

**Libya Domestic Media Monitoring Report
Covering July 12 – July 18
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MIGS media monitor for Libya**

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State Media

16 July 2011

Source: Al-Jamahiriyah TV

A speech was aired in which the Libyan president Muammar Qadhafi again persisted in his accusations that the rebels were “foreign-financed,” “gangs,” and “traitors,” while associating them with a return to colonialism. He also threatened that the “million” who had demonstrated their support for him would march on the rebel-held Misrata if the rebels did not abandon their weapons.

15 July 2011

Source: Al-Jamahiriyah TV

In a speech, Qadhafi claimed that 5 million had demonstrated in support of him. He indicated that the rebels would not be killed or held accountable if they surrendered peacefully, but would be trampled under the feet of these millions if they did not. With

respect to the opponents of Libya (including NATO) he said that he would put the millions of supporters to tanks so that his opponents could not attack them, and later said he would make the men and women ride the tanks into battle “where you can massacre them”.

15 July 2011

Source: JANA News Agency Press

The prime minister denied rumours that the government planned to bomb Tripoli if it was lost to the rebel forces. (See “Other Media,” below.)

14 July 2011

Source: Al-Jamahiriyah TV

The station carried a news story that Human Rights’ Watch had found rebels to be committing human rights abuses, burning homes, destroying property, looting hospitals and shops and attacking civilians. (See below.)

Opposition/Non-State Media

17 July 2011

Source: Libya TV

One news story placed responsibility with the Libyan leader for the infection of 400 Libyan children with the HIV virus in 1998¹. The report went on to claim that the fiasco in which foreign nurses and a doctor were initially blamed was in fact Qadhafi’s way of lashing out at Europe at the expense of Libyan children.

13 July 2011

¹ Outside experts who looked into the spread of the virus in this case found that the infection was the result of poor hygiene in a Benghazi hospital.

Source: Libya TV

One news story was a response to reports of human rights abuses by opposition forces which had been signalled by Human Rights' Watch. Jum'ah Al-Zintani, a spokesperson for the military council for the Western region of the country, distanced the events from the rebel movement indicating that it was a matter of some locals bearing grudges against those who had joined Qadhafi's forces.

Source: New Quryna

Reports that the Secretary for the General People's Committee for Agriculture has stated that Libya may be facing a food shortage resulting from fuel shortages.

Other Media

19 July 2011

Source: Radio France Internationale (on <http://allafrica.com>)

Conflicting reports are emerging from the rebels that they have taken the strategically important town of Brega, while Qadhafi's forces claim to have won the battle and repelled the attack.

18 July 2011

Human Rights' Watch (<http://www.hrw.org>)

With rumours circulating of the possibility for negotiations between Qadhafi and his opponents, and that, involving extending immunity to Qadhafi in exchange for his resignation of power, Director of International Justice at HRW, Richard Dicker, has warned that such an exchange is a serious danger. He points out that in the short and long-term, holding leaders accountable for their human rights abuses is important for securing peace.

17 July 2011

Source: Al-Jazeera TV

Rebel commanders told Al-Jazeera that they have found hundreds of landmines over a span of one kilometer on their advance toward Al-Burayqah and expect that around 40,000 have been planted there. They also worry that the regime may be planning to use mustard gas.

14 July 2011

Source: Libya-TV (<http://english.libya.tv>)

The Kremlin's envoy to Libya, Mikhail Margelov, was quoted in the Izvestia (a Russian newspaper) as saying that Libyan prime minister Al-Baghdadi Al-Mahmudi had informed him that Qadhafi would likely bomb Tripoli if the capital city fell into rebel hands.

Source: International Organization for Migration (on <http://allafrica.com>)

The organization has reports that 1,000 migrants from countries such as Chad, Sudan and Nigeria are in hiding in areas around the Kufra oasis. The organization worries that the migrants who are mostly women, children and the elderly do not have the resources to survive in the harsh desert climate. The report also states that close to 625,000 migrants have fled Libya since the beginning of the conflict.