



While NATO continued its bombing campaign in Libya, the United States and 30 other nations met on Friday, July 15 in Istanbul where they outlined plans for a post-Ghadafi transitional Libyan government. The conference focused its discussion on the establishment of a national congress and an interim government following an end to the conflict. Most importantly, the attendees agreed to officially recognize the Libyan rebel government, the Libyan National Council, as the sole legitimate governing authority of the nation. Fortunately for the rebels, this means that the Obama administration can, and likely will transfer \$33 billion in frozen Libyan assets to the anti-Ghadafi opposition. In addition, Germany just recently lent 100 million Euros (or U.S.\$144 million) to the rebels. This funding will undoubtedly serve as a major boost for an inexperienced army in desperate need of more weapons. With an increase in arms and continued aid from its NATO allies, the opposition believes that it can take the Libyan capital of Tripoli “within days,” according to a rebel spokesman.

Meanwhile, United States officials met with representatives from the Ghadafi regime to discuss a potential ceasefire agreement with the United States reportedly insisting that Ghadafi step down from power. France has also demanded that Ghadafi give up power but conceded that Ghadafi could stay in Libya as part of a ceasefire agreement so long as he steps away from political life. The United Kingdom and the United States also agreed that this is a possible scenario but have made it clear that this decision lies in the hands of the Libyan people. It seems at this point, however, that the vast majority of rebels, if not Libyan citizens, want Ghadafi put on trial for crimes against his own people and for sponsoring international terrorism.

More Information

http://www.lemonde.fr/libye/article/2011/07/24/l-allemande-prete-100-millions-d-euros-a-l-opposition-libyenne_1552326_1496980.html

http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2011/07/18/feature-01

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/Libyan-Rebels-Ask-France-for-Weapons-to-March-on-Tripoli-125958238.html>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/jul/25/gaddafi-libya-william-hague-plan>

<http://m.eltiempo.com/mundo/africa/oposicin-rebelde-libia-reconocida-como-gobierno-legitimo/9913725>