tolerance toward these acts, a group of activist organizations and advocacy groups within Libyan civil society formed the [Coalition of Libyan Women's Rights](#) to tackle the issue of women's civil liberties and security through a series of campaigns and protests.

It is worth noting that while these attacks were committed primarily by men, the groups that have emerged to protect women are not solely women's rights groups nor comprised only of women. They range in interests and membership, from [The Free Generation Movement](#) to [Lawyers for Justice in Libya](#), to name just two.

Conclusion: sustaining a new mindset

While women have demonstrated their political savvy in Libya, have broken with many cultural taboos and have risen above the stigma attached to public life, not all sectors of society appear ready to accept their new position in the country.

The events that have occurred over the past few summer months highlight the complex and serious struggle between two mentalities. One, a deeply engrained vestige from an era that has not quite made a complete exit from the Libyan cultural psyche and the other, represented by moderately open-minded, avant-garde thinkers who believe in the equal participation of women in Libyan society.

Without question, women's increasing role in public life is a new concept for Libyans. While it will take some getting used to, it is happening and cannot be stopped. The 17 February Revolution catalysed changes in popular attitudes toward women and brought about an abrupt shift in both male and female conceptions about the need for women's participation in public and private life.

For Libya, the challenge ahead is to entrench public attitudes that respect personal freedoms and to accept women as a normal part of the public sphere. The real trick will be to sustain this mindset beyond the revolution and current transition.

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87.A Crippling Silence | Libya Herald

By Niz Ben-Essa. Approx Sep 15, 2012



Women in Libya are harassed on an almost daily basis, but few people are yet ready to talk about it. (Photo: Free Generation Movement)

Tripoli, 22 August.

Over the last few weeks, issues and discussions regarding women in Libya have come to the surface. People have been discussing the issues at coffee shops, on facebook and twitter groups, with friends, with family, NGOs, CSOs, independent activists, politicians, ... the debate has been widespread.

Opinions have been as varied as they are for almost any topic of discussion in Libya, ranging from the doomsday apocalypics, to those who simply do not care, and of course everything in between.

Recently, incidents such as the abduction of women in Libya, a seemingly increased rate of street harassment in Tripoli and the removal of the unveiled presenter at the NTC-GNC authority handover ceremony have all contributed to the discussion and have brought the issue to the much needed lime light as an issue critical for Libya's sustained progression.

It is clear, and we are all in agreement, that the harassment of women, whether sexual, verbal or otherwise, is neither Islamic nor is it lawful under any other code of ethics. But it happens on an almost daily basis in Libya. Why?

Our issues, I believe, lie in our society. A society conditioned to behave a certain way. Empowered through silence and apathy to behave in ways that are not inherently or historically Libyan, which are not associated with Islamic values and which should not be acceptable in any culture or region of the world.

It is not unusual for society to be "conditioned". In the west, the media, through its glossy magazines and its glitzy TV shows, continuously conditions women to think in a conformist way when it comes to appearance, fashion or behaviour. As free as the people in the west perceive themselves to be, they are slaves to society's definition of beauty and "normality", and are slaves to the pressures of that society.

Libya is certainly not immune to the phenomena of conditioning, perhaps not through the media as much, but as much through our society as it is in the west.

As much as I hate the continued use of Qaddafi as an excuse for all our ills, it must be acknowledged that 42 years of autocratic, authoritarian rule has created a society not empowered to believe that change is possible. This is what made the February 17th revolution so remarkable. The fact that it broke the shackles of apathy and fear, which had previously crippled us into thinking that we cannot, and so will not, do anything to better the society around us.

But these shackles are now broken. Libya has a new spirit. We can, and so we will, do what it takes to better our society.

Libya's freedom does not come in the fall of the tyrant's regime, but rather in the liberty of its citizens to be expressive, to value the diversity of opinion and the diversity of ethnicity and culture, to empower its "weak" to no longer be weak, to provide equality and opportunity for all those who make up its society.

