

## The examination of NATO's role in the recent changes in Libya

Hemmat Imani<sup>1</sup>, Hamed Shahraki<sup>2</sup>, Jafar Khashe Abdoli<sup>3</sup>, Mahboobe Hemmati<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Economical and political studies, Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran

<sup>2</sup> Department of Law and political Studies, Alame Tabatabaai University, Tehran, Iran

<sup>3</sup> Department of Law and political Studies, Tehran University, Tehran, Iran

<sup>4</sup> Department of Law and political Studies, Tehran University, Tehran, Iran

[hemmat.imani@gmail.com](mailto:hemmat.imani@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** The present research investigates the role played by NATO in the recent changes in Libya and downfall of Ghazafi. Owing to newness of the issue no comprehensive study has been conducted to account for the details of the role of NATO. Therefore, the present research can be regarded as the start of the studies aimed at the issue. The main research question of the study is that to what extent did the interference of NATO influence the in the recent changes in Libya and downfall of Ghazafi? We hypothesize that without the interference of NATO the downfall of Ghazafi could not be expected at least in that short period of time. In fact, the interference of NATO accelerated the downfall of Ghazafi. To test the hypothesis, the conceptual framework of the study will be clarified. In this regard, philanthropist interference, support accountability will be explored. In the forthcoming section, the conditions of NATO will be explained. And finally, in the last section, the findings and their implications will be presented.

[Hemmat Imani, Hamed Shahraki, Jafar Khashe Abdoli, Mahboobe Hemmati. **The examination of NATO's role in the recent changes in Libya.** *Academ Arena* 2018;10(10):65-69]. ISSN 1553-992X (print); ISSN 2158-771X (online). <http://www.sciencepub.net/academia>. 6. doi:[10.7537/marsaaj101018.06](https://doi.org/10.7537/marsaaj101018.06).

**Keywords:** philanthropist interference, Libya, accountability to support

### 1. Introduction

In present research, writer is going to study NATO role in recent evolutions of Libya. NATO had plan for Middle East and north of Africa after developing to east. After NATO interference in Afghanistan and Iraq, this American-European military organization decided to interfere in region evolutions. European and American countries couldn't be careless about Middle East matters regarding to themselves authorities and benefits. There are various causes for this matter that one of them is that this organization is looking for reasonable justification for surviving after cold war and soviet overthrow. In this field, Libya and Syria were good cases for NATO. The researcher is going to answer this question that "how much effective is NATO interference in Libya recent evolutions on Ghazafi government overthrow?" that is related to recent evolutions of Libya and Ghazafi overthrow. There is other presupposition for writer that without NATO interference in Libya recent evolutions, Ghazafi government overthrow wasn't possible in short time and middle time, and we can say that NATO interference accelerate Ghazafi overthrow.

### 2. First part: theoretical frame, philanthropist interference, support accountability

Philanthropist interference and support accountability is a rule that UN and dominant authority and government can interfere in other countries matters. In Libya evolutions, NATO had right for interfering based on this rule (regulation).

Philanthropist interference: this interference is concept that is comprised from 2 words. The researchers have various definitions for this concept. Many lawyers such as R. J. Vincent, Black Campbell believe that interference is resorting enforceable actions. Vincent interprets the interference as done action by country or group inside other country or group of countries or UN by using force in affairs of other country (Ebrahimi, 1386, p. 808). Stowell defining it as support of country people against its government (reign) that enforcing people regardless to justice (Stowell, 1921, p. 53). Also this kind of governments is careless about government limitations. Ian Brownlie knows interference in one poor country with dominant chaos as philanthropist interference. We can point to Konstantin obradovic definition as philanthropist interference "interference that is done by using force and preventing human right breach." (Imani, Jalili, 1390, p. 51).

