

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
August 26 - September 1, 2011

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1. [The Future of Libya \(09-01-2011\)](#)

U.S. Department of State, Office of the Spokesperson
Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton Remarks in Paris on Libya

SECRETARY CLINTON: Well, this is my ninth trip to discuss the current crisis in Libya, and each time I have urged that our partners stay focused on the ultimate objective of helping the Libyan people chart their way to a better future. And today, that future is within their reach. All of us are inspired by what is happening in Libya.

Six months ago, Libyans stood up to demand fundamental rights and freedom. And when Qadhafi met their peaceful protest with violence, the Libyan people refused to back down. While their struggle is not over, the Libyan people are taking back their country. Libya's transformation is the – largely the result of their own courage and their resilience in the face of very difficult days. The sacrifice that the Libyan people have been willing to make in order to obtain freedom and dignity has been extraordinary.

But the United States and our international partners are also proud of our own contributions. When Qadhafi threatened Benghazi, we assembled an unprecedented coalition that included NATO and Arab countries, and acted quickly to prevent a massacre. We sought and won local, regional, and international support, including the backing of the UN and the Arab League. And after deploying our unique military capabilities at the outset, the United States played a key role in a genuinely shared effort as our allies stepped up. As time went on, our coalition grew even stronger.

Today, the international community must maintain the same sense of resolve and shared responsibility. We know from experience that winning a war is no guarantee of winning the peace

that follows. That is why even as we sought to protect civilians and pressured Qadhafi to step down, we have supported the Libyans as they laid the groundwork for a transition to democracy that is just, inclusive, and sustainable.

What happens in the coming days will be critical, and the international community has to help the Libyan people get it right. First, as I told my counterparts earlier today, we need to continue NATO's military mission as long as civilians remain under threat of attack. For the sake of the Libyan people, we have called on Qadhafi and those around him to recognize that their time is over and lay down their arms. And as the new Libyan authorities consolidate power, we will support their efforts to demobilize and integrate fighters into a single security force.

Second, we need to welcome Libya back into the community of nations. Nearly 70 countries so far have recognized the TNC, including 18 African nations, the Arab League, and now Russia. It is time for others to follow suit.

Third, we must continue to support the interim Libyan authority's efforts to meet the needs of the Libyan people. The United States and our partners have worked through the United Nations to unfreeze billions of dollars in order for Libya to get access to their state assets to meet critical needs. I am pleased to announce that by the end of today, the United States expects to have delivered \$700 million to help the TNC pay for fuel and civilian operating costs and salaries, with another 800 million on the way. We are working with the TNC to ensure that these funds are disbursed in a transparent, accountable manner. It must be clear to Libyans and to the world that this money is being used to serve the Libyan people.

Fourth, the international community, led by the United Nations, needs to help the Libyan people and their leaders pave a path to peaceful, inclusive democracy – one that banishes violence as a political tool and promotes tolerance and pluralism. After 42 years of Qadhafi's rule, it is going to take time to build institutions, strengthen civil society, write a constitution, hold free and fair elections, and put in place an elected, legitimate Libyan government. We encourage the world's democracies to offer expertise and technical assistance along the way.

As Libya's leaders have emphasized repeatedly, Libya's transition must proceed in a spirit of reconciliation and justice, not retribution or reprisal. Libyans must continue to stand against violence extremism and work with us to ensure that weapons from Qadhafi's stockpiles do not threaten Libya or Libya's neighbors or the world.

In fact, the international community will be watching and supporting Libya's leaders as they keep their commitments to conduct an inclusive transition, act under the rule of law, and protect vulnerable populations. And that should include enshrining the rights of women as well as men in their new constitution.

A great deal of work lies ahead to build a stable, unified, and free Libya – a Libya that has never before existed in its modern history. The challenges may be formidable, but so is the progress we have already seen. We have stood with the Libyan people in their moment of need and we must continue to stand with them for the foreseeable future.

