

**Libya Domestic Media Monitoring Report
Covering August 29 – September 5
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Contents

- State news reports on a speech by Saif al-Islam
- Qadhafi loyalists turn accusations of torture, hiring mercenaries back on rebels
- Qadhafi said to be alive
- Libyans told to resist however and as long as they can
- PM says colonial invasion impacts all Arab-Muslim world
- Rebels accused of deliberate stoppages in supplies
- Opposition reports activity begins at Ministry of Justice
- In other media, alarm over loyalist executions of Tripoli residents prior to its fall
- Detention of 19 by loyalists results in torture, death, may constitute war crime

State Media

31 August 2011

Source: Al-Ra'y TV

Saif al-Islam, Qadhafi's son, gave a speech in which he called on the people to mobilize against the "rats", their "roadblocks" and their "positions", day and night until the country is cleansed of the "gangs and traitors." He also claimed that among the rebels were foreign fighters from Europe, as well as mercenaries.

Saif al-Islam also directed accusations at the rebels which have been more commonly directed toward the Qadhafi regime in recent months, in opposition media. Namely, he stated that the rebels had been seizing government workers and threatening them and their families with torture.

Finally, he claimed that Qadhafi is "fine".

1 September 2011

Source: Syria-Based Al-Ra'y TV

Qadhafi gave a 10 minute speech on the station in which he repeated the themes of previous speeches over the summer, namely that the “agents and traitors” do not enjoy popular support, and that the people of Libya should resist and “let the battle be long”.

Source: Al-Ra'y TV

The news bulletin announced that the Western Alliance had attacked Sirte, Al-Ujaylat and Tripoli, causing deaths and water, electricity and medical shortages. The announcer also claimed that Tripoli now finds itself facing a water shortage which was an objective of the rebels.

5 September 2011

Source: Syria-Based Al-Ra'y TV

Prime minister Musa Ibrahim gave an interview in which he argued that the outcome of the situation in Libya would have a bearing upon other countries, naming Syria and Saudi Arabia. His assessment went so far as to declare that the fate of Arab-Muslim civilization rests upon the fate of Libya, in addition to and enlarging the scope of the claims that the unrest in the country is a colonialist invasion.

He also spoke on the controversial Tripoli Military Council leader, Abd-al-Hakim Bilhaj who is allegedly a former member of Al-Qaeda turned rebel [see for example, www.usatoday.com article, “Islamists’ Role Evolving in Libya”] and responsible for leading rebels in the battle for Tripoli. Ibrahim accused the leader of terrorist activity.

His interview also included accusations that the rebels had committed crimes against humanity including preventing the delivery of oxygen to a hospital in Bani Walid because of its support for Qadhafi.

Opposition/Non-State Media

29 August 2011

Source: Libya TV

The channel carried a press conference by the National Transitional Council's justice official, Muhammad al-Allaqi. The official announced that new prison directors would soon be appointed, and that activity had begun in the Ministry of Justice in Tripoli.

External and Other Media

30 August 2011

Source: UN News Service

The United Nations expressed "alarm" over news of summary executions perpetrated by pro-Qadhafi forces in Tripoli prior to the city's fall. With this news in mind, attention now turns to the thousands of Libyans detained by Qadhafi's forces prior to or during the uprising, and they have launched an appeal to those who know about the whereabouts of these people to come forward with information in order to avoid further needless loss of life.

1 September 2011

Source: Amnesty International

Amnesty International has reported accusations that 19 detainees were locked in a container by pro-Qadhafi forces on a construction site in al-Khums on June 6 and left to die in the 40 degree heat. Only 10 of the 19 of those trapped survived. The people trapped were mostly civilians, and the Amnesty report points out that it is a war crime to kill or torture civilians.

4 September 2011

Source: Human Rights Watch

The rights watchdog is calling upon the National Transitional Council to take action on the situation of blacks in Tripoli. Black people in Libya have come to be associated in the eyes of many rebels with the mercenaries serving Colonel Qadhafi, exposing them to the danger of arrest and attack. Many are in fact migrant workers. The rights organization says it has not found evidence of killings, but mass arbitrary arrest and detention are becoming a problem. As a result, it is being suggested that, as quickly as possible, the NTC set up a justice system capable of reviewing the cases of the large number of those detained.

6 September 2011

Source: Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Rumours are circulating as a military convoy arrived in Burkina Faso reportedly bearing someone resembling Colonel Qadhafi.

However, Radio Netherlands Worldwide carried another story on the same day announcing that a Libyan convoy had arrived in Niger resulting in further speculation.

The precise whereabouts of the leader have been generally unknown for several months as the rebels call for his appearance for trial in Libya (see media monitoring report for Libya, August 22 - 28.)