Support accountability: regarding to philanthropist support, we can say that accountability concept, is most recent and comprehensive plan in UN regarding to interference in internal matters of countries. Concept of accountability to support is introduced as one aspect of sovereignty or in other word is introduced as equal sovereignty with accountability that firstly, every government is in possession of that, and if said government doesn't have its ability, other government will do that. There is legal regulations about non-army people and war victims and international disputes that were accepted

by countries but in any of them, responsible sovereignty wasn't known.

In fact, Francis dang and his colleagues introduced victims to world and did basic works in relation to sovereignty by studying this matter. In 1998, Dang published his book entitled "Guiding principles on internal displacement". This book is based on principles of government method of encounter and other players engaged in philanthropist and interference with people that are wandered (weiss, 207, p. 92). In addition to, in report of superior board of general secretary of UN, safer world: our shared responsibility, report of superior board about treats, challenges and changes. Report of general secretary, kofi Annan, in large freedom: toward development, security and human right for all, in final revised enactment of superiors in general meeting in 2005 year about revisions (improvement of UN, in statement no. 1674, UN established main departments for supporting civilian people in army conflicts and in report of general secretary of UN in title of support accountability enforcement in 63 meeting in date of 12 January, 2009. Ban Kee Moon said that best policy for preventing abuse this concept is that "strategy, standards, process, tools and actions of UN are developed for support accountability." Finally he considered 3 bases strategy for this concept that including accountability of government support, international aid and on time response. According to this report, secretariat considers countries behavior in field of responsibility. (Imani, 1390, p.52-56)

Definition of support accountability: in below, definitions that presenting basic documents from support accountability are noted. Commission of international interference and government sovereignty report that: " government sovereignty including responsibility, and primary accountability of people support is by it's government, where group of people are suffering from intensive hurt derived from internal war, revolution and government disability and said government doesn't have ability for stopping it, and support accountability will take place of lack of interference." (Imani and Jalili, 1390, 53-54). Also, according to report of interference commission, support accountability is comprised from 3 aspects: 1 – accountability to prevent, 2 – the accountability to react, 3 – the accountability to rebuild.

**3. Second section: the organization of north Atlantic treaty (NATO):** history, formation and extension

In date of 4 March, 1984, representatives of 5 countries, England, France, Belgium, Poland, Logzamberg had meeting in Broksel, in order to begin their discussions about signing up contract of mutual aid. That treaty is supporting soviet dangers of west Europe countries. Negotiations had rapid

advancements, and 5 countries signed up treaty in 17 March, which was known as broksel treaty. In order to this treaty, one shared defensive system was established, and member government strengthened economic and cultural relation. primary negotiations for contracting group (collective) defense treaty in date of 6 January, 1948, was began between foreign ministers of US and Canadian ambassador and member countries of boroksel treaty, and finally NATO treaty was signed up by foreign ministers of 12 countries in presence of Trowman. Above treaty was enforced since the date of 24 out, 1949, Turkey and Greece in 1952 and federal German republic in 1955 were joined to this treaty and also in 1982, Spanish formally joined NATO treaty as sixteen member. (Imani, 1389, p. 118-119).

Thus for first time through present history, military union was established with recognized purpose. In point of view of Europeans, most important of NATO action is preventing access and communism dominance for western Europe while treaty enforcement was strengthening marshal plan and guarantying economical security and American investment in Europe. The main purpose of allied countries based on danger abatement of soviet violation in Europe. But today NATO doesn't have any arrayal of troops in front of communism and are concerned on Middle East and north of Africa. Regarding to geographical aspect, NATO is developed in 3 phases that is as follow: first phase: joining of Poland, Hungry. Second phase: joining of 7 countries such as Bulgaria, Romany, Estonia, Lithuania, and Slovakia. Third phase: Ukraine, Korowski, Albania, Georgia, Azerbaijan are important for NATO.