Finally, I want to say a few words about Syria. President Asad's brutality against unarmed citizens has outraged the region, the world, and most importantly the Syrian people themselves. The Arab League, the GCC, the Jordanian and Egyptian governments have all condemned his abuses. And after repeated warnings, Turkey's president announced that he too has lost confidence in Asad.

September 2, 2011

The violence must stop, and he needs to step aside. Syria must be allowed to move forward. Those who have joined us in this call must now translate our rhetoric into concrete actions to escalate the pressure on Assad and those around him, including strong new sanctions targeting Syria's energy sector to deny the regime the revenues that fund its campaign of violence. The EU has already taken important steps, and I'm pleased to hear that more are on the way.

Just as we have done in Libya, we are also encouraging the Syrian opposition to set forth their own roadmap for a tolerant, inclusive, and democratic path forward, one that can bring together all Syrians, Christians, and Alawites. Everyone who lives in Syria today must be part of the new Syria that should be developed in the months ahead. The people of Syria, like people everywhere, deserve a government that respects their rights equally and without discrimination. Syria's transition to democracy has already begun. It is time for President Assad to acknowledge that and step aside so the Syrian people themselves can decide their own future.

It is very heartening that this year, Tunisian, Egyptian, and Libyan families will celebrate Eid at a moment of promise. May this be a year when the tide of freedom and progress rises around the world. And I want to wish Muslims everywhere an Eid Mubarak.

And with that, I will take your questions.

MS. NULAND: We have time for (inaudible). The first question, CNN, Elise Labott.

QUESTION: Thank you, Madam Secretary. I was wondering if you could speak a little bit about what the Libyans spoke to you about what it is that they need, how the international community can help. And how do you envision a UN mission working towards this end? How quickly do you think one could get on the ground? And how do you see the UN working as a coordinator of international response?

SECRETARY CLINTON: Elise, I was very encouraged by the meeting today. I want to again commend President Sarkozy and Prime Minister Cameron for bringing us all together, along with Chairman Jalil and Prime Minister Jibril. I think that what we heard today was very promising, in that the TNC has specific requests that they wish to make to the international community. They did so in my bilateral meeting with them, and of course, they did so in the larger meeting as well.

What they are looking for is, number one, continuing support to ensure that the violence ends, that there can be no credible effort by Qadhafi and those still supporting him to continue wreaking violence against Libyans. And they were very clear in their request that the NATO role continue, and NATO, in turn, was very clear that it will maintain its presence over Libya until there is no longer a need to protect civilians from attacks or the threat of attacks.

And of course, NATO is also focused on trying to do all we can to protect Libya from Qadhafi and those troops that are still under his command. Secondly, the TNC was very clear that they need to have the funds that are Libyan state funds unfrozen and released to them as soon as possible. I'm very pleased that the United States was able to persuade the United Nations to lift the sanctions and to approve the release of \$1.5 billion. That is being matched by hundreds of millions of dollars coming from others who have frozen assets within their borders. And now, we've got to do everything possible to make sure that the TNC has the resources it needs. There are a lot of humanitarian urgent needs that have to be met.

Thirdly, we want what they want – more recognition. As I said in my opening remarks, more than 70 nations have recognized the TNC, but we want to seat the TNC, representing Libya, in every

international organization, including the United Nations. We're pleased that the Arab League had introduced that resolution and that the TNC now represents Libya in the Arab League.

Fourth, I think it's important that they requested assistance in all kinds of areas where they need expertise, whether it is ensuring that the financial mechanism they're setting up has the level of accountability and transparency that is required, to helping them put together an impartial, independent police force, to helping them find ways to provide housing for Libyans who have been bombed out or had their homes destroyed or who will be coming back from having sought refuge elsewhere.

And I guess, finally, the Libyans were very responsive to the long list of ideas that were presented throughout the day. And I was impressed by their openness. And they still have a huge hill to climb here. They don't yet have their whole country secure. But they are working with the international community to secure both chemical weapon stockpiles as well as conventional weapons. They are taking action against extremism wherever they find it.

