

Flashback to 2011: British Press Glorifies Savage Assassination of President Gaddafi by NATO's Mercenaries

By [Cem Ertur](#)

Global Research, October 23, 2015
[Indy Bay](#) 22 October 2015

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Media Disinformation](#)

In-depth Report: [NATO'S WAR ON LIBYA](#)

The sheer euphoria of the entire British press over President Muammar Gaddafi's savage assassination by NATO's mercenaries on the 8th month of the genocidal invasion of Libya betrayed an absolute moral bankruptcy of the predatory imperialist alliance of NATO countries, Arab monarchies and Israel.

"Today, the government of Libya announced the death of Muammar Qaddafi. [...] Today, we can definitively say that the Qaddafi regime has come to an end. [...] So this is a momentous day in the history of Libya. [...]"

The Daily Telegraph

Friday, October 21, 2011

telegraph.co.uk

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No mercy for a merciless tyrant

● Gaddafi tries to flee Sirte after two months in hiding

● Libyan dictator's convoy is hit by a Nato air strike

● He is hunted down by rebels and shot in the head



A video image shows Col Muammar Gaddafi badly injured, but still alive, on the bonnet of a pick-up truck after his capture in Sirte yesterday. He was taken away in an ambulance but a later photograph showed his body with a clean bullet wound to his left temple



Sirte
Ben Farmer

HE HAD often referred to his enemies as "vermin" as he vowed to hunt them down alley by alley or die trying. But in the end it was Col Muammar Gaddafi who was hiding like "a rat" when he was finally cornered in a drain, a gold-plated pistol to hand and pleading in vain for his life.

After 42 years as Libya's despotic leader, Gaddafi met his end in a field two miles west of his birthplace, having taken shelter in a culvert from rebel fighters and Nato bombs.

His final refuge could not have been more different from the palaces and villas where he had

squandered his nation's oil wealth. The concrete drain pipe was 20ft long and no more than 3ft across, running under a dual carriageway on the outskirts of Sirte.

Sand, rocks and discarded water bottles lined the interior which opened next to a clutch of empty sheep pens. Three bodies of his companions lay outside. They did not look like elite bodyguards or members of an inner circle as they began to gather flies in the afternoon heat.

But then mobile phone footage of Gaddafi's capture showed that in the end the 69-year-old no longer bore any resemblance to a self-styled "king of kings" with visions of a United States of Africa.

The shaky images show him bloodied and unkempt and surrounded by jubilant rebels holding weapons to his head. His trademark mop of frizzy black hair was matted and thin and his robes were stained red from a wound to his head or neck.

More than anything the footage showed him weak and confused. "When we had him and we surrounded him he was talking like an idiot," said 20-year-old Muhammad Elhewi, who was one

of ten fighters from Misurata who captured him. "He was saying, 'What's going on, what did I do?' No one could believe it."

Precisely what happened next remains unclear, but at some point Gaddafi was shot in the head, giving rise to accusations that he had been executed.

William Hague, the Foreign Secretary, conceded that videos and photographs posted online "suggested" he had been assassinated, adding that Britain "does not approve of extra-judicial killings".

Gaddafi's death brought to an end the bloody eight-month battle to free Libya from his iron grip. Mahmoud Jibeli, the prime minister of the interim National Transitional Council, said: "We have been waiting for this moment for a long time. Muammar Gaddafi has been killed."

"All the evils have vanished from this beloved country. It's time to start a new Libya, a united Libya, one people, one future."

Between 17 and 20 of Gaddafi's most senior supporters were killed or captured alongside him. The leader of his armed forces, Abu Bakr Younus, and Gaddafi's son



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Mutassim were killed, while Ahmed Ibrahim, a cousin and adviser, and Moussa Ibrahim, his official spokesman, were captured.

Saif al-Islam, the son Gaddafi wanted to succeed him, was also captured, after his convoy was reportedly hit by a strike from an RAF jet near Sirte as he made his own bid for freedom. In one blow, Gaddafi and his entire inner circle had been wiped out.

