

SITUATION REPORT
September 26, 2011
Prepared by: Libya Outreach Group

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highlights

A mass grave of 1,270 was found outside the infamous Abu Saleem prison in Tripoli, Libya.
[Article](#)

On June 26, 1996, inmates of the Abu Saleem prison protested against harsh prison conditions and in retaliation the Gaddafi regime systematically murdered them inside the prison yard. Most of the inmates were political prisoners from Benghazi, Libya. This incident has been referred to as the Abu Saleem massacre, and was widely known of but not publicly discussed by Libyans. Most people were afraid of stiff reprisals from the Gaddafi regime. Those who questioned the massacre faced harsh reprisals as a result. A mass grave found outside the prison's walls this weekend is believed to contain the remains of the victims of the Abu Saleem massacre. Former Abu Saleem guards captured after the fall of Tripoli led authorities to the mass grave site.

The significance of the Abu Saleem massacre is that it propelled the Libyan revolution. In February 2011, women across Libya demonstrated against the massacre after, Fathi Terbil, the lawyer representing the inmates' families was arrested by the Gaddafi regime in Benghazi. The women demanded they be told what happened to their loved ones who had been listed only as missing at that time. In response, Muammar Gaddafi initiated a fierce crackdown on all protesters killing many unarmed civilians. These events led to the Libyan revolution of February 17, 2011.

The NTC is in dire need of forensic expertise, body bags, and (DNA) matching technology to accurately identify the remains of the buried victims. They lack the necessary resources and technology to properly manage the process. The international community can play an integral role in not only helping many Libyan families begin to heal from this tragedy but also put in place the mechanisms that will help to facilitate and precipitate not only closure, but also to document the injustice, and ultimately bring justice back to the families who suffered against these inhumane and notorious crimes against humanity committed by Gaddafi and his regime.

National Transitional Council (NTC) are facing challenges in forming a new caretaker government. [Article1](#) , [Article2](#) , [Video](#)

The NTC have the responsibility of appointing a group of people to the new caretaker government. This new caretaker government will be responsible for leading Libya through the next step in the stabilization process. The names of the group's members are scheduled to be released this week but there have been reports of a possible delay. The reason for the delay has been attributed to in fighting amongst NTC members. Some NTC members have said the list will be released this week as planned and some members saying the announcement could be delayed

due to NTC's inability to agreeing on appointees or the structure of the caretaker government. Other members of NTC even going further saying the formation of the new government will be delayed until Libya is in full control of pro-Democracy forces and the last of the Gaddafi strong holds are liberated.

The NTC needs to step up its rhetoric with action. As caretakers of the transition phase, they have a moral duty and obligation to protect this revolution, and should individual members attempt to squander and manipulate this political paralysis in the hopes of securing their power, they need to be removed indefinitely from the process. It is up to the Libyan people to use their voice and demonstrate against those who fail to uphold the principles of the revolution. The role of civil society, and in particular the international community, in harnessing and empowering civil society, is critically important during this phase. Numerous civil society organizations have emerged, and must play the watchdog role, because they are organized, and because it is the nature of their function. The international community must immediately step up its game plan and begin to fund these organizations to balance the political paralysis that currently plagues Libya today.

Additional News

From September 24- 26 (a.m) 2011:

- Whereabouts of Maummer Gaddafi unknown [Article](#)
- Reports of Muatassim Gaddafi heard communicating by radio with loyalist forces inside Sirte. Another eyewitness, a pro-Gaddafi commander captured Sunday, said Muatassim was in Sirte. [Article1](#) , [Article2](#)
- Friday Aisha Gaddafi released an audio recording on the Syrian-based Al-Rai TV, saying her father was in high spirits and fighting with his supporters. [Article](#)
- NTC warns stability of Libya is at risk as long as Maummer Gaddafi is still at large in Libya. [Article](#)
- NTC ask U.N. Security Council to lift remaining sanctions on Libya to facilitate further stability in Libya. [Article](#)
- U.N. to deploy 100 to 200 personnel to Libya as support for NTC during the next stages of establishing democracy in Libya [Article](#)
- NTC says collecting arms across Libya priority. [Article](#) Weapons found across Libya are not returned to NTC but are being taken back to different cities by fighters returning home. The reason for this hoarding of weapons may be rooted in a fundamental distrust in the NTC's capability to stabilize Libya. [Article](#)
- Moussa Ibrahim says Muammer Gaddafi and his family were among the poorest of Libya's citizens. This statement is contradictory to evidence showing this is not true and the Gaddafi families were notorious for lavish parties and expensive properties around the world. [Article](#)
- Egypt Air to resume flights to Libya next week: starting Sunday October 2, 2011 to Benghazi [Article](#)
- Oil production resumes in Libya; 15 wells at Abu-Attifel field near Benghazi- Mellitha Oil & Gas producing 31,900 barrels of oil a day ; Mellitha Oil & Gas is a partnership between Eni and National Oil corporation in Libya [Article](#)
- Tawergha, Libya a ghost town as forces loyal to Maummer Gaddafi fled the city. [Article](#)

- German Embassy re-opens Tripoli office [Article](#)
- International Criminal Court to hear evidence that Gaddafi and his sons raped women [Article](#)

Fighting continues in Bani Walid, Libya:

- Pro-Democracy fighters attacked eastern Bani Walid and now control the mountains in the northern part of the city. Rough terrain in the area hampers their progress even though pro-Democracy forces surround the city. [Article](#)

Fighting continues in Sirte, Libya:

- Saturday, as pro-Democracy forces pushed their way into downtown Sirte they faced fierce resistance from pro-Gaddafi forces inside the city; they were forced to retreat saying they didn't want to endanger citizens in the city, 7 pro-Democracy forces killed and 150 wounded [Article](#) , [Video1](#) , [Video2](#)
- NATO continues to support pro-Democracy fighters in Libya. Saturday they bombed key sites in Sirte, Libya and delivered humanitarian goods to Libya. [NATOMap](#)
- “Among the reports emerging from Sirte are executions, hostage-taking and the calculated targeting of individual families and communities,” according to NATO [Article](#)
- Sunday, pro-Democracy forces set up check points and posted snipers on the outskirts of Sirte, but are not planning an assault as of yet. [Article](#)
- Eyewitness accounts from citizens fleeing Sirte indicated pro-Gaddafi forces using civilians as human shields preventing them from leaving the city. [Article](#)

Fighting in Ghadamis, Libya

- Forces loyal to Muammar Gaddafi regrouped in Algeria and crossed the border from Algeria to the Libyan town of Ghadamis, Libya to attack pro-Democracy forces, Sunday. Pro-Democracy forces in the area received previous intelligence of the attack so were prepared. The assailants retreated back over the border into Algeria [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 its format of the Situation Reports. We will provide a highlight of the day's events with a more in-depth commentary and policy briefs. Thank you for your continued engagement and support.