So I guess in general, I would have to say that today's meeting validated the confidence that all the other nations around the table had placed in the TNC. And they were realistic about how much they have to do and how much they still face in the days ahead. But it was an excellent transition from the Contact Group, which dealt primarily with protecting civilians and ending the terror of the Qadhafi regime, to the reconstruction, rebuilding, transition period.

QUESTION: What about our UN mission, Madam Secretary?

SECRETARY CLINTON: I think the UN mission is going to be put together in an expeditious manner. Ban Ki-moon met with the TNC leadership at the larger meeting. He spoke about the kinds of assets the UN could bring. All of us support the UN taking the lead in the reconstruction and transition period ahead, so they're going to be working through all the details of that. And importantly, countries are reopening embassies. The Italians reopened their embassy in Tripoli today and have a new ambassador named. I'm sending a team to Tripoli to check out our Embassy building and see what we need to do to be able to get our diplomatic presence at the highest level again.

So there was so much discussed and so many decisions that we ticked down. It was a worthwhile and productive day.

MS. NULAND: Last question (inaudible).

QUESTION: Hi, Madam Secretary. There's a lot of anger on Capitol Hill and in the U.S. at large about Abdel Basset al-Megrahi, the fact that he's still at large in Libya. We understand you brought the issue up with Libya's new leaders. Could you tell us what you asked of them and how they responded?

SECRETARY CLINTON: Well, Nicole, first I want to underscore the fact that I share the anger. As you know, I represented New York for eight years. A lot of the people who were killed came from either Syracuse University or nearby in upstate New York. And as I have said many times, the United States categorically disagrees with the decision that was made two years ago by the Scottish executive to release al-Megrahi and return him to Libya. We have never wavered from our disagreement and condemnation of that decision. He should be behind bars. We have consistently extended our deepest sympathies to those families who have to live every day with the knowledge that they lost their loved ones, and they wanted justice to prevail, and we think justice was aborted.

So we will continue to pursue justice on behalf of the victims of this terrorist attack. The United States has kept open the case concerning the Lockerbie bombing. We have raised the investigation with the TNC. We've conveyed the importance that the United States places on this issue. We want more information, and we want to have access to those who might have been somehow involved in the planning or execution of the bombing.

We recognize the magnitude of all of the issues that the TNC is facing, and we know that they have to establish security, the rule of law, good governance. But at the same time, they've assured us that they understand the sensitivities surrounding this case, and they will give the matter the consideration it richly deserves at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you all.

[Secretary Clinton: Travel to Paris](#)

2. Key Points on Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (09-01-2011)

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance

The Case for the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty: Some Key Points

The United States will be more secure by ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which establishes a global legal ban on the explosive testing of nuclear weapons.

The CTBT Helps Restrain Further Nuclear Weapons Proliferation.

It is in our national security interest to prevent other states from advancing their nuclear weapon capabilities, an objective that would be reinforced through the adoption and entry into force of the global, legally binding CTBT. With a global ban on nuclear explosive tests, states interested in pursuing or advancing their nuclear weapons programs would have to either risk deploying weapons uncertain of their effectiveness or face international condemnation and possible sanctions for conducting nuclear tests.

With or without nuclear explosive testing, it is possible for states to develop fission weapons, but without testing there would always be uncertainty how well they would perform. A ban on nuclear explosive testing will prevent more established nuclear weapon states from confirming the performance of more advanced nuclear weapon designs that have not been successfully tested in the past.

The United States possesses the most extensively tested and certified nuclear arsenal in the world and remains the world's pre-eminent conventional weapons superpower. Our nation has been able to maintain military superiority while also observing a unilateral testing moratorium for almost twenty years, thus abiding by the core prohibition of the CTBT. Yet, the absence of U.S. ratification of the Treaty continues to limit our ability to promote a global ban.

Ratification of the CTBT Is Part of an Integrated Nuclear Security Strategy.

The President has identified the spread of nuclear weapons to terrorists or other states as a direct and pressing threat to American security and has provided unprecedented resources – financial, political and technical – to prevent proliferation. Since entering office, the Administration has achieved entry into force of the New START Treaty, released an updated Nuclear Posture Review, and helped to achieve the consensus Action Plan at the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference.

