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Annex 1



AFRICA

20 October 2011 Last updated at 21:02 GMT

Libya's Col Muammar Gaddafi killed, says NTC

COMMENTS (1207)

Libya's ex-leader Col Muammar Gaddafi has been killed after an assault on his birthplace of Sirte, officials say.

Acting Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril announced the death, and later said the colonel had been killed in a crossfire between Gaddafi loyalists and fighters from the transitional authorities.

He confirmed that Col Gaddafi had been taken alive, but died of bullet wounds minutes before reaching hospital.

Video footage suggests he was also dragged through the streets.

It is unclear from the footage, broadcast by al-Jazeera TV, whether he was alive or dead at the time.

US President Barack Obama said it was a "momentous day" for Libya, now that tyranny had fallen.

He said the country had a "long and winding road towards full democracy", but the US and other countries would stand behind Tripoli.

Col Gaddafi was toppled from power in August after 42 years in charge of the country.

Golden gun

He was fighting his last stand in Sirte alongside two of his sons, Mutassim and Saif al-Islam, according to reports.

Acting Justice Minister Mohammad al-Alagi told the AP news agency Saif al-Islam had been captured and taken to hospital with a leg wound.

A corpse that officials identified as that of Mutassim has been laid out in a house in the city of Misrata, where locals have been queuing to take pictures.

The body of Col Gaddafi has also reportedly been taken to Misrata.

Nato, which has been running a bombing campaign in Libya for months, said it had carried out an air strike earlier on Thursday.

French Defence Minister Gerard Longuet said French jets had fired warning shots to halt a convoy carrying Col Gaddafi as it tried to flee Sirte.

He said Libyan fighters had then descended and taken the colonel.

Proof of Col Gaddafi's fate came in grainy pieces of video, first circulated among fighters, and then broadcast by international news channels.

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The first images showed a bloodied figure presumed to be Col Gaddafi.

Later, video emerged of the colonel being bundled on to the back of a pick-up truck after being captured alive.

None of the video footage has been independently verified.

Mr Jibril, number two in the National Transitional Council (NTC), held a news conference in Tripoli to confirm the colonel's death.

"We have been waiting for this moment for a long time. Muammar Gaddafi has been killed," he said.

Later, he told journalists that a "forensic report" had concluded that the colonel had died from bullet wounds after he had been captured and driven away.

"When the car was moving it was caught in crossfire between the revolutionaries and Gaddafi forces in which he was hit by a bullet in the head," said Mr Jibril, quoting from the report.

"The forensic doctor could not tell if it came from the revolutionaries or from Gaddafi's forces."

Earlier, some NTC fighters gave a different account of the colonel's death, saying he had been shot when he tried to escape.

One NTC fighter told the BBC that he found Col Gaddafi hiding in a hole, and the former leader had begged him not to shoot.

The fighter showed reporters a golden pistol he said he had taken from Col Gaddafi.

Arabic TV channels showed images of troops surrounding two large drainage pipes where the reporters said Col Gaddafi was found.

'Full of challenges'

Libyans gathered in towns and cities across the country to celebrate the reports of the colonel's death.

Groups of young men fired guns in the air, and drivers honked horns in celebration.

His death came after weeks of fierce fighting for Sirte, one of the last remaining pockets of resistance.

World leaders urged the NTC to carry through its promise to reform the country.

UK Prime Minister David Cameron, who had taken a leading role in Nato's intervention, said it was "a day to remember all of Col Gaddafi's victims".

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called it a "historic" moment, but warned: "The road ahead for Libya and its people will be difficult and full of challenges."

Officials said the NTC intended to announce the "liberation of the country" in the coming days, allowing them to begin pushing through democratic reforms that will lead to elections.

Your comments (1207)

Comments

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Editors' Picks All Comments (1207)

693.Chad H

20TH OCTOBER 2011 - 18:22

+6

Although its good that a dictator has gone; and people have reclaimed

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their sovereignty... I have to wonder what this means for one of Gaddafi's better pet projects: The African Union. Is this victory for Libya blow to african unity?

627.THE1CALLED
BUCK
20TH OCTOBER 2011 - 17:37

+52

They removed a leader who kept the region under control. Now the area will be infested with terror groups and religious fanatics, just like Iraq after Saddam. When will the democracies of the world learn that democracy doesn't work for every nation and they cannot force it on the world without creating chaos.

419.Chris
20TH OCTOBER 2011 - 16:29

+18

This wasn't about oil - which was being traded at market rates before the Arab uprising. In fact, disruption to the supply has caused prices to rise which has contributed to rising inflation and economic anxiety here in the UK. This was about helping a people free themselves from an illegitimate leader without asking more of our own troops to die on foreign soil for someone else's cause. Job done.

418.ExpatKS
20TH OCTOBER 2011 - 16:26

+54

Tripoli today looks like Doha, Qatar did in 1976 when I first went to live there. Doha today is covered in skyscrapers and Qatar is a very rich country.

This is where Libya should have been. Gaddafi pilfered the oil wealth for his own use. Hopefully Libya will now start on its transformation to a wealthy oil rich Country.

Good luck to Libya and all Libyans

389.Graphis
20TH OCTOBER 2011 - 16:19

+64

A lesson to all leaders everywhere: absolute power corrupts absolutely... he started off as a young idealist concerned only for the benefit and future of his people, and ended by murdering thousands of them. A sad end, perhaps, but he deserved it. His hands were bloodier than his corpse ever could be...