**4. Third section: Libya evolutions and NATO interference**

**Libya evolution**

Ghazafi colonel in 1969 overthrew kingdom reign of Edris Elsnossi and established dictatorship system that governed based on instinct not based on wisdom. He enforced some policies such as overthrow of political elites, national characters assassination against Libya regime and devotion of billion dollars for persuading opponents, which was part of internal policies of Libya dictatorship. In regional dimension, didn't help Palestine people for confronting against Israel but opposed against each solution that resulted in Israel isolation in world society. Colonel Ghazafi was known as most famous leader in Arab world because of contradictory position. Ghazafi is very changeable politician, and had capacity for changing his opinion very rapid and attained contradictory philosophical school with previous thoughts.

About Libya country, we can say that it is country with high oil reserves. Libya oil reserves were

estimated 42 billion barrel, that because of high quality of this country oil and it's nearness to European countries, is enjoying high economical importance for America and Europe. Libya is forth wide country of Africa continent and is located in north of it. Libya is most great oil economy of Africa and is one of oil exporter in world and its national production has high per capita rather than other African countries.

Objections in Libya began from early days of 2011 and one month later, it was resulted in overall revolution and was expanded in all cities of Libya. Opposite forces of Ghazafi government had control of some of Libya n cities and temporary government was established in Benghazi city. Opponents of Ghazafi's regime, established transformation national council in 27 February, 2011 and notified that as only legal governmental institution. The Security Council of UN approved 1973 resolution in 17 March, 2011 following 1970 resolution of 26 February, 2011. This resolution was considered as legal base of military interference of NATO in Libya. Because making forbidden flight region in air space of Libya as important factor for protecting Civilian and also necessity of establishing security for present in philanthropist aids was emphasized. Some questions were presented such as this that "what was NATO's role in Ghazafi's overthrow? Whether Ghazafi overthrow was possible without NATO actions?"

##### **5. NATO interference in Libya**

About NATO interference in Libya, we should say that NATO actions after UN approval and in principle framework of this organization. NATO organization utilized exceptional cases of interference in internal affairs of country, and field of this problem was presented in principles of philanthropist interferences and support accountability.

Barack Obama, American president, Nikola Sarkozy, French president and David Cameron, English prime minister agreed with each other about necessity of playing NATO key role in foundation of Libya actions high command. General Secretary of NATO notified that "our purpose from this participation is presence in international forces in order to preserving Libya b people against violation of Ghazafi regime.

Primary opposition of Turkey, Germany with NATO interference in Libya.

Although NATO attacked Libya, but some of members such as Turkey was opponent of military attack and just philanthropist helps were emphasized. Ahmad davood Oghloo, foreign minister of Turkey notified that his country doesn't know international forces alliance for attack to Libya in coordination with international regulations. Although Turkish authorities have philanthropist reasons for their opposition but we

can say that turkey has two main reasons for primary opposition. First reason that Turkey didn't confirmed French leadership in air force of NATO in operations against Ghzagli and its reason is country competition with France. Turkey and France have sever conflicts in European union about Aramaneh murder. Second reason for Turkey is the opposition with NATO military presence in Libya, this country broad economical relation with Ghazafi regime. Turkish trade volume with Libya was upper than 8/9 billion dollar in 2010. Finally turkey agreed with Libya operations after taking point from west and sent some warships to NATO operations in Libya.

Germany announced its opposition with military operations and terminated 2 German ----- in leadership of NATO in Mediterranean. In this relation foreign minister of German, Guido vestrelo, announced that we are doubtful about military attack to Libya, because we believe that this is very dangerous thus we wouldn't support this statement should say German soldiers wouldn't participate in any kind of attack to Libya. He added that they are going to fight against dictatorship, but military mission and air attacks is other thing, but German notified its participation in activities. Tomas Domzir, German defense minister, was hopeful that probable presence of his soldiers in Libya isn't for military propose, but they are going to do construction activities.

