

RELEASE IN PART
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From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 8:17 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Libya: Coalition Forces Media Reaction - 3-20-2011 1900 EDT

Positive report.

From: Hammer, Michael A
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 08:05 PM
To: Smith, Dana S; 'Benjamin J. Rhodes'; [REDACTED]; Burns, William J; Feltman, Jeffrey D; 'Denis R. McDonough'; [REDACTED]; Sullivan, Jacob J; [REDACTED]; 'Shawn S. Turner'; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] NSC Deputy Press Secretary; Steinberg, James B
Cc: Wells, Alice G; Mull, Stephen D
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RRU Special Report

Libya: Coalition Forces

Media Reaction

Sunday, March 20, 2011, 1900 EDT

Latest News on Libya from

Al-Jazeera

Al-Jazeera and Al-Jazeera English carry live the 4:10 pm (Washington time) Pentagon briefing by Navy Vice Admiral William E. Gortney, director of the Joint Staff, on progress in the Operation Odyssey Dawn. Later, Al-Jazeera continues to run the following quotes from his briefing on the bottom of its screen:

- Operations against Qaddafi's forces to the South of Benghazi were successful
- We doubt all Qaddafi's pronouncements including those declaring ceasefire
- There are no indications that civilians have fallen in Libya as a result of Operation Odyssey Dawn

Al-Jazeera highlights announcement by Libyan military that a complete ceasefire will be implemented as of 9:00 pm (Tripoli time) on Sunday 20 March in response to request by members of the African Union. Immediately following, Al-Jazeera interviews an opposition leader, Abd-al-Hafiz Fuqa, in Benghazi who stresses that Qaddafi and his forces have no intention of stopping their attacks but just want to deceive the international community. Fuqa expresses the delight of the rebels by Operation Odyssey Dawn because it has completely changed the equation in their favor as their forces stand now face to face with Qaddafi's forces. Fuqa denies reports that Misrata has been taken over by Qaddafi's forces

saying that only one street and one square from Misrata are under Qaddafi's control. Al-Jazeera also contacts a rebel from Misrata who confirms the news.

Other breaking news from

Al-Jazeera on the situation includes:

- Rebel forces are moving towards Ajdabia to help break its siege
- Smoke is seen billowing from Al-Azizya, Qaddafi's headquarters
- Shelling continues in Tripoli

Qatari News Agency announces that Qatari planes are helping in enforcing the no-fly zone over Libya

Reuters reports that an unnamed US official responded to Arab League criticism of the West's action by stating that operations are in response to the UNSC resolution that all measures will be taken to protect Libyan civilians.

- British Foreign Minister Hague stresses that there is no comparison between this operation and the attack on Iraq.

Highlights from other Arab papers

All papers headline the beginning of the operation, most depending on wire services with UAE

Khaleej Times headlining: "Initial bombing called successful; endgame unclear." Qatar's

Al-Raya reports that Qatar's Foreign Minister Hamad Bin Jasem participated in the Paris summit and Sarkozy announces launch of operations.

Pan-Arab

Al-Quds al-Arabi reports that influential Egyptian cleric Qardawi (resides in Qatar), said in an interview with

Al-Jazeera that the "battles against Qaddafi are not a 'Crusade' and were requested by Arab countries."

In an editorial entitled: "Attacks Cannot be Excuse for Invasion," UAE

Gulf News argues that "building the future of Libya should be left to the people alone," stressing the importance that the "goal of military action in Libya be clearly defined," and the "goal not be altered" over time.

In an op-ed in Lebanon's

Daily Star, Rami Khouri is encouraged as the "chimes of freedom ring in Benghazi." He opines that the UNSC resolution is "complex and full of imprecision" but is necessary in face of Qaddafi's tyranny.