Comments 5 of 13

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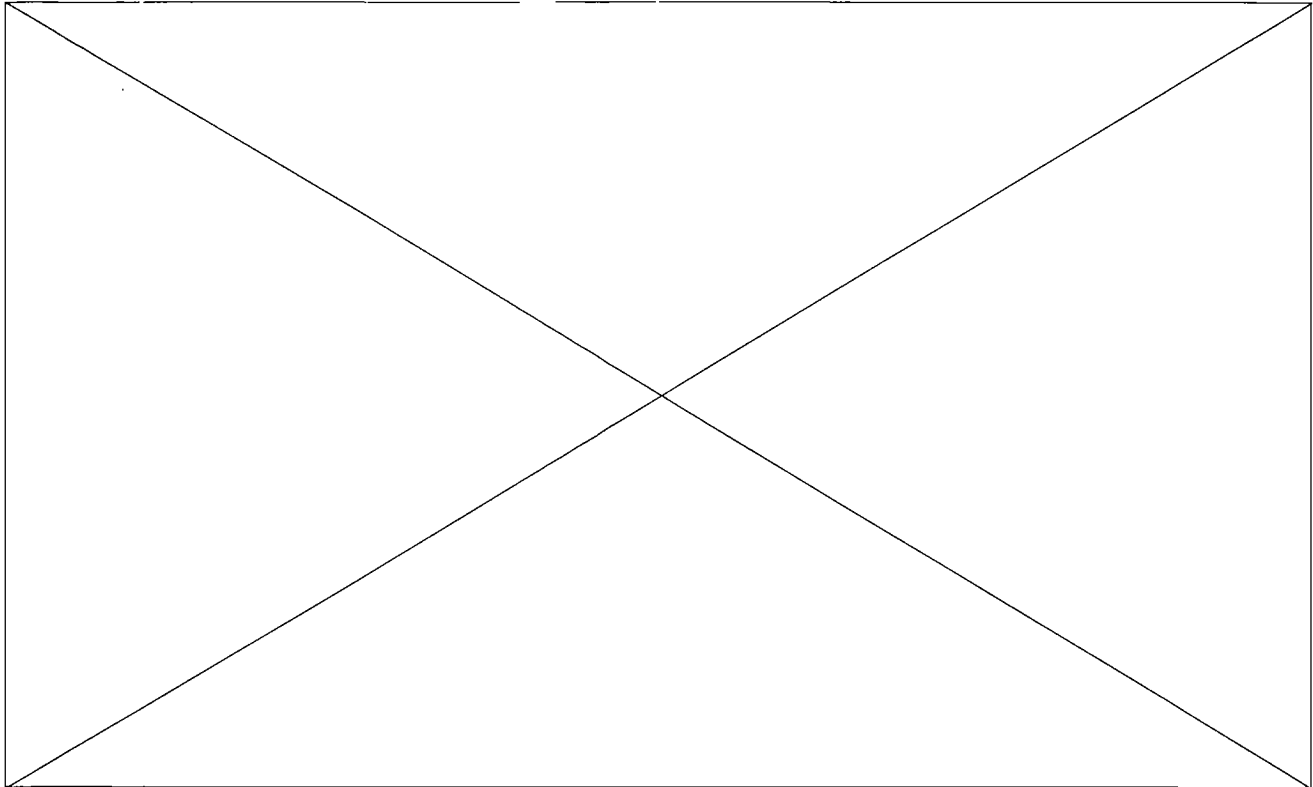


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Gaddafi's death: World reaction

UN chief Ban Ki-moon says deposed leader's death "marks a historic transition for Libya".

Last Modified: 20 Oct 2011 21:12



Libya's ousted leader had been on the run since National Transitional Council (NTC) forces captured the capital Tripoli and forced him to flee in August.

Gaddafi had vowed to die defending his country and railed against NATO's attacks that helped boost the military campaign against his regime. Below are reactions from world leaders to his death.

UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon

This day marks a historic transition for Libya. In the coming days, we will witness scenes of celebration as well as grief for those who lost so much. Now is the time for all Libyans to come together. Libyans can only realise the promise of the future for national unity and reconciliation. Combatants on all sides must lay down their arms in peace. This is the time for healing and rebuilding, for generosity of spirit, not for revenge.

US president Barack Obama

For four decades, the Gaddafi regime ruled the Libyan people with an iron fist. Their human rights were denied. Innocent civilians were detained, beaten and killed. Libya's wealth was squandered and enormous potential of Libyan people was held back and terror was used as a political weapon. Today we can definitively say that the Gaddafi regime has come to an end.

The European Union

The death of Gaddafi marks the end of an era of despotism, said Herman Van Rompuy, the bloc's president. That

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Gaddafi died in a raid in Sirte means an end also to the repression from which the Libyan people have suffered for too long.

British prime minister David Cameron

People in Libya today have an even greater chance after this news of building themselves a strong and democratic future.

Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi

Now the war is over. Sic transit gloria mundi [Thus passes the glory of the world]

French president Nicolas Sarkozy

The disappearance of Muammar Gaddafi is a major step forward in the battle fought for more than eight months by the Libyan people to liberate themselves from the dictatorial and violent regime imposed on them for more than 40 years.

German chancellor Angela Merkel

With this, a bloody war comes to an end, which Gaddafi led against his own people. Libya must now quickly take further resolute steps towards democracy and make the achievements so far of the Arab Spring irreversible.

The African Union

The Union said it had lifted its suspension of Libya's membership and said in a statement it would authorise the current authorities in Libya to occupy the seat of Libya in the AU and its organs.

US senator John McCain

The United States, along with our European allies and Arab partners, must now deepen our support for the Libyan people, as they work to make the next phase of their democratic revolution as successful as the fight to free their country.

Keith Ellison, the first Muslim elected to the US Congress

Libyans are safer now after Gaddafi's death and the Arab world is breaking free. But never celebrate death of anyone, even bad people.

