

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, August 21, 2011 12:49 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: (SBU) Libyan Ambassador to UAE on Tripoli Fighting

(SBU) Libya's recently-appointed Ambassador to the UAE, Dr. Aref Ali Nayed, called in Dubai-based media representatives to the Libyan Consulate in Dubai at 18:00 local time Sunday, August 21 for a press conference regarding the current situation on the ground in Tripoli. Nayed, who has a role in TNC post-liberation stabilization planning efforts, claimed to be relaying information derived from ground commanders around Tripoli. Two Consulate General Dubai political officers attended the press conference. (Western press in attendance included CNN, AP and Financial Times)

Highlights:

- Qadhafi forces are committing widespread violence throughout Tripoli. Qadhafi was waging an "unfair fight", Nayed cited examples of using ambulances as camouflage to attack civilians and having targeted worshippers in a mosque.
- Nayed described "bodies in the street" in Tripoli, noting that hundreds are feared to be dead from recent fighting, and thousands injured. He stated that some neighborhoods like Tajoura have been liberated by rebel fighters, while others like Sidi Masri were the sight of on-going battles. He noted violence near Palestine Square, and added that Qadhafi had fired on civilians from the nearby Islamic Museum.
- Nayed stated that Tripoli could fall by tonight. He declared today as "Day One" of the TNC's post-liberation stabilization effort. Nayed called on the international community for immediate military and humanitarian assistance. Nayed urged partner nations and the UN to implement their plans for a liberated Tripoli, and to release "promised resources".
- When asked of the most pressing concerns, Nayed called for assistance to protect the citizens of Tripoli, specifically asking for Apache helicopters from NATO to stop ground-based Qadhafi forces. He called on the international community to use all means necessary to protect the people of Tripoli, fully utilizing the authority bestowed by UNSCRs 1970 and 1973. The second priority is for an immediate rush of humanitarian aid, notably medicine, food, water, and communications equipment.
- Nayed called on Qadhafi loyalists and mercenaries to lay down their arms, appealing to their sense of nationalism and humanity by declaring "you are not Qadhafi's forces, you are Libya's forces." He said that the TNC Stabilization Group had promised due process for all Qadhafi loyalists who surrender.
- The Stabilization Group, headed by Nayed, is using its Control Room at the Libya Consulate in Dubai as a base of operations. Nayed noted that information is being collected from throughout Libya and redistributed to forces on the ground. The group is working closely with the operations room of the Nafusa Mountain Military Council, and coordinating efforts with the Military Councils in Misrata and other cities. Nayed also said that TNC Prime Minister Jibril was in frequent contact with the Control Room from his present location in Doha.
- After the press conference, Nayed took ConGen Dubai Poloffs aside and described challenges connecting to AFRICOM, noting that they had been unable to reach contacts the previous night when fighting broke out in Tripoli. The volunteers are staffing the Control Room 24 hours a day.

- Nayed stressed that targeted military assistance was required to stem attacks on civilians and to secure strategic locations of the city – such as Wallis Air Base, which is critical to facilitate transportation of supplies to the capital.
- Nayed said the Stabilization Group plans to host regular press conferences at the Dubai Consulate, and provided reporters with the email address: info@libyatransition.org for all inquires. Nayed will deliver interviews tonight on Al Jazeera, CNN, and Al Arabiya.
- A Stabilization Working Group meeting, to include participation from USG representatives, will take place at the Libyan Consulate in Dubai August 22-23.