The Administration has also convened the successful 2010 Nuclear Security Summit, helped secure and relocate vulnerable nuclear materials, led efforts to establish an international nuclear fuel bank, and increased effective multilateral sanctions against both Iran and North Korea for their illicit nuclear activities.

Support for and pursuit of CTBT ratification is another key element of this strategy to strengthen America's security. Ratification of the Treaty would likely bring additional international support for carrying out other elements of the Action Plan from the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

The CTBT Can Be Verified.

At the heart of the CTBT's verification regime is an international monitoring system that includes hundreds of sensors deployed around the world, which will help the United States and other CTBT Parties verify compliance with the Treaty. This system has already detected the two nuclear explosive tests conducted by North Korea; its capabilities will continue to improve as the system is completed.

Entry into force also will bring to bear the option for an on-site inspection, which will help clarify ambiguities regarding a possible nuclear test. Taken as a whole, the Treaty's robust verification regime, which supplements our state of the art monitoring national technical means capabilities, will make it extremely difficult for any state to conduct militarily significant explosive nuclear tests that escape detection.

The United States Does Not Need to Conduct Nuclear Tests.

President Obama said in April 2009, "As long as nuclear weapons exist, the United States will maintain a safe, secure and effective arsenal to deter any adversary, and guarantee that defense to our allies."

U.S. nuclear weapons are now maintained without explosive nuclear testing. From 1945-1992, the United States conducted 1054 nuclear explosive tests, more than any other country. Since it adopted a moratorium on nuclear explosive testing in 1992, the United States has maintained the reliability of our arsenal through an extensive and rigorous stockpile stewardship program that includes surveillance and warhead life extension programs. This Administration has committed more than \$85 billion in funding over the next decade, to maintain the U.S. stockpile, a modern nuclear weapons production complex, and a highly trained and exercised base of nuclear experts, engineers, and technicians.

For over 15 years, the Secretaries of Defense and Energy from Democratic and Republican administrations, and the directors of the nuclear weapons laboratories have annually assessed our arsenal to be safe, secure and effective, and each year they have determined that we do not need to conduct explosive nuclear tests.

3. U.S. Response to OSCE Head on Kosovo Report (09-01-2011)

United States Mission to the OSCE, Response to the Report by the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo Ambassador Werner Almhofer. As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly to the Permanent Council, Vienna, September 1, 2011.

The United States joins in welcoming Ambassador Almhofer back to the Permanent Council and we thank the Ambassador for his comprehensive report.

Given recent events, it is clear that major transitions are still underway in Kosovo. These transitions present challenges for the international community and demand that our respective roles continue to adapt and evolve. It is also clear that the OSCE Mission in Kosovo plays an important role in engaging communities, supporting democratic development, and promoting a functional state, including in the north of Kosovo.

We commend the work done by the Mission in partnership with Kosovo institutions and NGOs and are confident that this will continue to foster transparency and accountability through good governance. We are pleased to hear of the positive work done on the ground by OMIK field operations during and after the most recent incidents on Kosovo's border with Serbia. The staff has gained the trust of both the people and the government, a notable success.

I visited your offices in Pristina and Mitrovica and I was deeply impressed by your staff's dedication and hard work.

Unfortunately, the situation in northern Kosovo is unsustainable. We need to support OMIK's great work in the field and call for a renewed commitment to community and confidence building efforts among different ethnic groups throughout the country. The work of the Mission in the areas of democratization and communities remains critical to future development. We would advocate increased coordination between OMIK and OMIS in Belgrade to that end. Both OSCE Missions have strong relationships with government institutions as well as various local communities. This is the OSCE's value added in the region, and we should capitalize on this strength.

