

RELEASE IN FULL

Benghazi Sitrep – November 28, 2011

TNC Chairman Implicates Former Deputy PM as a Criminal Conspirator in Killing of Gen. Yunus – At a November 28 press conference in Benghazi, TNC Chairman Abd al-Jalil released the results of the TNC's criminal investigation into the killing of Abd al-Fattah Yunus. In the press conference, Abd al-Jalil named those accused, some of whom were in custody and some of whom were still at large. Among the criminal conspirators named were former Deputy PM Ali Essawi (Note: Following the assassination of Chief of Staff Abd al-Fattah Yunus in August, the TNC launched two investigations – one criminal, and one administrative. As a result of Abd al-Jalil's announcement, Essawi has now been implicated by both investigations. End note.) Yunus's son told poloff that the investigation of his father's death has transformed into a political matter rather than a legal one. The Yunus family is demanding that an independent, preferably international, body investigate the matter. (Comment: It is unclear if the TNC will now pursue the extradition of Essawi, who is currently in abroad in Doha. End Comment.)

Former Deputy PM Implicates TNC Chairman in Killing of Gen. Yunus – The evening before the TNC Chairman's press conference on the issue (per above), former Deputy PM Ali Essawi make a preemptive strike via a rare interview to the Cairo-based satellite channel Libya TV, in which he gave his own account of the events leading to the assassination of Gen. Abd al-Fattah Yunus. Essawi disputed the results of the administrative investigation into the killing of Yunus, which found that Essawi and then-Religious Affairs Minister Salem Al-Sheikhi issued an order to arrest Yunus without evidence. Essawi said that in fact a group of rebel fighters had presented the TNC with evidence that Yunus had been meeting with Abdurrahman Al-Seid, a former regime security official. The fighters also complained that Yunus was failing to provide them with ammunition and other supplies. Also contrary to the findings of the administrative investigation, Essawi claimed that Abd al-Jalil had full knowledge of the decision to arrest Yunus and that the Chairman was personally responsible for the irregularities during Yunus's arrest that led to his death. Essawi also alleged that the TNC knows the identities of the killers, but Mustafa Abd al-Jalil refuses to release them.