

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

State Media

16 May 11

Source: Al-Jamahiriyah TV, Tripoli, in Arabic 1854 gmt

At 1854 gmt on 16 May, Libyan State TVs reported in "urgent" screen captions that Tripoli was under NATO bombing.

"Tripoli is currently under colonial crusader aggression bombing," Al-Libiyah TV said. While Al-Jamahiriyah TV quoted a "military" source as saying: "Civilian and military locations in Tripoli and the area of Qasr bin Gh'asheer have come under colonial crusader aggression bombing. This resulted in human and material losses."

15 May 11

Source: Al-Libiyah TV

At 0910, the channel showed what it claimed confessions by a member of the Misratah "armed gangs. The man identified himself as 28 year-old Nasir Ali Sughayir from Misratah. The invisible interrogator was forcing confessions from Sughayir, while belittling and insulting him and referring to him as a beast and a man without "feelings".

For 45 minutes, the man "confessed" to have "set fire to vehicles, police stations and to have raided Security centres to obtain weapons then set the centres to fire". He described his group as "saboteurs".

He "confessed" that they set check points, executed security men and arrested people who came from outside Misratah. He said members of the Al-Qadhafi's Hamzah Brigade in Misratah had asked them to stay away as they did not want to shoot at them, and then the brigade withdrew only for the "saboteurs to storm its centre, seize weapons and set the centre to fire. He said there was a reward of 2,500 dinars for every killed member of the "armed people". He "confessed" to have received 7,500 dinars for "cutting the throats and "mutilating the bodies" of three members of the armed people.

He also "confessed" that his group attacked families who supported Al-Qadhafi, "abducted and raped their girls" and then "mutilated" their bodies.

14 May 11

Source: *Al-Jamahiriyah*

The presenter stated: "A military source announced that warships of the crusader, colonial aggression, stationed along the Libyan coast has shelled the Al-Dafniyah area in the city of Misratah, causing significant human and material losses. Citizens were forced to leave their homes, farms and animals in a state of migration contrary to all human values, thereby increasing the thousands who migrated as a result of this unjustified savage and hostile bombardment."

13 May 11

Source: *Al-Jamahiriyah TV, Tripoli; Al-Libiyah*

Emotive patriotic and/or anti-rebel video montages were shown. A particularly graphic one on Al-Libiyah said in on-screen captions over photos of Interim National Council members that "NATO rebels" had taken part in "bloodbaths", the punch line scrawled in dripping red. And both channels continued to report news, mainly from the official Jana news agency, in tickers at the bottom of the screen. The ticker on Al-Libiyah also included a recurring appeal to the "families of martyrs" to phone the channel and supply information about their sons.

12 May 11

Source: *Al-Jamahiriyah*

News report on consequences of NATO air strikes and a new "human shield" to prevent them: bombing in Tripoli early in the morning had caused "human and material losses" (no video was shown), and civilians had reportedly gathered at the TV and radio station in Tripoli to form a "human shield" against NATO air strikes the "previous evening" (see separate BBC Monitoring reports).

10 May 11

Source: *Al-Jamahiriyah Press*

The main red-letter headline in Al-Jamahiriyah was: "Units of the Atlantic alliance [NATO] forces leave African migrants to die from hunger and thirst" (photo of overcrowded boat).

9 May 11

Source: Al-Jamahiriyah

Al-Jamahiriyah, in its four-hour long "Good Morning the First Jamahiriyah", invited to the studio a Chadian man and two women identifying themselves as "members of the African committee for the defence of the king of African kings". They said the committee had been set up by "African peoples and tribes", while referring to its members as "volunteers" who received no financial rewards because their objective was to "defend the Libyan leader and people, the voice of justice and the voice of Islam".

Opposition/Privatey Owned Media

14 May 11

Source: Libya al-Yawm; Birniq

Yesterday's reports focused mainly on the arrest of the French nationals suspected of being spies.

In an exclusive report, Birniq said the French nationals had claimed to be working for a "security" company, but their presence in Benghazi was suspicious as they were staying in residential areas despite being advised to stay in hotels "for their safety".