David Cameron said he was proud of Britain's part in liberating the country and that it was a time to remember all Gaddafi's victims in Libya and in Britain, through the Lockerbie bombing, the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher and the victims of Libyan-aided IRA terrorism.

President Barack Obama said the "dark shadow of tyranny" had been lifted.

Gaddafi's final hours began with a dramatic attempt to break out of the city which had been pounded by rebel fighters for two weeks. Loyalists had staunchly defended District 2, an area of around 1,000 yards by 500 yards in the north-west of the city, feeding speculation that high-ranking members of the regime were hiding. As the circle

closed, they tried a desperate dash for freedom soon after dawn yesterday.

Fighters who witnessed it said it began at 8.30 local time when a column of 15 to 20 cars tried to punch out into the western suburb of Zafra. The break caused confusion among rebels who were preparing an offensive into District 2 from the same direction.

The Daily Telegraph was accompanying fighters getting ready for the assault and witnessed an intense fight as rebel positions found themselves under fire from an unexpected direction.

The convoy managed to evade the front line and drive about two miles west and then, for some reason, parked close to an electricity sub station.

"Gaddafi and some of his inner circle tried to run away," explained

Abi Gadi, a 21-year-old member of the unit which found him. In the confusion, the convoy had been followed by some rebel fighters from the western front, but they were lightly armed and under-strength.

"They stopped out here. It wasn't clear who was with them and what sort of firepower they had," said Mr

Gadi. "We held back for a while to see what they would do."

Unknown to the rebels, the convoy had not escaped the surveillance of Nato.

Just as the rebel brigades were deciding what to do, it was hit by at least one bomb in a Nato air strike, causing devastation among the tightly-packed vehicles.

The telegraph counted 14 smouldering cars and pick-up trucks and at least 25 dead bodies. Somewhere Gaddafi escaped, but his situation had become hopeless.

He was also being watched from the sky by an enemy who could rain bombs upon him. He and a handful of others fled north around 200 yards down the main road and sheltered in the drain.

As members of the al-Watan brigade from Misurata approached the smouldering cars, they had no suspicion their former leader was close by.

"We thought Mutassim [Gaddafi's son] might have tried to escape," said Mr Elhewi. "Then Gaddafi came out. One of our guys grabbed him in a bear hug."

Running on foot and with his baggage smouldering in the

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Abdel Bari Atwan This bloody end to a bloody regime stands as a warning to the region's other brutal leaders **In Comment**



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Death of a dictator

● **Gaddafi killed by rebels in wake of French airstrike**

● **Crowds cheer as body paraded through Misrata**

● **Nato prepares to announce an end to Libyan mission**



Muammar Gaddafi, covered in blood, is manhandled on to a truck by rebel fighters yesterday in this still taken from video footage. He seems to have been captured alive, but was dead soon after *Photo: Reuters*

Peter Beaumont

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi was born in Sirte, and when he became the ruler of all Libya, he transformed it from an insignificant fishing village into the country's sprawling second city. Yesterday, after a brutal – and ultimately hopeless – last stand, it was the place where he died.

For the past three weeks, with Gaddafi's whereabouts still unknown, government fighters had been puzzled by the bitter and determined resistance from loyalist fighters. Trapped in a tiny coastal strip just a few hundred metres wide, they had refused to give up, even when a victory by the forces of Libya's National Transitional Council seemed inevitable.

Here at last was the answer: they had been fighting to the death with their once-great leader in their midst.

Inside

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- **Libyans celebrate** *Eyewitness, page 22* »
- **'The next chapter in the history of Libya has now begun'** *Leader comment, page 36* »
- **'If he achieved anything, it was because of oil. Even so, he could not avert the chaos, the grim fiasco of his grandiose supermarkets' empty shelves'** *Obituary, page 38* »

The emergencies director of Human Rights Watch, Peter Bouckaert, was one of those in Sirte during the final battle. "A very heavy bombardment started at midnight with shelling of the remaining strongholds with Grad rockets that went on until 6am," he told the Guardian. "I went down to the city centre at 9am and went in with the fighters from Benghazi who said the whole city was free."

