

Libya Domestic Media Monitoring Report
Covering 4 May – 9 May
By Richard Hinton

Contents

- State reports on women completing their training to fight alongside Qadafi's forces
- Calls for the punishment of the members of the National Transitional Council
- Qadafi regime denies accusations that its forces are using sexual violence as a weapon of war
- Opposition reports on the number of missing and dead in Libya since the beginning of the conflict; discovery of an old mass grave; concerns that Algeria has returned defecting Qadafi soldiers fleeing Libya
- Government documents indicate the state had ordered Misrata to be cut off from essential supplies
- Video footage of Qadafi fighters beating a hooded and bound man
- Human Rights Watch concerned over the discovery by opposition forces of over 150 landmines believed to have been placed by government forces.

State Media

14 June 2011

Source: Al-Jamahiriyah TV

An "urgent" screen caption read, "rallies of anger in Benghazi in which participants demand that the council of treason and shame [reference to the National Transitional Council] and the traitor military personnel, who had betrayed the great Al-Fatih revolution, misled their children and killed dozens of them under the banner of the cross, be punished."

This was screened over video footage showing the ceremony of the "graduation of the batch of the free women [Arabic: hara'ir] of Abu-Salim 12/6/2011". Women were shown training on the use of arms; others sat in the audience.

"May Allah make Mu'ammarr victorious," said one woman in the audience.

16 June 2011

Source: newspapers Al-Jamahiriyah, Al-Fajr al-Jadid and Al-Shams

State newspapers carried predictable pro-government front-page headlines, such as Al-Jamahiriyah's report that people in Benghazi were demanding that members of the "council of treachery and shame" (National Transitional Council) be punished.

17 June 2011

Source : Al-Jamahiriyah and Al-Libiyah TV

In a press conference, the secretary of the General People's Committee, Prime Minister Al-Baghdadi Ali al-Mahmudi denied allegations of sexual violence used by Al-Qadhafi's forces, calling them "lies" and saying that he would not be surprised if the claims served as a pretext for a ground invasion by NATO forces.

Opposition Media

June 18, 2011

Source: Libya FM

- "Abd-al-Hafiz Ghawqah, the official spokesman for the National Transitional Council, says that the number of martyrs has reached until now 16,000 and the number of missing people in Tripoli is 25,000. There are also huge numbers of injured and missing people in all Libyan cities.

- "An old mass grave has been discovered east of Dirna".

- "[National Transition Council vice president] Ghawqah severely criticized the Algerian regime, describing it as tyrannous and oppressive. The criticism came over news that Algeria returned two Libyan officers who fled from Al-Qadhafi's brigades toward Algeria. He said that if this news is true, 'then Algeria has returned these two men to be killed, which is a flagrant violation of human rights'".

Other Media

19 Jun 11

Source: *Libyan Youth Movement (shabablibya.org)*

The prominent activist website, shared a report by the British Observer newspaper which showed Libyan government documents allegedly seized in Misratah. The documents showed orders to cut off Misratah from fuel and food supplies, among other things. (<http://shabablibya.org/news/muammar-gaddafi-war-crimes-files-revealed>). They also tweeted the link to more than 35,000 followers.

Source: *Al-Manara Libya Facebook page (http://on.fb.me/eHhTmQ)*

The site posted a video showing Al-Qadhafi loyalists striking a hooded and bound man who was tied up in the back of a pickup truck. A soldier repeatedly punched him the face, while others called him a rat and a homosexual. The post attracted many enraged comments condemning the abuse.

21 June 2011

Source: <http://english.libya.tv>; <http://allafrica.com>

The website <http://english.libya.tv>, as well as <http://allafrica.com>, carried a report originating from Human Rights Watch that the opposition forces in Libya had found over 150 landmines placed by Qaddafi forces. Armed opposition forces in the Nafusa Mountains said that rebel fighters discovered the mines on or around June 1, 2011, and removed 169 of them. In addition, the report pointed out that landmines pose a threat to civilians and that Libya was among the 37 countries that has not banned them.