Source: Agencies

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Gaddafi killed in hometown, Libya eyes future

Thu, Oct 20 2011

By Barry Malone

TRIPOLI (Reuters) - NATO is to formally decide on Wednesday whether to end its mission over Libya now that Muammar Gaddafi is dead and buried and the country's new leaders have declared the nation "liberated".

The likely decision to end the alliance's patrols over the skies of Libya at the end of the month marks another milestone in what the National Transitional Council (NTC) has pledged will be a road toward democracy and free and fair elections in 2013.

But the deaths of Gaddafi and his son Mo'tassim after both were captured wounded but alive on Thursday and the grisly public display of their decomposing bodies in a Misrata meat locker have made the NTC's Western backers uneasy about Libya's prospects for stable government and respect for the rule of law.

Gaddafi and Mo'tassim were buried in a secret desert location on Tuesday to prevent their graves becoming a shrine for any remaining followers in the oil-rich North African state.

Under pressure from Western allies, the NTC promised on Monday to investigate how Gaddafi and his son were killed. Mobile phone footage shows both alive after their capture. The former leader was seen being mocked, beaten and abused before he died, in what NTC officials say was crossfire.

The treatment of others who supported Gaddafi and fought alongside him was now an issue, said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Jeffrey Feltman.

"This is a test. The NTC has repeatedly said that they will distinguish themselves from the Gaddafi regime in terms of the respect of human rights and the rule of law," he told a news conference in Morocco.

"Now is the time for them to begin actions that will help them reinforce these words."

RIVALRIES

Emerging from 42 years of often brutal one-man rule, many Libyans are savoring the end of eight months of bitter civil war won with NATO's backing and are unconcerned about how Gaddafi met his end and how his body was treated afterwards.

"Throw him in a hole, in the sea, in garbage. No matter. He is lower than a donkey or a dog and only foreigners say they care about how we killed him. And they are lying," said engineer Ali Azzarog, 47.

Hatred of Gaddafi unified his disparate opponents, who will likely now tussle for power during a planned transition to democracy in a nation riven with regional and tribal rivalries.

With economic problems at home, NATO countries are expected to endorse an end to their U.N.-mandated mission in Libya when their ambassadors meet in Brussels on Wednesday after a preliminary decision last week to end it on October 31.

"We said that we would consult closely with the United Nations and the NTC and that process of consultations is ongoing," NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu said.

Libyan interim Oil and Finance Minister Ali Tarhouni said he wanted NATO to maintain its mission for another month, but hoped for a swift end to United Nations sanctions to free up funds for the interim government to pay salaries and help reconstruction.

SAIF ON THE RUN

NATO spokeswoman Lungescu declined to say whether NATO might extend the mission.

"I don't know whether there is a formal request. All these things remain to be sorted out. But in the end this is a political decision," she said.

NATO's Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy, James Appathurai, said he expected the alliance to confirm its decision to end the mission.

"I don't expect that there will be a change to that decision, because it is quite clear that the pro-Gaddafi elements no longer have the command and control or other capabilities to pose an organized threat to civilians. That is now finished, and as a result our operation will end," he said.

Western military powers have already begun winding down the Libyan mission, and diplomats have said the majority of NATO equipment, including fighter jets, has already been withdrawn.

A NATO statement on Tuesday said operations in the interim would involve intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions, although NATO would retain the capability to conduct air strikes if they were needed.

The one remaining element from the old order is Gaddafi's sons, the enigmatic Saif al-Islam, who remains on the run. Once viewed as a moderate reformer, he vowed to help his father crush his enemies once the revolt began.

An NTC official said Saif al-Islam was in the southern desert near Niger and Algeria and was set to flee Libya using a false passport.

(Reporting by Taha Zargoun in Sirte, Barry Malone and Jessica Donati in Tripoli, Rania El Gamal and Tim Gaynor in Misrata, Christian Lowe, Jon Hemming and Andrew Hammond in Tunis, Hamid Ould Ahmed in Algiers, Samia Nakhoul in Dubai, Abdoulaye Massalaatchi in Niamey, Matt Falloon in London, Souhail Karam in Rabat; Writing by Jon Hemming; Editing by David Stamp and Ralph Gowling)



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TIME

Thursday, Oct. 20, 2011

Muammar Gaddafi Is Dead, Says Libya PM; Tripoli Celebrates

By Vivienne Walt / Tripoli

Libyans exploded in excitement on Thursday afternoon at reports that Muammar Gaddafi had been captured and killed in his hometown of Sirt, where rebels have fought a grueling battle for weeks to crush his remaining armed loyalists.

As television broke the news that Sirt had finally fallen to the rebel forces, gunfire began resounding around the capital. About 20 minutes later came the news, from a rebel commander in Sirt, that Gaddafi had been captured hiding in a hole in the coastal city, about 230 miles (370 km) east along the Mediterranean. Soon after came word that he was dead. The interim government says it is drafting a pathology report. In this city of 2 million people, thousands poured into the streets, firing guns into the air. The ships in Tripoli harbor blared their horns for more than an hour, and the mosques played prayers praising Allah over the deafening noise of car horns. Crowds of people converged on the seafront to move toward Martyrs' Square in the heart of the capital, where only two months ago Gaddafi's supporters held demonstrations in support of the dictatorship. ([See pictures of the fight for Gaddafi's hometown.](#))

A spokesman for the National Transitional Council (NTC), the interim government of Libya, insisted that the colonel was dead and that, while it would have preferred him alive and brought to trial, one "cannot go against God's will." The likelihood that Gaddafi has indeed been run to ground will make Oct. 20 one of the most historic moments of Libya's history, the final demise of a 42-year-rule dictator who transformed this oil-rich nation into a terrifying authoritarian state even as he modernized what had been a largely illiterate desert country into a regional economic force.

