

Tripoli August 22nd 2014

Report from Libya

By an Independent Libyan Citizen

The People of Libya suffered for 40 years under Gaddafi do not want to suffer again!

Insider View

The aim of this report is to provide information for all those who wish to see the country of Libya established with a stable government, which can ensure peace both internally and externally.

Present Forces on Ground

- The Revolutionary Forces (R.F.) which fought alongside NATO to ensure the removal of Gaddafi soldiers consist of:
 - 1st Disciplined army (see 12th August Zliten Army Officers Declaration)
 - 2nd Disciplined fighters - the Durue - led by the Chief of the Armed Forces
 - 3rd Independent armed groups who are determent to retain their weapons until the establishment of a constitution, which is currently being drawn up. These groups mistrust the present government.

The R.F. at present are in control of almost all major cities as Benghazi, Garian, Khoms, Mesalata, Misurata, Nalut, Sebha, Sebrata, Sirt, Surman, Tarhuna, Tripoli, Zawia, , Zliten, Zwara and part of Zentan.

Anti – revolutionary forces, which are acting against the 17th Feb Liberation Principles are:

- Retired General Haftar´s soldiers are located outside Merj, east of Benghazi. These are ex-Gaddafi old officers and some young men from the local community plus some of the Libyan airforce located near Tobruk. Haftar is also collaborating with ex- Gaddafi regime officials (currently in exile in Egypt, and wanted for trial in Tripoli).
- Military group Kikae and Sawaek led by warlords from Zentan located southwest of Tripoli. These consist mostly of ex-Gaddafi Security forces.
- Partially tribal support for Gaddafi insurgents in Wershafana, southwest of Tripoli and Benwalid midwest of Libya.
- Groups of extremists called Ansar Sharia are located in Derna. These are also present in Benghazi – in the east of Libya.

Current Front Line Assessment

The R.F. are making daily progress in fighting the forces of the military group Kakae and Sawaek in Tripoli successfully. Also Benghazi is now under control of the R.F. Haftar, even though still using a few planes for causing civilian casualties and damages to properties, has been successfully resisted. R.F. has public support and will form the nucleus of the Libyan army in future.

Means and Performance

- Libyan democracy is premature and should not be compared with advanced ones in the western world. It will be at least two decades before Libya can have a properly effective parliament representing a good portion of the population.
- Libya lacks strong political parties and organized labour unions. Therefore the democratic process will be slower than, for example, in Tunisia.
- The well trained army is small in number in lower ranks, but more individuals are in higher ranks and close to retirement (like Haftar). Some of these high ranks wasted big budgets in the last two years through corruption and purchase of non-necessary items during Zedan's government.
- Major failure of Zedan's government
 - 1st The Zedan government has allowed corruption to grow to an unprecedented scale by letting some of the previous middle management, which is known to be corrupt, continue to run hold important government offices.
 - 2nd The Zedan government has created and financed the military forces known as Kakae and Sawaek. These were established after the so-called liberation of Tripoli in October 2011, and are manned by ex – Gaddafi soldiers. They were and still terrorising Tripoli residents for the last two years with all sorts of crime including kidnapping, raping, and armed robberies. These two groups are currently being expelled out of Tripoli. During their retreat, however, they are carrying out further acts of terrorism by igniting gasoline storage tanks, and bombarding innocent civilians by blind rocket attacks.
 - 3rd The government has failed to reduce or halt organized crime and failed to prevent drugs trade. In both cases, Zedan should have sought more assistance from Europe, which would have benefitting both Libya and Europe. Help from Italy in the form of drones was promised, but never materialized.

- 4th Zedan did not deal with other problems appropriately, or early enough. For example the closure of oil shipping terminals. Zedan also failed to deal with the large number of jailed criminals, whom Gaddafi freed during his final days. These have been left to run riot among the civilian population creating chaos and havoc.
- 5th Of the hundreds of murders and robberies occurring mostly in Benghazi, not one perpetrator has been brought to justice.

All those who were / are responsible for the above should be brought to trial to answer for their crimes.

The New Parliament

The newly elected body convened in Tobruk in early August has had an unfortunate start. According to the current constitution, the new parliament should have been convened first in Benghazi. Thus it is already divided, which has resulted in lack of trust among the population. In order to get the democratisation process back on track, the following steps are necessary:

- 1st Haftar's war on civilians must be stopped, and a plan drawn up to restore stability to Libya. A ceasefire in Benghazi and Tripoli must be enforced with the assistance of the UN monitoring forces by land, and in the air. The UN should also oversee the proper restoration of all illegally occupied State and Private properties
- 2nd A new small government must be appointed with the mandate to solve problems and to engage fighting factions, agree on common ground for building the corner stone of the new Libya. This will involve the Revolutionary Forces and the 12th August 2014 Zliten Army Officers Declaration and any other groups that abide by the Constitution Declaration
- 3rd The influence of extremist groups must be reduced by influential dialogue and recognized law enforcement agency. A repetition of the Egypt scenario – that most Libyans do not want – must be avoided.
- 4th New government officials should be deterred from mis-using funds by the implementation and enforcement of the 2012 / 13 Government Internal Audit report.
- 5th The Zliten Army Officer's Declaration of August 12th 2014 should be implemented to establish an army and security forces. The Declaration also recommends the gradual process of dismantling unofficial armed groups.
- 6th Fully activate the newly elected municipalities by providing funds for their budgets and at the same time ensure that spending is controlled by established audit policies
- 7th Negative outside influences – ostensibly from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the Emirates must be neutralized. These influences destabilise Libya.

Unfortunately, the present parliament is still occupied with issues that detract from the above mentioned central points. An appeal to foreign powers to intervene in Libya was totally rejected at a mass demonstration in all major cities on Friday August 15th.

Good news is, that the oil production is picking up and NOC target is one million barrels by the 4th quarter this year.