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Subject: Fw: The Media Line MidEast Daily

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Subject: The Media Line MidEast Daily



UN Chief Calls for Jerusalem to be Divided

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon termed the Israeli control of the territories obtained in the 1967 war "morally and politically unsustainable," and called for the division of Jerusalem. "A way must be found for Jerusalem to emerge as a capital of two states, Israel and Palestine, with arrangements for holy sites acceptable for all," Ban said. He added that the "target dates for reaching an Israeli-Palestinian agreement on permanent status issues and completing the Palestinian Authority's two-year state-building program are fast-approaching." Ban's comments were delivered in a message by his assistant for political affairs Oscar Fernandez-Traranco in a meeting held in Uruguay convened by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The UN chief also criticized Israeli construction in the territories and urged Israel to ease its blockade of Gaza and to allow Palestinian security forces to expand their role in the West Bank.

World Powers Call on Qaddafi to Step Down

A gathering of some 40 nations and institutions meeting in London on Tuesday on the Libyan crisis put pressure on the country's leader, Muamar Al-Qaddafi, to step down, although they stopped short of saying the coalition of powers no imposing a no-fly zone over the country should act to topple him. "Qaddafi has lost the legitimacy to lead, so we believe he must go. We're working with the international community to try to achieve that outcome," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told reporters. German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle agreed, saying "His time is over. He must go." Both Clinton and the representatives of Libya's opposition, who held talks on the sidelines of the London summit, admitted that Al-Qaddafi was so far ignoring their demands.

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Meanwhile, Al-Qaddafi's troops reversed the westward advance of rebels.

U.S., Britain Weigh Arming Libyan Rebels

The U.S. and Britain are weighing sending weapons to Libyan rebels, a step that may cause another rift inside the coalition imposing the no-fly zone. U.S. Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton hinted during a visit to Britain that it would be permissible to arm the rebels under the United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing the no-fly zone. That view was echoed by U.S. President Barack Obama in his address to the nation on Tuesday night when he said he didn't rule out arming the rebels but also "not ruling it in." British Foreign Secretary William Hague has also declined to rule out the possibility. But Alain Juppe, France's foreign minister, warned that arming the opposition wasn't a part of the UN resolution. Inside the Obama administration a fierce debate waged over the issue, senior officials told The New York Times on Tuesday. The first week of the air strikes has reportedly cost US taxpayers \$600 million. Meantime, both France and Britain have dispatched officials to Benghazi to make what are believed to be the first known contact with opposition leaders.

Gunmen Kills 56 Hostages in Suicide Attack

At least 56 people were killed when gunmen wearing military uniforms over explosive belts held people hostage at an Iraqi government center on Tuesday before blowing themselves up. Among the hostages were three councilmen, who were executed with gunshots to the head. Salahuddin Governor Ahmed Abdullah called the attack "a tragic incident carried out by ruthless terrorists." Iraqi officials blamed Al-Qa'ida in Iraq for the slaughter, noting that executions and suicide bombers are hallmarks of the extremist group, with one official likening the attack to the group's hostage raid on a church in Baghdad last autumn that killed 68. Among the dead in Tuesday's attack was Iraqi journalist Sabah Al-Bazi, a correspondent for Al-Arabiya satellite TV channel and a freelancer for CNN and Reuters.

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