Exactly two months have passed since rebel forces stormed Tripoli and drove Gaddafi and his family from power. Yet while the rebels' NTC quickly assumed control over the capital, Gaddafi and his hugely powerful son Saif al-Islam vanished, slipping out of the city while Tripoli was still in turmoil. The International Criminal Court has indicted both men for crimes against humanity, for allegedly ordering the killing of unarmed civilians before the rebel force took up arms in mid-February. ([See pictures of Gaddafi's 40 years in power.](#))

In the meantime, a well-armed group of loyalists in Sirt have held out, waging a grueling war of attrition against

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the rebel forces — even though the rest of the country had fallen to Gaddafi's foes. With the war dragging on, NTC officials were increasingly hampered in administering their new country. Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril told journalists on Wednesday evening that Libya could "move from a national struggle to chaos." He said he was particularly concerned about the convoys of heavy weaponry that slipped into the neighboring country of Niger in August, after Tripoli fell.

The rebels have said for weeks that they will be able to declare the war over when Sirt — the last Gaddafi stronghold — falls. With Gaddafi gone, Libyan officials say, the country can finally move beyond the revolution and begin rebuilding after months of war. "It means we will have a transitional government, then we will have an election in a few months," Mahmoud Shammam, the NTC's head of media, told the BBC on Thursday.

[See why Libya's interim leader says he's quitting.](#)

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NTC announces Muammar Gaddafi's death

2011-10-20 15:19

Benghazi - Veteran Libyan strongman Muammar Gaddafi has been killed by new regime forces in their final assault on the last pocket of resistance in his hometown Sirte, a National Transitional Council spokesperson said.

"We announce to the world that Gaddafi has been killed at the hands of the revolution," Abdel Hafez Ghoga said.

"It is an historic moment. It is the end of tyranny and dictatorship. Gaddafi has met his fate," he added.

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A video circulating among NTC fighters in Sirte showed mobile phone footage of what appeared to be Gaddafi's bloodied corpse.

In the grainy images seen by an AFP correspondent, a large number of NTC fighters are seen yelling in chaotic scenes around a khaki-clad body which has blood oozing from the face and neck.

The body is then dragged off by the fighters and loaded in the back of a pick-up truck.

A stills photograph taken on a mobile phone and obtained by AFP showed Gaddafi heavily bloodied but it was not clear from the picture whether he was alive or dead at the time.

In the grainy image, Gaddafi is seen with blood-soaked clothing and blood daubed across his face.

- AFP

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Gadhafi killed in crossfire after capture, Libyan PM says - CNN



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Gadhafi killed in crossfire after capture, Libyan PM says

October 20, 2011 | By Moni Basu and Matt Smith, CNN

Libyans cheered the fate of ousted dictator Moammar Gadhafi into the early hours of Friday after his death in what Libya's transitional prime minister described as a crossfire that followed his arrest by revolutionary forces.

"This is a time to start a new Libya, with a new economy, with a new education and with a new health system -- with one future," Mahmoud Jibril, Libya's transitional prime minister, said after proclaiming Gadhafi's death.

Gadhafi was captured alive and unharmed as troops from the National Transitional Council overran his hometown of Sirte on Thursday, Jibril said. But a gunbattle erupted between transitional council fighters and Gadhafi's supporters as his captors attempted to load him into a vehicle, Jibril said, leaving Gadhafi with a wound to his right arm.

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More shooting erupted as the vehicle drove away, and Gadhafi -- who ruled Libya for nearly 42 years before rebel forces overthrew him in August -- was hit in the head, Jibril said, Gadhafi died moments before arriving at a hospital in Misrata, Jibril said, citing the city's coroner.

Grainy video broadcast on Arabic satellite networks captured some of the onetime Libyan strongman's last moments, as the bloodied but still-alive Gadhafi was being hauled onto a truck. Another video showed a dead Gadhafi with what appeared to be a head wound.

According to Ali Aujali, Libya's ambassador to the United States, troops found Gadhafi in a large drainage pipe. Daily Telegraph reporter Ben Farmer in Sirte old CNN's Anderson Cooper the pipe is about 3 feet wide and filled with trash and sand.

The phrases "The place of the rat Gadhafi" and "You scum" were painted around its exterior, apparently after the capture.

Jibril said Gadhafi was carrying a gun but did not resist his captors. Jibril said DNA samples confirmed Gadhafi's identity, and the International Criminal Court -- which had issued an arrest warrant for the ousted dictator on war-crimes charges -- has agreed to allow Gadhafi's burial.

Aujali said the National Transitional Council and the Libyan people wanted Gadhafi to be taken alive to answer for his crimes. In one video from the scene, a voice can be heard shouting, "No, no, we want him alive, we want him alive."

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October 20, 2011 | By Moni Basu and Matt Smith, CNN

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(Page 2 of 4)

U.S., NATO and French officials said transitional government fighters captured Gadhafi's convoy after French warplanes and a U.S. drone forced it to a halt on the way out of Sirte. Following Gadhafi's death, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen announced Thursday that the alliance "will terminate our mission," launched in March under a U.N. mandate to protect civilians.

Amnesty International called for the National Transitional Council to mount "a full, independent and impartial inquiry" into Gadhafi's death and said his inner circle and family should be "treated humanely and, if captured, given fair trials."

