

*This paper is for Government departments and statutory organisations dealing with counter-terrorism. It is intended to inform you about CT issues that have been covered in the media and to help you to respond to any concerns generated as a result. It is not intended to provide detailed briefing about Government policies, and explaining these issues to the media is the role of relevant departmental press offices.*

## London conference on Libya

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, The Prime Minister David Cameron hosted more than 40 Foreign Ministers and representatives from key regional organisations at a conference about Libya. He urged the international community to deliver a “new beginning” for the Libyan people and said that delegates were united in their purpose to help the “Libyan people in their hour of need”.

## What was the London conference about and what did it achieve?

The London conference had three objectives:

- reaffirm commitment to UN Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973
- ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid to Libya where it is needed; and
- help the Libyan people plan for their future after the conflict is over.

The Prime Minister said that the international coalition would continue the action needed to implement UN Security Council resolutions “as long as is necessary” to protect the population from attacks by Qadhafi’s forces. He also called for the creation of a “contact group” to provide sustained political support for the country as it undergoes change.

Speaking at the end of the day, Foreign Secretary William Hague hailed the conference as “a significant milestone” in allowing the Libyan people to determine their own future.

## What are UN Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973?

Resolution 1970 condemns the use of lethal force by Qadhafi’s regime against protesters, and imposes a series of international sanctions in response. Resolution 1973 calls for an immediate ceasefire and authorises all necessary measures to protect civilians but excludes a foreign occupation force in Libya. It imposes a no fly zone, and steps up a range of further sanctions on Qadhafi’s regime, including stemming the flow of mercenaries, applying a broader asset freeze, measures to enforce the arms embargo and putting in place further travel bans.

## Isn’t this all really about regime change?

No. The international coalition objective remains only to protect civilians and to save lives. British forces will continue to work alongside their coalition partners, in line with the UN mandate that has been approved for that purpose. The UK Government’s strategy is clear – it will continue enforcement of Resolution 1973 until the threat to civilians is lifted.

However, the UK Government has also been clear that they want to see a transition to a new government in Libya that embraces the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people. Qadhafi’s actions have shown that he has no role to play in this and the UK Government has therefore called for him to step down immediately so that the Libyan people can choose their own government.

### Is Al Qa'ida (AQ) involved with the opposition in Libya?

No. The Libyan opposition have publicly stated that their aim is the transition to a more open and democratic Libya. These views do not suggest any extremist agenda. On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March, the leadership of the Libyan opposition, the Transitional National Council, announced that it:

“Affirms the Islamic identity of the Libyan People, its commitment to the moderate Islamic values, its full rejection to the extremist ideas and its commitment to combating them in all circumstances, and refuses the allegations aiming to associate AQ with the revolutionists in Libya ... and emphasises also its full commitment to the implementation of the relevant security council resolutions on counter-terrorism, including the resolutions on the sanctions concerning AQ and the Taliban”.

### Will the UK Government arm the opposition in Libya?

The Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary both said in Parliament that this issue would be treated with caution. At Prime Minister's Questions on 30<sup>th</sup> March, the Prime Minister told the House of Commons:

“I have said before that everything we do must comply with both Security Council Resolutions. As I have already told the House, the legal position is clear that the arms embargo applies to the whole territory of Libya.

“At the same time, Resolution 1973 allows all necessary measures to protect civilians and civilian populated areas, and our view is that this would not necessarily rule out the provision of assistance to those protecting civilians in certain circumstances. So as I have told the House before, we do not rule it out, but we have not taken the decision to do so.”

### So what are you doing to help ordinary people in Libya?

The UK Government is helping the humanitarian organisations working with the UN to provide humanitarian assistance at Libya's borders. The UK Government has funded the International Committee of the Red Cross, and this funding will contribute to the provision of medical treatment for 3,000 people and basic support for 100,000 people inside Libya, including in Misurata.

### Other News

*Please also see the following interesting news items from the past week, commenting more generally on the nature of terrorism and terrorist organisations, which you may want to circulate more widely:*

### India and Pakistan to establish counter-terrorism hotline

Pakistan is establishing a counter-terrorism hotline and is allowing Indian detectives investigating the 2008 Mumbai terror plot to visit the country, in the most significant confidence-building measures since the massacre.