

RELEASE IN FULL**Unclassified****Benghazi Report – TNC Chairman’s Press Conference**

Mustafa Abd al Jalil gave a press conference at 1445 local time on August 22, 2011. The main points are as follows:

- Jalil called for the protection of public and private property, citing the words of the Prophet Mohammed who forbade such acts of destruction. He also called upon TNC fighters to exhibit restraint, mercy, and tolerance toward regime supporters. He condemned all extra-judicial killings, and noted that a few elements “affiliated” with the TNC had engaged in behavior that “concerned” him.
- He expressed his thanks to the countries that supported the Libyan revolution from the beginning, especially the efforts of the international community to pass UNSCRs 1970 and 1973, which prevented a massacre in Benghazi. He assured the international community that the TNC would take all measures to protect foreigners in Libya.
- He praised sacrifices of the rebels in western cities such as Zawiya, Zuwara, Misurata, and the Western Mountains, saying that they resisted Qadhafi’s attempts to sow internal divisions among Libyans. He said that key Libyan cities not yet under TNC control such as Sirte and Sebha will soon rise up from within once Qadhafi’s “stranglehold” over them lightens.
- “I declare with all transparency that the era of Qadhafi is over,” he said, but added that the final moment of victory will be when Qadhafi is captured. He hoped that Qadhafi would be captured alive and given a fair trial. He confirmed that Saif al Islam and Mohammed Qadhafi are in TNC custody, unharmed and in safe locations. He said that Mohamed’s Qadhafi’s guards fired upon the TNC fighters surrounding his house, but that the TNC fighters showed restraint despite taking casualties.
- He said that there are many challenges ahead, and that Libyans must seek national reconciliation while still remaining true to the memories of the martyrs who died.
- Jalil would not go into detail about the TNC’s immediate plans going forward, saying only that the TNC will go to Tripoli when it is completely liberated, and that the interim constitution issued last week outlines the timeline for a democratic transition.