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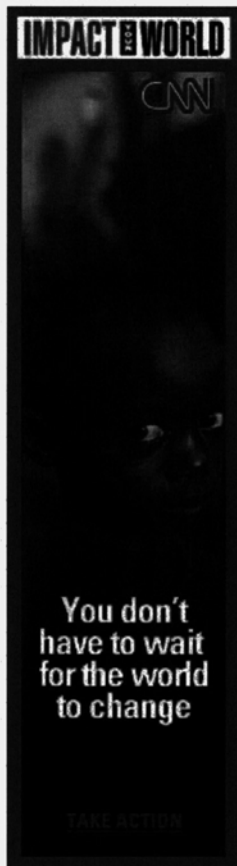
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Abubaker Saad, who was a Gadhafi aide for nine years, said it didn't really matter whether Gadhafi was dead or alive as long as he was no longer a fugitive.

"As long as he was on the run, he represented a very ominous danger to the Libyan people," Saad said. "He represented a very ominous danger ... to the idea of the democracy in Libya."

The streets of Tripoli echoed with celebratory gunfire, car horns and cheers as crowds ran or danced through the streets. Celebrations extended into early Friday in Tripoli and Misrata, where crowds waved flags in the city's main square long after midnight.

On the surrounding roads, drivers leaned on their horns and came to brake-squealing stops as bands of revelers darted in and out of traffic.

"A black era has come to an end forever," the Libyan ambassador to Britain, Mahmoud Al Nacoua, said in London.

National Transitional Council Chairman Mustafa Abdul Jalil will officially announce on Saturday Libya's liberation, media committee member Mohamed Elkish told CNN on Thursday. Council officials have said after such a declaration a new government would soon be announced and the democratic transition would begin.

Gadhafi's killing caps a revolt that began in February and left him a fugitive for the past two months. The mercurial former army officer, who seized power in a 1969 coup, was the third Arab leader ousted in the Arab Spring upheavals that began in neighboring Tunisia in January.

Also killed Thursday were Gadhafi's son Motassim and his chief of intelligence, Abdullah al-Senussi, said Anees al-Sharif, a spokesman for the National Transitional Council's military arm in Tripoli. Other reports say al-Senussi was captured. Jibril said Gadhafi's defense minister, Gen. Abu Baker Younes, also died.

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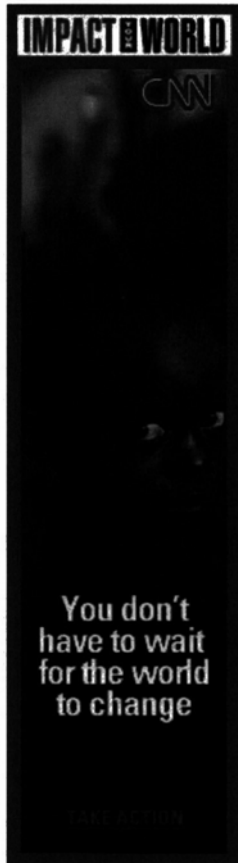
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Fawaz Gerges, a professor of Middle Eastern politics at the London School of Economics, said Libyans still face a difficult political struggle. But, he added, "We should not underestimate the significance of this day."

"Gadhafi was the head of the state, the most important symbol of the country. He repeatedly tried to rally his supporters to fight on," Gerges said. "I hope that this particular day will not just mean the end of an era, but basically represent the beginning of a new era."

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Gerges said the recent fighting around Sirte and another holdout of pro-Gadhafi loyalists, Bani Walid, exposed "some major tribal and regional cleavages" that Libyans will have to bridge in forming a new government. Those differences "could easily escalate, given the extent and the intensity of differences in Libya."

But he said Gadhafi's death sends a signal to other strongmen in the region: "If you oppress your people, if you don't engage your civil society, if you stay in power for so many years, this will be your end."

Fran Townsend, CNN national security contributor, said the transitional leadership "faces very serious challenges," citing groups outside Libya's borders, including al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, as well as internal strife among the country's tribes.

"There will be those around them who seek to take advantage," Townsend said. "There will be tribal differences, there will be Gadhafi loyalists who melt into the population and attempt to launch an insurgency like what we saw in Iraq."

Prince Idris Al-Senussi, whose family was overthrown by Gadhafi 42 years ago, told CNN, "I feel now that finally I can go back to a free country. A country that I have loved ... and I feel proud that the Libyan people have done it themselves."

The confirmation of Gadhafi's death came after hours of conflicting reports on the deposed leader's status. When those reports first reached U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during a visit to Afghanistan, she reacted with one word: "Wow."

Clinton said the end of Gadhafi would "add legitimacy and relief to the formation of a new government."

In a brief address from the White House, President Barack Obama praised Libyans for lifting "the dark shadow of tyranny" with the aid of Western air power.

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Gadhafi killed in crossfire after capture, Libyan PM says

October 20, 2011 | By Moni Basu and Matt Smith, CNN

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"One year ago, the notion of a free Libya seemed impossible," Obama said. "But then the Libyan people rose up and demanded their rights. And when Gadhafi and his forces started going city to city, town by town, to brutalize men, women and children, the world refused to stand idly by."

NATO, spearheaded by Britain and France, backed up the revolt by bombarding pro-Gadhafi forces. In a statement from his office, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said Gadhafi's ouster marks the start of "a new era ... one of reconciliation in unity and freedom."

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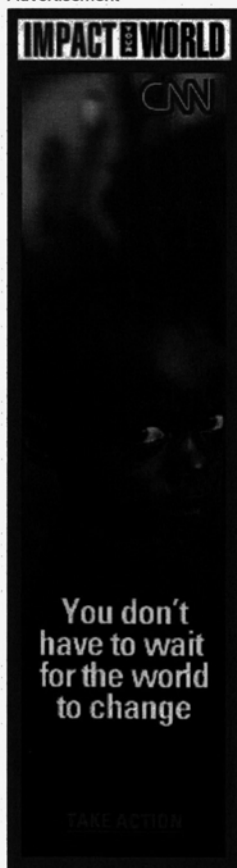
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British Prime Minister David Cameron said Thursday "is a day to remember all of Colonel Gadhafi's victims," including the 270 dead in the bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 and "the many, many Libyans who died at the hands of this brutal dictator and his regime."