From: Hammer, Michael A
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 12:45 PM
To: Smith, Dana S; 'Benjamin J. Rhodes'; [REDACTED]; Burns, William J; Feltman, Jeffrey D; 'Denis R. McDonough'; [REDACTED]; Sullivan, Jacob J; [REDACTED]; 'Shawn S. Turner'; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] >; NSC Deputy Press Secretary; Steinberg, James B
Cc: Wells, Alice G; Mull, Stephen D; Smith, Dana S
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**Libya: Coalition Forces
 Media Reaction
 Pan-Arab TV snapshot: 3-20-2011 NOON EDT
 (prepared by London Media Hub)**

- Al-Jazirah:** reporting focuses on news of action on the ground and interviews with opposition figures in Libya;
- Interview with opposition figure: The most important military targets have been struck; the conflict will go on until Qaddafi goes;
 - Straplines from Qaddafi's speech: We will never give up; Benghazi will rise up; the attacks are unjustified;
 - AJ continues to run its earlier interview with the Qatari Foreign Minister in which he justified Qatar's support for the military operations;
 - Russia calls on UK, France and the US to "stop the aggression on Libya"; Russia calls on all parties in Libya to observe a ceasefire immediately;
 - Interview with Sennoussi Sikri, opposition figure in Benghazi: There is no pity for Qaddafi or his troops; Reactions (to the military action) have been positive; he claims anti-regime fighters are ready to "complete the operation" now that they have air cover and once Qaddafi's overwhelming military forces have been reduced; he claims Mullen's comment that the military operation is merely to protect civilians was merely a diplomatic ploy;
 - Reuters reporting that Qaddafi forces have entered Misrata with tanks in central square;
 - From Misrata, spokesman for Youth Revolutionary Movement that Misrata has been exposed to heavy bombardment and attacks which reached the center of the town, where it met heavy resistance; Qaddafi's forces are following a scorched earth policy and destroying everything in their path; Qaddafi forces using mercenary snipers;
 - Russia calls on Britain, France and the US to stop using what it calls arbitrary force in Libya
 - Al-Jazirah's presenters covering unrest in the region are asking every guest, no matter what the country they are discussing, if events would justify external intervention such as is happening in Libya;
 - Opposition accuses Qaddafi of using civilians as human shields;
 - Qaddafi has no margin of maneuver beyond Bab al-Aziziyah;
 - New speech by Qaddafi accusing West of a Crusader war and vowing to battle to the end in a long war; claims the West is trying to "wipe out" Islam;
 - Pentagon says it has destroyed most Libyan air defenses;

Al-Arabiya:

- Qaddafi's forces are using boats to close the port of Misrata (little reporting on Libya in the afternoon)

BBC Arabic:

- News headlines on the conflict; caption is: "The Western military operation in Libya."
- Interview with an Arabic-speaking Russian analyst; Russia trying to walk a very fine line;

General:

- No Arab governments have voiced objections or criticism of Western intervention in Libya. Objections come from Russia, China, Chavez and the African Union.
- Qatar's PM defended his country's participation in enforcing no-fly zone in Libya saying it is to protect civilians from organized attacks by the military and mercenaries.
- Libyan opposition welcomed intervention but maintained they do not want a direct foreign presence on Libyan soil.
- Qaddafi describes intervention as a "Crusade" and says he has ordered arming of the Libyan people.
- Misrata is said to be under siege by Qaddafi forces.
- *Elaph* reports that the Western operation in Libya has no clear end-objective.

Other news of note:

- SYRIA: *Al-Arabiya* is focusing this afternoon on Syria; it carries an interview by phone with a Syrian speaking about the protests in Der'a and elsewhere, comparing Syria to Libya; he accuses the Syrian government of using mercenary forces to attack civilians, including Hezbollah fighters from Lebanon; *Al-Jazirah English* also covers the Syria protests;
- YEMEN: coverage on *al-Arabiya* and *al-Jazirah al-Mubashir* of big protests in Sanaa and continued calls for Saleh to step down; Aden reported at a standstill because of protests.

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