

Libya Domestic Media, July 26 (covering June 22 – July 25 2010)

By Odile Noël, MIGS Reporter for Libya

(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1946 GMT 24 June 10)

- The Libyan Foreign Ministry expressed its disapproval of the information contained in the Amnesty International report, saying it does not reflect the state of human rights in Libya. The Ministry considers that the report didn't take into account the Libyan political system. It says that the "criticism of the death sentence" shows ignorance of other cultures and religions, more specifically Islam. Libya also states that the presence of refugees isn't true, as the people in detention centers are illegal immigrants. The Ministry also says that there is no discrimination against the Tabu tribe. Libya will continue to allow Amnesty International in the country "in order to discover the truth".

(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 0001 GMT 26 June 10)

- Al-Qadhafi urged the AU to support the EU request for a unified AU representation at the UN and other international organization. Al-Qadhafi considers that "the AU should follow the steps of the EU and unify its representation".

(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 June 10)

- A five-man summit started in Tripoli to develop a document for the development of the joint Arab action implementing the resolutions of the 22nd Arab summit held in Sirte. The attendees were Husni Mubarak, president of Egypt, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al-Thani, the Qatari amir, Ali Abdallah Salih, the Yemeni president and Jalal Talabani, the Iraqi president.

(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 June 10)

- The fourth meeting of the Community of Sahel and Saharan States (CEN-SAD) opened in Tripoli. The three day meeting aims to discuss mechanisms to solve conflicts in the region and coordination for joint exercises.

(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 June 10)

- The Libyan TV reported on the NATO mission in Afghanistan, explaining that David Petraeus, replacing General Stanley McChrystal, is pessimist about the strategy. The US president Barack Obama is referred to as "Barack Hussein Abu-Amamah", meaning the man with a turban. The report claimed that the general's troops were divided, US intelligence paying tribal leaders millions of dollars to try to buy the safety of McChrystal's troops. The TV claims cemeteries are spreading and troops are suffering serious wounds, horrifying nightmares and drug addictions. "The land of Afghanistan resembles a bonfire the inferno of which left NATO leadership confused, headless and

brainless.” Britain is unable to maintain support and the support of other NATO members has no value on the ground. The whole report aims to discredit and mine the credibility of the NATO mission in Afghanistan.

(State-owned News Agency, JANA, Tripoli, in Arabic 0001 GMT 3 Jul 10)

- The Libyan Foreign Ministry issued a statement against the report by Freedom House, a US-based watchdog, that pressed the UNGA to reject Libya for the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The Libyan statement cited examples of heinous human rights record of the US administration.

(State-owned News Agency, JANA, Tripoli, in Arabic 0001 GMT 4 Jul 10)

- Al-Qadhafi met with Faure Gnassingbe, president of Togo, to prepare the upcoming CEN-SAD meeting to ensure the coordination of the positions of member countries.

(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Jul 10)

- Al-Qadhafi received a delegation of 93 member activists of the National Liberation Front, Democratic National Rally and Movement Society for Peace, members of the War Veteran’s Organization and university lecturers. He spoke to them about the support Libya has shown towards Algeria and his ideal of unity for the Arab nation, in which there is no minority. He called on them to boycott Switzerland. He said is it people who must boycott and not governments, as governments are bound by international agreements and should not be implicated in the issue.

(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Jul 10)

- The Libyan Foreign Ministry issued a statement regarding illegal immigration detailing conditions of Eritrean immigrants in deportation centers and shelters. The report states that shelters and deportation centers are kept in line with international standards and that illegal immigrants are treated as temporary guests. The Libyan effort have been recognized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). There would be more than three million illegal immigrants in Libya, with 400 Eritreans who stayed for between six months and two years. Human rights organizations, Eritrean officials and the office of the IOM were allowed to visit the centers. The report refutes any misleading information that could damage the reputation of Libya and invites the international community to instead deal with the causes of the problem and to financially support the costs of illegal immigrants in Libya.

(State-owned News Agency, JANA, Tripoli, in Arabic 0001 GMT 9 Jul 10)

- The Libyan-sponsored Al-Amal (Hope) ship left Greece today to carry humanitarian aid such as food, medicine, milk and activists to the Gaza Strip.

(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Jul 10)

- Al-Qadhafi ordered an investigation of the conditions of Eritrean illegal immigrants in deportation centers following the coverage of the issue in various media.

(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Jul 10)

- The Al-Qadhafi foundation declared that Al-Amal, the ship it sponsored, was successful in its mission which resulted in concessions in favor of the Palestinians, in the form of reconstruction projects and medical treatment. The foundation said it was not in its intentions to seek confrontation or shed blood. The Al-Amal ship's trip is portrayed as a big change, as no other country had succeeded in bringing help to Gaza before. Libya is to send 50 million US dollars to finance housing projects. The ship was redirected to Al-Arish, Egypt, and the merchandise is supposed to enter Gaza through the Rafah crossing.

(State-owned Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1712 GMT 22 Jul 10)

- The Libyan TV relayed live the opening of the Community of Sahel and Saharan States (Comessa) Presidential Council in N'Djamena, Chad. The problems of Somalia, Darfur were brought up. The Comessa's secretary-general opposed to the decisions of the ICC, which he called a "criminal court imposed only on African politicians and leaders". In his address, Al-Qadhafi insisted on the weight the positions of Comessa could have in the next AU summit, representing the majority of votes and more wealth than the other African groupings. He said Libya was ready to invest 90bn dollars in African markets and that Comessa "must have a lion share". He said such investments required "stability, peace, security, confidence, real independence, political will and corruption free environment." He called again for a united position to establish a federal African state and an executive apparatus for the AU. He ended declaring: "We will not discuss the main summit's agenda, which is children and toddlers, because we are not the UNICEF. This is the prerogatives of the UNICEF."