

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 102

Calling for a no-fly zone and the recognition of the Transitional National Council in Libya.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 15, 2011

Mr. MCCAIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Calling for a no-fly zone and the recognition of the Transitional National Council in Libya.

Whereas peaceful demonstrations, inspired by similar peaceful demonstrations in Tunisia, Egypt, and elsewhere in the Middle East, began in Libya with calls for greater political reform, opportunity, justice, and the rule of law and quickly spread to cities around the country.

Whereas Muammar Qaddafi, his sons, and forces loyal to them have responded to the peaceful demonstrations by authorizing and initiating violence against civilian non-combatants in Libya, including the use of airpower, foreign mercenaries, helicopters, mortar and artillery fire, naval assets, snipers, and soldiers;

Whereas, in response to Qaddafi's assault on the people of Libya, the imposition of a "no-fly zone" in Libya was

called for by the Gulf Cooperation Council on March 7, 2011; by the head of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on March 8, 2011; and by the Arab League on March 12, 2011;

Whereas the Governments of France and the United Kingdom have drafted a United Nations Security Council Resolution to mandate the imposition of a “no-fly zone” in Libya;

Whereas the Libyan Transitional National Council was formed in Benghazi, with representation of Libyan leaders from across the country;

Whereas, on March 10, 2011, the Government of France recognized the Libyan Transitional National Council, based in Benghazi, as the sole legitimate government of Libya and has announced its intention to send an ambassador there;

Whereas, despite initial gains, the opposition has been losing ground against Qaddafi’s forces, which are currently advancing against the opposition stronghold of Benghazi;

Whereas, on March 3, 2011, President Barack Obama said, “Let me just be very unambiguous about this. Colonel Qaddafi needs to step down from power and leave”; and

Whereas, on March 10, 2011, the Director of National Intelligence testified before Congress that, because of Qaddafi’s superior military resources, including airpower, and in the absence of outside assistance to the opposition, “I think [over] the long term that the [Qaddafi] regime will prevail.”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) applauds the bravery of the Libyan people,
2 who are fighting to secure their universal rights
3 against the violent dictatorship of Muammar
4 Qaddafi;

5 (2) condemns Muammar Qaddafi, and the
6 forces loyal to him, for using overwhelming and in-
7 discriminate violence, including the use of airpower
8 and foreign mercenaries, against peaceful dem-
9 onstrators and civilians, which has resulted in gross
10 human rights abuses, grave loss of innocent life, and
11 potentially crimes against humanity;

12 (3) strongly welcomes the calls for imposing a
13 “no-fly zone” in Libya made by the Arab League,
14 the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Organization
15 of the Islamic Conference;

16 (4) reiterates that it is the policy of the United
17 States, as stated by President Obama, that Colonel
18 Qaddafi must step down and leave power; and

19 (5) calls on the President—

20 (A) to recognize the Libyan Transitional
21 National Council, based in Benghazi but rep-
22 resentative of Libyan communities across the
23 country, as the sole legitimate governing au-
24 thority in Libya;

1 (B) to take immediate steps to implement
2 a “no-fly zone” in Libya with international sup-
3 port; and

4 (C) to develop and implement a com-
5 prehensive strategy to achieve the stated United
6 States policy objective of Qaddafi leaving power.

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