"I went to the hospital and a fighter arrived with a gold pistol he said he had taken from Gaddafi. He said there had been a fight with a convoy of people trying to flee. Mansour Dhou [Sirte's pro-Gaddafi military commander] was also in the clinic, shot in the stomach. He said they had been trying to flee and were caught in gunfire, which is when he lost consciousness. He confirmed Gaddafi was with him."

While details of the precise circumstances of Gaddafi's death remained

confused and contradictory last night, it appears he was trying to flee the city in a convoy of cars when they came under attack from Nato jets. Last night the French claimed responsibility for the airstrike.

The convoy was then apparently caught in a gun battle with fighters loyal to the National Transitional Council, Libya's interim government. Possibly wounded in the shootout, Libya's former ruler crawled into a drain; later he was set upon by revolutionary fighters.

Witnesses said he perished pleading for mercy after being dragged out of a hiding place inside a concrete drain. According to one fighter, the dying Gaddafi demanded: "What have I done to you?"

Abdel-Jalil Abdel-Aziz, a doctor who accompanied Gaddafi's body in an ambulance as it was taken from Sirte, said he died from two shots, to the head and chest. "I can't describe my happiness," he

told the Associated Press. "The tyranny is gone. Now the Libyan people can rest."

Amid the swirl of contradictory reports, one thing was clear: Gaddafi's death was a humiliating end for a man once used to surrounding himself with cheering crowds of supporters. Video images that emerged showed him being bundled bloodied on to the back of a pick-up truck, surrounded by fighters waving guns and shouting "Allahu Akbar" (God is great).

At first Gaddafi was apparently able to walk with assistance before being lifted on to the truck's tailgate. A second clip, however, showed him lifeless. In the second sequence, the tunic over one of his shoulders was heavily bloodstained.

Also killed was one of Gaddafi's sons, Mutassim, a military officer who had commanded the defence of Sirte for his father,

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The wheel of history turned yesterday: it won't turn back



Simon Tisdall

Gaddafi was a liar, murderer and cheat. But he said he'd fight to the death, and for once, he stuck to his word

Muammar Gaddafi, who dominated Libya with merciless single-mindedness for 42 years, was a liar, a murderer and a cheat. But in one respect, at least, he stayed true to his word. When the Libyan uprising began in February and led swiftly to Nato's military intervention, Gaddafi vowed to fight to the death.

He would not give himself up to his pursuers like Iraq's Saddam Hussein. Gaddafi declared in radio addresses, nor would he flee, like Tunisia's ousted president, Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, the first "victim" of the Arab spring. There would be no capitulation, no surrender, no private jet into pampered exile.

Yesterday, amid the ruins of his home town of Sirte, the insurgent fighters of the National Transitional Council,

backed by Nato bombers, took him at his word. Gaddafi had pledged a last stand, so he stood and fought. And he was, it transpired as the smoke cleared, no invincible behemoth – but ordinary flesh and blood after all. He died painfully, beaten with a pistol according to some reports, then shot at close range. But die he did.

And after all the waiting, the killing and the tears, the wheel of history turned inexorably, and all who watched knew it would never turn back. The Arab spring had claimed another infamous scalp. The risky western intervention had worked. And Libya was liberated at last.

When it comes, the fall of a famous despot sends a shiver that is felt across

the world. Thus it was with the Shah of Iran in 1979, Nicolae Ceausescu in Romania in 1989 and Hosni Mubarak in Egypt earlier this year. And thus it was with Gaddafi yesterday: no longer feared or fearsome, no longer the brash, bragging villain, no more the showman turned monster – just another slain tyrant hitting the dust with a thud.