The engagement of the ethnic Serb community in Kosovo's politics and municipal administrations is a critical element for the development of a prosperous, multi-ethnic, democratic state in which minority communities can build a sustainable future through improved local governance and services. Therefore, we strongly support the resumption of the EU-facilitated dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade and remain hopeful that they can establish a condition of positive reciprocity at the border through which people and goods can move freely in both directions between Kosovo and Serbia. We call on both sides, in line with their European aspirations and the economic interests of their countries and the greater region, to resolve this impasse and end their respective trade restrictions.

We expect both to work in good faith and to cooperate on resolving customs and other key practical issues that will improve the lives of people on both sides of the border and help realize both countries' European perspectives.

On another note, we welcome the progress made by the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) in securing the necessary personnel, facilities and equipment for its task force investigating the serious allegations contained in Special Rapporteur Dick Marty's report to the Council of Europe. The selection of Clint Williamson as lead prosecutor, an eminently qualified

and experienced prosecutor and former U.S. Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues, underscores the seriousness with which the United States and EU are approaching the task force's work. The task force has the full support of the United States, the European Union and EU Member States. We expect a thorough investigation, conducted with transparency and with the full cooperation of local authorities. We welcome pledges made by the governments of Kosovo, Albania and Serbia to cooperate fully with the EULEX investigation.

The development of a multi-ethnic democracy in Kosovo, which protects minority rights and religious freedom, and which has government institutions that can deliver stability and prosperity for its people, is a goal that we should all support, and in our view, the Mission of the OSCE in Kosovo is an important component of the ongoing work toward this goal. The United States will continue to strongly support and assist Kosovo. Continued international engagement in Kosovo will help facilitate its integration into European and regional institutions, such as the OSCE. This will help secure the future for Kosovo and its citizens and will contribute to stability for its neighbors in Europe and the wider OSCE region.

The United States is eager to work constructively with all participating States to identify ways the OSCE can continue to contribute to Kosovo's stability and the welfare and security of its people.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4. NATO Officials: Work Still Remains in Libya (08-30-2011)

By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30, 2011 – The NATO mission in Libya is important, effective and still necessary to protect civilians in that embattled nation, a NATO spokeswoman said today.

“As long as threats remain, there's still a job to be done and we will get that job done,” Oana Lungescu told reporters today at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

“The mission will continue in full compliance with the United Nations mandate for as long as it's needed, but not a day longer,” she added.

Joining her in a live videoconference from Naples was Col. Roland Lavoie of the Canadian air force, NATO's military spokesman for Operation Unified Protector.

“The Gadhafi regime is collapsing and rapidly losing control on multiple fronts,” Lavoie said. The port of Tripoli now is accessible to commercial and humanitarian shipping, said he added, and the two metropolitan airports are secured.

The new Libyan authorities are now providing for the security of Tripoli, Lavoie said, and the National Transitional Council is demonstrating its leadership and its ability to coordinate the provision of services to the city's residents.

“These are very encouraging signs, indeed,” the colonel added.

“It looks as if we're nearly there, but we're not there yet,” Lungescu said, adding that in the past week the world has had vivid reminders of the continuing threats.

“We’ve seen the grim pictures from Tripoli and the allegations of mass graves, executed prisoners and a hospital full of dead patients,” she said. “We’ve seen more reports of how the regime has been using mosques, schools and marketplaces as shields for its weapons.”

NATO must make sure these threats are gone for good, Lungescu said. It’s imperative, she added, that “the civilians and cities in Libya are safe so that the Libyan people can build a new future based on democracy, reconciliation and the rule of law.”

Lavoie said the main area of attention now is the corridor between Bani Walid and the eastern edge of Surt, where pro-Gadhafi forces maintain a varying presence in several coastal cities and villages, and some inland areas.

“Gadhafi forces are being pushed out of the greater Tripoli area,” Lavoie said. “Despite the presence of remnants of the regime, the Tripoli region is essentially freed, with the retreat of pro-Gadhafi forces to the areas of Bani Walid to the southeast of the capital,” where they no longer represent a direct threat to the population of Tripoli.

Over the past week, anti-Gadhafi forces opened the northwest coastal route linking Tripoli to the Tunisian border, the colonel added.

