Human Rights Background Paper

Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Submitted to

United Nations Human Rights Council

by

World Engagement Institute

18 May 2011
World Engagement Institute

The World Engagement Institute (WEI) is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary and academically-based non-governmental organization, with a unique and diverse set of capabilities. The World Engagement Institute engages professional alumni of academic institutions in international public service in collaboration with the United Nations and other international organizations for the benefit, empowerment and capacity building of communities and organizations in needs worldwide.

Acknowledgements

This report was researched and written by Patricia A. Szczerba, Vice President for United Nations Relations, WE Institute, instructor at DePaul University and Senior Writer for The New York Times Almanac, with sections written and the document edited by Nesreen Akhtarkhavari, Vice President for Intercultural Communications, WE Institute and Chair, Department of Arabic Studies, DePaul University. Special thanks to DePaul University students Jill Anderson, Anita Charllassier and David Velasquez for research, writing and editing.

© Patricia A. Szczerba 2011. All Rights reserved.
Human Rights Background Paper

Great Socialistic People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Contents

Introduction

Libya: Synthesis of Human Rights Reports ................................................................. 5

Libya: Government Structure .................................................................................. 13

Libya: Selected State Laws ....................................................................................... 15

Libya: Time Line ........................................................................................................ 17

Libya: Human Rights Conventions, Reports, Organizations .................................. 36

Libya: Country Official Reports: Human Rights Committee (CCPR) ...................... 39

Libya: Country Background ..................................................................................... 42

Libya: Maps ............................................................................................................... 56


Appendix B: Security Council and Human Rights Council Resolutions, Discussions and Reports on the Situation in Libya

Appendix C: Press Conference by Prosecutor of International Criminal Court .......... 69
Concerning Libya, 4 May 2011

Appendix D: Libya: Online Web Sites ....................................................................... 71

References .................................................................................................................. 73
Introduction

This report is submitted by the World Engagement Institute (WEI) to the United Nations Human Rights Council commission of inquiry set up in February 2011 by the Council to investigate Libya’s possible violations of human rights in the recent conflict situation.

The purpose of the report is to provide the commission and other interested parties with background information about the human rights situation in Libya for the last 43 years based on reports and documents submitted by international non-governmental organizations and other agencies, mainly information presented in recent reports by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the U.S. Department of State. Some websites and articles by popular media were also used for summary of recent events. A list of major references consulted is provided at the end of the report.

This report includes background and country information, a summary of Libya’s form of government, its major laws, a synthesis of information about major human rights situations in Libya, and a timeline of major events and human rights violations starting at 1951, the date the Constitution of the Kingdom of Libya was brought into force and Libya was declared an independent country. This report focuses on the situation in Libya under the 43 years of rule by Colonel Muammar al-Qadhafi. The report covers both human rights violations and some of Libya’s attempts to improve the country’s human rights situation and engage in positive relations with the international community and other nation states.

The World Engagement Institute hopes that this report on Libya helps the Human Rights Council, commission of inquiry on Libya in its review of the history of the human rights situation in Libya for over the last decades.
Libya: Synthesis of Human Rights Reports

Libya Background
Libya, formally called the Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, is slightly larger than Alaska at 1,759,540 sq km and is located along the Mediterranean coast of North Africa. The Sahara Desert comprises more than 90 percent of the country and the majority of its approximately 6.3 million people live along the Mediterranean. The capitol, Tripoli, is in the western part of the country, Benghazi with the second largest population is located in the eastern part, followed by Misrata towards the center, all along the Mediterranean (CIA, 2011).

While Libya today is no longer the pariah state that it was for some three decades, when the United Nations, U.S. and European Union had sanctions against the country, Libya’s government remains repressive,permitting its people only limited freedom of expression. Trials of political prisoners are not open and fair, there is no civil society and state impunity continues. Named a terrorist state by the U.S. until 2006, Libya recently reconciled major differences with the international community by having renounced terrorism, dismantled its weapons of mass destruction program, settled the Lockerbie bombing incident, released the Bulgarian nurses and Palestinian doctor accused of mass HIV infections and undertook major outreach efforts towards the U.S. and EU. Libya was voted a seat on the UN Security Council (2008-2009 term), and recently concluded agreements with the U.S. and EU in areas of trade and illegal migration and allowed visits by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch in 2009. (Amnesty International [AI], 2010; Europa Yearbook 2010, 2011.)

Libya’s Positive Improvements in Human Rights

The following human rights improvements in Libya were presented in recent reports by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the U.S. Department of State.

- In the last few years, the Libyan government has regularly released political prisoners each year.
- In the last few years, there have been reports of small increases in freedom of expression and calls by the GDF (Gadhafi Development Foundation) for addressing past human rights violations, although little action has actually been carried out.
- Limited steps have been taken towards tolerance of dissent and some public demonstrations have been allowed.
- Expansion of media outlets include availability of satellite television, limited quantities of international weekly publications in Tripoli, the publication of 2 private newspapers, and expanded internet access as well as Blackberry service. Although the government limits publishing rights to government entities, it allowed some private companies to distribute newspapers and books (AI (2010); Human Rights Watch [HRW], (2009); U.S. Dept. of State (2010).

Libya’s Human Rights Violations

The following human rights violations in Libya were presented in recent reports by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the U.S. Department of State.

- There were ongoing reports of disappearances, torture, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, lengthy pretrial and/or incommunicado detention and poor prison conditions.
• In spite of Libya’s recent attempts to improve human rights conditions in the country the U.S., a recent Department of State report noted that Libya does not have a constitution and the people have no right to change their government (U.S. Dept of State, 2010).

• Government security forces continue to act with official impunity against dissent and the government refuses to investigate past violations of forced disappearances, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment and torture.
  - Though the People’s Court was abolished in 2005, its replacement institution, the State Security Court, established in 2007, continues to hold trials of political prisoners that fail to meet international standards of due process. Defendants are denied fair and public trials, independent representation and suffer a lack of judicial recourse.
  - Amnesty International reports that political prisoners were convicted of vaguely-worded charges including “attempt to overthrow the political system,” “spreading false rumors about the Libyan regime” and “communication with enemy powers.”
  - Human Rights Watch reports that “insulting public officials” and “opposing the ideology of the Revolution” are criminal acts according to the Libyan penal code.

• The government continues to limit freedom of assembly, freedom of association, free expression and peaceful demonstration and dissent remain punishable by law (Penal Code number 71, 1972).

• There are no independent non-governmental associations and Libyans have limited freedom to create or join international organizations. Professional syndicates and trade unions are controlled by the Libyan state.

• According to Law 19, a political body is required to approve organizations and the government may revoke its approval at any time without justification. Only 2 organizations are allowed to criticize the government, both chaired by Qadhafi’s children.

• Freedom of media is severely restricted as is freedom of speech. This includes internet access and academic freedom.

• Dozens of cases of disappearances throughout the last three decades remain unresolved, and the Libyan Internal Security Agency, which is suspected of these disappearances, continues to operate with impunity.

• Reports persist regarding the torture and ill-treatment of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers at the hands of the Libyan government.

Examples of Human Rights Violations

Torture
The U.S. Department of State reported that there were reports of torture throughout Libya during 2010. Methods of torture included beatings, beatings on the soles of the feet, electric shocks, suspension from the arms, electric shock, suffocating with plastic bags and denial of medical treatment (U.S. Dept of State, 2010). Even though many prisoners, after their release, feared providing information about their torture, Amnesty International did receive information on torture and other ill-treatment. Amnesty said that torture victims included prisoners under a death sentence, refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants. The abuses were carried out by police officers and detention center guards who acted with impunity (AI, 2010).

In December 2009, a report on human rights practices in Libya was released by the Qadhafi International Charity and Development Foundation (QDF), an NGO founded by Muammar Qadhafi’s son Saif al-Islam. In statement with the report, the QDF said that it had recorded several flagrant
violations and received a large number of complaints of torture during imprisonment and called on the government to waive immunities form prosecution of officials for torture. In July 2010, Saif al-Islam Qadhafi admitted publicly that torture and excessive violence had taken place in prisons (U.S. Dept. of State, 2011).

Amnesty International stated in their recent report that “the main purposes of torture seem to be the extraction of information or confessions; and/or punishment for committing offences against the state” (AI, 2010, p. 41).

Documented examples of torture include:

- Sudanese-born Jalal al-Din ’Uthman Bashir was arrested 25 September 1995 by Internal Security Agency for his alleged connection to an Islamist group that had clashed with Libyan security forces that same year. He was held incommunicado for several years. He was reportedly beaten, had electric shocks administered to him, and had freezing water poured on him then forced to sit in front of an air conditioner. He remains in prison as of 2010 despite a 2006 sentencing of 10 years, which he had already served at that time.
- Abdelsalam el-Khweildy was detained in April 1998 and remains incarcerated in Abu Salim Prison. During his incommunicado detention, he was reportedly beaten and ill-treated. He is allowed to receive visits from family members now every 2 months. He is suspected of terrorist activities (AI, 2010).
- Ibrahim Mohammed Al Alwani was held incommunicado for 11 months beginning in July 1995. On 11 July 2007, UN Human Rights Committee found Libya responsible for torture, disappearance and arbitrary execution in Al Alwani v. Libya, Communication No. 1295/2004. It found that Libya had violated Article 6 of the ICCPR on the right to life.
- Abu Baker El Hassy was arbitrarily arrested and detained in Abu Salim in 1995. His location remained unknown 11 years when his brother took a claim of torture and other charges to the UN Human Rights Committee. On 24 October 2007, the UN Human Rights Committee found Libya responsible for the unlawful detention, torture and enforced disappearance of Abu Baker El Hassy, who had been arbitrarily arrested and detained in Abu Salim in 1995 and whose location remained unknown 11 years later when his brother brought the claim to the committee (Decision: El Hassy v. Libya, UN Human Rights Committee, CCPR/C91/D/1422/2005/October 24, 2007.) (HRW, 2009).

Enforced Disappearances

Despite ongoing attempts to ascertain the whereabouts of many political prisoners throughout the last decades, efforts by families and NGOs have been largely futile.

In July 2007, Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi gave a speech in which he stated that families have a right to know what happened to their disappeared relatives (HRW, 2009). However, little has been done to remedy this.

People who have disappeared include:

- Jaballah Hamad Matar was disappeared in Cairo in March 1990. As of January 2010, his whereabouts are still unknown, despite international calls for information regarding his detention.

World Engagement Institute (WEI) - May 2011
• Ezzat Yussef al-Maqrif was disappeared in Cairo, Egypt in March 1990. To date, his family does not know where he is held or if he is still alive – their requests for information from the Libyan government have yielded nothing (HRW, 2009).

• Ahman 'Abd al-Qadir al-Thulthi disappeared in June 1996 while in Libyan custody. He is still believed to be alive.

• Mahmoud Muhammad Boushima was arrested in 2005. No reported developments have been made in his case. He was critical of the government (AI, 2010).

Incommunicado detention
To date, incommunicado detention remains a problem in Libya. In 2008, it was estimated by human rights organizations that at least 2000 political prisoners had been held for years without charge or trial. Most are arrested with no warrant, and those that do come to trial are remanded to ISA custody, where they are subject to torture or other ill-treatment. Many prisoners do not know the charges against them when they arrive in court, and many only see their court-appointed lawyer during the proceedings. Following are a few examples:

• Khalifa el-Shibli was arrested on 17 July 2007 and held for two and a half years, during which he was denied medical attention (he is HIV positive) and never saw his family. The only communication he had with a lawyer was during court proceedings. Though he was cleared of all charges on 5 August 2009, he remained in custody for four more months.

• Umran el-Sweihdi was arrested on 27 May 2007 with no arrest warrant. His family was only able to learn of his imprisonment in May 2009 through a visit by Amnesty International. Though he was also cleared of all charges on 5 August 2009, he was not released until March 2010.

• Issa el-Sweihdi, Umran’s brother, was captured by American forces in Iraq in 2006 and handed to Libyan authorities. His family remains unaware of his whereabouts (AI, 2010).

Impunity of security forces and government officials
Government officials and security forces act with impunity throughout the society. Since the laws stipulating criminal penalties for official corruption are unclear and inconsistently applied government officials act with impunity. Security forces have committed serious human rights abuses with impunity, including lengthy extralegal detentions. They intimidate, harass and detain individuals without formal charges and hold them indefinitely without court convictions, particularly in cases involving the political opposition. Officials regularly enjoy impunity from criminal acts committed while performing their duties (AI, 2010; HRW, 2009).

One major example of impunity is the authority’s reaction to the June 1996 protests by prisoners at Tripoli’s Abu Salim Prison when security forces massacred some 1200 inmates. To date no one has been held accountable.

The Human Rights Watch Truth and Justice report states, “the jurisdiction of courts, the duties of government agencies, respect for legal rights of prisoners and adherence to the country’s stated list of human rights often remain murky, erratic and contradictory” (p. 2).

According to ‘Libya of Tomorrow,’ published in 2010 by Amnesty International, “perpetrators of human rights violations enjoy total impunity and some continue to occupy official positions” therefore preventing “hope that such violations will never be repeated...victims and survivors from healing and rebuilding their lives” (p. 67).
Refugees, asylum seekers and illegal migrants
Libya is not party to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol but is party to the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of the Refugee Problem in Africa. States party to this convention agree to cooperate with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and agree that the convention is the regional compliment to the 1951 Refugees Convention. Domestic laws do not make a distinction between refugees as separate from migrants. Therefore, refugees and asylum seekers are subject to the same laws as illegal migrants who are regularly held in detention (U.S. Dept. of State 2009, 2010).

Most refugees, migrants and asylum-seekers in Libya are from sub-Saharan African countries, some from countries neighboring Libya and some from south-east Asia. Some seek jobs in Libya while others try to pass through the country en route to Europe. Asylum-seekers and migrants live in constant fear of being arrested, held indefinitely in overcrowded detention centers, can be beaten and abused, and can be returned to their home country where they might face persecution and torture (AI, 2010).

In September 2009, Human Rights Watch published Pushed Back Pushed Around describing the negative impact “The Treaty of Friendship, Partnership and Cooperation between the Italian Republic and Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya” was having on the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. The Treaty calls for increasing cooperation in “fighting terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and illegal immigration (p. 16). Under the agreement patrols return interdicted migrants to Libya where detention centers swell beyond their capacity. HRW criticized the interdiction program for putting migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in inhuman and degrading conditions in overcrowded detention centers where they also faced abuse by the authorities (HRW, 2009).

