

Obama's Illegal Libya Action Ensures Another Permanent War

by Douglas DeGroot

Sept. 5—The six-month NATO regime-change war to topple the Libyan government, which would not have been possible without the huge logistical and intelligence input from the Obama Administration, in addition to forces on the ground contributed by the Obama Administration, in violation of the U.S. Constitution, has put in place all the necessary preconditions for another permanent, Afghanistan-style conflict, this time in North Africa.

The claim from Obama and NATO that they had to intervene to save civilians—an application of the infamous “Right to Protect (R2P)” doctrine devised by the British to justify military interventions throughout the former colonial sector—was an obvious pretext. The regime-change intervention was carried out by these forces to create a new system of control of the world, to replace the now-collapsing world monetary system, the vehicle through which power over the world was previously wielded by the London-based financial empire and its underlings, such as Wall Street. Unending warfare within countries, and war between satraps, is the New Dark Age agenda for controlling what had once been sovereign nation-states.

Additional and damning proof that the defense of civilian lives was not the reason that the war for regime-change was launched, is the silence and inaction by Obama and his ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice, in the face of widespread hunting down and killings by Libyan rebels of black Africans and black Libyans since Benghazi was captured Feb. 23, and after the fall of Tripoli. Rice is the most vocal champion in the Obama Administration of the “right to intervene” doctrine.

Many Africans from very poor countries, from Somalia and Ethiopia across to West Africa, were welcomed to Libya by Qaddafi as workers. They benefitted from the fact that Libyans had the highest income levels in Africa and most of the Arab world. A minority of these Africans were recruited into the security services.

Rebel factions are using this as a pretext to label all blacks as mercenaries, and have been executing large numbers of them. The London *Independent* reported that at one location, 30 bodies were lying decomposing in Tripoli. The majority of them were black. They had been killed at a temporary hospital, while they were on stretchers or in an ambulance. “Libyan people don’t like people with dark skins,” a militiaman explained in reference to the singling out of black men.

Since all blacks are considered pro-Qaddafi by the rebels, many remain in hiding, for fear of being killed.

Reflecting a deep-seated racism in the country, many of those being killed now are not from neighboring African countries, but are black Libyans. As Jean Ping, chairman of the African Union (AU), pointed out, one third of Libyans are black. Despite this ongoing outrage, neither Obama nor Rice have uttered a peep of protest.

In a report in the March 6 Australian newspaper the *Sunday Age*, Peter Bouckaert, emergencies director for Human Rights Watch, said that of the hundreds of suspected mercenaries detained in eastern Libya, all had turned out to be innocent workers or native Libyans enlisted in the regular army. “[O]f all the people interviewed by Human Rights Watch so far, we have not identified one mercenary,” Bouckaert said.

NATO-Orchestrated Revolt

As is now reported in virtually all major news media, the “victory” of the rebel forces in Libya is totally dependent upon ongoing operations of the armed forces of France, Britain, and the United States in that country, along with Qatar, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates, acting as their Arabic-speaking auxiliaries, in what can only be called an all-out air and ground war.

All the makings are now there for an Afghanistan rerun in Libya: a weak central government based on the National Transitional Council (NTC), an eventual President who will necessarily be subservient to NATO,



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Obama's Libya War, fought under the rubric of R2P ("Right to Protect"), was orchestrated by the London-Wall Street financial empire, in its drive to end national sovereignty worldwide. Here, "rebels" climb on a tank in Benghazi.

while constant pressure will be put on the government by Islamic jihadists, who have been the only organized force on the ground. Their presence created the perception of a spontaneous revolt, which was organized by NATO special forces, operating with NATO intelligence.

Obama blatantly lied when he said that there would be no U.S. troops on the ground in Libya. The U.S. had CIA operatives on the ground, and credible Pentagon sources report that many of the so-called CIA operatives are active-duty Special Forces personnel who have been temporarily seconded to the CIA for the purpose of evading the ban on American troops on the ground in the Libya operation. The CIA had private contractors on the ground; it provided satellite intelligence; it provided air support. And the U.S. was and is the leading element in a NATO coalition, whose command was and is U.S.-led.

According to a Aug. 23 *Washington Post* article: "British, French and Qatari Special Forces have been operating on the ground in Libya for some time and helped the rebels develop and coordinate the pincer strategy." Jordanian forces were also involved, accord-

ing to other sources. While Obama claims that there were no boots on the ground, the article reports: "CIA operatives inside the country, along with intercepted communications between Libyan government officials, provided a deeper understanding of how badly Qaddafi's command structure had crumbled, according to U.S. officials."

