

# Libya

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be the State Department's coordinator for international energy affairs.

If these powers are now lining up to return to Libya as the supposed patrons of the opposition forces that have seized control of much of the country, they are being driven by the very same appetites for profit and plunder. And despite their professions of support for Gaddafi's overthrow, the entry of military forces of the United States and the former European colonial powers is no favor to those genuinely fighting to overthrow the dictatorship.

Foreign intervention will inflame popular hostility. Many of those engaged in the uprising in Benghazi have already declared their vehement opposition to the entry of US and European troops.



Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi gestures to his supporters during a ceremony marking the 34th anniversary of the launch of the Popular Committees in Tripoli, capital of Libya, March 2, 2011. Gaddafi reiterated that people exercised their authority through popular committees and popular conferences and he is merely a "symbol".

It is the only thing that could allow Gaddafi to resume his bogus posture as an anti-imperialist and give his regime a

new lease on life.

Equally cynical are the claims of concern over the fate of the hundreds of thousands

who have been fleeing Libya since fighting broke out February 17 in Benghazi. The official spokesmen for the various

imperialist powers claim that their own nationals, many of them technicians and other oil company functionaries, are in danger and must be rescued. At the same time, those countries with a Mediterranean coastline—Italy, France and Spain—have warned of a flood of refugees from the escalating civil war. Both problems, of course, have the same "solution"—military intervention, both within Libya and along its coastline.

The anti-Libya campaign is in the literal sense of the word an exercise in plunder. The first major action has been the effective seizure of \$30 billion in Libyan assets held in US financial institutions, and billions more in European accounts, after the passage of a sanctions resolution by the UN Security Council. While dubbed an asset "freeze," it is in reality the confiscation of resources that belong to the people of Libya.

So flagrant is the theft that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, speaking at a business conference in Germany, felt compelled to object. "Mistakes made by governments should not be paid by people," he said. "We think discussions about an intervention in Libya or sanctions are worrisome considering the people of Libya and foreigners in this country." He said that the outside powers should act on Libya "from a humanitarian perspective and not out of considerations for their oil interests."

The momentum toward military intervention is accelerating. The Berlusconi government in Italy—the former colonial power in Libya and the biggest customer for its oil—officially repudiated its non-aggression pact with the Gaddafi regime Sunday. This is the necessary legal preparation both for Italian military action inside Libya and the unleashing of US warplanes at Aviano and other NATO air bases in Italy.

The Obama administration confirmed Monday that it has begun to redeploy naval assets into the Mediterranean Sea, bringing them within range of Libya. The Pentagon was caught off guard by the rapid spread of unrest into Libya, having dispatched the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise through the Suez Canal into the Red Sea on February 15 in a show of force four days after the overthrow of Egyptian President Mubarak. The carrier battle group continued into the Arabian Sea, "showing the flag" in support of beleaguered pro-US dictator Saleh in Yemen and the Persian Gulf oil sheikdoms.

A Pentagon spokesman announced Monday, "We have planners working and various contingency plans and... as part of that we're repositioning forces to be able to provide for that flexibility once decisions

are made." The Enterprise and a smaller helicopter carrier, the USS Kearsage, have now moved back into the Red Sea, in position either to re-transit the Suez Canal or launch air strikes against Libyan targets. The operations under discussion range from "rescue" efforts like those already mounted by British and German commandos, to a no-fly zone, to the outright landing of the Marines.

An additional US concern is the role of China, which is mounting its first-ever military operation in the Mediterranean Sea. Beijing has dispatched the naval frigate Xuzhou from anti-piracy patrol off Somalia through the Suez Canal to the Libyan coast to assist in the evacuation of the 30,000 Chinese citizens, mostly construction workers, trapped by the fighting.

There is an element of desperation and extreme recklessness in the anti-Libyan campaign. It has erupted only a few days after US Defense Secretary Robert Gates in a speech to a military audience declared, "In my opinion, any future defense secretary who advises the president to again send a big American land army into Asia or into the Middle East or Africa should 'have his head examined,' as General MacArthur so delicately put it."

Gates was voicing the pessimism produced by the intractable opposition of the Afghan population to long-term US military occupation, as well as the concerns of the military brass over the deteriorating condition of an all-volunteer force after ten years of constant overseas deployments.