Libya argues that it is caught between pressures from Europe to reduce the tide of migration and difficulties in controlling their own long, porous land border. Amnesty International quotes a Libyan official at a news conference in Malta in January 2011, complaining that the EU wants Libya to stop the migration into Europe and when it does so, the EU then complains Libya is violating rights. The Maltese media quoted a Libyan official, “There are 6 million Libyans and we have 2 million illegal immigrants, this problem is really on the shoulders of the Libyan people.... We are working as guards to the EU, and Libya might not be able to continue doing this” (AI, 2009, p. 93).

Summary of Major Human Rights Situations in Libya

Abu Salim Prison massacre
One of Libya’s starkest violations of international human rights is the June 1996 Abu Salim Prison massacre where almost 1200 prisoners are believed to have been killed and their murders subsequently covered up by the Libyan government. Authorities have not released any account, and have held no one responsible (AI, 2010; HRW, 2009).

The official version of events as related by Muammar al-Qadhafi to Amnesty International in 2004 was that a prison guard was killed by prisoners as he handed out food. The prisoners took the guard’s keys, opened more cells and a group of prisoners attacked and killed several more guards. Police were called, and as prisoners, guards and police exchanged fire, casualties resulted on both sides (AI, 2010).

As of 2009, the Libyan government has offered monetary compensation to families of US$162,000 to families who agree to drop all legal claims (HRW, 2010).
Amnesty International points out that the killings at Abu Salim are a violation of Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Libya is a state party of the ICCPR.

Amnesty International, in its 2010 “Libya of Tomorrow” report states that is believes that “those killed in Abu Salim Prison were victims of extrajudicial executions” (p.69). Amnesty goes on to state that former prisoners report many of those killed on 28 June were unlawfully killed by Libyan security forces the day after the as punishment for rioting (AI, 2010).

**Bulgarian nurses and Palestinian doctor**

One case that received a great deal of international attention was the situation of the 5 Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor who were sentenced to death by a firing squad for having knowingly infected hundreds of children in a Benghazi hospital with HIV in 1998. On 19 December 2006 they were sentenced to death by a firing squad for the second time, (AI, 2010). However, on 17 July the High Judicial Council overturned this decision and commuted the death sentences to life imprisonment, after the families of those infected accepted a compensation deal reportedly worth US $1m per child (Europa 2010, 2011).

Bulgaria formally requested that the medics be allowed to serve out their sentences in Bulgaria and shortly later, at the end of July, the medics were released after intense negotiations (HRW, 2009). Two days later, all 6 medics landed in Bulgaria and were immediately pardoned by President Parvanov (Europa 2010, 2011).

In August the Bulgarian Government announced that it would waive Libya’s $56.6m debt accrued during the Soviet era, and divert the funds into treatment for the children infected by HIV and compensation for their families. All the while, both the EU and France denied having made any financial deal to procure the medics’ release (Europa 2010, 2011).

In an 8 August 2006 interview with Al Jazeera, Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi said, "Regarding the Bulgarian nurses, I am convinced there was negligence and poor medical services, but that there was no premeditation" on the part of the Libyan authorities. He said the medics’ case was "manipulated" by "police officers who conducted the investigation." He also accused foreign countries of using the medics' case to "blackmail" Libya: "the Europeans and the Americans... began to say [Libya] should release the Bulgarian nurses now against [Libyan] law and that they do not care about [Libyan] courts... consequently, this is a kind of blackmail" (U.S. Dept. of State, 2008)).

In 2008, Ashrf Ahmad Jum’a al-Hajuj, the Palestinian doctor, filed suit in France and at the UN Human Rights Commission, charging that he was repeatedly tortured during his detention. He testified that his torture included rape by a German shepherd, electric shocks and his fingernails were ripped off. He also explained that he witnessed the Bulgarian nurses being tortured. He said most of the torture occurred during the early period after his imprisonment in 1999. The case is awaiting action by the French court (U.S. Dept. of State, 2010).

**Pan Am flight 103 bombing**

In July 1996, the U.S. Congress unanimously approved the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA), aimed at weakening the Libyan economy as a penalty for their alleged support of international terrorism. ILSA put sanctions on any non-U.S. country investing more than US$40m (subsequently revised to $20m) in Libya’s oil and gas industry in any one year. In July 1997, a Libyan UN representative announced that Libya intends to no longer respect those sanctions (Europa 2010, 2011).

Lockeberie hearings in the trial of Fhimah and al-Megrahi began on 3 May 2000 and ended in November after 73 days of evidence and submissions from more than 230 witnesses. In early 2000, three Scottish judges unanimously found al-Megrahi guilty of murder of 270 people and sentenced him to life in prison with a recommendation that he serve a minimum of 20 years; Fhimah was acquitted for lack of evidence. Al-Megrahi was charged on three counts: murder, conspiracy to murder and contravention of the 1982 Aviation Security Act sanctions (Europa, 2010).

In March 2003, in London, an agreement was reached between Libyan, British and U.S. negotiators whereby Libya took responsibility for the actions of its officials in the Lockerbie affair and agreed to pay US$10m in compensation to each victim’s family sanctions (Europa, 2010).

In letter to the UN Security Council on 15 August 2003 Libya accepted responsibility for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. The Council then lifted the sanctions on 12 December and the U.S. restored diplomatic ties with Libya and removed it from its list of state-sponsored terrorist states (UN Security Council Report, 2011).

On 25 July 2009, al-Megrahi applied for early release on compassionate grounds, claiming he had terminal prostate cancer. He was released and flown to Libya on 20 August 2009 (Europa 2010, 2011).

**UTA flight 772 bombing**

In 1989, a French UTA airliner exploded over Niger, killing the 170 people on board and the U.S. and France identified Qadhafi as the suspect. Six Libyans were charged in the bombing and France and Libya agreed to try them in absentia in 1998. In March of the next year, the 6 Libyans were found guilty in absentia after a three-day trial in Paris, France, and sentenced to life in prison. France issued arrest warrants and demanded Libya to imprison them.

In July 1999, Libya paid more than US$31m in compensation to the families of the 70 people killed in the bombing of the French UTA airliner as ‘an acknowledgement by the Libyan authorities of the responsibility of their citizens. In October 2000, the French Court of Appeal ruled that Qadhafi could be prosecuted in France for complicity in the bombing. However, on 13 March 2001, the Court of Cassation in Paris overturned the ruling on grounds that as head of state, Qadhafi had immunity from such action (Europa 2010, 2011).

**Libya’s current conflict situation**

On 15 February 2011 demonstrations began in Benghazi and continued over the next 6 days throughout the country. Tens of thousands are estimated to have demonstrated. On 21 February, Libya’s deputy permanent representative Ibrahim Dabbashi, publically broke from Qadhafi’s regime, reporting the regime’s use of mercenaries to quell demonstrations program. The next day Qadhafi’s use of force was condemned by the Arab League, the African Union and the UN Security Council. Shortly thereafter, the Council passed resolution 1970 which called for Libya to immediately end the violence, and
implemented an arms embargo, a travel ban, an asset freeze and called for a commission of inquiry to investigate the situation (Security Council Report, 2011).

The rebel groups established the Transitional National Council in Benghazi on 27 February and a few days later the UN General Assembly suspended Libya from the Human Rights Council. After Council deliberations and after the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Organization of the Islamic and the Arab League issued statements supporting the no-fly zone over Libya, the Security Council, on 17 March, adopted Resolution 1973 which authorized all necessary measures—excluding an occupation force—to protect the civilians.

France hosted a meeting in Paris two days later and they, the UK and the U.S. began carrying out strikes to enforce the no-fly zone (Security Council Report, 2011). Qadhafi forces engaged in fierce fighting with the opposition in many major cities and towns and civilians took the brunt of the hostilities (UN News Service, 2011).

In early April The Economist reported that the people in Benghazi were getting anxious and even angry as they feared that outsiders, including NATO, might lose enthusiasm for their cause and they begin to fear that the military stalemate might last for months. All the while, courts started functioning again, rebels set up an embryonic intelligence service, the Transitional National Council created a new legislature with a crisis-management committee as its government, but it is not always clear who was in charge or where lines of command were being drawn (The Economist, 2011).

On 27 April, the 3 UN investigators arrived in Libya and began to visit prisons, hospitals and areas where rights abuses may have occurred. The team asked about indiscriminate bombings of civilians, civilian causalities, torture and the use of mercenaries and other related questions. The commissioners are to submit their report to the UN Human Rights Council in June (guardian.co.uk, 2011).

On 11 May, CNN reported that 4 rockets had hit the same compound where on 1 May, the Libyan government said another attack had killed Qadhafi's son Saif al-Arab Qadhafi and three of the leader's grandchildren. CNN also reported that 2 months of fighting and the ongoing shelling of the Misrata port prevented most aid ships from docking there, which raised major humanitarian concerns (Ahmed, 2011).

On 16 May 2011 prosecutors at the International Criminal Court (ICC) asked the court’s judges to issue arrest warrants for Libyan leader Muammar al-Qadhafi, his son Saif al-Islam Qadhafi and the intelligence chief Abdullah Al Sanousi, accusing them of committing crimes against humanity during the ongoing Libyan conflict. Chief prosecutor Mr. Moreno-Ocampo explained that his office had evidence documenting how the three men held meetings to plan operations. Government troops had attacked civilians in their homes, repressed protests using live ammunition, deployed heavy artillery against people in funeral processions and placed snipers to kill people as they left mosques after prayers.

Judges have to decide to accept the arrest warrant request from prosecutors, reject it or ask for more evidence (UN News Centre, 2011).
Libya: Government Structure

Qadhafi constantly revises his national and sub-national government structure. His strategy of frequent re-balancing of roles and responsibilities of his lieutenants makes it difficult for outsiders to understand Libya’s government structure. Political leaders frequently hold overlapping portfolios and switch roles suggesting that relationships are often more important than official titles.

Libya was governed by a king until 1 September 1961 when Muammar al Qadhafi and his Free Officers Movement overthrew the Sanusi constitutional and hereditary monarchy and established the new republic proclaiming the start of the Green Revolution. The revolution led by Qadhafi introduced fundamental changes to the way Libya was ruled. Qadhafi rejected capitalism and Marxism ideology and introduced his Third Universal Theory, an elaborative and evolving normative political ideology explained in his three-volume text, The Green Book, that today has 3 parts:

- "The Solution to Democratic Problems," published in 1975;
- "The Solution to the Economic Problem," in 1977; and

Qadhafi’s political ideology is based on his strong sense of Arab nationalism influenced by Nassirism philosophy and Islamic thought and grounded in part in the radical strain of Western democratic thought associated primarily with Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s concept of general will and direct popular rule that defines democracy as “the supervision of the people by the people.” Qadhafi’s ideology is presented as an alternative to capitalism and Marxism and governs his decisions and policies. According to Country Studies Report U.S. on Libya, “while Qadhafi's policy making has been unpredictable, it has not been random or capricious.” His policies and actions are grounded on principles and ideologies outlined in his book, which are experimental at best.

Qadhafi hoped to institute Direct Democracy in which citizens govern themselves through grass-roots activism without representation through political parties or other organized groups and agencies with vested interest in power such as political, tribal, religious, racial, or others. The unconventional ideology Qadhafi intended to implement as Direct Democracy required altering and dismantling conventional governmental and social structures. Qadhafi launched a Cultural Revolution in 1973, instituted “people’s power” in 1975 and proclaimed that Libya was “a state of the masses” (Al-Jamaheriah al-Libyah) in 1977. To demonstrate his commitment to decentralization, Qadhafi took in 1979 the title, Leader of the Revolution, and officially relinquished his own formal governmental position. His goal was to replace the official traditional leaders with skilled administrators that are capable of mobilizing the Libyan masses into full participation and self determination, free of the boundaries of class, tribal loyalties, and religious clusters. Qadhafi’s problem was in implementation.

To implement his political ideology, Qadhafi needed to create administrative structures. Since his theory was experimental, he superimposed the new structure upon existing institutions creating elaborate and complex bureaucratic structure instead of dismantling the government.

In addition to creating overlapping bureaucracies, the changes that Qadhafi introduced led to undermining the power of traditional elite groups that drew their authority from representing the various political, religious or tribal groups of society. The weakening of these groups eliminated the
potential challenge to Qadhafi’s leadership, by eliminating possible rivals and competitions. This positioned Qadhafi as the country's strongman, the focal point of power and authority figure in Libya.

The following are some of the legislative and political structures in Qadhafi’s government:

- The General People’s Congress (GPC), was in 1987 the primary formal instrument of government representing both an executive and legislative body, which convened 3 times annually. It was headed by a small General Secretariat composed primarily of members of the former Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). The Council was abolished in 1977.
- A General People’s Committee performed the function of a cabinet, replacing the old Council of Ministers.
- Sub-national representation and participation were accomplished through three roughly parallel and overlapping structures:
  - People’s committees that were organized at the basic (urban ward or rural village) and municipal levels
  - Arab Socialist Union (ASU), the only authorized political mass organization
  - Basic Popular Congress (BPC)
  - Revolutionary Committees organized both geographically and functionally.

The lines of authority and responsibility among these four bodies were overlapping and unclear, which occasionally caused intense competition and rivalry within the government and increased bureaucracy. Qadhafi established grass-roots operations with systematic structures and well-developed representation, but left a political vacuum on the national level which Qadhafi, his children and loyalists filled.

Below are the functions of the Libyan government branches:

- **Permanent General Secretariat** functions at the national level, oversees the General People's Committee, a General Secretariat, and the General People’s Congress.
- **General People’s Congress** convenes annually, appoints the General People’s Committee, and adopts resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses but has neither independent budgetary authority nor oversight of the armed forces.
- **Some 453 Basic People’s Congresses** meet quarterly to discuss an agenda pre-determined by Qadhafi. Each Basic People’s Congress elects a secretariat and a collection of People’s Committees, which are diverse in function, focusing upon issues such as public works and health. All votes are cast in open ballots, allowing the state to identify dissent.
- **General People’s Committee** oversees the various secretariats which, in effect, act as a council of ministries.
- **Revolutionary committees** monitor the Basic People's Congresses and People's Committees and report to Qadhafi via a Permanent Revolutionary Committee. According to the U.S. State Department, 10 to 20 percent of Libyans work in surveillance for these committees; Qadhafi has embedded revolutionary committees throughout government, in factories, and in the education sector (Metz, 1987).
Libya: Selected State Laws

A number of laws criminalize freedom of association and freedom of expression, including peaceful activities. Certain proclamations begin to give a “right” but, in the next phrase limit that right. For example, the Constitution Proclamation, Article 13 states that: “freedom of opinion is guaranteed within the limits of public interest and the principles of the revolution.” The state security forces and judges can interpret a person’s actions in any number of ways: what is “limits of public interest” and what are the “principles of the revolution? Such vague language has been interpreted in many ad hoc ways by the authorities (AI, 2010).

Following is a list of several Libyan laws cited by NGOs.