Other world leaders sounded encouragement for a new Libya, but cautioned that the road ahead won't be easy.

"In the coming days, we will witness scenes of celebration, as well as grief for those who lost so much," U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said. "Yet let us recognize, immediately, that this is only the end of the beginning. The road ahead for Libya and its people will be difficult and full of challenges."

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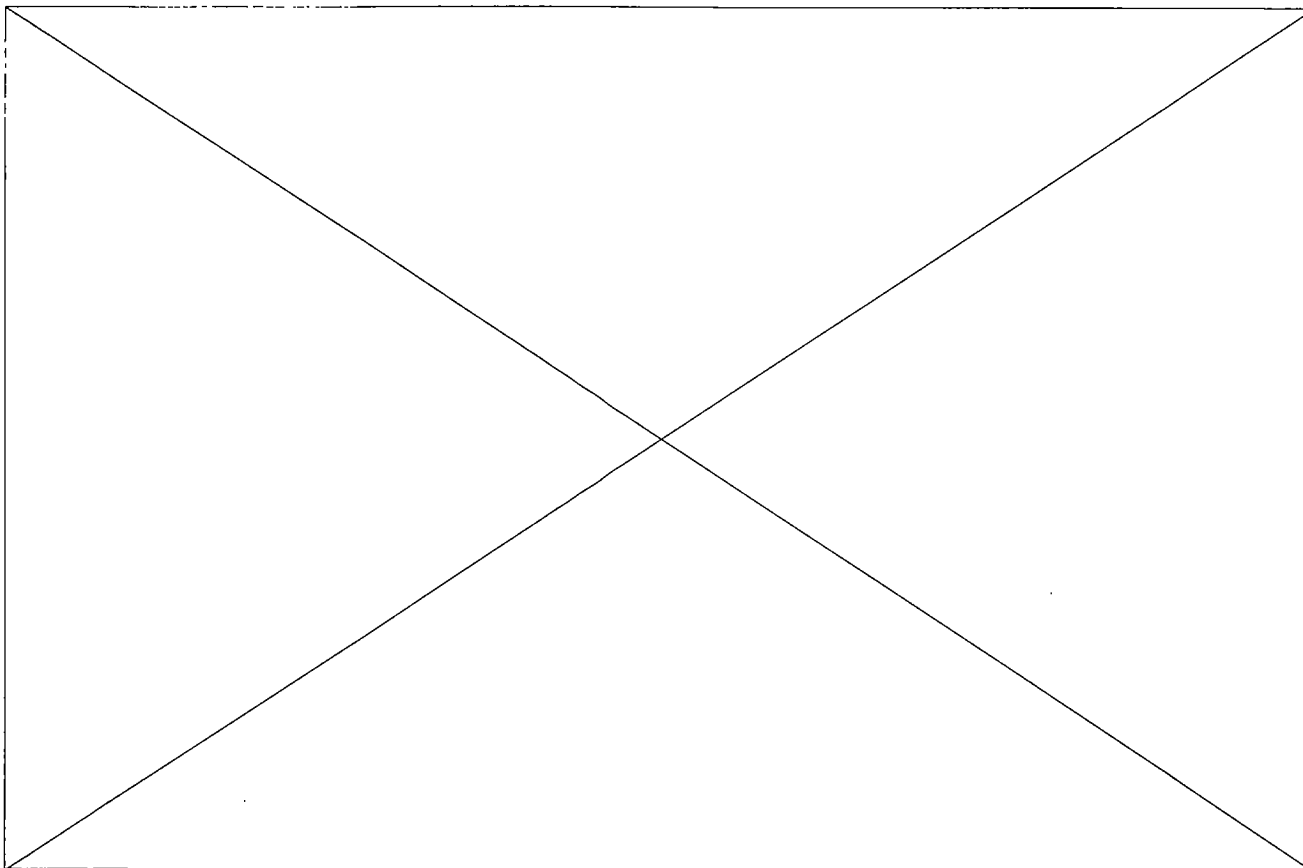


ALJAZEERA.NET

Muammar Gaddafi killed as Sirte falls

Former Libyan leader killed in apparent attempt to flee last bastion, but circumstances of his death remain unclear.

Last Modified: 21 Oct 2011 08:54



Muammar Gaddafi has been killed after National Transitional Council fighters overran loyalist defences in the toppled Libyan leader's hometown and final stronghold of Sirte.

But questions remained on Thursday over the **circumstances** of Gaddafi's death as **footage** appeared to show he had been captured alive, following an apparent attempt to flee the besieged coastal city in a convoy which came under fire from French warplanes and a US drone aircraft.

Other **footage** showed Gaddafi's lifeless and bloodied body being dragged along a road.

"We have been waiting for this moment for a long time. Muammar Gaddafi has been killed," Mahmoud Jibril, the de facto Libyan prime minister, told reporters on Thursday in Tripoli, the capital.

Asked what would be done with Gaddafi's body, he said: "It doesn't make any difference, as long as he disappears".

Jibril said Gaddafi had been shot in the head "in crossfire" between his supporters and NTC fighters after his capture.

"He was alive up to last moment, until he arrived at hospital" in the city of Misrata, Jibril said.

After his death, Gaddafi's body was reportedly transferred to a mosque in the city.