“As the overall security situation improves, this vital link will gradually allow for more road movements,” Lavoie said, “which means more food, more water, fuel, medicine and other supplies.”

Once NATO’s job is done, Lungescu said, “it is for others to take over the lead in supporting Libya.”

The North Atlantic Council will decide when the Libya mission is complete based on the military advice of Operation Unified Protector commanders and the military authorities, she added.

“Last week when the North Atlantic Council met, there was consensus around the table, together with the contributing partners in Operation Unified Protector, that the anti-Gadhafi momentum is irreversible and there was full commitment to continue the mission until the mandate is fulfilled but no longer than is absolutely necessary,” Lungescu said.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon will travel to Paris Sept. 1 to take part in a senior-level meeting on Libya, she said.

“This will be an opportunity for further coordination of international support for the people of Libya,” Lungescu said, “as they finally begin to hold the future in their own hands.”

5. Libya Receiving \$1.5 Billion in Financial Assets Frozen in U.S. (08-26-2011)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — The United States is releasing \$1.5 billion in Libyan assets that had been frozen under U.N. sanctions directed against Muammar Qadhafi’s regime, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton urged other countries that are holding Libyan assets to expedite their release.

“We have secured the release of \$1.5 billion in Libyan assets that had been frozen in the United States. This money will go toward meeting the needs of the people of Libya,” [Clinton said in an August 25 statement](#).

“We urge other nations to take similar measures. Many are already doing so,” she said.

The political transition from Qadhafi’s 42-year rule is being led by Libya’s Transitional National Council (TNC). Clinton urged the council to “fulfill its international responsibilities and the commitments it has made to build a tolerant, unified, democratic state — one that protects the universal human rights of all its citizens.”

Financial analysts have estimated that nearly \$110 billion in Libyan assets is frozen in banks worldwide, according to press reports.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland told reporters August 25 that the \$1.5 billion represents the TNC’s “assessment of their urgent needs.”

She said U.S. and TNC officials have been working for weeks on how to release the funds. “We’ve been sitting with the TNC and taking them through the necessary safeguarding and auditing processes. We have high confidence that this is the right amount from us now, and that we have set in place structures and ways to ensure that this money gets to the right people and is used ... for humanitarian and civilian needs,” she said.

One-third of the money will be used for “urgent humanitarian needs,” with \$120 million paying U.N. agencies for the services they are already providing in Libya and the remaining \$380 million “held for future needs that will come through the U.N. system as the Libyan people and the TNC assess what would be appropriate,” Nuland said.

A second portion of \$500 million will go for civilian fuel needs associated with electricity and desalination, particularly in hospitals and other public facilities, Nuland said. About \$300 million of the funds will reimburse entities that have been helping Libya meet its civilian fuel needs, and the remaining money will be held to pay future civilian fuel bills.

The last third of the money will be deposited in the temporary financial mechanism (TFM) that was established by the Libya Contact Group to facilitate financial contributions and in-kind assistance to the TNC.

“That money will be held in the TFM, and the Libyan people will be able to draw on it to meet needs in the following three categories: health, education and urgent food needs,” Nuland said. “As the TNC establishes its requirements in these areas, comes up with bills that need paying in the area of health, education and food, it will be able to submit those bills to the TFM steering board for payment.”

Nuland said the focus on humanitarian needs, civilian fuel and funding the TFM are priorities that the Libyans themselves made.

“They are based on their assessment of what their people need, not only in the areas that they controlled, but also in Tripoli and other places where they’ve had contacts throughout this crisis,” she said.

The TNC is working to establish an interim government and extend its control throughout the country. Nuland said previous transitional states have shown they can establish effective governing institutions, but it requires hard work.

“We have to remember what this country’s been for 42 years — a state where the only rule of law came out of the head of Qadhafi. So they’ve got work to do. They’re going to need international support as they do it,” she said.