Mar 1997 Law of Collective Punishment institutes a system of punishment for wrongdoing, whereby families, towns and municipalities are held responsible for the actions of individuals in their midst (Eljahmi, 2009).


Law 71 of 1972 Bans any group activity that opposes the ideology of the 1969 revolution (HWR, 2009, p. 27;)
Article 3: imposes the death penalty on anyone who forms, joins or supports groups prohibited by law (AI, 2010, p. 33).

Law 52 of 1974 Establishes the punishment for defamation; those accused of defamation are to receive 80 whip lashes (ANRHI, 2010).

Law 80 of the 1975 Penal Code stipulates the death penalty for offenses against the security of the state (U.S. Dept of State, 2010, n.p.)

Law 10 of 1993 Concerns purging, which means amputating the limbs of those who oppose Qadhafi. (ANRHI, 2010).

Law 19 “On Associations” requires a political body to approve all organizations and permits the government to interfere in how the group is run. The government can suspend the organization without cause and at any time (HWR, 2009, p.28)

Article 178 of the penal code: orders life in prison for the dissemination of information considered to “tarnish [the country’s] reputation or undermine confidence in it abroad” (HRW, 2009, p. 22)

Article 208 of the penal code: imposes the death penalty for “whoever spreads within the country, by whatever means, theories or principles aiming to change the basic principles of the Constitution or the fundamental structures of the social system or to overthrow the state’s political, social or economic structures or destroy any of the fundamental structures of the social system using violence, terrorism or any other unlawful means” (HRW, 2009, p. 22)

World Engagement Institute (WEI) - May 2011
Law 20 of 1998 On Enhancing Freedom, Article 8: states that “every citizen has the right to openly express his thoughts and opinions in the People’s Congresses and in the Jamahiriya [mass] media,” unless “he uses [that right] in violation of the people’s authority or for personal motives” (HRW, 2009, p. 25).

New draft penal code still retains provisions that violate freedom of association:

**Article 166:** criminalizes the establishment of any organization that is “against the Jamajirya system” or “threatening its popular authority,” and does not define what this means (HWR, 2009, p. 30).

**Article 169** Limits freedom to join or establish an international organization unless government approval is obtained, but there are no criteria for such permission (HWR, 2009, p. 30).
Libya: Time Line

21 Dec 1951  Libya issues formal declaration of independence with Idris as King (Europa 2010, 2011).

14 Dec 1955  Libya joins the United Nations UN (UN, 2006).

1959  Oil is discovered (Europa, 2010).

1 Sept 1969  Muammar al-Qadhafi and other "Free Unionist Officers" overthrow constitutional monarchy of King Idris, nullify all constitutional protections, and announce their Revolutionary Command Council to be the highest authority in Libya. 12-man Revolution Command Council (RCC) holds supreme power – proclaims Libyan Arab Republic; RCC chairman, Qadhafi becomes head of government and Commander-in-Chief of the army (Europa 2010, 2011). Qadhafi is now referred to as the "Brother Leader and Guide of the Revolution" in government statements and the official Libyan press (U.S. Dept. of State, Background Note, 2010).

Dec 1969  Egyptian intelligence helps disrupt a plot by the Libyan defense and interior ministers to overthrow the Libyan regime (Eljahmi, 2006).

Dec 1969  Revolutionary Command Council issues “Law for the Protection of the Revolution,” making it a criminal offense to proselytize against the state, to arouse class hatred, to spread falsehood, or to participate in strikes and demonstrations. The Revolutionary Command Council gains total public control over Libya. Qadhafi assumes formal control as both prime minister and defense minister. He keeps most authority within his family and closest associates (Eljahmi, 2006).

1970s early  U.S. officials say that Qadhafi established terrorist training camps in Libya, provided arms to terrorist groups and offered haven to terrorists. Qadhafi aided groups including the Irish Republican Army, Spain’s ETA, Italy’s Red Brigades, and the Palestine Liberation Organization. Libya was also suspected of attempting to assassinate the leaders of Chad, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia and Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo). [Council of Foreign Relations. (2007, October 16). Retrieved from http://www.cfr.org/libya/libya-got-off-list/p10855].


June 1971  Arab Socialist Union (ASU) established as Libya’s sole political party (Europa 2010, 2011).

15 Apr 1973  Qadhafi delivers "Five-Point Address." Announces the suspension of all existing laws and implementation of Sharia. Five Points:
- suspension of all existing laws and implementation of Shari'a (Islamic law)
- purging the country of the politically sick
- creation of a people's militia to protect the revolution
- administrative revolution; and
- cultural revolution (Eljahmi, 2006).


1, 18 Apr 1977  The Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya informs the Secretary-General that the official designation Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (short title: Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) should be substituted for Libyan Arab Republic. (Before 6 January 1971: Libya.) (UN, 2008).

1986  Country name changes to Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (Europa 2010, 2011).

1986  Libya sponsors the bombing of a popular Berlin disco visited by U.S. servicemen, killing 2 U.S. soldiers (Kaplan, 2007).


21 Dec 1988  Bomb on Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland explodes killing all 259 people on board and 11 people on the ground (Europa 2010, 2011).


Aug 1990  Libya and Chad agree to take their dispute over the Aozou strip to International Court of Justice (ICJ) (Europa 2010, 2011).

21 Jan 1992  Security Council adopts resolution 731 by unanimous vote, demanding the extradition of the Lockerbie suspects to the U.S. or the UK and Libya’s full co-operation with France’s inquiry into the 1989 UTA airliner bombing (Europa 2010, 2011).


Western media reports elements loyal to Qadhafi suppresses attempted military coup d’etat that included the Warfallah tribe. Qadhafi reshuffled the government, arrests many people accompanied by public “confessions” from regime opponents and there are allegations of torture and executions. Qadhafi begins to purge the military periodically to eliminate potential rivals and installs his own loyal followers. (U.S. Dept. of State, Background Note, 2010.)

UN Security Council adopts Resolution 883: imposes new sanctions on Libya: Freezes all Libyan assets abroad, but not earnings from hydrocarbon exports; bans sale to Libya of certain equipment for downstream oil and gas sectors, more restrictions on Libyan civil aviation, close all Libyan Arab Airlines offices abroad. These come into force on 1 Dec 1993.

Qadhafi response to Resolution 883: rejects all further negotiations with UN and Western powers on Lockerbie affair (Europa 2010, 2011).

ICJ rules against Libya’s claim to Aozou strip (Europa 2010, 2011).

OAU adopts resolution urging UN Security Council to revoke sanctions it imposed on Libya (Europa 2010, 2011).

Qadhafi defies UN sanctions by ordering Libyan aircraft carrying 150 pilgrims to leave Tripoli for Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. UN immediately condemns Libyan action as a ‘flagrant violation of the UN air embargo’ and criticizes Egypt and Saudi Arabia for their involvement (Europa 2010, 2011).

Qadhafi violates UN sanctions by flying to Cairo to attend an Arab League Summit (Europa 2010, 2011).

CIA repeats claims that Libya is developing a secret chemical plant at Tarhuna for manufacture of poison gas, to replace Raba facility, which was destroyed by fire in 1990. Libya denies existence of a chemical weapons facility at Tarhuna, claiming the plant is part of ‘Great Man-made River’ project designed to transport water from aquifers deep in the Sahara to the Mediterranean coastlands (Europa 2010, 2011).

Human Rights Watch estimates that 1200 prisoners are killed at Abu Salim prison in Tripoli. HRW reports from their interview with Hussein al-Shafai'i, a former prisoner who was working in the kitchen, that hundreds of prisoners escaped their cells and were angry over restricted family visits and poor living conditions. Security forces massacred prisoners over the 2 days (HRW, 2009).

U.S. Congress unanimously approves Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA), aiming to weaken Libyan economy as a penalty for their alleged support of international terrorism. Put sanctions on any non-U.S. country investing more than US$40m (subsequently revised to $20m) in Libya’s oil and gas industry in any one year. European governments lodged protest with World Trade Organization (Europa 2010, 2011).
July 1996  Tripoli’s football stadium: Saadi Qadhafi’s bodyguards fire on fans when they begin to chant anti-Government slogans after a referee rules in favor of a team sponsored by Saadi. Western diplomatic reports state 20 to 50 people killed; official Libyan report claims 8 people killed (Europa 2010, 2011).


Feb 1997  Ministerial Council of the OAU meets at Tripoli: calls for an end to UN sanctions against Libya and group established to mediate between Libya and Western States to resolve the Lockerbie affair (Europa 2010, 2011).

Apr 1997  U.S. and EU come to agreement to limit impact of Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) on EU countries (Europa 2010, 2011).

July 1997  Libyan UN representative announces that Libya intends to no longer respect those sanctions (Europa 2010, 2011).

July 1997  Arab League proposes that the 2 Libyan suspects in Lockerbie affair be tried by Scottish judges under Scottish law in a neutral country (Europa 2010, 2011).

Sept 1997  Arab League urges relaxation of air embargo on Libya and votes to defy UN sanctions by permitting aircraft carrying Qadhafi and other flights for religious or humanitarian purposes to land on their territory relaxation (Europa 2010, 2011).

Sept 1997  U.S. CIA report alleges that Kikhia was kidnapped by Egyptian agents while in Cairo and extradited to Libya where he was murdered (Europa 2010, 2011).

Oct 1997  UK asks UN to send envoys to examine Scottish legal system (Europa 2010, 2011).


Dec 1997  UN issues report stating Libyan Lockerbie suspects would receive a fair trial under Scottish system (Europa 2010, 2011).


1998  France and Libya agree that the 6 Libyans implicated in 1989 UTA airliner bombing over Niger can be tried in absentia (Europa 2010, 2011).

Feb 1998  RE: Lockerbie bombing: ICJ rules that it is competent to rule on Libya’s complaints that the U.S. and UK were acting unlawfully by insisting on extradition of the 2 Libyan suspects.
- U.S. and UK attempt to prevent the case from being heard, claiming that intervening UN Security Council resolutions had rendered it unnecessary.
- Libya declares the ICJ ruling gives its claims legitimacy and that UN sanctions should now be disregarded.

World Engagement Institute (WEI) - May 2011
March 1998: Sanctions are renewed.

April 1998: Representatives for families of British victims of Lockerbie bombing and Scottish law professor meet with Qadhafi; he agrees to try the 2 Libyan suspects in The Hague (Europa 2010, 2011).

Aug 1998 UN Security Council unanimously approves Resolution 1192 allowing lifting of UN sanctions against Libya as soon as the 2 suspects in the Lockerbie bombing are surrendered for trial (Europa 2010, 2011).

Apr 1998 Representatives for families of British victims of Lockerbie bombing and Scottish law professor meet with Qadhafi; he agrees to try the 2 Libyan suspects in The Hague (Europa 2010, 2011).

June 1998 OAU votes to cease to comply with UN sanctions against Libya beginning in September, unless U.S. and UK agree to a trial in a neutral third country, and authorizes flights to Libya on humanitarian, religious or diplomatic missions with immediate effect (Europa 2010, 2011).


Oct 1998 After Arab League meeting in Cairo in which fellow Arab states decide not to challenge UN sanctions, Qadhafi announces that he is turning his back on pan-Arab ideas, which had been one of the fundamental tenets of his philosophy.

U.S. Department of State notes that Libya then pursues closer bilateral ties with neighbors Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco, and greater Africa. It also develops relations with Sub-Saharan Africa, leading to involvement in several internal African disputes in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Mauritania, Somalia, Central African Republic, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. Libya also sought to expand its influence in Africa through financial assistance, granting aid donations to impoverished neighbors such as Niger and oil subsidies to Zimbabwe, and through participation in the African Union. In recent years, Libya has played a helpful role in facilitating the provision of humanitarian assistance to Darfur refugees in Chad, contributing to efforts to forge a ceasefire between Chad and Sudan, and bringing an end to the conflict in Darfur (U.S. Dept. of State, Background Note, 2010.)


1999 Libyan government arrests 5 Bulgarian-born nurses and a Palestinian-born doctor and charges them with deliberately infecting several hundred children with blood products contaminated with the HIV virus, thereby causing their deaths at El-Fatih Children’s Hospital in Benghazi. Group is sentenced to death.

Lawyers for the nurses and doctor argue that their clients were charged to cover up the lack of sterilization of instruments at the hospital (Europa 2010, 2011).
Six Libyans accused of 19 September 1989 bombing of French UTA flight 772 over Niger are found guilty in absentia after a three-day trial in Paris, France, and sentenced to life in prison. France issues arrest warrants and demands Libya to imprison them. But, this is unlikely since one is Qadhafi’s brother-in-law (Europa 2010, 2011).

Libya pays more than US$31m in compensation to families of the 70 people killed in the 1989 bombing of the French UTA airliner as ‘an acknowledgement by the Libyan authorities of the responsibility of their citizens’ (Europa 2010, 2011).

UK announces it is resuming full diplomatic relations with Libya after a rupture of 15 years after Qadhafi said he accepts Libya’s ‘general responsibility’ for the murder of British police officer Yvonne Fletcher outside the Libyan people’s bureau in London in 1984. Qadhafi expresses ‘deep regret’ for the incident and offers to pay compensation to the woman’s family. In November, UK confirms compensation (estimated at £250,000) has been paid (Europa 2010, 2011).

In a joint statement issued at the end of a visit to Tripoli by Italian Prime Minister, Massimo D’Alema: "The 2 sides [Italy and Libya] underscored the need to deny aid and protection to those responsible for terrorist acts and expressed the hope that further measures of co-operation can be adapted to prevent, contain and repress such acts." (BBC News). (http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/548303.stm)

Lockerbie hearings in trial of Fhimah and al-Megrahi begin; they are charged on three counts: murder, conspiracy to murder and contravention of the 1982 Aviation Security Act (Europa 2010, 2011).

Six opposition groups, including the NFSL and the Libyan Islamic Group (LIG), meet to discuss joint action against Qadhafi regime; cooperation is unlikely (Europa 2010, 2011).

Trial ends after 73 days of evidence and submissions from more than 230 witnesses (Europa 2010, 2011).

French Court of Appeal rules that Qadhafi can be prosecuted in France for complicity in the 1989 UTA airliner bombing. 13 March 2001: Court of Cassation in Paris overturns the ruling on grounds that as head of state Qadhafi had immunity from such action (Europa 2010, 2011).

Lockerbie trial: Three Scottish judges unanimously find al-Megrahi guilty of murder of 270 people and sentence him to life in prison with recommendation that he serve minimum of 20 years; Fhimah is acquitted for lack of evidence (Europa 2010, 2011).

