

Quadhafi : Last Blood



The internal dynamics of crisis

Guest Speaker: George Joffe

Respondent: Mr Mans Nyberg

<http://www.royalafricansociety.org/reports-of-ras-meetings-201011/858.html>

Why Libyan conflict differs from Tunisia and Egypt?

Egypt and Tunisia: have a peculiarity of allowing social activities and an active civil society.

Libya: political movements and civil society organizations are prohibited in order to prevent any vehicle for protest.

Relevance of Political Islam?

The West tends to see it as the explanation for the uprisings in the Arab world.

The sense of commonalities of this complex movement tends to be over-estimated and not bearing relevance to the past events in Libya, Tunisia and Egypt.

Why did it start in the East?

- Nature of pre-Libyan regime: Italian oppressive colonial period, no source of revenue;
- Typical tribal civil society
- Arrival of Gaddafi in 1951: reversed tribal hierarchy and geographic situation
- Creation of division between the East and West based on ethnicity and power which Gaddafi came in to fight (as military leader);
- Tribal ethos and tribal memory still prevail over how Gaddafi came to power and rules Libya;
- Divisions between East and West still prevails due to numerous happenings (in the past) in the East in which Government failed to respond to : 1. the Bulgarian nurses accused of infecting Libyan children with HIV; 2. the Mohammed caricature protests in the East, to which the regime arrested and killed protesters – demonstrations in the East have been continuously beaten down, people in fear of opposing the regime in any way;
- Creation of split in the army (between East and West) caused by: since the lost war in Chad: division in the National Army as Gaddafi neglected it and placed more emphasis on his own legions controlled by his sons. – Those not part of Gaddafi's legion returned to the East but without resources to train themselves. And Gaddafi's army is small but stronger (well trained and equipped).
- Country is split in half, controlling half of the country or losing control of half of the country is a powerful component in the conflict – explained transformation of the demonstration towards a revolution

Who are the actors involved?

Mostly urban intellectuals, basis of the middle-class; university students and also tribal leadership are important actors in this civil war.

How strong is the regime?

“A democratic system which is actually dictatorial”

Gadaffi’s forty years of work is being torn apart.

He relies on his three sons, which shows the heavily family regime centralized nature. However, George Joffe made an important point that Gadaffi would not leave his power to any of his sons as there is no trust on them.

Role of coalition?

No short-term commitment, and the importance of the Resolution 1973 states that any feet on the ground are prohibited ('No-Fly zones) Difficult choices: 'if you arm them, train them; it means long-term commitment and goes against the resolution by putting feet on the territory'

3 options towards regime change:

(1) occupation which is not the best outcome as it might end up as the same mistake as Iraq and train the rebel army and supply them with arms which will take too long a term commitment and requires 'putting boots on the ground which the coalition will not do;

(2) negotiation/mediation: as 'offering honorary concessions will allow Gaddafi to get away with impunity and the East will not be receptive to such negotiations because they want Gaddafi to go'

(3) Internal Coup: seen as the more likely, for Joffe, to get rid of Gaddafi's regime; But, will be messy because the whole family that makes up Gaddafi's regime has to go & the alliance with the 3 major tribes together represent a coherent and cohesive bloc. Plus, the involvement of revolutionary legion and mercenaries to support him with small but well trained army

Outcome?

the Coalition – UN Resolution 1973 -“to protect civilians by all measures necessary”

The coalition is at the crossroad whether to arm the rebels in the East (but this requires long term commitment, hence putting boots on the ground and could be seen as intervention).

The Arab league and America are also now getting cold feet, because the memory of Iraq, and has implications for both sides. The Arab league is in fear that this will become an “Iraq like” intervention from the West.

And on the other side, for America political and economic implications to whether the mandate should be extended.

The future is uncertain: Important for Libyans to create coalitions and representation in political groups but this will take time.

Coalition policies?

Joffes' answers:

The coalition is divided because it concerns Libya and Obama would not take any risks to hinder its domestic popularity due to elections purposes. And Libya is not popular in US domestic politics. Plus there is a need to take into account the Large diaspora that live in 'exile' since 1973 which does not recognize themselves in the regime and the changes in Libya.