Crowds took to the streets of Sirte, Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi, the eastern city that spearheaded the uprising

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against Gaddafi's 42-year rule in February, to celebrate the news, with some firing guns and waving Libya's new flag.

"I'm so proud now," a Tripoli resident told Al Jazeera. "It's a new era. Look to our eyes and you'll see happiness, finally".

Son killed

One of Gaddafi's sons, Mutassim, was also killed on Thursday, having been hiding with his father, Mahmoud Shammam, Libya's information minister said. Earlier reports had suggested that he had been captured alive but injured.

News of Gaddafi's death, weeks after NTC fighters effectively ended his four-decades rule by capturing Tripoli, came shortly after the **NTC captured Sirte** after weeks of fierce fighting.

Fighters flashing V for victory took to the streets in pick-ups blaring out patriotic music.

"Thank God they have caught this person. In one hour, Sirte was liberated," a fighter said.

Al Jazeera's Tony Birtley, reporting from Sirte, said Libyans there were celebrating the beginning of a "new Libya".

"This is bringing a form of closure," he said. "Gaddafi stayed true to his words, that he would stay in Libya till the end.

"It was surprising to many that he did actually stay here in Sirte - it's taken such a bombardment in the last 13 days. Nothing could survive in here for very long. I think they were starved of food, starved of ammunition, and finally there was nothing to do but to run".



Mutassim Gaddafi at the White House in 2009 [Getty]

French 'warning shot'

Gerard Longuet, France's defence minister, said French warplanes had fired a warning shot to stop a convoy of vehicles carrying Gaddafi before he was killed.

The convoy of several dozen vehicles "was stopped from progressing as it sought to flee Sirte but was not destroyed by the French intervention," Longuet told reporters.

Libyan fighters then intervened, destroying the vehicles, from which "they took out Colonel Gaddafi," he said.

A US defence official told AFP news agency that a US drone along with a French fighter jet had attacked a convoy of vehicles in Libya that the French believed was carrying Gaddafi.

In Tripoli, Jibril said he had received unconfirmed reports that Gaddafi's most prominent son, Saif al-Islam, was trying to flee from Sirte but had been tracked down by NTC fighters who were attacking his convoy. Later reports suggested that Saif had been injured and arrested.

Footage had emerged earlier in the day of the body of Abu Bakr Yunus, Gaddafi's defence minister, who also died in what would become the last stand of the regime he served.

Abdul Hakim Al Jalil, commander of the NTC's 11th brigade, said that Moussa Ibrahim, the former spokesman for Gaddafi's fallen government, had been captured near Sirte. Ahmed Ibrahim, a cousin of Gaddafi, was also reportedly captured.

'Historic transition'

Reaction from **world leaders** was swift, US President Barack Obama saying that the Libyan people had won their revolution.

"Across the Arab world, citizens have stood up to claim their rights," he said. "Youth are delivering a powerful rebuke to dictatorship. And those leaders who try to deny their dignity will not succeed.

"For the region, today's events prove once more that the rule of an iron fist inevitably comes to an end."

Ban Ki-moon, the UN secretary-general, said Gaddafi's death marked "a historic transition for Libya".

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"In the coming days, we will witness scenes of celebration as well as grief for those who lost so much," Ban said in New York. "Now is the time for all Libyans to come together. Libyans can only realise the promise of the future for national unity and reconciliation."

NATO officials said the alliance's governing body would meet on Friday to decide to end the seven-month bombing campaign over Libya.

"NATO and our partners have successfully implemented the historic mandate of the United Nations to protect the people of Libya," Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said in a statement.

"We will terminate our mission in co-ordination with the United Nations and the National Transitional Council. With the reported fall of Bani Walid and Sirte, that moment has now moved much closer".

Source: Al Jazeera and agencies

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The Telegraph

Col Gaddafi died from bullet wound to head 'in crossfire'

Col Muammar Gaddafi died from a bullet wound to the head received in crossfire between government fighters and his own supporters, the Libyan prime minister said.



The body of killed former Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi Photo: EPA



By Chris Irvine

6:30AM BST 21 Oct 2011

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Conflicting reports have emerged about how exactly Gaddafi died after being captured after a NATO airstrike hit his convoy as it tried to break away from the siege of his hometown. Suspicion has been raised that he was executed, as a video, filmed on a mobile phone and posted on YouTube within hours of his death, showed him badly injured but able to stand up.

On Thursday, he was finally cornered in a drain in Sirte, a gold-plated pistol to his hand pleading "don't shoot, don't shoot" in vain for his life.

"I am going to read to you a report by the forensic doctor who examined Gaddafi," Mahmoud Jibril, Libya's interim prime minister, told a news conference in the capital Tripoli.

"It said: 'Gaddafi was taken out of a sewage pipe ... he didn't show any resistance. When we started moving him he was hit by a bullet in his right arm and when they put him in a truck he did not have any other injuries'," Jibril said.

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"When the car was moving it was caught in crossfire between the revolutionaries and Gaddafi forces in which he was hit by a bullet in the head," Jibril said reading from the report.

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"The forensic doctor could not tell if it came from the revolutionaries or from Gaddafi's forces," Mr Jibril said.

Gaddafi was alive when he was taken from Sirte, but died a few minutes before reaching hospital, the prime minister said.

Mr Jibril said DNA samples and blood was taken from the body. Also taken were samples of Gaddafi's hair, but that turned out to be "fake", seemingly confirming widespread rumours that Libya's feared ruler of 42 years had had hair implants.

Libya's National Transitional Council had been in touch with the International Criminal Court which had wanted to try Gaddafi for crimes against humanity, Jibril said.