German court sentences a German woman, 2 Palestinians and a Libyan to prison terms of 12-18 years for carrying out a bomb attack on a West Berlin discothèque in April 1986 (Europa 2010, 2011).
According to a 2002 article by Dr. Youssef Al-Maqreef, former head of the Accounting Department and Libya's ambassador to India, the Libyan regime spent no less than 40% of Libya's oil revenues on hoarding weapons and military expenses following the revolution. Abdel-Salam Jalloud, in a speech he gave in Sirte on the 20th anniversary of the coup in early April 1989 (known as Loyalty Day), said that the regime had spent 22% of Libya's oil revenues (about US$44 billion) on funding and supporting the international revolution movement since the coups. He added that Qadhafi was not happy to spend such a small amount on liberation movements.

Qadhafi helped fund and support operations and movements in over 40 Arab, African, Asian and European countries and about 127 operations. This resulted in about 50 Arab, African, Asian, European and American countries cutting or freezing diplomatic relations with the Libyan regime (ANRHI, 2010).

Human Rights Watch criticizes appointment of Qadhafi to the NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) steering group, stating that while the new group was committed to promoting human rights and good governance, Libya has a long record of human rights abuses (Europa 2010, 2011).

London: agreement between Libyan, British and U.S. negotiators reached whereby Libya takes responsibility for the actions of its officials in the Lockerbie affair and agrees to pay US$10m in compensation to each victim’s family. Payment to be made in 3 stages:
- $4m to each family on the permanent lifting of UN sanctions
- $4m to each family after lifting of U.S. sanctions
- $2m to each family when Libya is removed from U.S. list of countries deemed to support terrorism
- If U.S. fails to carry out the second and third stages, then Libya would pay a total of $5m to each family (Europa 2010, 2011).

U.S. Department of State Patterns of Global Terrorism 2003: “In 2002, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi continued the efforts he undertook following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks to identify Libya with the war on terrorism and the struggle against Islamic extremism... Libya appears to have curtailed its support for international terrorism, although it may maintain residual contacts with some of its former terrorist clients.” Qadhafi never supported al-Qaida (p. 80).

Abdurahman Alamoudi, Muslim lobbyist, active in several Muslim political and charitable groups in U.S., arrested in Washington, DC after officials at London’s Heathrow Airport discovered he was carrying US$340,000 which he admitted having received from the Libyan Government. He is charged with aiding and abetting terrorism, illegally funding U.S. pressure groups with laundered money from Libya and Saudi Arabia and financing terrorists in Syria and the U.S. (Europa 2010, 2011).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2003</td>
<td>IAEA, after visits to 4 secret nuclear sites in Libya, announces that Libya had been in very early stages of a weapons program. Libya states that it wishes to ‘accelerate to the maximum’ the dismantling of its weapons programmes (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Dec 2003</td>
<td>Libya announces that it will destroy all its Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs), end all programs to develop them and limit its long missiles, comply with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Biological Weapons Convention and sign the Atomic Energy Agency Additional Protocol and adhere to the Chemicals Weapons Convention (HRW, 2009).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>EU foreign ministers state that for Libya to improve relations with them it needs to improve human rights and notes serious obstacles to freedom of speech and association, credible reports of the torture of suspects, judicial errors and inhumane conditions of detention (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Qadhafi allows Amnesty International into Libya for first time. After AI’s inspection, Qadhafi announces that emergency laws imposed by people’s courts would be abolished and that Libya would adopt ‘normal criminal law procedure.’ Says that Libya will ‘play a leading international role in defending human rights’ and signs an international treaty banning torture (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2004       | Confidential IAEA report states that Libya had started developing nuclear weapons in the 1980s; and later scientists at the Tajura nuclear reaction plant succeeded in extracting small quantities of plutonium from uranium. In 1997 Libya began to procure parts and build centrifuges to enrich uranium and by 2002 was preparing to establish a plant to make centrifuge components that could not be gotten from abroad.  
  - Feb 2004: el-Baradei praises Libya for its cooperation and reports that Libya wishes to develop a civil nuclear energy program with assistance from the UK. Shortly thereafter, teams from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons oversaw the dismantling of their chemical weapons program, which would take 2 years (Europa 2010, 2011). |
| Jan 2004   | President Bush confirms that while Libya has made recent ‘positive developments’ U.S. sanctions will remain; some economic restrictions are lifted by U.S. in September (Europa 2010, 2011). |
| Feb 2004   | U.S. lifts travel ban on U.S. citizens visiting Libya and Bush Administration announces that U.S. oil companies operating in Libya before U.S. sanctions can now begin to negotiate their return, pending the lifting of sanctions (Europa 2010, 2011). |
March 2004  U.S. Congress delegation visits Libya and conducts talks with Qadhafi. Shortly thereafter, Tony Blair visits Libya; Qadhafi says he shares international concerns about al-Qa’ida (Europa 2010, 2011).

23 March 2004  Seif al-Islam Qadhafi interview with Al-Hayat: states that Libya has to become open, democratic; people want development, democracy, human rights and freedoms. Says that there is no real opposition to reforms and openness (Europa, 2010).

April 2004  Libya announces that investigation into the shooting of Yvonne Fletcher in London would be conducted under Libyan law and led by both a senior Libyan magistrate and senior detective from the Metropolitan Police, London (Europa 2010, 2011).

April 2004  Qadhafi visits Brussels at invitation of European Commission. States that Libya in the past had led liberation movements in Africa and developing countries, but now decided to lead the peace process all over the world. Said U.S. and all countries should give up weapons of mass destruction (Europa 2010, 2011).

22 April 2004  U.S. lifts majority of sanctions against Libya and would no longer oppose Libya’s accession to the WTO and will work to build diplomatic relations. Although liaison offices are set up in Tripoli and Washington, DC, the U.S. keeps certain sanctions while Libya continues to be designated a ‘state sponsor of terrorism’ and hundreds of millions of dollars in the U.S. remains frozen (Europa 2010, 2011).

April 2004  During a visit by Amnesty International Qadhafi makes first official acknowledgement that the killings that had taken place in Abu Salim prison (AI, 2010).

June 2004  U.S. formally re-establishes diplomatic relations with Libya and opens the U.S. liaison office in Tripoli (Europa 2010, 2011).

July 2004  Italy claims 2 million African citizens were in Libya waiting to be smuggled into Europe. Libya claims that the embargo prevents it from purchasing planes, helicopters, etc. to move the Africans, so Italy works to lift sanctions which are lifted in September. Italy sells planes, boats, helicopters and jeeps to Libya. In October Italy begins to deport to Libya over 1,000 illegal immigrants who recently arrived on the Italian island of Lampedusa. UNHCR expresses concern about the fate of illegal immigrants returned to Libya, noting that Libya has not signed the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees (Europa 2010, 2011).


Feb 2005  
Libya pays first 2 installments in the Lockerbie affair, but in February 2005 withdraws remaining US$536m from the holding account arguing that the time limit on the deal had expired. Although the U.S. removes Libya from the terrorism list in May 2006 Libya still refuses to pay the outstanding balance. In June 2007 Congress blocks release of funds requested by Bush Administration to develop ties with Libya (Europa 2010, 2011).

May 2005  
Qadhafi allows Human Rights Watch to visit Libya. HRW publishes report. HRW senior member authors article stating: Libya remains a closed tightly controlled society with no independent press and no civil society, no political groups that were not officially sanctioned; people are not allowed to criticize the Government, the political system or the leader; torture remains a serious problem; and cases of forced disappearances remained unresolved (Europa 2010, 2011).

June 2005  
London conference: approximately 300 exiled Libyans meet and issue a joint declaration: call for removal of Qadhafi and resurrection of 1951 constitution. State that armed conflict was not envisaged and will seek democratic change through peaceful means (Europa 2010, 2011).

Aug 2005  
U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, heads delegation visiting Tripoli and shortly thereafter Seif al-Islam Qadhafi states that full diplomatic relations will be established with the U.S. in ‘the next few days’ (Europa 2010, 2011).

Oct 2005  
Libya and UK sign memorandum of understanding (MOU) to allow deportation of Libyan nationals held in the UK on suspicion of involvement in terrorist activities. Libya gives assurance that deportees would be treated in a humane manner (Europa 2010, 2011).

Jan 2006  
Qadhafi gives son Seif permission to plan to allow privately owned newspapers and radio and television news organizations. Seif announces plans to create a satellite television channel and signs contracts to distribute over 50 international Arab publications in Libya without censorship (Europa 2010, 2011).

Jan 2006  
Libya closes its embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark in response to the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad (which is forbidden in Islamic tradition) in a Danish newspaper (Europa 2010, 2011).

Feb 2006  
British Secretary of State of the Home Department, Charles Clarke, visits Tripoli for talks with Libyan officials to develop greater cooperation on counter-terrorism and illegal immigration (Europa 2010, 2011).

May 2006  

15 May 2006  
U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announces that U.S. will re-establish full diplomatic relations with Libya, including opening an embassy in Tripoli (Europa 2010, 2011).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Human Rights Watch report: <em>Words to Deeds</em> describes areas where there has been some limited progress, such as freedom of expression, as well as areas that remain severely restricted, such as freedom of association. Also addresses how Internal Security Agency remains responsible for systematic violations of Libyan rights, including detention of political prisoners, enforced disappearances and deaths in custody. This report does not examine the treatment of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Libya (HRW, 2006).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Al-Ghad Foundation created and various media organs criticize government policies and officials (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>HRW presses government to allow full, independent investigation into deaths of hundreds of inmates at Abu Salim prison in Tripoli in 1996; alleged massacre was reported to have been caused by security forces opening fire on prisoners protesting against poor living conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2006</td>
<td>HRW report states government routinely subjects refugees and asylum-seekers to violence, arrest without due cause and forcible deportation; report urges European Union to apply pressure to Libya to protect rights of hundreds of thousands of foreigners residing in Libya (HRW, 2009).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2007</td>
<td>UK and Libya sign Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreeing to enhance bilateral scientific and technical cooperation (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2007</td>
<td>Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission grants al-Megrahi a second appeal, identifying 6 points during his original trial in 2001 that it believed might have constituted a miscarriage of justice (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2007</td>
<td>Libyan High Judicial Council commutes death sentences of 5 Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor, accused of deliberating infecting several hundred children with HIV and in prison since 1999. Libya compensated the victims’ families with US$1 million per child (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 July 2007</td>
<td>The 5 medics and the doctor found guilty of infecting more than 400 children with HIV contaminated products at El-Fatih Children’s Hospital in Benghazi are extradited to Bulgaria, where their sentences are commuted by the Bulgarian President and they were freed (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2007</td>
<td>Live speech on state television: Seif al-Islam Qadhafi, urges drafting of new constitution or “social contract” that would establish, <em>inter alia</em>, an independent central bank and free media and judiciary. He criticizes Libyan political system for its lack of a freely elected legislature, its refusal to allow creation of political parties and its ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
intolerance of political dissent, and calls for political power to be more widely distributed beyond the GPC and the General People's Committee (Europa 2010, 2011).


24 Oct 2007  UN Human Rights Committee finds Libya responsible for the unlawful detention, torture, and enforced disappearance of Abu Baker El Hassy, who had been arbitrarily arrested and detained in Abu Salim in 1995 and whose location remained unknown 11 years later when his brother brought the claim to the committee (Decision: El Hassy v. Libya, UN Human Rights Committee, CCPR/C91/D/1422/2005/October 24, 2007.) (HRW, 2009).

Dec 2007  Italy calls for implementation of accord between Libya and EU and establishes joint marine patrols to help counter illegal immigration (Europa 2010, 2011).

Feb 2008  European Commission announces it is looking to create formal framework for development of relations with Libya. Framework is to be built around EU's support for Libya’s economic and social reforms and aims to establish a free trade agreement, mainly to obtain petroleum and gas while Libya would be allowed greater access to sell fish and agricultural products to EU and get assistance to restore its archaeological sites. These negotiations were outside Euro-Mediterranean Partnership or Barcelona Process because Qadhafi resisted human rights and good governance conditions required for membership (Europa 2010, 2011).

26 July 2008  Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi gives a speech where he states that “investigations [into Abu Salim prison killings] are complete and have been submitted to prosecution. ..... There will be respectable and impartial judges, and the court will be attended by observers... All people will be attending: the families, the press and civil and human rights NGOs, ambassadors, and everyone will face the truth” (HRW, Truth and Justice Can’t Wait, p. 50). As of April 2011, this trial has not taken place (HRW, 2009).

Nov 2008  Tebu tribe in Kufra protest claiming their restrictions to health care and education are part of the Qadhafi government’s discrimination against indigenous peoples (Europa 2010, 2011).

Nov 2008  EU and Libya establish Comprehensive Framework Agreement to deepen relationship. Libya’s main point of contention with EU, especially Italy, is the issue of illegal immigration because Libya is the main transit point for African immigrants into Europe. Although the EU has given Libya equipment and financial support, Libya’s co-operation is erratic (Europa 2010, 2011).

22 Nov 2008  Agence France-Press becomes the first global news agency to formally open a bureau in Tripoli with an accredited correspondent (HRW, 2009).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 Feb 2009</td>
<td>International Herald Tribune and Newsweek are available in Tripoli for the first time in 25 years (HRW, 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2009</td>
<td>Italy representative Berlusconi ratifies Friendship, Partnership and Co-operation Treaty with Libya, in which Italy is to disburse a total of $5,000m to Libya in annual installments of $250m until 2028 to finance infrastructure projects which Italian companies will perform as payment for Italy’s control over Libya before WWII (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2009</td>
<td>Human Rights Watch conducts a 10-day visit to Libya and met with security and justice officials, visited Abu Salim prison and met with members of the Tripoli Bar Association, journalists and relatives of current and former political prisoners (HRW, 2009).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2009</td>
<td>Amnesty International report on human rights in Libya: violations continue; basic human freedoms remain severely restricted, such as expression, association and assembly (AI, 2009).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2009</td>
<td>Amnesty International conducts week-long visit to Libya, first such visit in 5 years. Itinerary is limited to Tripoli and a short visit to Misrata. Visit was facilitated by Qadhafi International Charity and Development Foundation (Qadhafi Development Foundation, GDF), which secured Amnesty’s access to a number of detention facilities (AI, 2010).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2009</td>
<td>Government abruptly nationalizes Al-Ghad and puts it under control of National Centre for Media Services which redrafts its editorial policy (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2009</td>
<td>Qadhafi visits Rome for first time and promises to give Italian companies priority to a Libyan government investment scheme worth €11,800m and promises that Libya would not ‘favor supplying gas and petrol to other countries if it is at Italy’s expense’ (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 June 2009</td>
<td>UN General Assembly elects former Libyan secretary for African Affairs Ali Treki President of its 64th session (HRW, 2009).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 2009</td>
<td>Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Kenny MacAskill states he is considering a request for release of Abd al-Baset al-Megrahi on compassion grounds. States Megrahi is suffering from terminal prostate cancer (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Aug 2009</td>
<td>MacAskill announces that al-Megrahi will be allowed to return to Libya. al-Megrahi receives celebrations when he arrives in Tripoli (Europa 2010, 2011).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sept 2009  Human Rights Watch publishes its report *Pushed Back Pushed Around* describing the negative impact on the rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants of the May 15, 2009 agreement between Libya and Italy to conduct joint naval patrols of the Libyan shores (HRW, 2009).