The *Washington Post* also reported after the fall of Tripoli, "Six weeks ago Obama reached a decision that enabled the sharing of more sensitive materials with NATO, including imagery and signals intercepts that could be provided to British and French Special Operations troops on the ground in addition to pilots in the air."

An important factor in the rapid fall of Tripoli, was that in August, the United States dou-

bled the number of predator drones operating over Libya, according to the *Washington Post* yesterday, which greatly increased surveillance and firepower. The important role of the Special Forces was also singled out.

Permanent Warfare

The groundwork for future internal conflict is in place. Most of the NTC members, former officials in the Qaddafi government or opponents who have returned from exile, are being profiled as a collection of opportunists vying to get a share of the spoils, who are expected to be opposed by the jihadists.

A British MP, Rory Stewart, who was a coalition official in occupied Iraq in 2003, and who has just returned from a three-day private visit to Libya, gave away the British gameplan today. According to a report in the *Independent*, he warned against sending in any foreign peacekeepers in the post-Qaddafi era, because the peace is fragile, and could be disrupted by a sudden influx of foreigners, even though he foresees a situation of chaos and conflict: "The capacity for corruption is enormous, because so much was owned by the Qaddafi

family. If there is a repeat of the Soviet Union collapse, with oligarchs taking over great sections of the economy, other groups will feel threatened and tempted to fight back.”

The continued NATO bombing of anti-rebel strongholds will not lessen the probability of long-term internal strife. One factor is opposition to the rebels of significant tribal groupings; the other is tension which already exists in the loose rebel amalgam between the jihadists and the NTC. This will only grow as the NTC attempts to control the jihadist militias and Islamic groups. As a result, NATO is exploring the possibility of continuing the bombing campaign, according to an AFP release carried by *Defense News* Aug. 30. NATO’s second 90-day mandate expires Sept. 27. Under discussion is whether to extend it again. According to the release, NATO members reportedly agree that the NATO bombing campaign must continue until all fighting stops.

Role of the Islamic Extremists

There were reports soon after the operation began, about the important role being played in the regime-change campaign by the jihadists, who have a strong base in the Benghazi region and other towns in eastern Libya. Documents allegedly found after the fall of Tripoli revealed Qaddafi’s earlier protracted campaign, in conjunction with MI6 and the CIA, against the jihadists, and also revealed the leading role that some of these same al-Qaeda-style jihadists, who had been imprisoned, played in the campaign against Tripoli. The jihadists were able to play this role because they had been released by Saif Qaddafi’s campaign to seek favor with the West. Some in the NTC fear that this active role by the al-Qaeda-style jihadists, is the first step in an Islamist takeover.

The documents also revealed Libya’s cooperation with MI6 and the CIA, in rendition of captured al-Qaeda militants, and their interrogation, with questions often supplied by the two agencies. This story broke last week in the U.S.A., and this weekend in Britain. The extensive coverage of this information will have the effect of strengthening the position of the jihadists inside Libya, since they will be seen as having been persecuted by MI6 and the CIA, with the complicity of Qaddafi.

One of them, who is being played up prominently, is Abdelkarim Belhadj, a Libyan jihadist who was in Afghanistan in the 1980s, and again in the 1990s, and

claims he led the Tripoli brigade which spearheaded the defeat of loyalist forces there, although that is disputed by militias and factions of the NTC. He was not named as commander by a civilian authority such as the NTC.

Belhadj was named commander by the five battalions of the Tripoli Brigade. According to the *New York Times*, secular members of the NTC are pointing out that he is now getting support from Qatar: “This guy is just a creation of the Qataris and their money, and they are sponsoring the element of Muslim extremism here,” said one NTC member. “The revolutionary fighters are extremely unhappy and surprised. He is the commander of nothing!” The NTC member claimed that Belhadj’s role has been exaggerated, at the expense of other rebel commanders. Belhadj was not available to be interviewed about the remarks, since he was in Doha, Qatar for meetings, at that time.

Belhadj is the founder and former commander of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG), a jihadi organization which had historical links to al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Egyptian al-Jihad organization. The LIFG was set up in 1995 by Belhadj, together with other Libyans who had fought in Afghanistan, to oppose Qaddafi’s secular government. He first fought for the Western intelligence services-created al-Qaeda against the Russians in Afghanistan, and then against the United States and NATO, the second time he was in Afghanistan. He reportedly met Osama bin Laden both times he was there.

