

Obama ups pressure, Interpol issues global alert on Gaddafi

Pro-regime forces recapture Zawiyah, many "dead, wounded" in clashes

AFP, Brega

US President Barack Obama said all options were on the table for driving Libya's Muammar Gaddafi out of power as Interpol issues global alert on Gaddafi and 15 more yesterday.

Despite grave reservations expressed by the US military command, Obama said a no-fly zone was among the "full range" of options as he demanded that Gaddafi "step down from power and leave".

Meanwhile, forces loyal to Libyan leader Gaddafi have regained control of Zawiyah, near Tripoli, from rebel hands, state television reported yesterday.

A local militant politician in the town vehemently denied the report and said opposition forces were still in control of the town.

Mohammed Qassem said in a live interview on Aljazeera television however that the town had been surrounded by pro-Gaddafi forces and three people had been killed by loyalists forces in fighting there yesterday.

And later, a Libyan government official said "pockets of resistance"

remained in the middle-class dormitory town 60 kilometres west of Tripoli.

Libya's Channel One said "the people of Zawiyah and the heads of the popular committees have made Zawiyah safe from the armed terrorist forces."

Channel Two said government forces were in control of most of the city and that 31 tanks, 19 troop carriers and other weapons including rocket launchers and anti-aircraft guns had been seized from the rebels.

Fierce clashes between regime loyalists and rebels had left "many dead and wounded" at an oil compound in Raslanuf, a doctor at a hospital in rebel-held eastern Libya said.

The casualties were being ferried in ambulances racing back from frontline battles around the desert oil installation.

"We have received three patients so far, hit by rockets. We're probably going to have to do an amputation on one of them," Doctor Abdul Fattah al-Moghhrabi, director of supplies for Brega hospital, told AFP.

Anti-regime supporters called for

massive protest in the capital Tripoli which ended in violent clashes yesterday.

Interpol has issued a global alert against Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and 15 others, including members of his family and close associates, the global police organisation said yesterday.

Interpol said it issued the Orange Notice "in a bid to warn member states of the danger posed by the movement of these individuals and their assets," following a UN Security Council travel ban and asset freeze.

The move is also to assist the International Criminal Court investigation into alleged crimes against humanity in Libya, Interpol said in a statement.

Obama told a White House news conference that Gaddafi's "appalling violence" on his own people showed that he had lost all legitimacy.

"Going forward, we will continue to send a clear message: The violence must stop. Muammar Gaddafi has lost legitimacy to lead and he must leave," he said.



Libyans perform Friday prayer under pouring rain in Benghazi yesterday as loyalist forces launched a fresh air strike on Libyan rebels' territory in the east, and pumped-up opposition fighters pushed forward the frontline against Muammar Gaddafi's regime.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN brief

Britain, Austria seize Libya regime's assets

AFP, London

Britain has seized \$160 million of Libyan currency found on a Libya-bound ship after escorting the vessel to an English port, officials said yesterday.

The ship was on its way to Britain after trying to dock at the Libyan capital Tripoli, where it decided it was too unsafe because of the unrest in the north African country, a government source told AFP.

Meanwhile, Austria's central bank yesterday froze the assets of one of Gaddafi's close associates, who left Tripoli late last month to seek refuge in Vienna.

Five African leaders head to I Coast to mediate crisis

AFP, Nouakchott

A panel of five African presidents will meet briefly in Mauritania before heading to Ivory Coast yesterday to mediate a political crisis which the United Nations warns may spiral into civil war.

"The five (presidents) will meet for two hours in Nouakchott before taking their flight to Abidjan," a Mauritanian diplomatic source told AFP.

The UN refugee agency meanwhile warned in Geneva that it was suspending activities in western Ivory Coast because of clashes and that its work was becoming increasingly difficult in Abidjan.

Japan's FM apologises over fund-raising scandal

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara apologised yesterday for illegally receiving donations from a foreign resident living in Japan.

"I'm terribly sorry," Maehara told a news conference. "It's all my responsibility."