Oct 2009  Seif al-Islam Qadhafi appointed General Coordinator of the Popular Social Command of Libya, a group of regional tribal leaders. Seif now has powers akin to head of state, giving him nominal authority over legislative and executive branches. Next day: Seif al-Islam Qadhafi appointed as coordinator of social and popular committees – giving him the second most powerful position in Libyan leadership (Europa 2010, 2011).


Dec 2009  Qadhafi International Charity and Development Foundation (QDF), an NGO founded and chaired by Saif al-Islam al-Qadhafi, releases a report on human rights practices in Libya. In a statement accompanying the release, the QDF said during the year it had recorded "several flagrant violations" and received a "large number of complaints" of torture during imprisonment and called for the government to waive immunities from prosecution for officials accused of torture (U.S. Dept. of State, 2010)


June 2010  Libya announces it is to expel UN High Commissioner for Refugees this month. UNHCR takes care of thousands of asylum seekers from sub-Saharan Africa who entered Libya hoping to get to Europe. A few weeks later, the decision was reversed and UNHCR is allowed to stay although its remit was curtailed (Europa 2010, 2011).


16-21 Feb 2011  Protests continue throughout Libya. Estimates put the number of demonstrators in the tens of thousands (Security Council, 2011).

17 Feb 2011  The Libyan Youth Movement Feb 17: http://feb17.info/ website carries news, videos, maps, etc. Date of first posting unknown.

21 Feb 2011 Ibrahim Dabbashi, the deputy permanent representative at the Libyan mission to the UN, publically breaks from Qadhafi’s regime, reports the regime’s use of mercenaries to quell demonstrations (Security Council, 2011).

22 Feb 2011 Under-Secretary-General B. Lynn Pascoe briefs Council in closed consultations on the situation in Libya. Subsequent press release condemns use of force against civilians. Arab League condemns the use of force against civilians and suspends Libya’s participation in the League until Libya meets its demands to immediately stop all violence (Security Council Report, 2011).

23 Feb 2011 African Union issues a statement condemning the use of force against civilians and decides to send a mission to Libya to assess the situation (Security Council Report, 2011).

23 Feb 2011 The African Union issues a statement condemning the use of force against civilians and decides to send a mission to Libya to assess the situation (Security Council, 2011).


24 Feb 2011 During informal consultations, Council members discuss taking action under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to impose deterrent measures against the Libyan regime (Security Council Report, 2011).


26 Feb 2011 By unanimous vote, UN Security Council adopts Resolution 1970 demanding an immediate end to violence in Libya and refers the situation in Libya to the ICC. The resolution also implements an arms embargo, a travel ban, freezes assets and creates sanctions (Security Council Report, 2011).


5 Mar 2011 Interim Transitional National Council issues a statement declaring itself Libya’s sole representative. They call for the international community to fulfill its obligations to
protect the Libyan people “without any direct military intervention on Libyan soil” (Security Council Report, 2011).

5 Mar 2011 Interim Transition National Council issues a statement declaring itself Libya’s sole representative. The letter calls for the international community to fulfill its obligation to protect the Libyan people “without any direct military intervention on Libyan soil” (Security Council Report, 2011).


8 Mar 2011 Security Council members discuss possible further measures against Libya, including the option of a no-fly zone, in informal consultations following a briefing by B. Lynn Pascoe. No Action was taken. The Organization of the Islamic Conference releases a statement supporting the no-fly zone over Libya and rejects foreign operations on the ground (Security Council Report, 2011).


11 Mar 2011 UN Secretary-general appoints Abdul Ilah Khatib (or Abdelilah al-Khatib), former Minister of Foreign Affairs for Jordan, as UN Special envoy to Libya (voanews.com, 2011).

11 Mar 2011 EU issues a declaration calling the use of force against civilians unacceptable and asserts that member states would explore all necessary options to protect civilians (Security Council Report, 2011).

11 Mar 2011 UN Human Rights Council announces the three high-level experts to the independent international commission of inquiry it set up last month to investigate alleged violations of international human rights law in Libya.

 Professor Cherif Bassiouni, chair, an Egyptian, is UN war crimes expert, who has served the UN in a number of capacities.

 Asma Khader is a Jordanian-Palestinian lawyer who serves on the executive committee of the International Commission of Jurists.

 Philippe Kirsch, from Canada, was the first president of the International Criminal Court and served as an ICC judge from 2003 to 2009 (UN News Centre, 2011, March 11).

11 Mar 2011 UN Secretary-General names Abdel Ilah Al-Khatib as his special envoy to Libya (VoANews.com, 2011).

11 Mar 2011 Facebook site, List of Libyan Governmental sites to hack by Freeze Qadhafi’s Assets posts: “The "Global Cyber Revolution" has just begun and is looking for users from all over the globe who can hack to shut down every online resource of these crooks... so if you like to join us please let us know...Let’s put the fear in hearts of these criminals. One
way to pressure the governments is to shut down all their online operations, I am providing a list for all cyberhackers to assist the Libyan people in their protests of February 17th, and making the websites available for you in this list those are all governmental websites. Have fun giving them a heartbeat!
February 17th is the big day but you might want to hack and crack the websites on February 16, Good luck!!”


18 Mar 2011 Libyan regime in Tripoli says it will comply with the ceasefire called for in Resolution 1973. Secretary-General says a Libyan ceasefire cannot be verified (Security Council Report, 2011).

18 Mar 2011 Aid agencies appeal for Libya's neighbors to keep borders open as they brace for a potential exodus of refugees from Libya following intensified fighting and the declaration of a no-fly zone. Some 300,000 people, mainly migrant workers, have fled Libya since the crisis began, mainly to Tunisia and Egypt, but increasingly to Algeria and Niger. [Nebehay, S. (2011, March 18). Reuters. Retrieved from http://in.reuters.com/article/2011/03/18/idINIndia55696520110318].

18 Mar 2011 Libyan regime in Tripoli says it will comply with the ceasefire called for in Resolution 1973. Secretary-General says a Libyan ceasefire cannot be verified (Security Council Report, 2011).

19 Mar 2011 France hosts a meeting in Paris on Libya. France, the UK and U.S. begin to carry out air strikes (Security Council Report, 2011).

21 Mar 2011 Security Council members meet in informal consultations on Libya, no Libyan representative was invited to participate (Security Council Report, 2011).


27 Mar 2011  NATO agrees to take over from the U.S. the command and control of all military operations over Libya to enforce Resolution 1973 (Security Council Report, 2011).


29 Mar 2011  A conference in London agrees to form a contact group to support a Libyan transition to democracy and to increase international pressure on Qadhafi to step down (Security Council Report, 2011).

30 Mar 2011  People in Libya continue to flee over the border by car, bus and on foot into southern Tunisia. UNICEF is coordinating Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) activities as part of the humanitarian emergency response at border. UNICEF covers sanitation needs for more than 7,000 people at the Shousha camp [Khadivi, R. (2011, March 30). Retrieved from http://www.unicef.org/wash/Tunisia_58178.html]


20 April 2011  UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay says: “Under international law, the deliberate targeting of medical facilities is a war crime, and the deliberate targeting or reckless endangerment of civilians may also amount to serious violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.” [UN News Center, (2011, April 20). http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38154&Cr=Libya&Cr1]

27 Apr 2011  Three-member UN commission of inquiry team arrive in Libya and report that they will be seeking access to prisons, hospitals and areas of the country where it suspects rights abuses are taking place (guardian.co.uk, 2011).

3 May 2011  UN Special Envoy for Libya, Abdul Ilah Al-Khatib, briefs the Security Council on the situation of Libya. Following is exact quote from website: Al-Khatib reported that intense fighting has expanded into the south and west of the country, including in the western city of Misrata, the third largest city in Libya and the main gateway before reaching the Libyan capital, Tripoli. He told the Council that he had received a message from Colonel Al-Qadhafi informing that on 30 April NATO forces “had bombed his family’s home and killed his son, Saif Al-Arab, and his grandchildren and that he and his wife survived the attack.” Al-Khatib said that Colonel Qadhafi had described the situation as “no longer tolerable” and that he had responded expressing condolences and stating that “this tragic loss highlights the need for immediately stopping the use of force in a manner that opens the path for political a political solution.” [UN News and
4 May 2011  
Luis Moreno-Ocampo, International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor, tells UN Security Council that he will ask the court’s judges to issue arrest warrants for three people who seem to bear the greatest responsibility for crimes against humanity committed in Libya since a pro-democracy movement emerged in mid-February (UN News Center, 2011). [See Appendix C for full Press Conference.]

6 May 2011  
International Medical Corps report that more than 50 Grad missiles fired by government forces landed in Zintan and on the outskirts of Nalut. The Soviet-designed, 40 km range Grad missile lacks a guidance system. Human Rights Watch (HRW) reports that Libyan government forces fired indiscriminately into towns and villages in the area. "The scale of the attacks, which have damaged mosques, homes, and landed near hospitals, suggests the government has made little or no attempt to focus on military targets," said HRW. [AllAfrica.com. (2011, May 9). Retrieved from http://allafrica.com/stories/201105091831.html].

9 May 2011  

15 May 2011  

16 May 2011  
Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court (ICC) ask the court’s judges to issue arrest warrants for Libyan leader Muammar al-Qadhafi, his son Saif Al Islam Qadhafi and the intelligence chief Abdullah Al Sanousi, accusing them of committing crimes against humanity during the ongoing Libyan conflict. Chief prosecutor Mr. Moreno-Ocampo explained that his office has evidence documenting how the three men held meetings to plan the operations. Government troops attacked civilians in their homes, repressed protests using live ammunition, deployed heavy artillery against people in funeral processions and placed snipers to kill people as they left mosques after prayers. Judges have to decide to accept the arrest warrant request from prosecutors, reject it or ask for more evidence (UN News Centre, 2011, May 16).
Libya: Human Rights Conventions, Reports, Organizations

International Conventions

Libya has acceded to the seven major United Nations conventions on human rights, namely:

- Two International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights; on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1970),
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1968),
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1989),
- Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1989),
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1993),

Libya has signed:

- First Optional Protocol attached to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights concerning filing complaints by individuals (1989), and
- Optional Protocol of the Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (2004);

Libya has acceded to the eight International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions on human rights, namely:

- The 2 conventions (87 and 98) on Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining (2000 and 1962 respectively),
- The 2 conventions (29 and 105) on Forced or Compulsory Labour (1961),
- The 2 conventions (100 and 111) concerning the Elimination of Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (1962 and 1975 respectively), and
- The 2 conventions (138 and 182) pertaining to Forbidding the Employment of Children and Minors (1975 and 2000 respectively).

Libya made reservations on certain provisions of the conventions it acceded to:

- The 2 international covenants: declared that acceding to the 2 covenants does not imply recognizing Israel or establishing any relations with Israel.
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: general reservation stating that its accession to the convention does not imply recognizing Israel. Libya is not committed to article (22) pertaining to ways of resolving conflict among states over interpreting or implementing the convention.
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women: article (2) on the obligation of states to integrate the principle of gender equality in their constitutions and
national legislation, and guaranteeing actual realization of this principle. Libya said the principle would be applied according to Islamic law (Shari’a). Article (16/1) that commits states to take proper measures to eliminate discrimination against women in marriage and family affairs. Libya abides by women's rights guaranteed by Islamic Shari’a. Article (22) concerning the right of specialized agencies to send their representatives to the country in question to assess its commitment to the provisions of the convention.

Regional Charters

Libya has agreed to the "Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam" issued in 1990 by foreign ministers of Muslim countries. The declaration is a guiding document that does not require ratification.

Libya ratified the "Arab Charter of Human Rights/Amended" prepared by the Arab Summit in Tunisia in May 2004, which did not gain force yet.

Libya has ratified:

- The African Charter for Human and Peoples' Rights (1986);
- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (2003);
- The protocol on establishing the African Court for Human and Peoples' Rights; and

Human Rights Institutions in Libya

There are no independent non-governmental human rights organizations in Libya. However, there are some governmental structures and some organizations attached to the government that are concerned with women's issues, such as the Libyan Human Rights Committee. In December 1998, Al-Qaddafi International Association of Philanthropic Societies established a human rights organization that launched wide scale campaigns for the release of political prisoners. It succeeded in releasing large numbers of political prisoners under the "Waves of Freedom" campaign. It also launched an anti-torture campaign in Libya and the Middle East. It also visited detention centers and presented its recommendations on improving their condition.

Achievements on the Road to Good Governance

1. Advancing women's condition through integrating them in all fields of development, increasing their participation in economic and social activities, and in the legislative system. Enabling women to work in all sectors, including the judiciary and armed forces. Women also occupy high level jobs. They are also employed in the diplomatic sector.

2. Taking steps towards enhancing justice in the judicial system by abolishing the "People's Court" (2005) that was under constant local and international criticism for lack of the prerequisites of justice in its procedures and for its very heavy sentences. Separation between the interior and justice ministries, and working on a new penal code.

3. Since 2001, the government pursued releasing large numbers of detainees and political prisoners successively. It issued in 2006 an amnesty for 132 political prisoners, some of whom were sentenced to
more than 7 years in prison in an unfair trial for carrying out peaceful political activities.

4. In 2003 Libyan authorities lifted the ban imposed on thousands of Libyan citizens to leave the country. Libyan government is encouraging citizens living abroad to return to Libya by offering them guarantees that they would not be prosecuted after their return.

5. The General Popular Committee removed in 2005 the pre-condition of obtaining the approval of the Revolutionary Committees on sending public employees or students to work or study abroad. It also removed the pre-condition of obtaining the "Liaison Office" approval on appointing Libyan university professors and embassies' staff. These measures were taken in the context of restricting the power of Revolutionary Committees and their meddling in local affairs.

6. The General Popular Committee has adopted 2 resolutions in 2005. The first resolution asserts that public medical treatment and hospitalization are offered to citizens free of charge. The second resolution forbids health sector employees to work in both the public and the private health sectors at the same time.

Libya: Human Rights Organizations

Human Rights Information Network in Libya [Arabic].
The network is a central repository for human rights information and websites in Arabic throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

Human Rights Solidarity [English][Arabic].
Human Rights Solidarity works to defend the rights of arbitrary detainees and political prisoners in Libya. The organization is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Libya Watch For Human Rights [English][Arabic].
Is a neutral human rights organization concerned with defending the general freedoms and rights of the Libyan people.