Belhadj was fingered by MI6 in Malaysia, and was grabbed by the CIA, who brought him to Bangkok for interrogation, before turning him over to Libyan authorities in Tripoli. He was accused by U.S. interrogators of being a part of the extended al-Qaeda apparatus. At the time he was turned over to Libya, the Libyan government was working with the United States in counterterrorism. His organization, listed by the State Department as terrorist, was reported to have two training camps in Afghanistan before 2001. He was interrogated and held in prison for several years in Libya.

Saif Qaddafi, one of Muammar Qaddafi’s sons, helped clean up Belhadj’s image last year, which led to his release from prison in Libya. During this process, Belhadj said that while in Afghanistan, he did not join al-Qaeda, or agree to participate in their actions, according to the *Washington Post* Sept. 1. At that time, as heir apparent, Saif had hopes that by giving Libya a better appearance to the West on human rights issues, and thus distancing Libya from some of the hard-line

policies of his father, he would have a better chance to get Western support for the continued rule of the Qaddafi family, which ran Libya like a family business.

Ironically, Libya's participation with the CIA and MI6 in rendition and interrogation of Islamic jihadists, resulted from an earlier policy shift, in which Saif was cutting a deal with the British and the United States, to get his father to agree to end Libya's nuclear project, in return for resumption of full diplomatic relations, and an end to Libya's status as a pariah nation. The talks began in March 2003, at the beginning of the Iraq War, during which Saif spent months negotiating this reversal of Libyan policy, which led to a rapprochement between Libya, and Britain and the United States. The agreement was reached by the end of 2003. Colonel Qaddafi admitted that one of the factors that led him to make this change, was the increasing spread of Islamic extremism.

After this agreement, Libya became a participant in the rendition and interrogation of Islamic extremists.

When the rebellion began, Qaddafi charged that the Islamist groups in eastern Libya were behind it. Some of these towns had the highest percentage of inhabitants anywhere in the Muslim world, who joined the jihadist campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now, on the eve of the 10th anniversary of 9/11, U.S. officials are not disputing these facts, but are attempting to play down the connections of the Libyan rebels to al-Qaeda. "It seems from their statements and support for establishing a democracy in Libya that this faction of LIFG does not support al-Qaeda," said one unnamed U.S. official lamely, who was cited in the *Washington Post*.

Tribalism and the Jihadis

Much of the Libyan territory is now divided into fiefdoms, each controlled by independent brigades from different areas of the country, or by different tribal power bases. A leadership crisis looms.

In an effort to rein in the Islamic militias, the NTC on Sept. 3 attempted to put all the military commanders in Tripoli under their control. The NTC has had little control over the extended al-Qaeda apparatus in Libya, and the Islamic militias. A Supreme Security Committee was established, to be headed by Deputy Prime Minister Ali Tarhouni, a teacher from Washington state.

But, in a sign of tension over the new government of Libya, a key Islamist military commander who helped

defend Benghazi, has called on all of the NTC heads to resign, according to a BBC report today. Ismail al-Salabi told Reuters: "The role of the executive committee is no longer required because they are remnants of the old regime. They should all resign, starting from the head of the pyramid all the way down."

Outside of the NTC, Libya's different tribes and various rebel militias who have not joined the NTC imposed by NATO, will also be competing for control, or a piece of the revenue pie. Rebels rampaging through villages of Qaddafi supporters, looting their homes, have already further fueled the probability of civil war.

Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) and former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates were obviously aware of this disastrous situation among the so-called rebels, who were fronting for the Special Forces who were arming and directing the operation against Qaddafi: Early in the attack on Libya, Gates and Webb both expressed serious reservations, unlike Obama, about jumping aboard the NATO operation. They both indicated that the United States had no idea who it was backing, with respect to the rebels.

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QEIII and the Fate of Mankind

The latest run on Italian state bonds and the downgrading of the bonds of Greece and Ireland have signaled the final days of the Trans-Atlantic monetary-financial system. The problem is that cowards on both sides of the Atlantic are accepting the continuing bailout of the Inter-Alpha banks, at the expense of the lives of ordinary people and the existence of nations. There is only one remedy: Glass-Steagall.

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