The court had wanted to have a forensic expert inspect the body before the burial, he said, but after seeing the NTC's own report the court agreed that would not be necessary.

He is reportedly due to be buried in a secret location later on Friday.

Gaddafi's son Mutassim was also killed on Thursday.

"As for Mutassim there is a wound in the head and a break in the skull and five bullets in the back and one in the neck," Mr Jibril said.

The corpse of Gaddafi's son on Thursday laid out in a private house in Misurata. The body was lain on blankets on the floor and covered up to the waist by a blue plastic sheet. The upper half showed wounds to the chest and neck.

There was confusion as to the whereabouts of Gaddafi's son Saif al-Islam. Earlier reports said he had been captured but the NTC later said it had no information on whether he had been killed or captured. He remained at large as of

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Thursday night.

Nato officials meanwhile are due to meet in Brussels today to consider the mission. It is expected that it will be decided to further wind down operations.

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THE INDEPENDENT

'Gaddafi cannot hurt his people any longer'

Kim Sengupta

Saturday, 22 October 2011

The blood had been washed off and the faces, eyes shut, were in repose. But the terrible wounds of the last violent moments were left uncovered by the shrouds of white cloth that had been hastily thrown over them. The bodies were on stretchers, Muammar Gaddafi in a temporary military barracks, Mutassim Gaddafi in a container.

These were temporary resting places for the former dictator and his son. After being brought back to Misrata from Sirte, the scene of the killings, the corpses had been moved from place to place - at one point to the home of a former rebel official and then to a meat warehouse. Officials of the new government said this was to prevent the residents of this city, who had suffered a long and bloody siege at the hands of the regime, from venting their anger on their dead enemies.

But it was as if no one wanted responsibility for disposing of these grisly symbols of the revolution's triumph after such a bitter civil war. Some of the country's rulers talked about handing them over to Gaddafi's tribe for burial. Others were adamant that a shrine should not be created and the best course of action would be a burial at sea.

Looking down at the body of Colonel Gaddafi, Firuz al-Maghri, a 55-year-old schoolteacher who had been allowed into the barracks by a friend in the opposition militia, shook his head as he recalled a brother and a cousin who had died in Tripoli's Abu Salim prison, a place of fear and despair. "Twelve hundred prisoners were murdered there," he said. "It is difficult for outsiders to understand, but he was responsible for so many lives lost, families who never found out what happened to those who disappeared. We feared him, I was afraid. But seeing him like this...."

Captain Rahim Abu-Bakr, an engineer who became a fighter, patted Mr Maghri's shoulder. "It does not matter," he said. "He cannot hurt people any longer. What happened at the end to him and his son was bound to happen. But this was a bad death. I do not like being here."

Colonel Gaddafi appeared to have been shot in the head, the bullet wound clearly visible under his previously curly hair for which he was famous - it now lay lank. Mutassim had injuries to his chest and stomach. But exactly what happened when the final reckoning came at Sirte remains unclear.

Libya's new government, the National Transitional Council, has declared that tomorrow will be National Liberation Day to commemorate the departure of Colonel Gaddafi. But no one really believes the account given by Mahmoud Jibril, the Prime Minister, that Colonel Gaddafi was killed when loyalist forces made a last-ditch attempt to rescue him. "He was already under arrest and he was hit in the crossfire," Mr Jibril said.

For many of the rebels at Sirte, it had been another day of frustration in the long and grinding battle for Gaddafi's birthplace, with the last pockets of loyalist fighters offering obdurate resistance. What was somewhat unusual were prolonged and fierce Nato air strikes, something that had become less frequent with the opposition's victory. They were French warplanes hitting a convoy of vehicles leaving Sirte at high speed. It had become the policy of Nato not to attack retreating regime soldiers because they did not pose any obvious danger to civilians and to avoid unnecessary bloodletting - and facilitate reconciliation.

But the attacks had taken place after the interception of messages by Western intelligence, suggesting high levels of remnants of the regime were on the move. Eleven vehicles were destroyed and the rest split into groups. But these, too, were hunted down from the air and a few, including the one carrying Colonel Gaddafi, returned to the outskirts of Sirte.

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Colonel Gaddafi and a handful of his men then abandoned their vehicles and crawled into two drainage pipes. The rebels chased the fugitives, but say they were still unaware of who they were. Then, a little later, a man ran out waving a piece of white rag. "My master is here, he has been injured, it is Muammar Gaddafi, Muammar Gaddafi," the man apparently said. The soldier, a member of the Leader Guard, was dragged away.

Those there at the time describe a sense of astonishment among the rebel fighters when they discovered that the figure emerging from a ditch with a pistol in hand, but looking cowed, was indeed Colonel Gaddafi. This turned to elation, mocking of the former master of Libya – then vicious rage. "I don't think anyone thought he would be there, we all thought that he would be in the south, or maybe across in Niger or Algeria. We were as shocked as he was at first," said Abdullah Hakim Hussein, who had taken part in the brutal investing of Sirte from the start. "We were so happy when we knew it was him. I thought, 'at last, it's all over'."

Because there had been little expectation of catching the main prize, there was no procedure in place for what to do with him. Mr Hussein said some of the officers tried to call headquarters in Tripoli and Misrata. But the rebels, an egalitarian bunch with little respect for rank, pushed them aside.

Mr Hussein said: "OK for sure, he was being beaten, kicked, with rifle butts, boots. He looked confused and afraid, he was saying 'help me, help me', but his voice was really strained, he was croaking. A few of us were around him, we thought we should get him somewhere we could question him about the others. But he was then taken away in a wave of people and then there were shots."

Other reports described him being told as he was hit: "This is for Misrata, you dog." Colonel Gaddafi replied: "Do you know right from wrong?"

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