Libyan Union for Human Rights Defenders [Arabic].
An independent organization situated in Holland, works to defend human rights and Civil Rights in Libya.

National Front for Salvation of Libya [Arabic].
An organization that opposes the Libyan regime, it monitors the human rights violations taking place in Libya.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Examined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Initial report of States parties due in 1977**  
Report Due Date: 3/22/1977, Received: 3/4/1977, Examined: 1/18/1978  
Document symbol: CCPR/C/1/Add.3

**Second periodic reports of States parties due in 1983 - Addendum**  
Document symbol: CCPR/C/28/Add.16 [English][Arabic][French]  
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - Reports submitted by states parties under Article 40 of the covenant to the Human Rights Committee.

**Third periodic reports of States parties due in 1995 - Addendum**  
Document symbol: CCPR/C/102/Add.1 [English][Arabic]  
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - Reports submitted by states parties under Article 40 of the covenant to the Human Rights Committee.

**Fourth periodic reports of States parties due in 2002**  
Report Due Date: 10/1/2002, Received: 12/5/2006, Examined: 10/17/2007  
Document symbol: CCPR/C/LBY/4 [English][Arabic][French]  
Reports submitted by states parties under Article 40 of the covenant to the Human Rights Committee.
Country Universal Periodic Review Reports: Libya

National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) of the Annex to the Human Rights Council Resolution 5/1
Ref. A/HRC/WG.6/9/LBY/1: [English][Arabic][French]

- UPR - OHCHR NGOs Report:
  Ref. A/HRC/WG.6/9/LBY/2: [English][Arabic][French]
  Compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1

- UPR - Outcome Report:
  Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

- UPR - Reports of Stakeholders/NGOs:
  Ref. A/HRC/WG.6/9/LBY/3: [English][Arabic][French]
  Summary prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) of the annex to Human rights Council resolution 5/1
Libya: Human Rights Publications

Amnesty International - Human Rights in Libya [English][Arabic][French].

Human Rights Watch: Libya [English][Arabic][French].

International Labour Organization – Libya [English].
A search output of the United Nations International Labour Organization database, NATLEX, of Libya's national laws related to human rights, conditions of employment, economic and social development, industrial relations, labor administration, occupational safety and health, social security, training and other provisions by category of persons and by sector of economic activity, as well as the ILO's ratified conventions.


Libya: Country Background


Unless otherwise indicated.

**Official Name:** Great Socialist People’s Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

**Short Name:** Libya

**Local long form:** Al Jamahiriyyah al Arabiyah al Libiyah ash Shabiyyah al Ishtirakiyyah al Uthma

**Flag:**

**GEOGRAPHY**

**Location:**
Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Egypt and Tunisia

**Area:**
1,775,500 sq km*

**Area Comparative:**
Slightly larger than Alaska

**Border Countries:**
Algeria 982 km, Chad 1,055 km, Egypt 1,115 km, Niger 354 km, Sudan 383 km, Tunisia 459 km

**Coastline:**
1770 km

**Climate:**
Mediterranean along coast; dry, extreme desert interior
More than 90% of the country is desert or semi desert

**Terrain:**
Mostly barren, flat to undulating plains, plateaus, depressions

**Natural Resources:**
Petroleum, natural gas, gypsum

**Environment – current issues:** Desertification; limited natural fresh water resources; the Great Manmade River Project, the largest water development scheme in the world, is being built to bring water from large aquifers under the Sahara to coastal cities

**Environment – international agreements:**
Party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification,

PEOPLE

Population:
6,597,960 (country comparison to the world: 101)
Note: includes 166,510 non-nationals (July 2011 est.)

Population by Region (population at 2006 census)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al-Butnan</td>
<td>150,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banghazi (Benghazi)</td>
<td>622,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darnah</td>
<td>155,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghat</td>
<td>21,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Jabal al-Akhdar</td>
<td>192,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Jabal al-Gharbi</td>
<td>288,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Jifarah</td>
<td>422,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Jufrah</td>
<td>46,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Kufrah</td>
<td>42,769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Marqab</td>
<td>410,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Marj</td>
<td>175,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marzuq</td>
<td>72,513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misrata</td>
<td>511,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nalut</td>
<td>87,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Nuqt al-Khams</td>
<td>269,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabha</td>
<td>119,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surt (Sirte)</td>
<td>131,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarabulus (Tripoli)</td>
<td>997,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wadi al-Hayat</td>
<td>70,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wadi al-Shati</td>
<td>73,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Wahah</td>
<td>164,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Zawiyah (Zawia)</td>
<td>270,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,298,152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Principal Towns (population at census of 2006)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tarabulus (Tripoli, the capital)</td>
<td>997,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banghazi (Benghazi)</td>
<td>622,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misrata (Misurata)</td>
<td>511,628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Jifarah</td>
<td>422,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Marqab</td>
<td>410,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Jabal al-Gharbi</td>
<td>288,944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Zawiyah (Zawia)</td>
<td>270,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Nuqt al-Khams</td>
<td>269,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Jabal al-Akhdar</td>
<td>192,689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Marj</td>
<td>175,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Wahah</td>
<td>164,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darnah</td>
<td>155,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Butnan</td>
<td>150,353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surt (Sirte)</td>
<td>131,786</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Age structure:
0-14 years: 32.8% (male 1,104,590/female 1,057,359)
15-64 years: 62.7% (male 2,124,053/female 2,011,226)
65 years and over: 4.6% (male 146,956/female 153,776) (2011 est.)

Median age:
Total: 24.5 years
Male: 24.5 years
Female: 24.4 years (2011 est.)

Population growth:
2.064% (2011 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 44

Birth rate:
24.04 births/1,000 population (2011 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 69

Death rate:
3.4 deaths/1,000 population (July 2011 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 213

Sex Ratio:
At birth: 1.05 male(s)/female
Under 15 years: 1.04 male(s)/female
15-64 years: 1.06 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.96 male(s)/female
Total population: 1.05 male(s)/female (2011 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
Total population: 77.65 years
Country comparison to the world: 58
Male: 75.34 years
Female: 80.08 years (2011 est.)

Ethnic groups:
Berber and Arab 97%, other 3% (includes Greeks, Maltese, Italians, Egyptians, Pakistanis, Turks, Indians, and Tunisians)

Religions:
Sunni Muslim 97%, other 3%

Languages:
Arabic, Italian, English, all are widely understood in the major cities
Literacy:
Definition: age 15 and over can read and write
Total population: 82.6%
Male: 92.4%
Female: 72% (2003 est.)

Education expenditures:
2.7% of GDP (1999)
Country comparison to the world: 159

GOVERNMENT

Government type:
Jamahiriya (a state of the masses) in theory, governed by the populace through local councils; in practice, an authoritarian state

Head of State:
Revolutionary Leader Col Muammar al-Qadhafi*

Head of Government:
Secretary of the General Secretariat of the General People’s Congress: Muhammad Aboulghasem al-Zwai

Last election:
Legislative, 8 May 1965

Next election: n.a.

Capital:
Tripoli
Time difference: UTC+2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions:
22 states (shabiyat, singular - shabiyat); Al Butnan, Al Jabal al Akhdar, Al Jabal Al Gharbi, Al Jafarah, Al Jafrah, Al Kafran, Al Maraj, Al Marqab, Al Murzuq, Al Wahat, An Nuqat al Khams, Az Zawiyah, Banghazi, Darnah, Ghat, Misrata, Nalut, Sibha, Surt, Tarabulus, Wadi al Hayat, Wadi ash Shati

Independence:
24 December 1951 (from UN trusteeship)

National holiday:
Revolution Day, 1 September (1969)

Constitution:
None; note - following the September 1969 military overthrow of the Libyan government, the Revolutionary Command Council replaced the existing constitution with the Constitutional Proclamation
in December 1969; in March 1977, Libya adopted the Declaration of the Establishment of the People's Authority

**Legal system:**
Based on Italian and French civil law systems and Islamic law; separate religious courts; no constitutional provision for judicial review of legislative acts; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

**Suffrage:**
18 years of age; universally and technically compulsory

**Executive branch:**
Chief of state: Revolutionary Leader Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-QADHAFI (since 1 September 1969); note - holds no official title, but is de facto chief of state

Head of government: Secretary of the General People's Committee (Prime Minister) al-Baghdadi Ali al-MAHMUDI (since 5 March 2006)

Cabinet: General People's Committee established by the General People's Congress

(For more information visit the World Leaders website)

Elections: national elections are indirect through a hierarchy of people's committees; head of government elected by the General People's Congress; election last held in March 2010 (next Elections expected in early 2011)

Election results: NA

**Legislative branch:**
Unicameral General People's Congress (760 seats; members elected indirectly through a hierarchy of people's committees)

**Judicial branch:**
Supreme court

**Political parties and leaders:**
None

**Political pressure groups:**
Other: anti-QADHAFI Libyan exile movement; Islamic elements

**International organization participation:**
ABEDA, AfDB, AFESD, AMF, AMU, AU, CAEU, COMESA, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, LAS, MIGA, NAM, OAPEC, OIC, OPCW, OPEC, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO (observer)
THE PRESS*
Most newspapers and periodicals are published by the Jamhiriya News Agency (JANA), by government secretaries, by the Press Service or by trade unions.

Dailies

- *Al-Fajr al-Jadid (The New Dawn)*
- *Al-Jamahiriya*
- *Al-Shams*
- *Az-Zahf al-Akhdar (The Green March)*

*Al-Fajr al-Jadid (The New Dawn)*
POB 91291, Press Bldg, Sharia al-Jamahiriya, Tripoli
Tel: (21) 3606393
Fax: (21) 3605728
Email: info@alfajraljadeed.com
Internet: www.alfajraljadeed.com
Founded 1969; publ. by JANA; also publishes bi-monthly English version.
Editor Aoun Abdullah Madi

*Al-Jamahiriya*
POB 4814, Tripoli
Tel: (21) 3605731
Email: info@aljamahiria.com
Internet: www.aljamahiria.com
Founded 1980; Arabic; political; publ. by the revolutionary cttees

*Al-Shams*
POB 82331, Al-Sahafa Bldg, Sharia al-Jamhouria, Tripoli
Tel: (21) 4442524
Fax: (21) 609315
Email: info@alshames.com
Internet: www.alshames.com
Editor Muhammad M. Ibrahim

*Az-Zahf al-Akhdar (The Green March) [This account is currently suspended]*
POB 14273, Al-Sahafa Bldg, Sharia al-Jamhouria, Tripoli
Tel: (21) 4776890
Fax: (21) 4772502
Email: info@azzahfalakhder.com
Internet: www.azzahfalakhder.com
Founded 1980; ideological journal of the revolutionary cttees.
Editor-in-Chief Hamid Abu Salim.
News Agency*

Jamahiriya News Agency (JANA)
POB 2303, Sharia al-Fatah, Tripoli
Tel: (21) 3402606
Fax: (21) 3402421
Email: info@jananews.ly
Internet: www.jananews.ly
Founded 1964; brs and correspondents throughout Libya and abroad; provides Arabic, English and French news services


Telephone system:
General assessment: telecommunications system is state-owned and service is poor, but investment is being made to upgrade; state retains monopoly in fixed-line services; mobile-cellular telephone system became operational in 1996

Domestic: multiple providers for a mobile telephone system that is growing rapidly; combined fixed-line and mobile-cellular telephone density is approaching 100 telephones per 100 persons

International: country code - 218; satellite earth stations - 4 Intelsat, NA Arabsat, and NA Intersputnik; submarine cable to France and Italy; microwave radio relay to Tunisia and Egypt; tropospheric scatter to Greece; participant in Medarabtel (2009)

Broadcast media:
State controls broadcast media; state-owned terrestrial TV station and about a half-dozen state-owned satellite stations broadcast; some provinces operate local TV stations; a single, non-state-owned TV station launched in 2007; pan-Arab satellite TV stations are available; state-owned radio broadcasts on a number of frequencies, some of which carry regional programming; Voice of Africa, Libya's external radio service, can also be heard; a single, non-state-owned radio station broadcasting (2007)

Internet hosts:
12,432 (2010)

Internet users:
353,900 (2009)

ECONOMY

Overview
“The Libyan economy depends primarily upon revenues from the oil sector, which contribute about 95% of export earnings, 25% of GDP, and 80% of government revenue. The weakness in world hydrocarbon prices in 2009 reduced Libyan government tax income and constrained economic growth. Substantial revenues from the energy sector coupled with a small population give Libya one of the highest per capita GDPS in Africa, but little of this income flows down to the lower orders of society.

Libyan officials in the past 5 years have made progress on economic reforms as part of a broader campaign to reintegrate the country into the international fold. This effort picked up steam after UN
sanctions were lifted in September 2003 and as Libya announced in December 2003 that it would abandon programs to build weapons of mass destruction. The process of lifting U.S. unilateral sanctions began in the spring of 2004; all sanctions were removed by June 2006, helping Libya attract greater foreign direct investment, especially in the energy sector. Libyan oil and gas licensing rounds continue to draw high international interest; the National Oil Corporation (NOC) set a goal of nearly doubling oil production to 3 million bbl/day by 2012. In November 2009, the NOC announced that that target may slip to as late as 2017. Libya faces a long road ahead in liberalizing the socialist-oriented economy, but initial steps - including applying for WTO membership, reducing some subsidies, and announcing plans for privatization - are laying the groundwork for a transition to a more market-based economy.

The non-oil manufacturing and construction sectors, which account for more than 20% of GDP, have expanded from processing mostly agricultural products to include the production of petrochemicals, iron, steel, and aluminum. Climatic conditions and poor soils severely limit agricultural output, and Libya imports about 75% of its food. Libya's primary agricultural water source remains the Great Manmade River Project, but significant resources are being invested in desalinization research to meet growing water demands (CIA World Factbook quote: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ly.html).

Central Bank of Libya*
POB 1103, Sharia al-Malik Seoud, Tripoli
Tel: (21) 3333591  Fax: (21) 4441488  Email: info@cbl.gov.ly  Internet: www.cbl.gov.ly

**GDP (purchasing power parity):**
$89.03 billion (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 74
$86.19 billion (2009 est.)
$86.77 billion (2008 est.)
*Note:* data are in 2010 U.S. dollars

**GDP (official exchange rate):**
$77.91 billion (2010 est.)

**GDP real growth rate:**
3.3% (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 113
-0.7% (2009 est.)
2.7% (2008 est.)