The Free Generation Movement has been involved in the creation of a coalition of Libyan based groups and activists who are concerned by the authority's neglect of Women's Rights issues in Libya. What concerns us in this coalition is how many people of authority speak privately about their disgust at what happened at the handover ceremony, and in private speak so passionately about the right of women to be involved, free and equal,

and yet are so reluctant to make these declarations public. It is this silence that haunts us and concerns us.

The silence of our leaders is conditioning and, as they say, deafening. The silence is empowering. It is empowering for those who seek legitimacy in the wrongs that they do and the evil that they spread. Silence is far more powerful than any fatwa or ruling or law. It is silence, as Einstein once said, that makes the world a dangerous place, not the people who do evil.

So much hope and so much responsibility has been entrusted into our first democratically elected national governing body in over half a century, and yet not a single one of its 200 members has publicly denounced what happened at the ceremony that handed them the nation's leading seat of governance.

There are private conversations, YouTube videos and personal accounts which suggest that most of those present showed disdain at what happened that night, yet they chose to keep their thoughts private. Why?

Those we have entrusted to lead and serve us have an opportunity to make a stand, an opportunity to use their position and to use their voice to begin to shape our society and drive our progressing in a direction that is inclusive and respectable and ethical.

They have an opportunity to re-condition our society and drive it out of the darkness that made it ok to publicly humiliate a woman, to harass a woman walking down the street, to judge a woman on her choices, to deny a woman her rights and her place.

We are not calling for the rights of our society to transgress our cultural norms nor our legal or religious obligations. The right of expression and the freedom of choice must exist within the confines of decency and respect. But with the guarantee that, in return, one would enjoy the very same decency and the very same respect from others.

We have a long way to go. Our ills will not be cured over night. But we hope that breaking the silence will be a significant step for us all.

Niz Ben-Essa

Founder of the Free Generation Movement.

The Free Generation Movement is a Libyan based NGO made up of independent activists. It was founded in February 2011 as a resistance movement within Tripoli and has now evolved into engaging socio-political and environmental issues in Libya.

1. Addenda: A brief history of Libya & Gadaffi

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[Omar Mukhtar](#)

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88. A Benghazi power, Libya militia eyed in attack



[MAGGIE MICHAEL AND HAMZA HENDAWI](#) | September 18,

2012 04:19 PM EST | **AP**

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BENGHAZI, Libya — Suspicion in last week's attack that killed the U.S. ambassador to Libya and three other Americans has focused on members of a hardcore Islamist militia known for its sympathies to al-Qaida, its fierce animosity to the U.S. and its intimidation of other Muslims who don't conform to its harsh ideology.

That doesn't mean Libyan authorities will move against Ansar al-Shariah soon. The group is among the most powerful of the many, heavily armed militias that the government relies on to keep security in Benghazi.

In fact, it guards one of Benghazi's main hospitals.

Libya's militias are a legacy of last year's bloody civil war that led to the ouster and killing of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi – and their continued power underscores the weakness of the country's new political leadership nearly a year after the war ended. With a range of ideologies, the militias arose from local groups that took up arms and battled Gadhafi's forces. Across the country, they still resist integration into the armed forces and remain in many places the sole forces keeping a fragile sense of order.

Ansar al-Shariah, which denies it was part of the attack, is not the biggest of Benghazi's militias. But it is viewed as the most disciplined and feared, with links to other militant groups in Benghazi and eastern Libya. They are also the most forceful in demanding that the new Libya be ruled by a strident and intolerant interpretation of Islam and Shariah law not far removed from al-Qaida's.

Its fighters have paraded through the streets in pick-up trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns, draped with a black flag with the Islamic profession of faith, "There is no god but God and Muhammad is God's prophet" in white – which has also been used by al-Qaida and many ultraconservative Islamists.

The banner, whose origins some say date back early Muslim conquests in the 7th century, became the symbol of the past week's protests around the Muslim world against a movie made in the United States that denigrates Islam's Prophet Muhammad.

