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**From:** H <hrod17@clintonemail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2011 8:46 AM  
**To:** 'sullivanjj@state.gov'  
**Subject:** Fw: H: Q momentum stalled, Khamis Q badly burned, more. Sid

Pls forward as appropriate.

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**From:** sbwhoeop [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 17, 2011 08:06 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** H: Q momentum stalled, Khamis Q badly burned, more. Sid

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CONFIDENTIAL

March 17, 2011

For: Hillary  
From: Sid  
Re: Q momentum stalled; Khamis Q severely injured; IDs of NLC

Latest:

During the afternoon of March 16 individuals with access to the National Libyan Council (NLC) stated in private that, while rebel forces had lost a good deal of ground to forces loyal to Muammar Qaddafi, the NLC leadership believes these Libyan military and security troops have overextended their supply lines and are beginning to lose momentum in their advance on the rebel center of Benghazi. The NLC leadership was particularly encouraged by the suicide attack carried out by a Libyan Air Force Pilot, who crashed his plane into Qaddafi's headquarters at Bab-Azizya in Tripoli. Qaddafi was apparently uninjured in the attack, but two of his sons were injured, including Khamis, the commander of the 32<sup>nd</sup> brigade of the Libyan army, who was severely burned. Khamis led the eastern advance of the Libyan army, and his troops are believed by the rebels to have committed particularly violent attacks against civilians in recaptured towns like Ras Lanuf.

These rebel leaders believe this incident was a shock to Qaddafi, who in an effort to distract the Western Nations and weaken the rebel's morale, allowed his son Saif al Islam to issue statements regarding the impending fall of Benghazi. Saif also revealed that Qaddafi covertly provided funds to support the 2007 election campaign of French President Nicolas Sarkozy. According to these individuals this statement was intended to punish Sarkozy for recognizing the NLC government, while deflecting any potential action by other Western Nations to move against Qaddafi's forces.

At the same time, individuals with access to advisors to Qaddafi stated in confidence, that while Libyan military and security forces had made significant progress against dissident troops in their drive toward the rebel center of Benghazi, Qaddafi's troops were beginning to experience logistical problems that may slow their progress. The Libyan forces are moving farther from their bases around Tripoli and are suffering from exhaustion after ten days of continual fighting.

At present, the bulk of the combat is being born by Qaddafi's Special Forces units and mercenary troops drawn primarily from Chad, Nigeria, and the Taureg tribe of Southern Algeria. These forces have sufficient ammunition and other supplies, but they are experiencing technical difficulties with their tanks, armored cars, and attack helicopters, all of which require regular maintenance and replacement parts. At present their most effective and durable weapons have been their 155 mm motorized guns. They are using these weapons to attack rebel held population centers; the guns firing from beyond the reach of rebel counter fire. (Source Comment: According to sources with knowledge of the Libyan military, their mercenary troops believe that the rebels summarily execute any foreign fighters they capture.)

For their part, rebel forces under General Abdulfath Younus continue to hold out against the Libyan military, while reinforcing their facilities in and around Benghazi. Younus believes that despite their losses, the rebel forces will be able to hold Benghazi and the area twenty five (25) miles to the west. He is convinced that with the loss of Khamis, added to their logistic and morale problems, the Libyan government forces will be unable to capture a large, well defended city like Benghazi. That said, Younus is pressing NLC leader Mustafa Mohammed Abdul Jalil to lobby Western Governments for support. Without this foreign aid, Younus believes the fighting will settle into a costly stalemate.

(Source Comment: Some NLC officials believe that Qaddafi has approached the government of Malta to obtain fuel for his attack aircraft. At the same time NLC officials stated that they continue to hope that the United States and Germany will join France in officially recognizing the Council as an interim government. They believe that this step will provide a significant morale boost to the rebels and, by the same token, will discourage the loyalist troops.)

Knowledgeable individuals provided the following details on the NLC:

The Council is composed of thirty one (31) members representing the various regions and cities of Libya. A number of these members have been identified; however the names of the individuals representing Ajdabiya, Al Kufrah, Ghat, Nalut, Misratah, Az Zintan and Az Zawiya will not be identified in an effort to protect their families if these areas are captured by Qaddafi's troops. The Council is anticipating the selection of representatives from Central and Southern Libya, and Tripoli.

The following are the names of Council members who have been identified:

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  - 5.
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  - 7.
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  - 9.
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It was also announced that Mr. Omar Al Hariri will chair the military affairs committee, supporting Younus. Mr. Mahmood Jibril and Ali Al Issawi are responsible for foreign affairs and international liaison.

**Mustafa Abdul Jalil Fudail** was born in the city of Bayda, east Libya in 1952. He graduated from the department of Shari'a and Law in the Arabic Language and Islamic Studies faculty from The Libyan University in 1975. AbdulJalil was appointed assistant to the Secretary to the Public Prosecutor in the city of Al Bayda, he was appointed as a judge in 1978. In 2002 he became President of the Court Appeals, and then President of the Court in Al Bayda. He was chosen as Minister of Justice in 2007.

**Mr. Mahmood Jibril:**

Born in Libya in 1952, Jibril earned a degree in Economics and Political Science from Cairo University in 1975. He later attended the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania earning a Masters degree in 1980 and a PHD in Strategic planning and decision-making in 1984. Jibril remained at Pittsburgh as a professor of Strategic planning, and he has published 10 books on this subject. He also led the team who drafted and formed the Unified Arab Training manual, and organized the first two Training conferences on this subject in 1987 and 1988. Jibril later took over the management and administration of many of the leadership training programs for senior management personnel in Arab countries including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Libya, UAE, Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain, Morocco, and Tunisia, as well as Turkey and Britain

**Mr. Ali Al Issawi**

Born in the city of Benghazi in 1966, Issawi holds a PhD in privatization from the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest Romania. He occupied the position of Minister of Economy, Trade and Investment in the Qaddafi government, and was the youngest minister appointed by Qaddafi. Before taking the ministerial position, he founded the Centre for Export Development in 2006, and became the first Director General. He also became Director General for the Ownership expansion program (privatization fund) in 2005.