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From: Adam Smith
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2019 12:50 PM
Cc: Adam Smith <asmith@mercuryllc.com>
Subject: Eyewitness to the crisis in Libya

Yosof Ibderi was mayor of Gharyan in northwest Libya until militias led by Khalifa Haftar attacked and seized the city last month. Mayor Gharyan, who was displaced to Tripoli, today released the following statement regarding the humanitarian crisis in the city of 200,000 under control of Haftar:

“The humanitarian situation is dire. Most of the residents are trapped in Gharyan and have no place to go. There are no ways of bringing food items, cooking gas, or basic necessities into the town. Haftar’s militia’s created check points and instituted extreme security measures, including confiscating and searching phones, enacting strict curfews. There is no freedom of expression, assembly or movement. Even during the times of Qaddafi it wasn’t this bad. Residents live in constant fear, and at some have been killed or are missing. The occupiers are thugs, militias with very disturbing tribal vigilante inclinations. The few residents of Gharyan who were initially supportive of Haftar are now 180 degrees against him after they saw the type of brutality his forces unleashed.”

For background, Haftar is the militia leader President Trump several weeks phoned to the surprise of much of the international community and apparently the State Department. Mercury Public Affairs works for the UN-backed Government of National Accord. We're trying to generate coverage and attention on what's happening there, so please forward this to the appropriate person and don't hesitate to call me with questions or if you could use help with anything.

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From: Adam Smith
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 4:45 PM
Subject: Statement on war crimes

May 9, 2019

The Foreign Ministry of Libya’s Government of National Accord (GNA) released the following statement today:

“Khalifa Haftar’s militias and his foreign state backers have been found to be violating the United Nations’ arms embargo and are implicated in war crimes by the International Criminal Court.

“We welcome the U.S. move yesterday to call for one of Haftar’s top lieutenants, Mahmoud al-Werfalli, to be handed to the ICC. The unlawful measures which Haftar and his backers are willing to take to extend the life of his battle, which he has labeled a “jihad”, must be met with severe consequences by the international community.

“GNA forces continue to drive back Haftar’s militias, yet his unprovoked aggressions targeting Libya’s civilian population are destabilizing our country and laying the groundwork for the resurgence of terror groups including ISIS.”

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