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Master of Global Affairs  
Department of Public Policy and Administration

**The American University in Cairo**

**School of Global Affairs and Public Policy**

**The Implementation of the United Nations Security Council  
Resolutions on Libya**

**A Masters Project Submitted  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Global Affairs**

**By**

**Mostafa Ahmed Mostafa Safwat**

**Spring2017**

January 2017

## Table of Contents

**Project element:** Critical Case Study (Option 2: M.G.A Guidelines).

**Project title:** The implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Libya.

<b><u>I- Introduction/ Project objective:</u></b>	<b>Page 3 – p. 7</b>
a) The Situation in Libya	<b>Page 3 – p. 6</b>
b) Objective of research	<b>Page 6 – p. 7</b>
<b><u>II- Research Question:</u></b>	<b>Page 7 – p. 8</b>
<b><u>III- Client Description:</u></b>	<b>Page 8 – p. 8</b>
<b><u>IV- Argument/Preview of Findings and Recommendations:</u></b>	<b>Page 8 – p. 9</b>
a) Hypothesis	<b>Page 8 – p. 9</b>
<b><u>V- Background:</u></b>	<b>P. 9 – p. 19</b>
a) The United Nations Security Council	<b>P. 9 – p. 12</b>
b) Countries and International Organizations' reactions to the situation in Libya.	<b>P. 12 – p. 15</b>
c) The League of Arab States' role in the Libyan conflict/Resolution 7360 (2011).	<b>P. 15 – p. 17</b>
d) Countries and International Organizations' reactions to the adoption of UNSC Resolutions 1970 and 1973 on Libya.	<b>P. 17 – p. 19</b>
<b><u>VI- Literature review:</u></b>	<b>P. 19 – p. 35</b>
a) The United Nations Security Council resolution 1970 (2011).	<b>P. 19 – p. 20</b>
b) The United Nations Security Council resolution 1973 (2011).	<b>P. 20 – p. 22</b>
c) The implementation of the UNSC resolutions 1970 and 1973 (NFZ).	<b>P. 22 – p. 26</b>
d) The Responsibility to protect principle (R2P).	<b>P. 27 – p. 30</b>
e) Going beyond the "Arms Embargo"/Support/Arming of Rebels.	<b>P. 30 – p. 32</b>
f) Boots on the ground.	<b>P. 32 – p. 33</b>
g) Protection of civilians.	<b>P. 33 – p. 35</b>
<b><u>VII- Methodology, including discussion of alternative methodologies:</u></b>	<b>P. 35 – p. 36</b>
<b><u>VIII- Case or Data selection:</u></b>	<b>P. 36 – p. 37</b>
<b><u>IX- Analysis of the data or case(s):</u></b>	<b>P. 37 – p. 50</b>
- Interviews.	
- Consequences/results of military intervention in Libya	
- Implications for Syrian Conflict.	<b>P. 49 – p. 50</b>
<b><u>X-Conclusion:</u></b>	<b>P. 50 – p. 51</b>
List of Interviews	<b>P. 52</b>
Bibliography	<b>P. 53 – p. 56</b>
Annexes	<b>P. 57</b>

