

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Verveer, Melanne S <VerveerMS@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 6:49 PM
To: H
Subject: libya

I just met with a couple of women from Libya who are part of a new ngo (they are all new), "Women for Libya". We are going to get together with a larger group in the next few weeks but I wanted to tell you a couple of points they made since I know you'll be speaking tom'w. First, Libya is a place where the US and our allies have credibility and suasion, so what we say matters. Secondly, there is only one woman in the NTC and that kind of symbolism is not sufficient if Libya's transition to a better future is going to become a reality. It is not only not going to be acceptable to the international community to marginalize the women but it should not be acceptable to Libyans to exclude half their population, many of whom were significantly engaged in supporting the uprising. The women are eager to take their place. They came in today --the way the Northern Irish did with you so many years ago-- and pleaded for support to build women's leadership capacity and to be embraced as part of a larger network. The cycle repeats itself!

Melanne S. Verveer
Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW, Room 6805
Washington, DC 20520
Tel: (202) 647-7283
Fax: (202) 647-7288
VerveerMS@state.gov