##### **6. The Beginning Military activities in Libya**

If we want to look NATO activities in Libya as phrasal method, we should say that evolutions were in this form: 7 March, NNATO started its supervisory flights in air area of Libya as 24 hours activity. 17 March, NATO signed up a statement for making forbidden flight area in air space and selected some policies for supporting non-military of Libya. 19 March, was beginning of military activities against Ghazafi regime with cooperation of France, England, US with aim of preventing violence activities against non-military people. 21 March, NATO agreed with commandership of military activities for supporting forbidden flight space, 6 April, Ghazafi wanted military attacks against Libya with sending a message to Barack Obama and said: revolutionists are members of Al-ghaede.

In 29 April, Ghazafi invited NATO to terminate attacks and negotiate, and accused NATO to killing non-military and destructing Libya foundations. 27 September, NATO notified that chemical weapons storage are in control of revolutionists. 20 October, Ghazafi was arrested and killed and everything were in control of revolutionists. Firstly Ghazafi picture was shown among revolutionists when he was live. Transfer assembly announced that Ghazafi murder wasn't intentionally. Arresting news of Ghazafi was

transmitted, but after that his death news was notified. 23 October, absolute freedom of Libya was celebrated, and Mostafa Abdol jalil, head of transfer assembly, notified Islam as source of legislation.

After 1973 statement ratification of UN, military interference of NATO was started from some countries. Primary coalition comprised of some countries such as Belgium, Canada, and France, Italy, Norway, Spanish, US, and finally the number of these countries was 19 that cooperate revolutionists for making forbidden flight space and marine seizure and presenting logistic facilities. Military activities against Ghazafi started with US military activities. US sent its battleship to Libya coast and seized this country. France and British air force was undertaken to flight every place of Libya and marine seizure was continued too. Air attacks to Libya tanks were done by France air force. Formal statistics of NATO shows that air force bombarded 7505 targets in Libya. (Saghafi Ameri, 1390 )

NATO notified that this organization decided to undertake military activities against Libya based on 1970 and 1973 statement that most important goal was supporting civilian people and regions under attack of Ghazafi forces. These activities comprised from 3 sections: sanction and prohibition of armaments, performing forbidden flight space and doing action for supporting non-military people.

NATO was under pressure of member countries about terminating military activities in Libya, notified end of war after overthrow of Secret city, and Ghazafi murder and establishment of transferring government in Libya in date of 21 October, 2011. Security assembly of UN cancelled 2016 statement about making forbidden space of flight with issuing 2016 statement. 15 member countries in UN agreed with above statement. After mentioned evolutions, general secretary of NATO notified that his mission for supporting civilian against violation suppression by Ghazafi regime was finished. One of reason for disagreement of NATO for military presence in Libya was lack of preparation among NATO members.

Main share in activities prices was by US, France, Britain. According to Doiche Velleh report, US government spent more than 896 billion dollars to January, 2011 for military mission. Basic part of confidential works and also first wave of Libya attack with battleship was by US. 112 havek-cruiser rockets was fired in early days of military activities against Libya from American ships that price of each of those was 150000 dollar.

Lim fox, British defense minister, notified that his country expenses in Libya was 300 billion euro. Budget minister of France emphasized that in same month, expenses of Libya attacks was 160 billion euro, means 120000 Euros daily. Formal statistics of

NATO shows that air force until 21 -----, bombarded 7505 targets in Libya. Prediction about end of this mission was false, and America, Britain, France was forced to tolerate sixth months activities in Libya. in one of NATO report was notified that 5510 activities were done in Libya to 6 may, that from these cases, 2204 cases were air bomber, but there isn't any points about air attacks, and French and British airplanes bombarded Ghazafi force locations, and some countries such as Turkey, Belgium, Canada took steps for marine seizing for preventing armaments.

NATO activities were hastening Ghazafi overthrow.