Only days after the deadly attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, around 200 members of the group drove through Benghazi, brandishing automatic weapons, in a procession of cars to "champion the Prophet" in reaction to the film.

"We want Islamic Shariah laws to govern Libya or we will stage a second revolution," one bearded young member of the group at the event Friday told a reporter. "We will be a threat to America." He refused to give his name.

Over the weekend, Libyan President Mohammed el-Megharif told The Associated Press that some members of Ansar al-Shariah carried out the Sept. 11 attack on the consulate, which killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

"At least some of them, not necessarily the militia as a whole," he said, suggesting divisions within the group. El-Megharif said the attack had been planned well in advance to coincide with the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in the United States, adding that foreign al-Qaida

members were also in Libya and that he couldn't rule out that they had a role.

The U.S., which is investigating the attack alongside Libyan officials, says a different scenario may be shaping up. Rather than a plot, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice said it appeared that armed gunmen hijacked what had been a spontaneous protest against the anti-Islam movie.

In either case, the militia says it did not participate "as an organization" in the protest at the consulate, though that leaves the possibility that members joined on their own. It also says none of its followers have been arrested since.

Ansar al-Shariah, whose name in Arabic means "Supporters of Shariah," broke away last summer from the February 17 Brigade, which was the main militia force in Benghazi in the fight against Gadhafi's forces. Benghazi was the first city to rebel in early 2011 and became the de facto opposition capital. Militiamen battled fiercely to defend the city from a major regime offensive – which was halted mainly by NATO airstrikes – and then they turned the tables and advanced west along the coast.

Now the militias, including Ansar al-Shariah, tout themselves as defenders of Libya's revolution

According to its leaders, Ansar al-Shariah numbers about 300 active members, though other factions say they believe it actually numbers as many as 5,000. Some of its leaders are veterans of the numerous wars in Afghanistan.

Rivalries are rife between militias, but other factions are wary of tangling with Ansar al-Shariah.

In June, it held a major parade through Benghazi to mark its founding. More than 120 of its "battle trucks" – the pick-ups with heavy machine guns bolted in the bed – proceeded through the city. At the city center, some residents pelted them with stones, shouting, "Go home!" The parade turned away to avoid a confrontation.

The group's members have been blamed for a string of recent attacks against Muslim shrines around Libya. The shrines, including tombs of religious figures, are revered by Sufis and other moderate Muslims. But Ansar al-Shariah, which denies responsibility for the attacks, and other hard-liners consider visits to the shrines as tantamount to idol worship and an affront to Islam.

Ansar al-Shariah's prestige was boosted when the militia took over security at the Jalaa Hospital, the city's main

emergency hospital. Its fighters are posted at the hospital entrance and in its halls.

"The fact is that things have been going very well in the hospital since Ansar al-Shariah fighters were assigned to be in charge there," said Mohammed Qaeir, a senior member of the more moderate Muslim Brotherhood in Benghazi. "Previously, the hospital and the doctors worked under the threat of violence by gunmen. This is not happening there anymore."

But he fears that the consulate attack signals divisions within the militia and its leadership, between a radical wing and a more moderate faction.

One senior figure in Ansar al-Shariah, Youssef Jihani, denied the group took part in the attack. "We never approve of killing civilians, especially those who helped us," he said the day after the attack.

Still, he reflected the group's deeply anti-U.S. sentiment. "All of America's policies are hostile to Islam," he said in an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday. "If America is waging war against al-Qaida, then al-Qaida has a right to defend itself."

"We oppose American policies because they are stained in Muslim blood," he said.

Wanis al-Sherif, formerly a senior leader of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, warns that alienating Islamist militias like Ansar al-Shariah could offer al-Qaida a foothold among their followers. The LIFG was an anti-Gadhafi militant group that once had training camps with Afghanistan, and many of its members have now turned to politics in the new Libya.

Decades of brutal crackdowns under Gadhafi, al-Sherif said, have left them "worried that they will live under another dictatorship that will crack down on Islamists.

"They want assurances on the nation's future, the place of Shariah laws in the new Libya," he said.