## **I- Introduction/ Project objective:**

### **a) The Situation in Libya:**

The Libyan Revolution of February 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 quickly degenerated into a bloody civil war between the Libyan rebels revolting against former President Colonel Muammar El Qaddafi's forces. Qaddafi received international condemnation as soon as the Libyan Revolution erupted and was accused of killing civilians who were calling for him to step down from power. The deteriorating situation in the country led to the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) response in convening and adopting a number of resolutions to both condemn the Libyan regime as well as to take action against it. The SC considered the situation in Libya a threat to international peace and security, which resulted in the Council's adoption of resolutions 1970 and 1973 under chapter VII of the UN Charter to take action by intervening in the conflict, by imposing sanctions, a No-Fly Zone (NFZ) as well as other measures to halt Qaddafi from killing civilians, which in turn paved the way for military intervention in Libya. According to Sara Lea, Human Rights Watch (HRW)'s executive director for the Middle East and North Africa at the time *"there was a humanitarian disaster taking place in Libya, with protestors' resistance to gunshots and death, and HRW called for the trial of the authorities responsible for the civilian deaths in Libya, including Qaddafi himself and to bring them in for questioning"* (Meaddi, 2011- Informal translation). Arab countries, the African Union, the European Union and other governments with links to Libya were called upon by HRW to call on Qaddafi to put an end to 'illegal use of violence against peaceful protestors' (Meaddi, 2011). Qaddafi as well as his security authorities had been mainly accused by a number of countries including but not limited to the United States of America (USA), United Kingdom (UK), and France of using force against protestors – which they viewed as "peaceful" - calling for the downfall of his regime. The accusation was that Qaddafi's armed forces were shooting at unarmed civilians who were peacefully demonstrating against Qaddafi and calling for him to step down from power which escalated into a violent turn of events. The rapidly deteriorating situation on the ground in Libya paved the way for various regional and international actors to intervene in the Libyan crisis. This caused a number of reactions by The League of Arab States (LAS), as well as the UNSC and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), alongside many countries. Amnesty International (AI) condemned Qaddafi for the acts of violence committed against protestors by his security forces. *"AI published an official statement on its website calling for the SC and LAS to immediately send an envoy to Libya to investigate events that led to the death of hundreds of protestors"* (Meaddi 2011). Qaddafi was also

## List of Interviews

- 1- Interview 1. Namira Negm. Interview with Ambassador Dr. Namira Negm, Egyptian Ambassador to Rwanda, Former Deputy Assistant Minister for Legal Affairs, Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Date of Interview: 15/10/2016.
- 2- Interview 2. Egyptian Ambassador. (Who asked not to be named). Interview with an Egyptian Ambassador, Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who asked not to be named. 27/10/2016.
- 3- Interview 3. Nabil El Gawahergy. Interview with Nabil El Gawahergy. Third Secretary, Embassy of Egypt in Algeria. Former Diplomat – Department of Libya, Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Date of Interview: 16/11/2016.
- 4- Interview 4. Libyan diplomat (Who chose not to be named for his safety). Embassy of Libya in an African country. Date of interview: 1/1/2017.
- 5- Interview 5. EU diplomat. (Who chose not to be named for her safety). Date of interview: 3/01/2017.

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(Hemaya, 2011).

**ANNEXE**

- 1. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1970 (2011)**
- 2. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973 (2011)**
- 3. League of Arab States 7360 (2011).**

## Abstract

The situation in Libya in February 2011 turned into a violent civil war between what was viewed at the time as peaceful protestors calling for the Qaddafi regime to step down and the Qaddafi regime forces. This resulted in international condemnation and action by many countries and international organizations such as the League of Arab States, the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The United Nations Security Council adopted resolutions 1970 and 1973 in 2011 to protect the civilian population in Libya from Qaddafi's forces. These resolutions paved the way for an international military intervention in Libya. This project looks into the extent to which the UN mandate was exceeded during the implementation of the resolutions - if at all. The resolutions mandate was the protection of civilians and not regime change, yet the military intervention that took place over Libya through Operation Odyssey Dawn and which later shifted to the NATO-led Operation Unified Protector resulted in regime change in Libya. Countries who participated in the military intervention in Libya, such as USA, UK and France, among many others – and later on NATO, as well as non-NATO countries – exceeded the UNSC resolutions' mandate because of their resort to direct military intervention, and went to war against Qaddafi's forces as opposed to adhering to an imposition of a NFZ to protect civilians as the resolution stated. The mandate had been stretched beyond neutralizing Gadhafi's aerial capacities. Countries that directly and openly armed the Libyan rebels to fight against the Qaddafi regime also went beyond the letter of the UNSC resolutions.

## **Dedication**

I dedicate this project to my dear parents who have been very supportive and insistent that I enroll in a Master's program, and finish writing my project. Also, I dedicate this project to my dear supervisor Dr. Ibrahim Awad, who has not only been patient with me but inspiring and motivational as well for which I truly thank him. I would also like to dedicate this study to Dr. Magda Shahin and Dr. Reda Shehata whom have also been motivational to me in finalizing this project. I would also like to thank my beloved family and friends who have stood by me throughout the past five years until I completed my Master's. Finally, I dedicate this project to any Academic who is interested in researching Libya especially the case study found in this project which tackles the early phases of the military intervention in the country in 2011 which constituted the basis of this research.