

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
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Subject: SPOT REPORT No. 2 08/21/I (SBU Version)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED



EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Operations Center

SPOT REPORT No. 2

Libya Update

Sunday, August 21, 2011
 0630 EDT

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

- (U) Opposition forces consolidated their gains in Zawiyah and Zlitan, a crucial barracks town east of Tripoli, and appeared to control the majority of Brega. *(Al Jazeera)*
- (SBU) Explosions and gunfire rocked Tripoli through the night as opposition forces declared a final push to topple Col. Qadhafi, according to press. Transitional National Council (TNC) Chairman Jalil said they had planned the attack with NATO and their Arab associates. A TNC military commander said the events in Tripoli marked the beginning of Operation Mermaid Dawn. Office of the Special Envoy to the Transitional National Council comments while the TNC provided weapons and some personnel, the current offensive was undertaken by Tripoli residents. *(Ops/Office of the Special Envoy to the Transitional National Council telcon, Reuters, The Hindu)*
- (U) Speaking from an unknown location, Qadhafi released an audio message in which he claimed an assault by “rats” had been quickly repelled. On state television his son, Saif al-Islam, declared the “revolt” in Libya would not succeed and there would be no surrender. *(Reuters)*
- (U) A Tripoli resident said Muslim clerics in parts of the city had called on people to rise up, using the loudspeakers on minarets as people were breaking their Ramadan fast. *(Reuters)*
- (U) A battle is expected to occur August 21 for the town of Aziziyah, located 29 miles south of Tripoli. *(Al Jazeera)*

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

(U) Please see our classified website.

INTERNATIONAL REACTION

- (SBU) Tunisia recognized the TNC in a major shift in policy, media report. Embassy Tunis comments Tunisia had been holding off on recognition principally out of concern about retaliation from the Qadhafi regime, but recent developments have changed the Tunisian government calculus. *(Ops/Embassy Tunis e-mail, AP)*

- (U) Former South African President Mbeki said the conflict would have ended much sooner if the western world had listened to African leaders. He said the AU had a peace plan accepted by the Qadhafi regime, but the continent's leaders were overruled. *(News 24)*

Additional updates on POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS are available through our classified website at <http://ses.state.sgov.gov>

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