

**Libya Domestic Media Monitoring Report
Covering 24 May – 30 May**

By Richard Hinton

State Media

25 May 11

Source: Al-Jamahiriyah TV

Programme summary of Libyan TV news 1930 gmt 25 May 11

Video report.5. 1418 General people's Committee for Justice says Libyan courts are the only ones to have responsibility for trying people "responsible for what is going on" in Libya

Video report.16. 5310 A number of young people who joined the rebels, were captured by Libyan army, but have now been released.

26 May 11

Source: Al-Jamahiriyah TV

Libyan state-owned Al-Jamahiriyah TV broadcast a long report on women from Sirte training with weapons such as RPG-7s, AK47s, FALs and PKS heavy machine guns. The women, teenagers to elderly, seemed in high spirits, chanting pro-Qadhafi songs, ululating and declaring their "unwavering" support for the leader.

Source: Al-Libiyah TV

The focus in this report was the release from jail of the latest group of the "formerly deluded" Libyans. They were shown "renewing" their support for Al-Qadhafi, pledging to be "loyal" soldiers and to return to the frontlines and fight "the crusaders, their agents and their mercenaries". The newly released Libyans were all dressed in white overflowing robes, reminiscent of the Saudi jihadis who attended "rehab centers" in Saudi Arabia [<http://goo.gl/yuhWv>]. "What do you say to the others in the western part? In Misratah? In Benghazi?" the reporter asked a member of the group. "They will be pardoned should they abandon their weapons," the latter replied.

Al-Libiyah also aired a mix of YouTube footage reportedly showing scenes from the Misratah fighting posted by the rebels. The footage showed bloodstained floors, killed pro-Qadhafi fighters in green uniforms being put in pickup trucks and gruesome archive footage of Misratah

rebels celebrating, while displaying a charred body, after they successfully countered one of the first Qadhafi attacks on Misratah. The video ends by saying "this is what the terrorist gangs did in Misratah". At least some of the footage, however, was taken out of context. The shot of bodies in the pickup truck, for example, is a rebel video that was posted after they had retaken the city and started to remove the bodies lying on the sides of streets and under the rubble [<http://goo.gl/vft1Z>].

Source: Al-Jamahiriyah TV, Tripoli, in Arabic

Libyan premier says his country ready to observe ceasefire

Mahmudi thanked the world media representatives for "witnessing the events" in Libya. He spoke about "civilian casualties" and material damage caused by NATO attacks: "The destruction of our infrastructure [...] indicates that there is a pre-planned agenda to harm a large number of citizens, particularly civilians as the shelling takes place late at night when families are in their homes. Consequently, there is no doubt that the main objective is to harm civilians, and not to protect them, and to eliminate this peaceful and small, but strongly determined, people."

He then drew attention to the shortage of fuel because of the naval and air blockade "which prevents medical doctors and people from reaching their work place, leading to the increase of the death toll in hospitals. So this is the protection of civilians!"

He then said the developments in recent months proved that the "solution cannot be military and there is a need for a free dialogue among Libyans away from bombs and rockets. Consequently, we see that time has come for all parties to comply with the UN Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973, particularly with regard to a ceasefire."

"Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi is the leader of the Libyan people. It is he who decides what the Libyan people want. Leader Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi is in the heart of every Libyan. If Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi leaves, all Libyan people will leave."

Answering Al-Arabiya TV reporter on Western leaders' use of the words "leave" and "step down" when addressing the issue of Al-Qadhafi, Al-Mahmudi said that Al-Qadhafi was not the head of state or president of Libya: "The power in Libya is in the hands of the People's Congresses and People's Committees. Therefore, anyone who speaks about leaving or stepping down means the stepping down of the People's Congresses and People's Committees. Those who come up with such statements do not understand the nature of Libyan political system. Since 1977, leader Mu'ammār al-Qadhafi had nothing to do with the running of government affairs."

31 May 11

Source: Jana TV

Libyan state media highlight Zuma visit, opposition question his mission

Libyan state news agency Jana tended to reflect Al-Jamahiriyah TV, but also carried a six-part report on confessions made by "Khalil Miftah Ibrahim Abu-Shaybah", an alleged "member of the armed terrorist gangs in the town of Misratah". He talked about the atrocities and "ugly crimes" he and "other terrorists" had allegedly committed.

Abu-Shaybah recounted the "slaying" of people at roadblocks and the "removal of kidneys". These were then transferred to a surgery complex in Misratah and subsequently sold to foreigners outside Libya, one report said.

Opposition/Private Owned Media

28 May 11

Source: Doha-based Libya TV

News that a further 45 defectors from the Al-Qadhafi regime was reported; 43 of them were said to be "high-ranking Libyan military men", the remaining two diplomats.

31 May 11

Source: Libya TV

The bulletin discussed what has become a daily update on the fighting in the area of Jabal Nafusah (Al-Jabal al-Gharbi or Western Mountain). The two towns of Yafran and Al-Qal'ah had undergone "intensive bombardment" from pro-Qadhafi forces, the presenter said. This was followed by amateur video of unexploded shells and damaged buildings. An amateur video of a statement from the rebels of Al-Zintan in Jabal Nafusah was then shown, stressing the plight of the rebel-held areas. And Muhammad al-Qal'awi, a spokesman for the rebels in Al-Qal'ah, said by phone that the two towns were being bombarded every day.