Libya Killing of US Ambassador Shocking Details in Arab Press

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89. [The post-Gaddafi Libya is Not Real](#)

TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2012 10:03 JEN ALIC



WASHINGTON DC (IDN) - People often ask me why the West doesn't attempt a Libya-style intervention in Syria. After all, things are going so well in Libya. Oil production is up. But oil production is merely a mirage, as is security in Libya, which was doomed from the day one PG (post-Gaddafi) because of the way it was liberated.

Last Wednesday (September 12), US envoy to Libya Christopher Stevens was killed along with three other American diplomats in a rocket attack on the US consulate in Benghazi.

What about the oil, that global elixir? Well, the violence will not bode well for Libya's production ambitions, coming at a time when the country looked prepared for a boost in output and was banking on this for economic growth.

Security was already dubious at best, and now international oil companies will be more reluctant than ever. Those that are already there – Germany's Wintershall AG, Italy's Eni and France's Total – will be seeking to beef up security and have already started sending some of their workers home.

If the picture was not clear from the onset of the post-Gaddafi atmosphere, it certainly came into focus earlier this summer when protests over parliamentary elections forced the temporary closure of the el-Sider oil terminal, the country's biggest.

Anyone who thinks that Libya will be a secure oil frontier after the formation of a new government next summer is mistaken. The road to destruction runs from Afghanistan to Benghazi (incidentally, the oil-producing region), branching off to southern Iraq and Pakistan's tribal regions.

So, you ask, what about the controversial anti-Islamic movie apparently put together by an Israeli-American real estate developer with too much time on his hands?

According to Jellyfish Operations – a private intelligence and analysis boutique that has spent much time dissecting the intervention in Libya and the conflict in Syria – the anti-Islamic movie is a red herring in all of this.

Speaking to Oilprice.com, Jellyfish President Michael Bagley said that while the movie is being upheld as the root cause of the intensifying protests and the death of the US envoy to Libya, it has only served to give added momentum to another more important development.

The real catalyst

"The key to all of this is al-Qaeda's second in command, Abu Yahya al-Libi, who was killed by a US drone attack in Waziristan on 4 June," Bagley said. "The real catalyst for the attack in Libya and the unrest that has spread to Yemen, was a lengthy video released by al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, marking the anniversary of 9/11 and admitting to the death of al-Libi, who is Libyan."

"This was a very powerful call to avenge al-Libi's death," Bagley said, "and it came only 24 hours before the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi."

To put this into perspective, let's reminisce a bit about al-Libi, whose past is a roller coaster, enemy-foe ride with the US.

Al-Libi was captured in the "war on terrorism" in Afghanistan in 2002 and held for three years in Kabul's high-security Bagram prison. Against all odds, he escaped in 2005.

In 2011 he resurfaced again, but this time as a friend to Washington who had decided that it was no longer friends with

Gaddafi, despite all the efforts leading up to this to rebuild relations after that nasty Lockerbie business and all the sanctions. So here is al-Libi again, but this time around his terrorist inclinations are a bonus rather than a liability: He fights alongside intervention forces to oust Gaddafi.

With Gaddafi gone, al-Libi once again became a liability so he was taken out by a drone in Pakistan.

This brings us back to the present, with al-Zawahiri on the rampage and Libyan's wise to their liberators.

"This is a cut and dry example of the backfire of the US intervention strategy," Bagley said. "Let's hope it isn't attempted in Syria."

The post-Gaddafi Libya is not real. It's a dangerous fabrication of materials stuck together by the glue of dubious alliances with jihadists who are cut loose with their weapons once the immediate goal (Gaddafi's demise) was achieved. Forget about the oil for now.

