

By Nehad Ismail

It is clear the war has reached a decisive stage and Gaddafi's regime is to all intents and purposes has finished.

This is the end of a 41 year rule of a dysfunctional brutal regime that ruled by fear, torture and executions. Its mismanagement of the economy brought ruin to Libya and impoverished the Libyan people despite the huge oil and gas wealth. The regime has brutally attempted to suppress the opposition movement by shelling rebellious cities, and imprisoning and torturing those who speak out.

On the 27th June 2011 The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor Moreno Ocampo has asked a three-judge panel to issue arrest warrants for Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, his second-eldest son, Saif al-Islam, and his intelligence chief, Abdullah Senussi.

The filing against Gaddafi came just three months into the uprising against his 41-year rule. Mr. Ocampo presented a 74-page document of evidence to the court in The Hague.

According to Press Report quoting Ocampo, the evidence shows Muammar Gaddafi personally ordered attacks on unarmed civilians. Gaddafi, Saif al-Islam and Abdullah Senussi held meetings to plan the crackdown. Security forces loyal to the government then attacked civilians in their homes, used heavy weaponry on funeral processions, and set up snipers to shoot at people as they left prayers at mosques.

Other reports indicated that thousands of documents showing in chilling detail orders from Muammar Gaddafi's senior generals to bombard and starve the people of Misrata had been gathered by war crimes investigators.

Despite the overwhelming evidence there is every chance that some kind of deal might let Gaddafi slip through unpunished? Every Libyan knows that Gaddafi regime used intimidation, terror and physical extermination of opponents to cling to power.

The dictator is not known for his conciliatory nature, nor is he known for respecting agreements. If he is allowed to stay free he will continue to instigate violence and tribal warfare. With his huge cash resources he can foment civil conflict. He would finance assassins, death squads, saboteurs, and mercenaries to carry out reprisals against his opponents. Gaddafi committed crimes against humanity. Hundreds of academics, dissidents and critics were executed in the 1980s and 1990 under the so-called "stray-dogs campaign". Libyans in Europe were targeted and assassinated. University lecturers were executed in front of school children and family members.

The terror campaign was not waged against the Libyan people only. WPC Yvonne Fletcher was shot outside the Libyan embassy in London on 17th April 1984. Two men were believed to have committed the crime - Mohammed Matouk and Abdul Qader Baghdadi - but no one has

been charged, no one punished.

Agents working for the regime also carried out attacks against Rome and Vienna airports 1985. In 1986 Berlin Discotheque bombing was carried out by operatives working for the Libyan regime.

The regime supported terrorism against civilian targets around the World. The most infamous example is the 1988 blowing up of Pan Am Flight 103 from Heathrow to New York over the Scottish village of Lockerbie. Two hundred and fifty-nine passengers and crew were killed along with eleven local residents on the ground. Twenty years later Libya had paid US \$ 2billion in compensation to the victims.

The most notorious crime committed by the regime occurred inside Libya itself on 28th June 1996 at the Abu Salim prison in Tripoli which housed political prisoners including Islamists. The prisoners had protested about the appalling conditions in the prison and demanded improvements in the living conditions.

When Muammar Gaddafi heard about the protest, he sent his brother-in-law Abdullah Senussi, head of military intelligence to manage the situation. Quoting from Daniel Kawczynski Book "Seeking Gaddafi" "Senussi agreed to meet the prisoners' demand and had a guard held hostage released. The following morning at 7 o'clock, he ordered more than a thousand prisoners to gather in the prison's central courtyard. For four hours, guards posted on rooftops around the courtyard shot at the assembled prisoners. It is said that 1200 men were killed. One can only imagine the bloodshed and terror of that day".

Gaddafi and his henchmen must not be allowed to escape unpunished. It would be a betrayal of the Libyan people and the relatives of the thousands of victims if Gaddafi and his henchmen and in particular his brother-in-law Abdullah Senussi are allowed to get away without facing justice to account for their crimes against the Libyan people.

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