Jubilation across Libya will be matched by relief among western governments that, in recent days, have fretted over the prospect of an ongoing insurgency by forces, Libyan and foreign, mercenary and otherwise, loyal to the old regime. Now they will congratulate themselves that Libya has

Continued on page 4 »

The Herald

FRIDAY OCTOBER 21, 2011

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Death of a tyrant



FINAL ACT: Gaddafi, covered in blood, is held on a truck by NTC fighters. Picture: Reuters

KATE DEVLIN,
ALISON CAMPBIE
and LUCY ADAMS

JUBILANT Libyans last night celebrated their freedom from Muammar Gaddafi after more than 40 years of bloody dictatorship.

Many inside the country had not dared to believe he was finally dead until graphic and gruesome images of his body being dragged through the streets, initially alive, were broadcast.

He was killed as he attempted to flee Sirte, his birthplace and the site of his last stand.

His death marks the removal of the Arab Spring pro-democracy movement began to sweep the region earlier this year.

Found cowering in a concrete sewer, there were unconfirmed reports last night Gaddafi had begged not to be shot when he was discovered.

However, confusion still shrouded many of the details surrounding his death. Some

Libya celebrates freedom after Gaddafi is captured and killed



JOY: Libyans celebrate the fall of Sirte and the death of fugitive former leader Muammar Gaddafi.

sources claimed he was killed in crossfire; others said he had been executed.

Similarly, the fate of Gaddafi's son, and appointed heir, Saif al-Islam, was not clear, with some reports claiming he had been captured as he fled. However, it was confirmed another of the former

leader's sons, Mutassim, had been killed.

Relatives of some of Gaddafi's victims expressed regret he will not now stand trial for his crimes. Despite the controversy, news of his death was welcomed across the world.

US President Barack Obama said the "shadow of tyranny" which had

been hanging over Libya had been lifted.

William Hague, the Foreign Secretary, said that while he would never support unlawful killings, "at the same time we are not going to mourn" Gaddafi.

David Cameron described it as a "momentous day" in which all of the dictator's victims should be remembered, including those killed in the Lockerbie bombing. PC Yvonne Fletcher, gunned down outside the Libyan embassy in London, and all those killed by the IRA using Libyan Semtex explosives.

For its part, Libya's interim government, the National Transitional Council (NTC), claimed Gaddafi's death had "drawn a curtain" over his crimes.

But it faced immediate pressure

from victims to disclose all the evidence it has on his involvement in atrocities, including the Lockerbie bombing.

Despite a claim earlier this year from the head of the NTC he had proof of Gaddafi's guilt over Lockerbie, that information has never been disclosed to families, said Dr Jim Swire, who lost his daughter Flora in the bombing.

An MP also claimed last night the death of the Libyan leader paved the way for the settlement of legal claims by IRA victims.

Gaddafi's death had been announced by NTC Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril, who told a press conference in the capital Tripoli: "We have been waiting for this moment for a long time - Muammar Gaddafi has been killed."

Officials said he had died after being shot in the head and legs while attempting to flee Sirte in a convoy which was targeted by Nato warplanes.

Last night French authorities

Continued on Page 2

Bloody end for brutal dictator



BRIAN FERGUSON

AFTER 42 years ruling Libya with an iron fist, Muammar al-Gaddafi met a bloody end as government troops finally seized control of his home city.

Ambushed by revolutionary fighters as he tried to flee his birthplace of Sirte, Gaddafi was shot in front of a baying mob of troops as he begged for mercy.

Footage emerged of a bloodied Gaddafi – said to have already suffered injuries to his leg and back during airstrikes on a convoy he was travelling in – being jostled before being bundled on to a truck.

As Gaddafi was being manhandled, his face and shirt soaked in blood, they chanted: “God is great.”

Libyan television pictures also showed images of the dictator’s body being dragged along the ground.

It is understood his body was then moved to a mosque in the town of Misrata, scene of some of the fiercest fighting earlier in the rebellion which ousted him from power.