Summary of Respondent Mr Mans Nyberg, UNHCR representative

Overview of the humanitarian crisis in Libya.

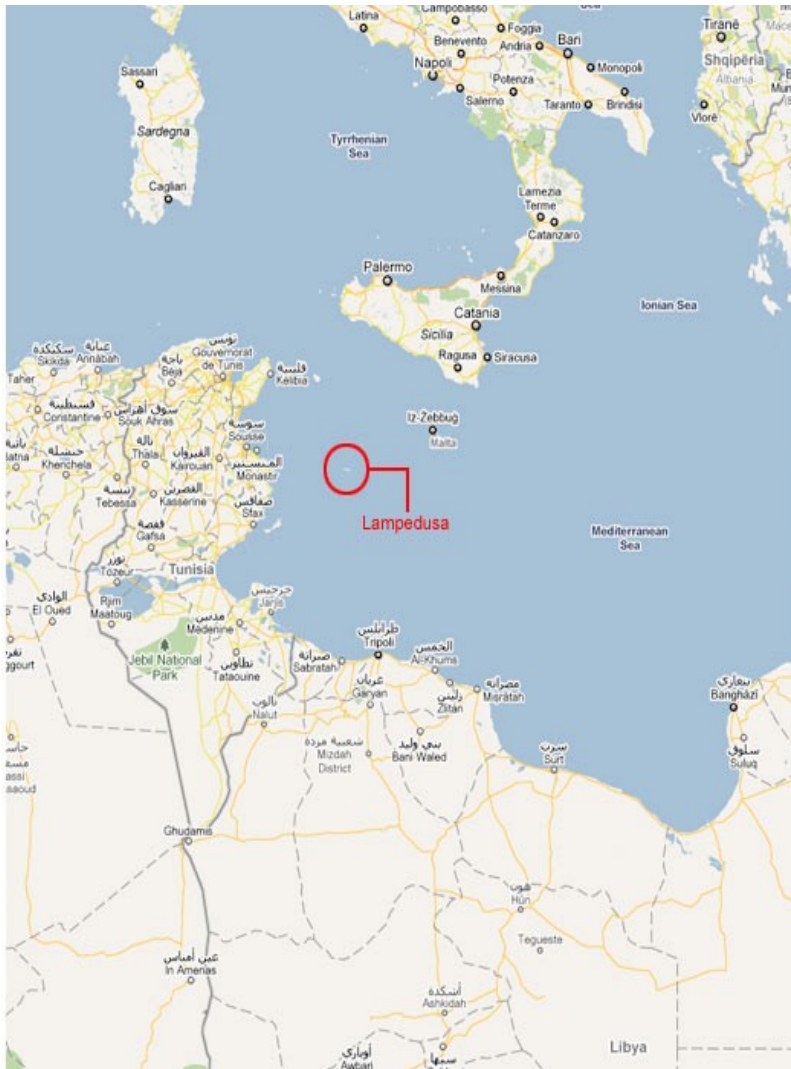
This approach gave support and more factual evidences on what is currently happening on the ground.

Most refugees fleeing Libya are Black Africans.

The actual number of Libyan refugees is around 20.000 but if the crisis goes on, the UNHCR is expecting more refugees flow.

High concern of the UNHCR: situation of Internally Displaced Populations within Libya - around 30.000-35.000 are IDPs within the country.

Third major humanitarian displacement in Africa after (1)Cote d'Ivoire and (2) Somalia



from Sub-Saharan Africa
sea crossing to Pantellaria, Lampedusa



Italy as target of increasing migration

A "Framework agreement"

a measure for dialogue

on international security, development and human rights", for contributing to economic and social reforms (the rule of law, good governance), aiding the development of trade and economic relations including a free trade area and cooperating "in many areas of common interest" including

- migration
- energy
- education
- environment
- and culture

Objective :

an initiative to relieve the migration pressure on Italy as protecting the European border

The new "Framework agreement" as an essential diplomatic aide to Italy its bilateral relation with Libya by access to persuasive and coercive powers of 27 similarly-minded states