

Libya Domestic Media
Covering Libya from February 7, 2011-February 23, 2011
By Lawrence Litwin MIGS Reporter for Libya

State-Owned

Libyan T.V., Tripoli, in Arabic, aired on 20, Feb 2011

- Since Tuesday 15 Feb some Libyan cities were vandalized. Hospitals, Banks, Courts, Public Security and Military Police offices and other private property were set on fire.
- Al-Jamahiriya News Agency said that the attacks targeted bank robbery and setting fire to documents related to criminal cases which concern the relatives of the perpetrators.
- Security and military offices aimed to steal weapons to use them.
- Sources said some arrests were made in some cities. People from a foreign network trained in provoking clashes and creating chaos to destabilize Libya are from Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran.

Libyan T.V., Tripoli, in Arabic aired on Feb 20 2011

- Armed peoples "Abu-Umar al Fadil's Base in the city of Benghazi comes under attack by armed men who destroyed walls.

Libyan T.V., Tripoli, in Arabic, aired on 22:17 gmt, Feb 22 2011

- Libyan Secretary of the General People's Congress, Muhammad Abu al-Qasim al-Zawi gave a statement about restoring security to the eastern regions of Libya.
- In a question and answer session, he stated that "this turmoil has been caused by these groups and mercenaries who sold themselves to devil and to the US and Israeli intelligence services. You are all aware that for a while now the Zionist authorities have been stating that they had scattered these [agents] in Libya and that they were about to carry out a devised plan. It was these people who caused these [shortages] in the eastern region. It is not possible to supply provisions to these regions amid widespread chaos and devastation. As you know, they have attacked police stations, arms depots and seized weapons. You have seen them in some videotapes carrying machine guns, RPGs and heavy weapons. This has made it difficult for our kinsfolk in the east. People are asking for help to rescue them from these [armed groups] as soon as possible. God willing, we will soon get rid of them with the cooperation of our kinsfolk in the east."
- When answering a question regarding how the government will respond to the aspirations of the youth with regards to housing, unemployment and other needs, the Secretary stated that the General People's Committee

plans to implement projects such as “the salaries, employment, abolishing of complicated administrative measures in order to obtain loans and housing and so on.”

- The Secretary said that he hoped that a new constitution would be drafted soon, and that it would respond to the aspirations of the young people.
- The constitution will include a press law, a law to regulate civil society and a new penal law.

Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic, 22:19 gmt, 22 Feb 2011

- Libyan parliament Speaker says that security has been restored in most major cities - "It is worth noting that calm has returned to most major cities. Security forces have begun to be deployed in these cities and life began to return to normal".

Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic, 22:45 gmt, 22 Feb 2011

- Senior Libyan security official, Colonel Naji Abu-Harrus, gave detailed accounts of unrest in Benghazi.
- He stated that protestors repeatedly attacked army bases and torched police stations, using light and heavy machine guns, and tanks.
- "On the night of 16 February, massive demonstrations by Libyans took place in Benghazi to reiterate their eternal commitment to the revolution and its leader, including many youth activists.
- "Upon their return, they were attacked by a fragment of vandals, armed with knives. Live bullets were fired, and an exchange of firing took place in self-defence, leading to the killing of 13 persons."
- "On the following day [17 February], after the burial, the vandals headed for the Al-Fadil brigade [an army camp], and the security department in Benghazi, carrying AK-47s that had been seized from other areas of Libya". Once there they reportedly attempted to seize the arms depots.
- At this point, the Colonel explains that “there was no alternative but to fire [at assailants]. As a result, many were killed from both sides.”
- He states that this was repeated on the 18 and 19 February.
- At least 300 people have been killed since 15 February.

Libyan TV, Tripoli, aired at 14:16 gmt 23 February 2011

- Libyan Foreign Ministry blamed Al-Qa'idah and Qatar for stirring unrest.
- A Libyan official singled out the British and Italian Foreign Ministers for spreading false information about the location of Colonel Gadhafi and the number of casualties.

Libyan TV, Tripoli, in Arabic, aired 14:17 gmt 23 February 2011

- Libyan general secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has said that the authorities had "allowed [the Saudi-funded and Dubai-based] Al-Arabiya, CNN and BBC Arabic to enter Libya today".

- However, he noted, "there are some journalists who entered Libya illegally and we consider them as collaborating with Al-Qa'idah elements, we consider them as outlaws and we are not responsible for their security".
- The Foreign Ministry official pointed out that "if they don't surrender to one of the police stations, they will be arrested as soon as possible".

Jana Website, in Arabic, 23 February 2011

- The Secretariat of the General People's Congress (Parliament) has announced that it would set up an independent judicial committee to investigate recent events in Libya, the Libyan news agency JANA reported on 23 February.

Privately Owned Media

London-based independent newspaper Al-Quds al-Arabi website on 7 February

- Electronic war has begun in Libya. There will be a demonstration on Feb 17, to coincide with the fifth anniversary of the Benghazi demonstrations that took place on that day in 2005 and which were quelled by the police.
- Bloggers have started to use facebook to organize Security authorities disturbed by this.
- The group called revolutionaries against the traitors, called for falsehood and slander to be turned into truth and justice.
- Leaflets call for uprising to begin because of the Tunisian Revolution and Egyptian Revolution