There were reports last night that Gaddafi, wielding one of his iconic golden guns, had been shot after making a last desperate bid for freedom when he was discovered in the hide-out.

One graphic picture appeared to show a bullet hole visible in his temple, although the exact circumstances of his death remained unclear.

After several hours of uncertainty and contradictory reports yesterday, his death was finally announced by Mahmud Jibril, Libya’s prime minister, who said simply: “We have been waiting for this moment for a long time. Muammar Gaddafi has been killed.”

Speaking outside 10 Downing Street minutes later, Prime Minister David Cameron said: “People in Libya today have an

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ALSO INSIDE The final moments Pages 4-5 Future for Libya Pages 6-7 Secrets tyrant takes to grave Pages 8-9

GADDAFI KILLED BY BULLET IN HEAD THAT'S FOR LOCKERBIE



**And for Yvonne
Fletcher. And IRA
Semtex victims.**

By VIRGINIA WHEELER, Defence Editor

RUTHLESS tyrant Colonel Muammar Gaddafi lies dead — after the 270 victims of the Lockerbie bombing he orchestrated were finally avenged.

The Libyan Mad Dog, 69, was shot in the head by rebels after being wounded in a Nato air strike on a convoy fleeing his home city Sirte. Gaddafi, who also masterminded the London murder of WPC Yvonne Fletcher and supplied the IRA with Semtex, clambered from debris and tried to hide in a drainage pipe.

But rebels seized him and dragged him around while still alive before

Continued on Page Four



Final moments . . . Gaddafi

CAUGHT IN DRAIN: PAGES 4 & 5 ● HE BEGGED FOR LIFE: PAGES 6 & 7 ● ROT IN HELL: PAGES 8 & 9

INDEPENDENT

End of a tyrant



Video footage shows Gaddafi being dragged alive from a truck and into a mass of people. Later, he was pictured lying dead on the pavement, apparently with a bullet wound to the head

By DAVID USBORNE,
KIM SENGUPTA,
PORTIA WALKER,
CAHAL MILMO
AND RICHARD HALL

In the end the death of Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan dictator who had seemed to slip from the grasp of the rebels who forced him out of power, was as undignified and brutal as those of so many of his enemies over the years.

After the stunning rumours yester-

day that he had been captured spiralled into the news that he had been killed, video footage surfaced that showed him being dragged, bloodied but alive, from a truck and into a murderous throng. He did not emerge.

Later footage showed his lifeless body in a pool of blood on the pavement, apparently with a bullet wound to the temple. A senior Libyan official said DNA tests were being carried out to confirm the body was his.

If Gaddafi was killed like a dog in a

gutter, few in Libya were grieving. "We confirm that all the evils, plus Gaddafi, have vanished from this beloved country," the Prime Minister, Mahmoud Jib-

'Gaddafi was a crazy combination of Don Corleone and Donald Duck'

Robert Fisk
News, pages 6-7



ril, declared in Tripoli, attempting to put a lid on the uncertainty surrounding the news that had already been rumoured so many times before.

"It's time to start a new Libya, a united Libya," Mr Jibril added. "One people, one future."

The sense of a transformative day was augmented by the news that Gaddafi's Defence Minister, Abu Bakr Yunis, had also been killed, and claims of the death of the dictator's son Mo'tassim Gaddafi. Another son, Saif

al-Islam – once the regime's most visible face of defiance and his father's heir – was also rumoured to be dead, though there were other claims he had been captured or cornered. Although

continued on PAGE 2





A bloodied Muammar Gaddafi is led away by militiamen moments before his death. The dictator was run to ground in a drainage ditch under a motorway and pleaded with his captors: "Don't shoot, don't shoot"

A tyrant meets his end

Gaddafi is killed by rebel fighters as he flees final stronghold

James Hider Middle East Correspondent
James Bone Benghazi

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the ousted Libyan leader, was killed by forces loyal to the revolutionary Government after being dragged from a storm drain that had become his final refuge in his hometown of Sirte.

