

SITUATION REPORT
October 18, 2011
Weekend Edition
Prepared by: Libya Outreach Group

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highlights

City of Bani Walid liberated and fighting continues in Sirte, Libya [VideoofLiberation](#) [Video Article1](#) ; [Article2](#) ; [Article3](#)

After a prolonged battle the Libyan city of Bani Walid has been liberated from Gaddafi's influence. Bani Walid was one of the last two cities still under the control by pro-Gaddafi forces, the other being Sirte which has not been completely liberated. The battle for Bani Walid hit a turning point this weekend as pro-Democracy forces took over the hospital and other strategic buildings in the city's center. Pro-Democracy fighters capture 300 pro-Gaddafi fighters. Meantime, fighting for the city of Sirte continues where bodies of pro-Gaddafi fighters were found outside the city having executed, pro-Gaddafi forces, with their hands tied behind their backs.

What does this mean for the current political climate in Libya? How will the loyalists who supported Gaddafi regime forces in both Bani Walid and Sirte be perceived, held accountable and reintegrated into Libyan society? How can we help reconcile the differences between the different factions and promote healing and trust. How can we make sure the citizens of the city do not face reprisals their and Libya's property is not looted?

The capture of Sirte has been heralded as Libya's critical milestone for independence. Whereby Libya will be proclaimed officially independent pending capture and the NTC will begin to implement a political transition process to elections. The NTC has maintained that it will take months, if not years to transition to elections, however the rhetoric is inconsistent and there is no clear plan for transition. This uncertainty is further mired with the reality on the ground, that the NTC holds insufficient authority as a federal body, whereby the local councils and municipalities hold the strength of popular support. From last count, the local council members have increased to 43 representatives. How can a federal structure implemented within Libya whereby the cities can operate autonomously enough, whereby they maintain their local governance, yet under a national federal structure. Who can credibly and competently Libya's overall federal governance post-independence?

Tuaregh Face Harsh Conditions in Libya, Their political Role Still Unknown [Article](#)

Tuaregh Libyans are living in camps in Libya to avoid violent retribution. A camp on the outskirts of Benghazi went from supporting 400 residents to nearly 3,000 in the last two weeks; some camps being protected by pro-Democracy forces in the area but there is still fear they will be attacked. Many black Libyans and sub-Saharan Africans were believed to support and fighting alongside Gaddafi regime, and for those, are considered complicit in committing crimes

against humanity during the conflict such as rape, beatings and torture. This has caused resentment towards black Libyans and sub-Saharan Africans in Libya. There is a looming health crisis in the camps with the lack of medical supplies, adequate food and/or clean water, hepatitis has also been discovered among the residents. Many displaced persons want to return to their homes but they are not sure if it is safe to return. Many of them are also internally displaced persons within Libya, whereby their homes are in Libya.

The Tuaregh have also been claimed to have supported Gaddafi regime members with hiding on the Libyan borders with Niger and Algeria. However, Tuaregh representatives have denied these claims, that they have supported Gaddafi, his family and his regime. They state that small encampments can be built on the borders without anyone ever knowing. The use of geographic information systems can help to identify newly formed or previously established hiding spaces for Gaddafi and his regime. Gaddafi especially was known to camp in tents, and in a desert landscape, a camp can be set up almost anywhere. The international community should work with the Tuaregh to assess whether Gaddafi, his family and regime elements are actually hiding on the borders. A capture of Gaddafi will hail a definite end to the conflict and enable Libyans to begin to heal from the trauma wrought by the war and 42 years of dictatorship. Gaddafi's capture is the ultimate litmus test for Libya's future development.

Additional News

- Syrian based TV station says Khamis Gaddafi was killed on August 29, 2011 in Tarhuna, Libya; this is not confirmed [Article](#)
- Confirmations of looting in the Sirte area [Article](#)
- William Hague visits Tripoli to confirm the new British Ambassador to Libya. [Article](#)
- William Hague urges African nations to turn over senior Gaddafi regime officials found on their territory to face trial for crimes they may have committed against Libya [Article](#)
- Bulldozers demolish parts of Bab al-Aziziya compound in Tripoli, Libya to erect a park [Video](#)
- Misrata residents are the only ones who can enter their city, with limited access given to press; members of the community say they are protecting the city from Gaddafi loyalists [Article](#)
- Tuaregh fighters not originating from Libya have returned to Mali from Libya well trained and armed [Article](#)
- Outlawed sport of boxing returns to Libya [Article](#)
- The State of Qatar and the National Transitional Council of Libya signed yesterday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation between the public prosecution offices in both countries [Article](#)
- Libyans work to protect Libyan heritage sites [Video](#)
- Libya's current prison systems, workers are volunteers and don't receive pay [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