

By Ahmed Shebani

The Libyan Freedom and Democracy Campaign has called for the recreation of the Adrian Pelt commission by the Security Council of the United Nation to oversee the transition of Libya from dictatorship to democracy.

The state of Libya was the creation of the United Nation itself, but Gaddafi has systematically destroyed its entire constitutional and legal structures. We have neither political parties nor civil society. What we have is Gaddafi's army waging war on the population. This lawlessness calls for the creation of the Adrian Pelt United Nation Commission to bring about stability and to fill the current political and legal vacuum.

Adrian Pelt, a Dutch lawyer, was the commissioner mandated by the General Assembly of the United Nations to prepare for the creation of the state of Libya in 1951. He did a splendid job that Libyans will never forget. The most beautiful street in Tripoli is named after him.

We Libyans do not have the knowhow to build a simple civil engineering structural bridge let alone established a bridge to cross from dictatorship to democracy. We currently find ourselves in a similar predicament that we experienced prior to the establishment of the state of Libya. It is necessary for us to seek the help of the international community through the Security Council. We will employ the services of the best international experts to prepare Libya for democracy.

The Interim National Council is part of the problem not of the solution, as most of its senior members are ex-Gaddafi ministers and ambassadors. They cannot possibly be expected to take Libya to freedom and democracy. Any unconditional support for the council can only augment the dark forces that are work against the cause of democracy in Libya. The recent EU conditional recognition of the council was a step in the right direction. We call upon the rest of the international community to follow the example of the EU.

We understand that many people are switching sides these days "RETOURNER SA VESTE", but the truth must out; so that dictatorship will not take the guise of democracy. Those who served Gaddafi in high office cannot conceivably serve the people.

As soon as the Gaddafi regime falls we will seek to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission that will provide the means for national healing and forgiveness. Those senior members of the Interim Council who served Gaddafi must appear before this commission.

It is widely said these days that the Interim National Council is a fact of life that we all have to accept for the sake of national unity, but this is blackmail in its ugliest form. We do accept the INC in principle but we dispute its present composition and the legitimacy of its unlimited political powers.

Many Libyans are currently experiencing a state of euphoria as the Gaddafi regime is coming to its end, but this attitude prevents them from recognising the short comings of the Interim

National Council. When all of Libya is liberated and the dust settles they will face the reality that the long struggle for democracy has just started. This is why the Libyan Freedom and Democracy Campaign offers a clear proposal for a path out of our political difficulties, namely that of the Adrian Pelt Commission.

A democratic Libya will not be good for the Libyans only, but it will also be good for regional peace and genuine normalisation.