Badly injured but conscious, the former dictator, 69, was bundled on to the bonnet of a pick-up truck, his shirt stripped from his torso and his body dragged along the ground.

It is not clear exactly when and how

he died but his bloody end came at the hands of the angry mob of fighters who recorded his last moments on video.

Pictures of his body taken later after it was driven to the neighbouring city of Misrata appeared to show bullet wounds to his head. Mahmoud Jibril, the acting Libyan Prime Minister, claimed last night that Gaddafi was caught in crossfire and died from a bullet wound to the head.

The fighters who captured him, after weeks of fighting to take Sirte, brandished a golden pistol taken from the colonel, and may now share the

£1 million bounty on his head. An American defence official said last night that a French fighter jet had attacked the convoy in which Gaddafi was trying to flee.

Across Libya, the former students, computer technicians or casual labourers who have been the backbone of the eight-month revolution took to the streets in celebration. For them this was the signal that at long last their war is over and their leader of almost 42 years was finally gone.

In the chaotic last stand of the Gaddafi dictatorship, the former



Nine pages of news and analysis

Pages 2-11

leader's son Muatassim was also reportedly killed or injured while there were conflicting reports about Gaddafi's heir apparent, Saif al-Islam, with a Libyan minister claiming that he had been shot in the legs and captured.

As Libyans celebrated, David Cameron, who was at the forefront of the drive for Nato intervention, said that it was "a day to remember all of Colonel Gaddafi's victims", including those who died in the Lockerbie bombing, WPC Yvonne Fletcher and victims of the IRA who used Libyan-sourced

Continued on page 3, col 1

The Times, 21 October 2011

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Dictator dragged from drain then shot dead 'on way to hospital'

A mad dog in life but a cowering rat in his last, brutal moments



مُؤَمَّارُ قَذَافِي

Bloodied: Former Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi is seen on a video being pulled from a truck by rebels in Sirte, while left, fighters inspect the drain where they said he was found hiding after his convoy was bombed. Pictures: Reuters/AP

HE DISMISSED those who rose up against him as nothing more than rats but yesterday Libya's Col Muammar Gaddafi was captured and killed – after being found cowering in a sewer full of rubbish and filth.

The 69-year-old was discovered by rebels hiding in a drainpipe as he attempted to flee his birthplace town of Sirte. He died when he was shot in the head but revolutionary leaders

By **Ross McGuinness**

claimed he was taken alive and killed in the crossfire of a gunfight with his supporters as he was being taken to hospital.

Gaddafi's death sparked scenes of wild celebration in Libya. 'He called us rats but look where we found him,' said fighter Ahmed Al Sahati, 27, as he stood next to two stinking

drainage pipes under a six-lane motorway. Graffiti scrawled across his last hiding place read: 'This is the place of Gaddafi the rat... God is greatest.'

The dictator, who ruled Libya for 42 years, died within hours of the fall of Sirte, one of his last remaining pockets of support.

Earlier, his convoy had been hit by French warplanes. Libyan prime minister Mahmoud

Jibril said Gaddafi was shot in the arm as he was pulled from the drainpipe but was killed in crossfire as he was being driven away.

Video footage taken on mobile phones first showed a bloodied Gaddafi, dubbed 'mad dog' by Ronald Reagan in the 1980s, alive and being manhandled by rebels.

Later footage appeared to show his body being dragged through the streets.

— The day a despot died... and left so many questions unanswered – Pages 3-9 —

Metro, 21 October 2011

For 42 years Colonel Gaddafi terrorised his own people..and the world. Yesterday, he died as he lived, shown no mercy as he pleaded for his life..



**THE
END**
Gaddafi's
body in
Misrata
last night

**‘Don’t shoot!
Don’t shoot!’**

**++ Cornered tyrant’s
last words to rebels ++**

**++ Dragged from hole ..
riddled with bullets ++**

**++ Mad Dog caught as he
brandished golden gun ++**

FULL STORY: PAGES 2&3

Daily Mirror, 21 October 2011

DON'T SHOOT!