*Jen Alic is a geopolitical analyst and the former editor-in-chief of ISN Security Watch in Zurich. This article is being republished by arrangement with OILPRICE.COM which carried it on September 13 under the headline Libya - Doomed from Day One. The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of, and should not be attributed to, IDN or its editorial board. [IDN-InDepthNews – September 17, 2012]

2012 IDN-InDepthNews | Analysis That Matters

Picture: Wikipedia, Libya Oil Industry

"The Ministry of Interior is now run by the militia rather than the opposite. The ministry gave armed groups the legitimacy to arrest, interrogate, and secure banks, government offices and embassies in the absence of state power."

90. Saving Libya From its Saviours

By [Rebecca Murray](#)  [Print](#) | [Send by email](#)

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/09/saving-libya-from-its-saviours/>



A militia group in Tripoli. Credit: Rebecca Murray/IPS.

TRIPOLI, Sep 21 2012 (IPS) - The dark rain clouds and circling military helicopter accentuated the mood of the small, sombre crowd gathered in Tripoli's Martyr's Square to commemorate Libya's dead heroes.

The quiet assembly was in stark contrast to the euphoric Feb. 17 rally on the same spot marking the one-year anniversary of the uprising against the Gaddafi regime. Then thousands of Libyans – some holding framed pictures of 'martyred' loved ones – thronged the downtown sidewalks and expressed optimism for a future of democracy, prosperity and peace.

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That optimism has been replaced by anxiety. The killing of U.S. ambassador Christopher Stevens in Benghazi has highlighted the dangers posed by a proliferation of armed groups since the revolution. Many are part of the loose-knit, undertrained government auxiliary forces that seem to act with impunity throughout Libya, and fuel the anxious public perception that the government is too weak to rein them in.

The government's call for citizens to voluntarily hand in their weapons is now pushed back to the end of September

because of security concerns. Prime Minister Mustafa Abu Shugar has proposed giving cash for weapons.

After fighting in the revolution and receiving three weeks formal training, Rami Ezzadine Tajari, 22, and Mohammed Nagy, 19, wearing mismatched military uniforms and carrying battered AK47s, are part of the Ministry of Interior's sprawling auxiliary force, the Supreme Security Council (SSC).

The SSC, like the Ministry of Defence's affiliated Shield of Libya brigades, is a collection of armed groups operating across Libya under the interior ministry's loose control.

"A lot of people came to hand in their weapons," says Tajari. "We told them to bring them back on the 29th. After that, citizens will be forbidden to carry them."

Human rights lawyer Salah Marghani, commended by Human Rights Watch for his advocacy work with detainees under the Gaddafi regime, is outraged by the buy-back weapons scheme. "It will create a lucrative trade of arms for profit and won't take many arms off the street," he says. "What we need to get rid of is the heavy weapons."

Marghani divides Libya's armed groups operating in the government security vacuum into five categories. He explains that three are "easy to deal with": former revolutionary fighters who believe their sole duty is to protect citizens and will voluntarily disarm; those who guard national interests motivated by a mix of doing public good and making profit; and those who benefit exclusively from small economic kickbacks.

"The remaining two categories are the dangerous ones," says Marghani. These are ex-convicts who commit violent crimes, including armed robbery and drug dealing, or groups of "phantom-like" fighters that operate under a banner of Gaddafi loyalists or Islamist extremism.

In light of the Benghazi attack, he describes Libyans as feeling a collective 'shame'. "They are scared right now," he adds. "They don't want their country to be another Somalia with warlords."

An International Crisis Group (ICG) analysis of Libya's armed groups sheds light on the new government's complex challenge.

ICG states that the Gaddafi regime's 'divide-and-rule' policy manipulated communities with a draconian security apparatus and selective disbursal of Libya's rich resources.

"Once the lid was removed, there was every reason to fear a free-for-all, as the myriad of armed groups that proliferated during the rebellion sought material advantage, political influence or, more simply, revenge," says the report. "This was all the more so given the security vacuum produced by the regime's precipitous fall."

Bill Lawrence, ICG's North Africa analyst, in an interview with IPS says that Salafist leaders he has met blame rogue elements for the Benghazi attack. "Salafists who are in general skeptical of the political transition in Libya in some cases – not in every case – are definitely disassociating themselves from this act of violence, and condemning both the assassination and the film (on Islam that is leading to worldwide protests in Muslim countries)."

