

SITUATION REPORT
September 27, 2011
Prepared by: Libya Outreach Group

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highlights

Fighting continues for the cities of Sirte and Bani Walid, Libya, the humanitarian crisis worsens
[Article1](#) , [Article2](#) , [Article3](#) , [Article4](#)

The fight for the besieged cities of Bani Walid and Sirte, Libya continues into this week. Both of these cities are known to be loyal to the Gaddafi regime and have acted as the strongholds for Gaddafi family members believed to still be in Libya (Maummer, Saif al-Islam and Muatissam Gaddafi). Many feel this is the reason pro-Democracy forces have faced such fierce resistance from troops inside the city.

NATO continues to bomb strategic military targets in Sirte and Bani Walid in hopes of weakening Gaddafi's hold on the cities. Members of pro-Democracy forces are in direct contact with members of Gaddafi's tribe, the Gadhada, in Sirte. They have offered members of the tribe safe passage out of the city but have been told they have to surrender their weapons, in the hopes of weakening Gaddafi's tight grip. Pro-Democracy troops are on the look out for Gaddafi loyalists fleeing the city and have made arrests. It is not known where these people are being held or what type of treatment they may receive.

NATO estimates there are over 200,000 civilians still trapped in Benai Walid and Sirte. As pro-Democracy forces and pro-Gaddafi forces prepare for what has been described as the last battle for both cities, citizens scramble to flee or find a safe spot to hide. Some civilians fleeing Sirte say pro-Gaddafi troops are turning people back at check points and not allowing them to leave. Some refugees have resorted to finding back roads and dirt trails to escape. They also, report pro-Gaddafi troops hiding in residential areas, executions, hostage-taking and targeting of individuals, families and communities within the city.

Refuges describe the humanitarian situation in both cities as dire. There is a shortage of food, drinking water and medical care/supplies. Pro-Democracy fighters on the west side of Sirte, mainly from Misrata, are providing food and water to fleeing residents. The United Nations (UN) is also working to provide food, water and medical supplies to refugees in both cities. International aid groups are demanding access to both cities and are concerned the humanitarian situation could deteriorate even further. It is estimated that Libya needs \$407 million in aid but has only received \$250 million to date. This money could come from releasing frozen Libyan assets abroad. This brings into question, where is the \$1.5 billion allocated toward humanitarian aid being directed toward, and why can't the international community release more funds toward humanitarian aid, when Libyan has hundreds of billions in frozen assets? The slow

response by the international community toward the unfreezing of assets needs to be reexamined immediately, as the mandate to protect Libyan civilians should take precedence to secure an end to the fighting and ensure that Libyan civilians are not only protected, but receive the proper care they deserve and are entitled to under the UN security council resolutions.

Additional News

From September 27-28 (a.m) 2011:

- Canada votes to extend participation Libya mission [Article](#)
- Canada obtains approval from the U.N. to unfreeze \$2.2 billion in Libyan assets to be used for humanitarian aid, rebuild infrastructure and to pay wages of police, teacher and essential services to Libya. [Article](#)
- Canada is to reestablish its diplomatic mission in Tripoli. Current mission working from temporary location waiting for embassy to be refurbished and security can be put in place. [Article](#)
- Other Embassies open in Libya include the U.S. , France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Poland, Romania, South Korea, Turkey, and Britain. [Article](#)
- The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said it has recognised the National Transitional Council (NTC) as Libya’s representative. [Article](#)
- Libya’s stock market to resume trading in a month’s time [Article](#)
- NTC encourages international business to invest in Libya [Article](#)
- NTC meet for second day in Benghazi to discuss the formation of an interim government. It is likely they will continue to call the current government an “executive office” and is to include a premier, vice premier and 22 ministries. [Article](#)
- An Algerian newspaper report also alleged some of the deposed Libyan leader's relatives had flown to Egypt. [Article](#)
- NTC offers military training to women to be members of the National Security Force, all revolutionary fighters, including women get a one time bonus of \$5,000, including women [Article](#)
- NTC to abolish Libya’s former security courts formerly used to imprison political dissidents. [Article](#)

Born in the wake of the 17 February Revolution, the Libya Outreach Group is dedicated to raising awareness, facilitating outreach, and providing stabilization and transition support for
Libya

Libya Outreach Group has recently changed the format of its Situation Reports. We will provide a highlight of the day’s events with more in-depth commentary and policy briefs. Thank you for your continued engagement and support.