Battered and bloody, the tyrant of Libya pleads for his life. Moments later, he was dead – executed with a shot to the head

DRAMATIC PICTURES, REPORTS AND ANALYSIS: PAGES 2-11

Daily Mail, 21 October 2011

"Today, the government of Libya announced the death of Muammar Qaddafi. [...] Today, we can definitively say that the Qaddafi regime has come to an end. [...] So this is a momentous day in the history of Libya. [...]"

Our brave pilots have flown in Libya's skies, our sailors have provided support off Libya's shores, and our leadership at NATO has helped guide our coalition. Without putting a single U.S. service member on the ground, we achieved our objectives, and our NATO mission will soon come to an end.

This comes at a time when we see the strength of American leadership across the world. We've taken out al Qaeda leaders, and we've put them on the path to defeat. We're winding down the war in Iraq and have begun a transition in Afghanistan. And now, working in Libya with friends and allies, we've demonstrated what collective action can achieve in the 21st century."

[U.S. President Barack Obama's speech on the day Libya's President Muammar Gaddafi got assassinated by NATO's mercenaries, The White House, Washington D.C., 20 October 2011]

source: [Remarks by the President on the Death of Muammar Qaddafi](#), The White House (official website of the U.S. government), 20 October 2011

Flashback to November 2011:

" 'I will fight to the death' says Bashar Assad. (*) For God's sake, against whom are you fighting? Fighting to the death against your own people is not heroism but cowardice.

If you want to see someone who has fought to the death against his own people, just look at the Nazi Germany, at Hitler, at Mussolini, at Romania's Ceausescu.

If you can't draw any lesson from [the fates of] these [leaders], then look at Libya's leader who has been pointing gun at his own people, who has been making exactly the same remarks as you are making and who [ended up getting] killed, in a way none of us would desire, only 32 days ago.

Bashar Assad, if you are talking about fighting to the death against a [foreign] intervention on your territory, then this begs the question as to why you haven't fought to the death for [recapturing] the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights? Why didn't you show your bravery there, why can't you show it? "

[Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, speech at the parliamentary group meeting of his Justice and Development Party (AKP), Turkey's parliament, Ankara, 22 November 2011]

source: ['Halkinla savasmak kahramanlik degildir Esad'](#), Yeni Safak, 22 November 2011

(*) editorial note: Mr Erdogan is referring to a recent interview of Syria's President Bashar Assad with The Sunday Times. Instead of providing a proper transcript of this interview, The Sunday Times presented it as a news report. Here is the relevant section:

[Assad] was more preoccupied with the question of whether Arab leaders sympathetic to the West were preparing the way for international intervention, as they had in Libya. Turkey was reported to be considering proposals for a no-fly zone and a buffer area on the Syrian side of their shared border to protect civilians from bombing. Suspicion is mounting that some form

of military action against Syria may follow. If so, would he fight and die, I asked. “Definitely, this goes without saying and is an absolute.” [Assad replied].

source: [Strike Syria and the world will shake](#), by Hala Jaber, The Sunday Times via presidentassad.net, 20 November 2011

Flashback to March 2011:



Metro, 22 March 2011

Note: This front page was published on the third day of the NATO-led invasion of Libya.

Related:

[Flashback to 2011: Libya's "liberators" Sarkozy, Cameron and Erdogan congratulate NATO's mercenary-terrorists](#) compiled by Cem Ertür, Indybay, 19 September 2015

[The Cult of Killing and the Symbolic Order of Western Barbarism: How the Media Worships Violence and “Ritualized Atrocities” – The Lynching of Mouamar Gaddafi](#) by Jean-Claude Paye and Tülay Umay, Global Research, 13 April 2013 (originally published in [French](#) on November 18, 2011)

[“End of a tyrant”: The Independent and The Guardian jubilant over the assassination of Libya’s deposed President Gaddafi](#) compiled by Cem Ertür, Indybay, 21 October 2011

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