Some Libyans voice concerns that the U.S. drones, intelligence and military personnel in Libyan territory since the ambassador's death might be here to stay.

Sami Khaskusha, professor of international relations, is a driving force on Tripoli University campus. An active member of the civil resistance against Gaddafi, he energetically organised a wide range of civil society discussions after the capital's liberation under an ambitious banner: 'Tripoli University's programme for rebuilding Libya'.

"Suddenly we turned the university into a huge workshop," Khaskusha remembers. "There was a lot of euphoria and enthusiasm then."

But he says the mood changed and activities were curtailed when the transitional government's more traditional, conservative mindset inherited power at the ministries.

"At that same time every thug took over offices and declared himself to be a military brigade. They submitted lists to the defence and interior ministries and demanded money and cars, and extorted businesses," Khaskusha says.

"The Ministry of Interior is now run by the militia rather than the opposite. The ministry gave armed groups the legitimacy to arrest, interrogate, and secure banks, government offices and embassies in the absence of state power."

An escalation of crime with impunity, tribal clashes and intolerant attacks against religious sites and non-governmental organisations are contributing to an atmosphere of instability and fear.

Salah Marghani is working against this. In light of torture in detention centres documented by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, he educates armed groups – including former prisoners now supervising jails – to adhere to human rights protocols.

"In one incident, I asked a military brigade if they torture inmates. One man said: 'No we don't, we only do *'falaqa'* (beating prisoners' feet). What struck me was he didn't comprehend this is wrong," sighs Marghani.

"I think it will take ten to 15 years for people to understand the role of democracy and civil society," Khaskusha says. "We need to practise a peaceful struggle of ideas, culture of tolerance and acceptance of 'the other'. Now when we disagree, we run to our weapons."

<http://www.libya-alyoum.com/news/index.php?id=21&textid=12264>

Solidarity News Agency - Libya today

91. The town of Bani Walid dawn today, Wednesday, bombed heavy and medium weapons.

An eyewitness of the city's "solidarity news agency that" the city under constant bombardment since the dawn of heavy weapons, he said, adding that people do not go out of their homes for fear of bombardment. And tried to "news agency and solidarity" connected to an independent source to see fuller details but it was not possible for us. The agency also tried to contact the parties concerned official but did not indicate any information.

How to bombard the city of Libya Libyan forces

)Ammar 10/17/2012(

There is no justification for bombing Libyan city of Libyan forces even though there were



battalions supporting Gaddafi and his regime defunct Van

92. **Mufti Libya demanding delete "freedom of religion" of the curriculum**



Ramallah - banner media:

Asked Dar al-Ifta in Libya, led by prominent cleric Sheikh Sadiq Ghariani, from the Ministry of Education to delete material from the curriculum related to "freedom of religion and democracy," and asked for clarification about deleting texts from "Sunnah".

Fatwa issued Libyan statement on Tuesday, which included "Notes to the Libyan Mufti Sheikh Sadiq Ghariani related to some of the curricula of the current academic year", as reported by the official Libyan news agency.

The statement said that the Mufti in this regard published an article entitled "curriculum and instilling values" included two issues, the first on the deleted texts Sunnah Islamic education curricula, and the second about two paragraphs in the book of National Education for basic education for religious freedom and democracy. "

The statement said, according to the agency: "The Ministry of Education responded positively with these
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notes and promised to investigate the reason for deleting the prophetic texts of Islamic education curriculum."

The statement added that "Fatwa propose to the ministry to delete two pages of the book material of National Education, the first known democracy Greek because they include information that does not fit in with younger students, and the second related to freedom of belief and religion because it may suggest to the pupil small that has the right to choose his religion"

Called Dar al-Ifta "management of the state and its institutions and its public to respond to the aspirations of the citizens and to consider the feedback from public affairs, especially when it comes to religious values and Islamic morals and not be ignored or taken lightly and neglected because it is fueling the emotions."