

**Libya Domestic Media Monitoring Report
Covering September 13 – September 19
By Richard Hinton
MIGS media monitor for Libya**

Contents

- Pro-Qadhafi news reports appeal from Qadhafi to UNSC
- Outcry against visit of British and French heads of state
- Numerous accusations of abuses by NATO and “agents”
- Pro-Qadhafi towns of Sirte and Bani Walid put up fierce resistance
- Enthusiasm at council chairman’s speech while Cameron, Sarkozy visit Benghazi
- Other media report that resistance in Sirte and Bani Walid force retreat of rebels
- HRW finds Tripoli was terrorized after departure of Qadhafi loyalists

State Media¹

14 September 2011

Source: Al-Ra’y TV

The channel screened a short message attributed to Qadhafi in which he appealed to the UN Security Council not to abandon Sirte (Qadhafi’s hometown). In it, he stated that NATO actions in Sirte constitute terrorism and destruction, atrocities and crimes. He concluded by calling on the UNSC to intervene.

15 September 2011

Source: Al-Ra’y TV

On a phone-in program, callers from various parts of the Arab world expressed disgust at the visit of the British and French heads of state and anger at the NTC. The channel also aired images including charred bodies and pro-Qadhafi rallies.

¹ Although foreign governments and international bodies are gradually recognizing the shift of power, the heading “state media” is being used for pro-Qadhafi media for this week’s report.

17 September 2011

Source: Al-Ra'y TV

A screen caption read: tens of homes randomly bombarded by NATO agents, killing tens of families.

18 September 2011

Source: Syrian-Based Al-Ra'y TV

Government spokesman Musa Ibrahim denounced what he called “cruel” actions by NATO and the National Transitional Council in their attacks on Sirte which he alleges were responsible for hundreds of civilian deaths. He also praised the pro-Qadhafi forces who he claimed had repelled the latest attacks.

19 September 2011

Source: Al-Ra'y TV

The channel continued its coverage of struggle between pro-Qadhafi forces and the rebels. It maintained that the loyalists were standing strong in their “jihad” against “agents of NATO” in the town of Bani Walid. The channel also aired a report from a hospital in Sirte with images of the injured. The man reporting on that story said that Sirte had been cut off from basic necessities like medicine, electricity, means of communication and the media, and called it NATO’s greatest crime against humanity.

Opposition/Non-State Media

15 September 2011

Source: Libya TV

During a visit to Libya by President Nicolas Sarkozy and Prime Minister David Cameron, the chairman of the NTC addressed an ecstatic audience in Benghazi alongside his French and British counterparts, stating “this is your revolution”.

External and Other Media

18 September 2011

Source: *Radio France Internationale* (on www.allafrica.com)

During the NTC push for the towns of Bani Walid and Sirte, the rebel forces encountered fierce resistance and were forced to cede ground they had gained only days earlier.

19 September 2011

Source: *Human Rights Watch* (on www.allafrica.com)

A press release from HRW echoed many of the same points that have been heard until now with respect to the past months of revolution in the country, while adding a significant observation. Troops loyal to Qadhafi are said to have “unleashed terror” on the inhabitants of Tripoli as they retreated from it in late August. Those held in custody were particularly badly treated, while “ordinary citizens, suspected of supporting the rebels, were killed on the streets and at checkpoints.”

Analysis

Pro-Qadhafi media have focused on presenting the actions of its opponents as criminal and unjust, stressing tensions within the NTC and the rebel camp in general, and emphasizing the military successes of the loyalists (and failures of rebels). The persistence of violent resistance to the rebel push has been confirmed in other media as well. On the other side, recognition of the revolution by the local and international political communities has been met with enthusiasm. This represents a sign that divisions within the country remain.