**GDP per Capita:**
$13,800 (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 84
$13,600 (2009 est.)
$14,000 (2008 est.)
*Note:* data are in 2010 U.S. dollars

**GDP – composition by sector:**
Agriculture: 2.6%
Industry: 63.8%
Services: 33.6% (2010 est.)

**Labor force:**
1.729 million (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 125

**Labor force – by occupation:**
Agriculture: 17%
Industry: 23%
Services: 59% (2004 est.)

**Unemployment rate:**
30% (2004)
Country comparison to the world: 178

**Population below poverty line:**
NA (note: About one-third of Libyans live at or below the national poverty line)

**Household income or consumption by percentage share:**
Lowest 10%: NA%
Highest 10%: NA%

**Budget:**
Revenues: $42.31 billion
Expenditures: $38.92 billion (2010 est.)

**Public debt:**
3.3% of GDP (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 132
3.9% of GDP (2009 est.)

**Inflation rate (consumer prices):**
3% (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 87
2.4% (2009 est.)

**Central bank discount rate:**
4% (31 December 2009)
Country comparison to the world: 85
5% (31 December 2008)

**Commercial bank prime lending rate:**
8.41% (31 December 2008)
Country comparison to the world: 132
6% (31 December 2007)
Stock of narrow money:
$29.85 billion (31 December 2010 est)
Country comparison to the world: 56
$29.82 billion (31 December 2009 est)

Stock of broad money:
$35.98 billion (31 December 2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 70
$36.2 billion (31 December 2009 est.)

Stock of domestic credit:
$55.03 billion (31 December 2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 61
$41.13 billion (31 December 2009 est.)

Agriculture - products:
Wheat, barley, olives, dates, citrus, vegetables, peanuts, soybeans; cattle

Industries:
Petroleum, petrochemicals, aluminum, iron and steel, food processing, textiles, handicrafts, cement

Industrial production growth rate:
2.7% (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 118

Electricity - production:
23.98 billion kWh (2007 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 66

Electricity - consumption:
22.17 billion kWh (2007 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 66

Electricity - exports:
104 million kWh (2007 est.)

Electricity - imports:
77 million kWh (2007 est.)

Oil - production:
1.79 million bbl/day (2009 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 18

Oil - consumption:
280,000 bbl/day (2009 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 44
Oil - exports:  
1.542 million bbl/day (2007 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 15

Oil - imports:  
575.3 bbl/day (2007 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 195

Natural gas - production:  
15.9 billion cu m (2008 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 33

Natural gas - consumption:  
5.5 billion cu m (2008 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 57

Natural gas - exports:  
10.4 billion cu m (2008 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 20

Natural gas - imports:  
0 cu m (2008 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 162

Natural gas - proved reserves:  
1.539 trillion cu m (1 January 2010 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 23

Current account balance:  
$15.53 billion (2010 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 20  
$10.06 billion (2009 est.)

Exports:  
$44.89 billion (2010 est.)  
Country comparison to the world: 58  
$37.16 billion (2009 est.)

Exports - commodities:  
Crude oil, refined petroleum products, natural gas, chemicals

Exports - partners:  
Italy 37.65%, Germany 10.11%, France 8.44%, Spain 7.94%, Switzerland 5.93%, US 5.27% (2009)

Imports:  
$24.47 billion (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 64
$22.01 billion (2009 est.)

**Imports - commodities:**
Machinery, semi-finished goods, food, transport equipment, consumer products

**Imports - partners:**
Italy 18.9%, China 10.54%, Turkey 9.92%, Germany 9.78%, France 5.63%, Tunisia 5.25%, South Korea 4.02% (2009)

**Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:**
$107.3 billion (31 December 2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 14
$104.2 billion (31 December 2009 est.)

**Debt - external:**
$6.378 billion (31 December 2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 100
$5.891 billion (31 December 2009 est.)

**Exchange rates:**

**State Hydrocarbons Companies*:**

The Secretariat of the General People’s Committee for Petroleum managed the petroleum business up to 1986. In March 1986 the Committee was abolished and the petroleum industry administration was passed to the existing national companies. In March 1989 the Secretariat of the General People’s Committee for Petroleum was re-established and incorporated into the new Secretariat for the General People’s Committee for Energy in October 1992, which was dissolved in March 2000 when the National Oil Corporation, under supervision of the General People’s Committee, took over responsibility for local oil policy. Since 1973 the Libyan Government has nationalized some foreign oil companies and entered into participation agreements with others. The Government has concluded 85%: 15% production-sharing agreements with various oil companies.

- National Oil Corporation (NOC)
- Agip North Africa and Middle East Ltd—Libyan Branch
- Azzawiya Oil Refining Co (ARC)
- Brega Oil Marketing Co
- International Oil Investments Co
- National Drilling and Workover Co
- Ras Lanouf Oil and Gas Processing Co (RASCO)
- Sirte Oil Co
- Umm al-Jawaby Petroleum Co
- Waha Oil Co
- Zueitina Oil Co (ZOC)
MILITARY

Estimated Defense Expenditure (2008): LD 1,000m.*

Military Service: selective conscription; 1–2 years

Total Armed Forces (as assessed at November 2009): 76,000:

- army 50,000, incl. (estimated)
- conscripts 25,000;
- navy 8,000;
- air force 18,000
- People’s Militia: 40,000 (estimated)


Military branches:


Military service age and obligation:
17 years of age (2004)

Manpower available for military service:
Males age 16-49: 1,775,078
Females age 16-49: 1,714,194 (2010 est.)

Manpower fit for military service:
Males age 16-49: 1,511,144
Females age 16-49: 1,458,934 (2010 est.)

Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually:
Male: 59,547
Female: 57,070 (2010 est.)

Military expenditures:
3.9% of GDP (2005 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 25

TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES

Disputes - international:
Dormant disputes include Libyan claims of about 32,000 sq km still reflected on its maps of southeastern Algeria and the FLN’s assertions of a claim to Chirac Pastures in southeastern Morocco; various Chadian rebels from the Aozou region reside in southern Libya

**Refugees and internally displaced persons:**
Refugees (country of origin): 8,000 (Palestinian Territories) (2007)

**Trafficking in persons:**
Current situation: Libya is a transit and destination country for men and women from sub-Saharan Africa and Asia trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

**Tier rating:** Tier 2 Watch List - Libya is on the Tier 2 Watch List for its failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to address trafficking in persons in 2007 when compared to 2006, particularly in the area of investigating and prosecuting trafficking offenses; Libya did not publicly release any data on investigations or punishment of any trafficking offenses (2008)
Libya Maps
APPENDIX A

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

List of Crimes

Article 6

Genocide

For the purpose of this Statute, “genocide” means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

(a) Killing members of the group;

(b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;

(c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;

(d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;

(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Article 7

Crimes against humanity

1. For the purpose of this Statute, “crime against humanity” means any of the following acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack:

(a) Murder;

(b) Extermination;

(c) Enslavement;

(d) Deportation or forcible transfer of population;

(e) Imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law;

(f) Torture;

(g) Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity;

(h) Persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender as defined in paragraph 3, or other grounds that are universally recognized as impermissible under international law, in connection with any act referred to in this paragraph or any crime within the jurisdiction of the Court;
(i) Enforced disappearance of persons;

(j) The crime of apartheid;

(k) Other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health.

2. For the purpose of paragraph 1:

(a) “Attack directed against any civilian population” means a course of conduct involving the multiple commission of acts referred to in paragraph 1 against any civilian population, pursuant to or in furtherance of a State or organizational policy to commit such attack;

(b) “Extermination” includes the intentional infliction of conditions of life, inter alia the deprivation of access to food and medicine, calculated to bring about the destruction of part of a population;

(c) “Enslavement” means the exercise of any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership over a person and includes the exercise of such power in the course of trafficking in persons, in particular women and children;

(d) “Deportation or forcible transfer of population” means forced displacement of the persons concerned by expulsion or other coercive acts from the area in which they are lawfully present, without grounds permitted under international law;

(e) “Torture” means the intentional infliction of severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, upon a person in the custody or under the control of the accused; except that torture shall not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to, lawful sanctions;

(f) “Forced pregnancy” means the unlawful confinement of a woman forcibly made pregnant, with the intent of affecting the ethnic composition of any population or carrying out other grave violations of international law. This definition shall not in any way be interpreted as affecting national laws relating to pregnancy;

(g) “Persecution” means the intentional and severe deprivation of fundamental rights contrary to international law by reason of the identity of the group or collectivity;

(h) “The crime of apartheid” means inhumane acts of a character similar to those referred to in paragraph 1, committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the intention of maintaining that regime;

(i) “Enforced disappearance of persons” means the arrest, detention or abduction of persons by, or with the authorization, support or acquiescence of, a State or a political organization, followed by a refusal to acknowledge that deprivation of freedom or to give information on the fate or whereabouts of those persons, with the intention of removing them from the protection of the law for a prolonged period of time.

3. For the purpose of this Statute, it is understood that the term “gender” refers to the two sexes, male and female, within the context of society. The term “gender” does not indicate any meaning different from the above.

Article 8

War crimes

1. The Court shall have jurisdiction in respect of war crimes in particular when committed as part of a plan or policy or as part of a large-scale commission of such crimes.
2. For the purpose of this Statute, “war crimes” means:

(a) Grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, namely, any of the following acts against persons or property protected under the provisions of the relevant Geneva Convention:

(i) Wilful killing;

(ii) Torture or inhuman treatment, including biological experiments;

(iii) Wilfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health;

(iv) Extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly;

(v) Compelling a prisoner of war or other protected person to serve in the forces of a hostile Power;

(vi) Wilfully depriving a prisoner of war or other protected person of the rights of fair and regular trial;

(vii) Unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement;

(viii) Taking of hostages.

(b) Other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict, within the established framework of international law, namely, any of the following acts:

(i) Intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities;

(ii) Intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects, that is, objects which are not military objectives;

(iii) Intentionally directing attacks against personnel, installations, material, units or vehicles involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians or civilian objects under the international law of armed conflict;

(iv) Intentionally launching an attack in the knowledge that such attack will cause incidental loss of life or injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects or widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment which would be clearly excessive in relation to the concrete and direct overall military advantage anticipated;

(v) Attacking or bombarding, by whatever means, towns, villages, dwellings or buildings which are undefended and which are not military objectives;

(vi) Killing or wounding a combatant who, having laid down his arms or having no longer means of defence, has surrendered at discretion;

(vii) Making improper use of a flag of truce, of the flag or of the military insignia and uniform of the enemy or of the United Nations, as well as of the distinctive emblems of the Geneva Conventions, resulting in death or serious personal injury;

(viii) The transfer, directly or indirectly, by the Occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies, or the deportation or transfer of all or parts of the population of the occupied territory within or outside this territory;
(ix) Intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided they are not military objectives;

(x) Subjecting persons who are in the power of an adverse party to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experiments of any kind which are neither justified by the medical, dental or hospital treatment of the person concerned nor carried out in his or her interest, and which cause death to or seriously endanger the health of such person or persons;

(xi) Killing or wounding treacherously individuals belonging to the hostile nation or army;

(xii) Declaring that no quarter will be given;

(xiii) Destroying or seizing the enemy’s property unless such destruction or seizure be imperatively demanded by the necessities of war;

(xiv) Declaring abolished, suspended or inadmissible in a court of law the rights and actions of the nationals of the hostile party;

(xv) Compelling the nationals of the hostile party to take part in the operations of war directed against their own country, even if they were in the belligerent’s service before the commencement of the war;

(xvi) Pillaging a town or place, even when taken by assault;

(xvii) Employing poison or poisoned weapons;

(xviii) Employing asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and all analogous liquids, materials or devices;

(xix) Employing bullets which expand or flatten easily in the human body, such as bullets with a hard envelope which does not entirely cover the core or is pierced with incisions;

(xx) Employing weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare which are of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering or which are inherently indiscriminate in violation of the international law of armed conflict, provided that such weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare are the subject of a comprehensive prohibition and are included in an annex to this Statute, by an amendment in accordance with the relevant provisions set forth in articles 121 and 123;

(xxi) Committing outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment;

(xxii) Committing rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, as defined in article 7, paragraph 2 (f), enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence also constituting a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions;

(xxiii) Utilizing the presence of a civilian or other protected person to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from military operations;

(xxiv) Intentionally directing attacks against buildings, material, medical units and transport, and personnel using the distinctive emblems of the Geneva Conventions in conformity with international law;

(xxv) Intentionally using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare by depriving them of objects indispensable to their survival, including wilfully impeding relief supplies as provided for under the Geneva Conventions;
(xxvi) Conscripting or enlisting children under the age of fifteen years into the national armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities.

(c) In the case of an armed conflict not of an international character, serious violations of article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, namely, any of the following acts committed against persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed hors de combat by sickness, wounds, detention or any other cause:

(i) Violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture;

(ii) Committing outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment;

(iii) Taking of hostages;

(iv) The passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgement pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all judicial guarantees which are generally recognized as indispensable.

(d) Paragraph 2 (c) applies to armed conflicts not of an international character and thus does not apply to situations of internal disturbances and tensions, such as riots, isolated and sporadic acts of violence or other acts of a similar nature.

(e) Other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts not of an international character, within the established framework of international law, namely, any of the following acts:

(i) Intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities;

(ii) Intentionally directing attacks against buildings, material, medical units and transport, and personnel using the distinctive emblems of the Geneva Conventions in conformity with international law;

(iii) Intentionally directing attacks against personnel, installations, material, units or vehicles involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians or civilian objects under the international law of armed conflict;

(iv) Intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided they are not military objectives;

(v) Pillaging a town or place, even when taken by assault;

(vi) Committing rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, as defined in article 7, paragraph 2 (f), enforced sterilization, and any other form of sexual violence also constituting a serious violation of article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions;

(vii) Conscripting or enlisting children under the age of fifteen years into armed forces or groups or using them to participate actively in hostilities;

(viii) Ordering the displacement of the civilian population for reasons related to the conflict, unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand;

(ix) Killing or wounding treacherously a combatant adversary;
(x) Declaring that no quarter will be given;

(xi) Subjecting persons who are in the power of another party to the conflict to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experiments of any kind which are neither justified by the medical, dental or hospital treatment of the person concerned nor carried out in his or her interest, and which cause death to or seriously endanger the health of such person or persons;

(xii) Destroying or seizing the property of an adversary unless such destruction or seizure be imperatively demanded by the necessities of the conflict;

(f) Paragraph 2 (e) applies to armed conflicts not of an international character and thus does not apply to situations of internal disturbances and tensions, such as riots, isolated and sporadic acts of violence or other acts of a similar nature. It applies to armed conflicts that take place in the territory of a State when there is protracted armed conflict between governmental authorities and organized armed groups or between such groups.

3. Nothing in paragraph 2 (c) and (e) shall affect the responsibility of a Government to maintain or re-establish law and order in the State or to defend the unity and territorial integrity of the State, by all legitimate means.