Despite such trepidations, however, there is a logic to imperialism and the Obama administration is driven by it. The ultimate goal of US and European intervention would be to fill the "political vacuum" in Libya, as the *New York Times* termed it Sunday, by turning the country into a protectorate of the imperialist powers.

A US expert on Libya, writing in *Newsweek* magazine Sunday, directly compared an intervention in Libya to the long-term US role in the Balkans.

The political situation in Libya, he wrote, "suggests the Balkans rather than neighboring Egypt or Tunisia as likely precursors for state building in Libya. And as with the Balkans, the international community could have a large and positive role to play by providing expertise and, temporarily, security forces."

In other words, Libya is to be turned into a semi-colony, ruled by the United States and its fellow predators from Western Europe, who will seize control of the oil reserves and transform the country's territory into a strategic base of operations against the mass uprisings now sweeping the Middle East and North Africa. **WSWS**



## Republic of Namibia



### SADC MEDIA AWARDS COMPETITION LAUNCH

The SADC Secretariat announces the launch of the 2011 SADC Media Awards Competition. The Awards are in the fields of Print, Radio, Television and Photojournalism. Prospective entrants are invited to submit their entries accompanied by proof of their Nationality to the National Adjudication Committee (NAC) as indicated below.

#### Rules of the competition

- a) The entries should have been published/ broadcast between January and December the year preceding the awards (2010) by a registered and/or authorised media house or agency or carried on a website of a registered and/or authorised media house or agency in any of the SADC Member States;
- b) The themes of the entries to be submitted for the competition must be related to issues and activities promoting regional integration in the SADC region;
- c) All journalists who are SADC nationals may enter the competition, except those in institutions contracted by SADC and the SADC Secretariat staff;
- d) All works entering the competition should be in one of the SADC working languages, i.e. English, Portuguese and French and they should be submitted as they were published / broadcast (newspaper cuttings, **website addresses**, magazines, audio or video cassettes/DVD's);
- e) Entries are invited from the following categories:
  - i) **Print Journalism:** comprising features/articles published in newspapers; newsletters; website;
  - ii) **Radio Journalism:** comprising broadcast material;
  - iii) **Television Journalism:** comprising televised material;
  - iv) **Photojournalism:** comprising published pictures with a caption or text;
- ◆ *Print Journalism submissions should have a minimum of 600 (six hundred) words and a maximum of 2000 (two thousand) words.*
- ◆ *Broadcast or televised materials should have a minimum duration of five minutes and a maximum duration of thirty minutes and all Broadcast material should be accompanied by a transcript in any of the three SADC languages.*
- f) All entries must be submitted to the NAC not later than 15 March 2011;
- g) The monetary prizes will be accompanied by a certificate signed by the SADC Chairperson;
- h) The National Entries will be initially screened and judged by the National Adjudication Committee, which will select the best entry in each of the four categories to be forwarded to the Regional Adjudication Committee, **through the SADC Secretariat, not later than May 31, 2011.**
- i) The selection of the best regional works will be decided upon by the Regional Adjudication Committee;
- j) The Regional Adjudication Committee reserves the right not to award the prizes if the works submitted do not meet the competition requirements;
- k) The decision of the Regional Adjudication Committee shall be final;
- l) The winners will be announced and the prizes awarded at a ceremony to take place on the occasion of the SADC Summit of the Heads of State and Government;
- m) The Awards will include Print, Radio, Television and Photo journalism and each category carries a prize of **US\$2000.**
- n) The prizes will be paid directly to the winner. In the case of a winner being unable to be present at the ceremony, SADC will make arrangements to give the prize in his/her home country;
- o) All submissions must contain full contact details of the journalist/media practitioner, including, passport-sized photograph, physical address, telephone and, where applicable, fax number and e-mail address;

**FURTHER DETAILS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM KALENI HIYALWA, NAMIBIA NATIONAL ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE FOR THE SADC MEDIA AWARD, TELEPHONE 061 X 2832670, FAX 061 X 230170, EMAIL [khiyalwa@gmail.com](mailto:khiyalwa@gmail.com).**

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES BEFORE OR ON 15 MARCH 2011.**

The SADC Secretariat shall not be responsible for any loss of or damage to the work or material submitted.