Maehara has admitted having received political donations worth at least 610 dollars from the foreign resident, in violation of Japan's political donation law, according to Japanese media.

Some political commentators say the donation scandal may force Maehara out of his job.

Egypt set for referendum on constitutional changes

AFP, Cairo

A popular referendum on constitutional changes in Egypt has been set for March 19, an army source told AFP yesterday.

"The referendum will take place on March 19, depending on the security situation in the country. But that is the date that has been set, yes," the army source said.

A statement on the cabinet's Facebook page said there would be changes to seven articles of the constitution. It said one article will be removed and three additions will be made.

India opposes no-fly zone, use of force in Libya

AFP, New Delhi

India is opposed to a no-fly zone or the use of force in Libya, and other major developing nations have "reservations," a top Indian foreign ministry official said in remarks published yesterday.

"As of now we are not in favour of a no-fly zone. We are opposed to use of force," foreign secretary Nirupama Rao told The Hindu newspaper.

"Among BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) countries, questions have been raised and reservations expressed," she said.

India is a temporary member of the UN Security Council, but has ambitions to become a permanent member with a veto alongside Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

Developments in ME, N Africa

AFP, Cairo

Latest developments in the unrest sweeping the Middle East and North Africa:

JORDAN: Thousands of Jordanians demonstrated in Amman to demand "regime reforms," a day after Prime Minister Maaruf Bakhtit rejected calls for a constitutional monarchy.

TUNISIA: New Prime Minister Beji Caid Essebsi accused toppled president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of "high treason" during his first public appearance.

- Tunisia will hold an election on July 24 to choose an assembly to write a new post-revolution constitution, which was a key demand of government critics.

SAUDI ARABIA: Cyber activists have created a group on Facebook calling for a "Day of Anger" yesterday in the eastern Shiite-majority Saudi region, following the arrest of a Shiite cleric who called for a constitutional monarchy.

BAHRAIN: Six opposition groups, including the largest Shiite parliamentary bloc, set conditions for dialogue which include electing a "constitutional assembly" to form a new constitution.

- Police dispersed young Sunnis and Shiites who clashed yesterday in a town in Bahrain, residents said. The incident was the first of its kind in the kingdom rocked by a wave of protests calling for political reforms.

DJIBOUTI: The interior ministry on Thursday asked the opposition to postpone a demonstration scheduled for Friday, with presidential elections a month away.

MOROCCO: King Mohammed VI of Morocco set up a new body to defend human rights, an official source said, replacing an existing organisation which had a purely consultative role.

ALGERIA: Two Algerian opposition parties boycotted the opening of the spring session of the Algerian parliament Wednesday and one of them announced three protest marches for Saturday (today).

SYRIA: Activists are demanding political reforms be made a top priority as revolts rattle regimes across the Middle East, toppling Egypt's and Tunisia's leaders in less than a month.

Yemen army shoot dead four protesters

AFP, Sanaa

Yemeni troops killed four demonstrators and wounded seven others yesterday when they fired on an anti-regime rally in the north, officials and Shiite rebels said, as protests raged across the country.

The shooting, which came a day after the opposition and clerics offered embattled President Ali Abdullah Saleh a smooth exit from power, took place in the village of Semla, 170 kilometres (105 miles) from the capital Sanaa.

"Two protesters were killed and nine others were wounded when soldiers opened fire from a military position on the demonstration calling for Saleh's departure," a leader of the Zaidi rebels said on condition of anonymity.

The death toll later rose to four when two protesters died of their wounds, according to a government official in the northern province of Amran, who declined to be named.

In the capital Sanaa, massive crowds gathered for weekly Muslim prayers in a square where anti-Saleh protesters have been camped since February 20.

Top ten quotes from 'The Green Book'

A comprehensive way of decoding the mind of Gaddafi

THE DAILY BEAST ONLINE

Gaddafi encapsulated his most profound thoughts in the short book that he enforced his people to read. Here are the quotes from the book which is subtitled 'The Solution to the Problems of Democracy; The Social Basis to the Third Universal Theory':

1. "Women, like men, are human beings. This is an incontestable truth... Women are different from men in form because they are females, just as all females in the kingdom of plants and animals differ from the male of their species..."