Resolutions, Discussions, Reports on the Situation in Libya


21 Jan 1992  Resolution 731, adopted by the UN Security Council demands the extradition of the Lockerbie suspects to the U.S. or the United Kingdom, as well as Libya’s full co-operation with France’s inquiry into the 1989 UTA airliner bombing. Libya declined to extradite the two men, but instead offered to try them in Libya (Europa 2010, 2011).

31 Mar 1992  UN Security Council adopts Resolution 748: imposes mandatory economic sanctions against Libya. From April 15 all civilian air links and arms trade with Libya are prohibited and its diplomatic representation abroad is reduced. Embargo not imposed on oil. Alleged violation on 29 March 1998 in which a Libyan-registered aircraft, transporting Libyan pilgrims to the Haj, performed an unauthorized flight to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (Europa 2010, 2011).


Nov 1993  UN Security Council adopts Resolution 883: imposes new sanctions on Libya: Freezes all Libyan assets abroad, but not earnings from hydrocarbon exports; bans sale to Libya of certain equipment for downstream oil and gas sectors, more restrictions on Libyan civil aviation, close all Libyan Arab Airlines offices abroad. These come into force on 1 Dec 1993.

Qadhafi response to Resolution 883: rejects all further negotiations with UN and Western powers on Lockerbie affair (Europa 2010, 2011).


Apr 1995  Qadhafi defies UN sanctions by ordering Libyan aircraft carrying 150 pilgrims to leave Tripoli for Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. UN immediatelycondemns Libyan action as a ‘flagrant violation of the UN air embargo’ and criticizes Egypt and Saudi Arabia for their involvement (Europa 2010, 2011).

June 1995  Qadhafi violates UN sanctions by flying to Cairo to attend an Arab League Summit (Europa 2010, 2011).

July 1997  Libyan UN representative announces that Libya intends to no longer respect those sanctions (Europa 2010, 2011).
Oct 1997  UK asks UN to send envoys to examine Scottish legal system (Europa 2010, 2011).


Dec 1997  UN issues report stating Libyan Lockerbie suspects would receive a fair trial under Scottish system (Europa 2010, 2011).

Feb 1998  RE: Lockerbie bombing: ICJ rules that it is competent to rule on Libya’s complaints that the USA and UK were acting unlawfully by insisting on extradition of the two Libyan suspects.
  ▪ U.S. and UK attempt to prevent the case from being heard, claiming that intervening UN Security Council resolutions had rendered it unnecessary.
  ▪ Libya declares the ICJ ruling gives its claims legitimacy and that UN sanctions should now be disregarded.
  ▪ March 1998: Sanctions are renewed
  ▪ April 1998: Representatives for families of British victims of Lockerbie bombing and Scottish law professor meet with Qaddafi; he agrees to try the 2 Libyan suspects in The Hague (Europa 2010, 2011).


11 July 2007  UN Human Rights Committee finds Libya responsible for torture, disappearance and arbitrary execution in Al Alwani v. Libya, Communication No. 1295/2004. It found that Libya has violated Article 6 of the ICCPR on the right to life (HWR, 2009).

Oct 2007  Libya is voted a seat on the UN Security Council and holds the rotating presidency in January 2009 (HRW, 2009).

24 Oct 2007  UN Human Rights Committee finds Libya responsible for the unlawful detention, torture, and enforced disappearance of Abu Baker El Hassy, who had been arbitrarily arrested and detained in Abu Salim in 1995 and whose location remained unknown 11 years later when his brother brought the claim to the committee (Decision: El Hassy v. Libya, UN Human Rights Committee, CCPR/C91/D/1422/2005/October 24, 2007.) (HWR, 2009).

16-21 Feb 2011 Protests continue throughout Libya. Demonstrators are estimated to be in the tens of thousands program (Security Council Report, 2011).

21 Feb 2011 Ibrahim Dabbashi, deputy permanent representative at the Libyan mission, publically breaks from Qadhafi’s regime, reporting the regime’s use of mercaniers to quell demonstrations program (Security Council Report, 2011).

22 Feb 2011 Under-Secretary-General B. Lynn Pascoe briefed Council in closed consultations on the situation in Libya. Subsequent press release condemns use of force against civilians. Arab League condemns the use of force against civilians and suspends Libya’s participation in the League until Libya meets its demands to immediately stop all violence program (Security Council Report, 2011).

23 Feb 2011 African Union issues a statement condemns use of force against civilians and decided to send a mission to Libya to assess the situation program (Security Council Report, 2011).


26 Feb 2011 By unanimous vote, Security Council adopts Resolution 1970 demanding an immediate end to violence in Libya and refers the situation in Libya to the ICC. The resolution also implements an arms embargo, a travel ban, and as asset freeze and creates a sanctions committee (Security Council Report, 2011).


5 Mar 2011 Interim Transitional National Council issues a statement declaring itself Libya’s sole representative. They call for the international community to fulfill its obligations to protect the Libyan people “without any direct military intervention on Libyan soil” (Security Council Report, 2011).


8 Mar 2011 Security Council members discuss possible further measures against Libya, including the option of a no-fly zone, in informal consultations following a briefing by B. Lynn Pascoe. No Action was taken.
The Organization of the Islamic Conference releases a statement supporting the no-fly zone over Libya and rejects foreign operations on the ground (Security Council Report, 2011).


11 Mar 2011  The European Union issues a declaration stating that the use of force against civilians is unacceptable and asserts the member states would explore all necessary options to protect civilian (Security Council Report, 2011).

11 Mar 2011  UN Secretary-general appoints Abdul Ilah Khatib (or Abdelilah al-Khatib), former Minister of Foreign Affairs for Jordan, as the UN Special envoy to Libya (voanews.com, 2011).


18 Mar 2011  Libyan regime in Tripoli says it will comply with the ceasefire called for in Resolution 1973. Secretary-General says a Libyan ceasefire cannot be verified (Security Council Report, 2011).

19 Mar 2011  France hosts a meeting in Paris on Libya. France, the UK and U.S. begin to carry out air strikes (Security Council Report, 2011).

21 Mar 2011  Security Council members meet in informal consultations on Libya, no Libyan representative was invited to participate (Security Council Report, 2011).

24 Mar 2011  Secretary-General briefs Council members on measures taken by member states under Resolution 2973 on Libya (Security Council Report, 2011).

27 Mar 2011  NATO agrees to take over from the U.S. the command and control of all military operations over Libya to enforce Resolution 1973 (Security Council Report, 2011).

29 Mar 2011  A conference in London agrees to form a contact group to support a Libyan transition to democracy and to increase international pressure on Qadhafi to step down (Security Council Report, 2011).


3 May 2011  United Nations (UN) Special Envoy for Libya, Abdul Ilah al-Khatib, briefs the Security Council today on the situation of Libya. Following is exact quote from website: Al-Khatib reported that intense fighting has expanded into the south and west of the country, including in the western city of Misrata, the third largest city in Libya and the main gateway before reaching the Libyan capital, Tripoli. The Special Envoy told the Council that he had received a message from Libyan Leader Colonel Muammar Al-Qadhafi informing that on 30 April NATO forces “had bombed his family’s home and killed his son, Saif Al-Arab, and his grandchildren and that he and his wife survived the attack.” Al-Khatib said that Colonel Qadhafi had described the situation as “no longer tolerable” and that he had responded expressing condolences and stating that “this tragic loss highlights the need for immediately stopping the use of force in a manner that opens the path for political a political solution.” (UN News and Media, UNiFeed: http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed/d/17559.html)

4 May 2011  Quote from UN News Center: The International Criminal Court (ICC) Prosecutor will ask the court’s judges to issue arrest warrants for three people who he said seem to bear the greatest responsibility for crimes against humanity committed in Libya since a pro-democracy movement emerged in mid-February.

As United Nations humanitarian agencies continued today to deliver aid to civilians caught up in the ongoing conflict in the North African country, Luis Moreno-Ocampo told the Security Council in a statement that “in the coming weeks” he will apply to the ICC’s pre-trial chamber for the arrest warrants.

Mr. Moreno-Ocampo said the evidence collected so far by investigators working for his office “has confirmed the fears and concerns” in the Council resolution adopted on 26 February that referred the situation in Libya to the ICC.

“The evidence collected establishes reasonable grounds to believe that widespread and systematic attacks against the civilian population have been and continue to be committed in Libya, including murder and persecution as crimes against humanity," he said.

Evidence indicates that security forces have shot at peaceful protesters in multiple locations and that the Government hired mercenaries and brought them into the country, the statement noted. Torture, killings and enforced disappearances have also been reported.

“The efforts to cover up the crimes have made it difficult to ascertain the precise number of victims but there is credible information that estimates that, just as the result of such shootings, 500 to 700 persons died in February alone.
“It is difficult to estimate the numbers because dead bodies were removed from streets and hospitals. Doctors were not allowed to document the number of dead and injured admitted to hospitals after the violent clashes began.

“Security forces were allegedly stationed in the hospitals and arrested injured individuals who sought medical treatment. Being injured became evidence of opposing the regime, and challenging the authority of the regime is a crime under Libyan law. To avoid punishment and risk of death, some protesters sought medical attention in private homes and did not bring injured or dead persons to the hospitals.”

Noting that armed conflict has been taking place since the end of February, the Prosecutor added that “there is also relevant information on the alleged commission of war crimes,” including the use of imprecise weaponry such as cluster weapons, multiple rocket launchers and mortars in crowded urban areas, particularly the city of Misrata. (http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38270&Cr=libya&Cr1=)
Press Conference by Prosecutor of International Criminal Court Concerning Libya

The Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said today that he would seek arrest warrants in the next few weeks for three people as part of his investigation into crimes against humanity committed in Libya since 15 February.

He did not disclose their names, but said that the three individuals were deemed “most responsible” for ongoing attacks against civilians, including murder and persecution, since political unrest began in the North African country two months ago.

“It is important that the international community knows this is coming, because if the [Court’s] judges issue a warrant, it will be an opportunity to stop the crimes and protect civilians,” Luis Moreno-Ocampo said during a Headquarters news conference this afternoon.

The names will be released the day the case is presented to the Court’s Pretrial Chamber, he said. The judges must then decide whether sufficient grounds exist to issue arrest warrants.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Moreno-Ocampo presented the report of his Office’s initial investigation, carried out under Council resolution 1970 (2011), to the Security Council. He said arrests, torture and disappearances were ongoing in Tripoli and other Libyan cities, not just areas in which there was armed conflict. (See Press Release SC/10241)

His Office was cooperating with the Commission of Inquiry created by the Human Rights Council to investigate the crimes, he said. The Commission, which had conducted a fact-finding mission to Tripoli and Benghazi, would present its report to the Council by the beginning of June.

He said he was seeking more information about allegations of rape and attacks on sub-Saharan African civilians wrongly perceived to be mercenaries for the Libyan Government. The Commission’s forthcoming report would help his Office assess whether there was a need to present new cases to the Court.

Asked who were among the 45 people interviewed by his Office about the crimes, he said most of them were witnesses and some were insiders with knowledge of where and how the crimes had been committed.

Asked if the Court’s investigation of the rebels only concerned allegations of murder and beating of sub-Saharan Africans thought to be mercenaries, he said the Court was also looking into other charges, such as alleged mistreatment and killing of prisoners.
About whether the Court was investigating the air strikes by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Libya and whether such strikes went beyond what was authorized by Council resolution 1970 (2011), he said he was waiting for the final report of the Commission of Inquiry, which had discussed the matter in Tripoli with members of the Administration of Libyan leader Muammar Al-Qadhafi.

Responding to a request for clarification about whether Mr. Qadhafi and any of his sons would be indicted for ordering attacks or if the Court would only indict those people who carried them out, he said his Office investigated crimes only, and not political acts. While crimes against humanity were usually committed by organizations, not individuals, it was not enough to be at the top of an organization. To indict a person, the Court must have evidence of the individual’s personal involvement in the crime. “We are following the evidence. We are not trying to be politically correct,” he said.

Regarding a claim reportedly made earlier in the day by the Libyan Deputy Foreign Minister that the Court’s report was based on unverified information, Mr. Moreno-Ocampo said evidence would be verified by impartial judges from three different countries and that the suspects had the right to challenge it in court.

Concerning the Foreign Minister’s assertion that Libya would allow a Security Council fact-finding mission to Libya but not a Court-sponsored one because Libya was not a Court member, he said the Libyan Government should cooperate with the Court because the Security Council had unanimously referred the Libyan case to the Court. Libya was a United Nations Member State and, therefore, must comply with the Organization’s Charter.

* * * *

For information media • not an official record

### Libya Online Web Sites

#### Libya Newspapers Online

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Web Site</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Al Fajr Aljadeed</td>
<td>alfajraljadeed.com</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Jamahirya</td>
<td>aljamahiria.com</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Shames</td>
<td>alshames.com</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yosberides (formerly Quryna)</td>
<td>yosberides.com</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>Arabic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Selected Libyan Web Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Web Site</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>Libya: Ljcb.net</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Arabic, English, French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al-Gathafi</td>
<td><a href="http://www.algathafi.org/html-english/index.htm">http://www.algathafi.org/html-english/index.htm</a></td>
<td>State Official site of Qadhafi</td>
<td>Arabic, English, French, plus others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Libyan Youth Movement Feb 17th</td>
<td><a href="http://feb17.info/">http://feb17.info/</a></td>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many videos are posted on YouTube.

There are a number of blogs available online.
One example: Libyan Youth Movement Feb 17th: http://nafissa82.blogspot.com/
## Facebook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Web Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 17 Youth Revolution in Libya</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>Arabic, English</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/pages/%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%B4%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%B7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%B3-February-17-Youth-Revolution-in-Tripoli/204550336232663">http://www.facebook.com/pages/%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%B4%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AB%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%B7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%B3-February-17-Youth-Revolution-in-Tripoli/204550336232663</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th February Revolution in Libya</td>
<td>1700</td>
<td>Arabic, English</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/pages/17th-February-Revolution-Libya-%D8%AB%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9-17-%D9%81%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7/152272808164172">http://www.facebook.com/pages/17th-February-Revolution-Libya-%D8%AB%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9-17-%D9%81%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7/152272808164172</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Libya 2011 – February - 17</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>Arabic, English</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/pages/Free-Libya-2011-February-17-%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B6%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7/203305139698841">http://www.facebook.com/pages/Free-Libya-2011-February-17-%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B6%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A7/203305139698841</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 February</td>
<td>1292</td>
<td>Arabic, English</td>
<td><a href="http://www.facebook.com/pages/17-February-%D8%AB%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AE%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%B1/189656771067422">http://www.facebook.com/pages/17-February-%D8%AB%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AE%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%B1/189656771067422</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References


World Engagement Institute (WEI) - May 2011


World Engagement Institute (WEI) - May 2011