

Libyan media coverage of events 0700-1100 gmt 23 Feb 11

Media observation by BBC Monitoring on 23 Feb 11

Libyan media on 23 February covered developments in the country with expected comment from the various sources. Libyan state TV and news agency was firmly on Al-Qadhafi's side, while Internet opposition radio was against the Libyan leader.

News websites were not updated on 23 February.

Libyan state TV

Libyan state TV continued to show crowds of people in Al-Zawiyah, Tarhunah, Al-Jaffarah and other areas carrying pictures of Al-Qadhafi and chanting slogans in support of the Libyan leader. One slogan said: "Allah, Mu'ammara and Libya only".

A screen caption said the time was 2018 gmt, which was some three hours after the Al-Qadhafi speech on 22 February. Another caption said the crowds were out in support of the "brother leader's" speech.

Later in the morning, the channel began to air Libyan folklore songs, followed by a talk show with guests praising the leader.

The presenter said those "lowlifes" would never succeed in changing Libya into a country of bloodshed. One guest said attacking army garrisons was not allowed and that dialogue was the best way forward.

Libyan TV later displayed a caption in the top right-hand corner of the screen saying the broadcast was "live".

JANA news agency

Libyan official news agency, JANA, carried reports on the Libyan leader's speech, highlighting the fact that he had made it from the house which had been destroyed by the US in the 1986 raid.

Internet opposition radio

The internet opposition radio, available on <http://libya.blog-video.tv/>, was observed to air recorded material between 0600 and 0800 gmt. One man said Libyan authorities were washing the streets to remove the blood of those killed in the protests.

A caller who said he was calling from Times Square, New York, asked why pictures were not shown from Tripoli and western Libya. The presenter said Tripoli and some of the western areas were under the regime's control and that communication was under their strict control, to the extent that if they heard the words "they're out" the phone was

cut off. A woman corroborated the story, saying she had telephoned her sister in Tripoli and when she said "everyone was out", she was immediately cut off.

One participant, at around 0650 gmt, condemned the Libyan leader and the killing of Libyan people. Another wept as he spoke of the situation in the country, calling on Libyans not to give up.

The presenter questioned whether "Al-Qadhafi's psychological state would allow him to live for a year, six months, or one month", adding that "he would not last long, and that he would die with a bullet, or kill himself with a bullet". "I expect him to take his own life, to commit suicide," the presenter said.

Websites

Libyan news websites observed were not updated on 23 February. None of the news websites was observed to carry any reporting of or reactions to the Libyan leader's defiant 22 February speech.

The privately-owned Libya Press and Libya al-Yawm were not updated on 23 February. Both websites carried news reports from 19 and 22 February, respectively. Libya al-Yawm published a large photo showing protesters on top of a building identified as the headquarters of the security division in Benghazi, with a banner hanging from the building saying "No east or west, Libya eternal unity". The protesters were carrying the old pre-Al-Qadhafi-era Libyan flag.

The latest update on the pro-Sayf al-Islam Quryna and Oea websites carried reports from 22 February. State-owned papers Al-Shams have not been updated since 21 February while Al-Zahf al-Akhdar's website was not accessible on 23 February. The website of another pro-state organ, Al-Watan, was "under maintenance".