OPINION

# Libya's Hell, Enabled by Canadian Humanitarians

Why "responsibility to protect" is proving irresponsible.

By Murray Dobbin | 26 Nov 2012 | The Tyee.ca

Cross-posted from Canadian Dimension and the Tyee and Rabble. First published Spring 2012 issue.

Share 0 Tweet 0 G+1 0 Comments



Deployed from an Libyan city in Benghazi, Canadian Forces Operation Mobile Evacuation Photo

When did well-armed Libyans need Canadian military intervention continues to be a mystery. Nevertheless, the notion comes from Benghazi where one of the (literally) hundreds of armed militias, operating with no oversight, airline flag-bearing protesters (protesting military, not Gaddafi) and Canadian special forces, said that they didn't need any small arms – it was rock-propelled grenades and anti-tank weapons all which arrived (guess, guess, guess) in a heavily rebels-controlled, a disgusting slaughter of innocents.

But we hear nothing from the international chorus, let here by Lloyd Axworthy, Canada's former foreign minister, who wrote in the Ottawa Citizen a few months ago, two years ago. The U.S., establishing for the UN in 2005, has fully principled but in practice has been used as an excuse for very brutal assault on sovereign nations. Axworthy's piece, "Responsibility to protect: Canada's contribution" protect states that sovereignty is not a right, but rules on the responsibility of governments to protect their populations. It is triggered by evidence of any crimes, "ethnic cleansing, war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity and others claiming.

None of these, of course, prevented at the time of the Security Council's vote in favour of establishing a "no fly" zone to protect civilians from Gaddafi's fighter jets. But China and Russia abstained because of Western promises of going no further than the "no fly" zone. Well, we know that Canada's military, navy and regime change forces are the ones given. When the country could have managed a ceasefire, NATO and Canada decided that could only happen if Gaddafi was dead. Libya's Hell, Enabled by Canadian Humanitarians. It just happened to choose the particular conflict to cover heavily in – both morally and in material support. Stephen Harper made a huge show of our bombing raids, our CF18 sorties and boasted that Canada was "punching above its weight."

**Reckless and cynical**

Lloyd Axworthy, Liberal Senator

READ MORE ▶

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE A MORE THAN THE BEAUTY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Tyee is supported by readers like you and gets free independent media in Canada

Get The Tyee in your inbox

Enter your email address

Sign Me Up Now

Privacy policy

What is so alarming is the history of this hideous "mission" is the complete lack of interest or shame at what has been "accomplished", not only in Libya and Afghanistan, there are no regrets. Imperialism – especially Transnational Corporations – is not even a dirty word anymore. It is simply the right of the rich to colonize attached to the notion of "responsibility to protect." The fact and important so that the next time this convenient principle is trotted out there will be more skepticism.

The key facts? There was no "mass rape" ordered by Gaddafi, a claim repeated by Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama and reported by Amnesty International, the UN and even the U.S. Army. There was no Gaddafi "hit squad" presences (a fact admitted to by the CIA's Robert Gates). There was no plan for "ethnic cleansing" of Benghazi. There was no "genocide" and there was no Libyan Black Shirts – in contrast the "no mercy" theme played by the Western powers. All of these facts are to be found in Stop Feeding Towards Some Battle Cries and Libya and Libya by Rosemarian Fuller.

Despite the facts, the dark image of Gaddafi "massacring peaceful protesters" was used to justify the bombing campaign and the "no fly zone" and the sanctions that attacks from the very. Beginning "humiliation" politics, Gaddafi into the compounds of security services, attacked government offices and torched them, and fired on protesters and killed hundreds of protesters and hundreds of police. It wasn't until rebels began to occupy the Benghazi area by mid-March that the situation escalated to civil war.

Fast forward to the collapse months of the NTP intervention and you will understand where the reckless and cynical military adventure fits in the imperialist scheme of things. Libya is now a failed state, a "hell" and an overshadowing credit in the Muslim world. The current situation in Libya is so out of control that chaos and bloodshed rule virtually everywhere. The Tuareg rebels, who were used by Gaddafi to fight in his wars, are now in control of the southern tribes, the Tuareg rebels are in control of the Sahara, and the Tuareg rebels are in control of the Sahara, and the Tuareg rebels are in control of the Sahara. Libya is now described as the biggest open arms bazaar in the world, where the most sophisticated weapons can be purchased by anyone with enough money. The Libyan Army is in tatters, the Libyan Navy is nonexistent, the UN is under Libyan control, there is enough weaponry available to keep the conflict in Libya going for years.

Libya is now a place where companies and their compliant media who don't want to talk about the Libyan and Iraqi oil industries but only about humanitarians. The transnational corporations which were the intended beneficiaries of the NTP intervention are now in Libya, building the infrastructure projects they were building for Gaddafi and all of his cronies, too, are the contracts accepted by the major oil companies. It was mostly Canadian companies, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon, who was also in Libya to see what kind of contracts Canada could get. Most contracts are going to Russian, Chinese and Italian firms.?

But the euphoria over the fall of Gaddafi has been so damaged that now turned to despair as almost no oil is flowing to the EU countries that took the lead in the war. Libya's oil production is down from 1.6 million barrels a day to 100,000 barrels a day. Libya's oil is the most sweet and easy to refine oil in the world, and now is the most sought after oil. Libya's oil production was at the highest 1.6 million barrels a day, and now it is down to 100,000 barrels a day