2. "There are inevitable cycles of social history: the yellow race's domination of the world, when it came from Asia, and the white race's attempts at colonizing extensive areas of all continents of the world. Now, it is the turn of the black race to prevail in the world."

3. "While it is democratically not permissible for an individual to own any information or publishing medium, all individuals have a natural right to self-expression by any means, even if such means were insane and meant to prove a person's insanity."

4. "Mandatory education is a coercive education that suppresses freedom. To impose specific teaching materials is a dictatorial act."

5. "If a community of people wears white on a mournful occasion and another dresses in black, then one community would like white and dislike black and the other would like black and dislike

white. Moreover, this attitude leaves a physical effect on the cells as well as on the genes in the body."

6. "Sporting clubs which constitute the traditional sports institutions in the world today are rapacious social instruments. The grandstands of public athletic fields are actually constructed to obstruct access to the fields."

7. "Placing a child in a day nursery is coercive and tyrannical and a violation of the child's free and natural disposition."

8. "Labour in return for wages is virtually the same as enslaving a human being."

9. "The democratic system is a cohesive structure whose foundation stones are firmly laid one above the other, the Basic People's Conferences, the People's Conferences, and the People's Committees, which finally come together when the General People's Conference convenes."

10. "No representation of the people is a falsehood. The mere existence of parliaments underlies the absence of the people, for democracy can only exist with the presence of the people and not in the presence of representatives of the people."

"Freedom of expression," Gaddafi also wrote in The Green Book, 'is the right of every natural person, even if a person chooses to behave irrationally to express his or her insanity.'

The Colonel himself has certainly taken full advantage of that particular freedom.

Jordan nixes constitutional monarchy calls

AFP, Amman

Thousands of Jordanians demonstrated yesterday in Amman to demand 'regime reforms,' a day after Prime Minister Maaruf Bakhtit rejected calls for a constitutional monarchy.

"The people want regime reform. Reform is a popular demand. We want a new electoral law," the protesters, including Islamists, trade unionists and leftists, chanted in the city centre after midday prayers.

Holding national flags, the demonstrators, estimated by Islamist leaders at 10,000 and by police at 5,000, carried banners reading: "We need bread and freedom," "Down with the bullying policy" and "Together let's dissolve parliament."

"We stick to our demands to have a modern electoral law, early elections, a new method of forming governments as well as more efforts to fight corruption," Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Jamil Abu Baker told the crowds.

"We reject all attempts to kill or abort real political reforms, which should be implemented in line with a clear timeframe."

South Korea warns of 'reckless' North Korea

AFP, Seoul

South Korea's leader warned troops yesterday to guard against North Korea's "reckless" military provocations, as a new dispute erupted between the two countries over four defectors from the communist state.

President Lee Myung-Bak stressed the need for separate branches of the military to work together to counter the threat from North Korea's special warfare forces, which Seoul says number 200,000.

"Through reckless military provocations, they (the North) are continuing to threaten peace," he told a multi-service officer commissioning ceremony at Gyeongdongdae, 160 km (100 miles) south of Seoul.

The defector dispute is the latest episode in a year of high tensions and comes as US and South Korean troops stage major military exercises that the North has branded a rehearsal for invasion.

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- Minimum Average Grade Point of 2.5 in five subjects in O-Level and 2.0 in two subjects in A-Level (A=5...E=1).
- Candidates will be selected on the basis of past academic results and admission test performance.
- Note: Admission test is waived for candidates with minimum score of 1200 in SAT (Math + Critical Reading) and 550 (CBT 213 / IBT 79) in TOEFL or 5.5 in IELTS.
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* Photographs should be attested by gazetted officers or Principal / Head of the Department of the last academic institution attended.

For Further Information, Please Contact

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