6. Fact Sheet: Securing Dangerous Materials’ Stockpiles in Libya (08-26-2011)

U.S. Department of State, Office of the Spokesperson

Libya: Securing Stockpiles Promotes Security

Libya has been a country of proliferation concern and attention by the United States for many years. Since the beginning of the crisis in Libya this year, the United States has focused on the potential that increased insecurity on the ground could increase proliferation risks, including with the country’s remaining stockpiles of uranium, chemical agents, and conventional weapons. We have remained intensely focused on preventing proliferation as the crisis has evolved. Monitoring relevant facilities and supporting Libya’s efforts to secure those arms and materials have been and remain key priorities.

The United States has stressed the importance of securing these materials and arms stockpiles and has taken action to prevent their proliferation. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Assistant Secretary Jeffrey Feltman, Ambassador Gene Cretz, and Special Representative Chris Stevens have raised these issues with Libya’s Transitional National Council (TNC), which has made clear that it recognizes the importance of securing all proliferation-sensitive materials and weapons.

Libya is a state-party to nonproliferation agreements, including the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the Biological Weapons Convention. We welcome the assurances that we have received from the TNC that Libya will meet all of its international commitments. The United States is supporting Libya in upholding these obligations and stands ready to assist in securing or safely eliminating materials and arms that pose proliferation risks.

Nuclear-Related Sites

- All sensitive elements of Libya’s nuclear program, including those received from the A.Q. Khan network, were removed in early 2004.
- Libya’s remaining inventory of highly enriched uranium was completely removed as of December 2009, marking the end of a five-year effort to convert the research reactor at the Tajura nuclear research center to run on low enriched uranium fuel. Nevertheless, we continue to closely monitor the facility.
- We also continue to monitor Libya’s stockpile of uranium yellowcake. This material would need to go through an extensive industrial process, including enrichment, before it could be used in building a bomb. Such processes do not exist in Libya.

Chemical Agents

- All of Libya's remaining chemical stocks – 11.3 metric tons of mustard agent and 845 metric tons of chemical precursors – are located together in non weapons-useable form in a remote area far removed from the fighting, inside steel containers placed within bunkers accountable to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Based on all our current information, we assess that this facility is secure.
- These extremely hazardous materials are in a bulk form, and require a high-level of expertise, sophistication, and proper equipment in order to utilize the bulk agent in a usable weapon. We continue to monitor these materials.
- The Qadhafi regime destroyed the aerial bombs manufactured to deliver its chemical weapons in 2004 under the supervision of international inspectors from the Chemical Weapons Convention implementing organization, the OPCW.

Ballistic Missiles/Scuds

- Prior to the crisis, Libya had an estimated force of 400 aging Scud ballistic missiles, a majority of which are assessed not to be operational.
- These missiles have a limited range of 300 kilometers.

Conventional Weapons

- Since the beginning of the crisis, we have been actively engaged with our allies and partners to help prevent the proliferation of Libya's conventional weapons. Our main concern is Libya's inventory of shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, also known as Man-Portable Air-Defense Systems (MANPADS).
- The United States is working with NATO to provide all known locations of such weapons so that the TNC can secure and eventually dispose of these weapons.
- The United States is providing \$3 million in support to two NGOs, MAG International and the Swiss Foundation for Demining to recruit and train staff local explosive ordnance disposal teams. The teams have been operating in the east since May, but will move to areas in western Libya as the security situation improves. These teams also are providing assistance and guidance to the TNC in the routine recovery of potentially unstable munitions and classifying these for safe storage or destruction. To date teams have cleared over 450,000 square meters of land and destroyed over 5.8 tons of munitions, including five MANPADS.
- The State Department-led MANPADS Task Force has led two teams of experts to the region where they consulted with Libya's neighbors over ways to counter possible proliferation of MANPADS and conventional weapons. The inter-agency teams visited Mauritania, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Mali, Morocco, Niger, and Chad.
- The State Department and other international actors have emphasized to the Transitional National Council that the Libya's future leaders must effectively secure MANPADS and other conventional weapons. In early August, State Department experts met with TNC representatives in Malta to convey concerns over potential MANPADS proliferation.