



February 25, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

In your 2009 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, you rightly declared that “Inaction tears at our conscience and can lead to more costly intervention later.” Today the United States and our allies in Europe must take action in response to the unfolding crisis in Libya. With violence spiraling to new heights, and with the apparent willingness of the Qaddafi regime to use all weapons at its disposal against the Libyan people, we may be on the threshold of a moral and humanitarian catastrophe. Inaction, or slow and inadequate measures, may not only fail to stop the slaughter in Libya but will cast doubt on the commitment of the United States and Europe to basic principles of human rights and freedoms. Therefore, we recommend the United States, in conjunction with NATO allies, take the following specific actions immediately:

- 1) The United States should call upon NATO to develop operational plans to urgently:  
Establish a presence in Libyan airspace to prevent the continued use of fighter jets and helicopter gunships against civilians and carry out other missions as required.  
Move naval assets into Libyan waters to aid in evacuation efforts and prepare for possible contingencies. Establish the capability to disable Libyan naval vessels used to attack civilians.
- 2) Freeze all Libyan government assets in the United States and Europe.
- 3) Consider temporarily halting importation of Libyan oil to the United States and Europe.
- 4) Make a clear statement that Col. Qaddafi and other officials who order and participate in massacres of civilians will be held accountable for their crimes under international law.
- 5) Provide humanitarian aid to the Libyan people as quickly as possible.

The United States and our European allies have a moral interest in both an end to the violence and an end to the murderous Libyan regime. There is no time for delay and indecisiveness. The people of Libya, the people of the Middle East, and the world require clear U.S. leadership in this time of opportunity and peril.

Sincerely,

Elliott Abrams

Stephen E. Biegun

Max Boot

Ellen Bork

Scott Carpenter

Eliot Cohen

Seth Cropsey

Larry Diamond

Thomas Donnelly

Michelle Dunne

Eric Edelman

Peter Feaver

Jamie Fly

Reuel Marc Gerecht

John Hannah

Neil Hicks

William Inboden

Bruce Pitcairn Jackson

Ash Jain

Robert Kagan

David Kramer

Irina Krasovskaya

William Kristol

Tod Lindberg

Michael Makovsky

Ann Marlowe

Cliff May

Joshua Muravchik

Martin Peretz

Danielle Pletka

John Podhoretz

Randy Scheunemann

Dan Senor

John Shattuck

Mike Singh

Gare Smith

William Taft

Marc Thiessen

Daniel Twining

Pete Wehner

Ken Weinstein

Leon Wieseltier

Damon Wilson

Jennifer Windsor

Paul Wolfowitz