According to research presupposition that was this matter that NATO activities in Libya hastened Ghazafi overthrow, we can say that without NATO presence in this country and paying high expenses of activities of member countries of NATO socially US, there wasn't probability for his overthrow. We can say without NATO interference, Ghazafi could follow his government, also dictatorship destroy very soon, but we are observing very weak society, that it's logic for political play isn't very different from Ghazafi system. Libya people don't perceive western concept of democracy, but hate from Ghazafi and poverty and hunger were main reasons for internal war. This war was done between 2 groups of society: tribes and families. In this condition, NATO interference makes obvious the destiny.

19 countries participated in NATO attacks. These countries include USA, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Norway, Turkey, and Emirate. Main reason of Ghazafi overthrow was support of 19 countries of suppressive people. In shared paper that was published by Barack Obama, David Cameron and Nickolas Sarkozy, with title of Libya route to peace said: "our duty and mission according to 1973 statement of UN Security Council was support of non-military people. In this paper, role of Libya people was emphasized.

Head of national assembly, Abdol jalil notified in meeting of army commanders of participating countries in NATO army activities in Libya that Moamer Ghazali, Libyan dictator is considered as danger for all over the world and he doesn't have any fear for committing every murders. he wanted NATO, to enforce 1973 statement of UN, about Libya and military activities with purpose of supporting non-military people, because of NATO attacks wasn't done, Ghazafi actors committed most miserable murder in present history. He understood facts very well and was aware that without help of world society and NATO, Ghazali overthrow wasn't possible. Also American commander of NATO forces in Libya, Samuel Laklir added: Ghazafi reign is in threshold of withdraw, and NATO military activities would be



followed in Libya. Ghazafi weakened gradually and his army isn't able for doing military activities.

One of greatest actions that NATO did was making neutral the air forces. Before NATO activities, main point of Ghazafi forces rather than opponents, was his air forces. NATO did its plans with disabling Libya air force and bombarding some locations of Ghazafi forces and balanced them. We should say that NATO has severe plan for Middle East in future years and practically moving in line of Middle East that Jorge Bosh emphasized it, with this difference that in new method, west isn't enforced to spend high expenses. NATO presented new Middle East in heads conference in 2004 in Istanbul and NATO role was very outstanding. Thus it is said that NATO presence in Libya based on above case is necessary. NATO try to institutionalize this assumption that is only force that have ability for releasing governments from dictatorship and replace democracy.

In general, we should say that Ghazafi attacks against opponents resulted in killing 7000 of Libya people. NATO activities and Ghazafi military power frustration, prevented miserable disaster thus blood of killed persons didn't waste and overthrow dictatorship.

### Conclusion

In present research, the presupposition that was related to this matter that NATO activities in Libya accelerated overthrow of Ghazafi government was approved. Thus we can say that NATO in Libya had important economical goals, but this military organization played inevitable role in Ghazafi overthrow. In course of NATO activities in Libya, some of pundits believe that NATO wanted to take actions in Libya for its oil. This statement is based on some parts of fact, but we should say that time passing proved that NATO doesn't have any long time target in Libya and notified his mission termination after Ghazafi overthrow. More important point that dimming oil matter is that NATO members didn't welcome interference matter in Libya. Rasmussen, general secretary of NATO emphasized that NATO didn't interfere without UN support. Thus, maybe NATO actions in Libya be alarm for other dictator of middle east until they know that in 21 century, we shouldn't do similar to 800 years ago, because these kinds of governments not only endanger security of one country but also endanger world security, specially that country be oil exporter and it's insecurity will affect on world price of oil.

Opponents of Ghazafi in Libya were 4 groups: first group, democratic regime advocates in Libya. Second group advocates of kingdom system in Libya. Third group are Islamists who are demanding for establishing Islamic government in Libya. Fourth group are those people who are members of Ghazafi government who approximate themselves to revolutionaries with opportunism. Any one of these groups or even groups didn't have ability for overthrowing Ghazafi government. Principally, civil society in Libya is very weak for establishing without external government support. In Libya, tribes have outstanding role rather than parties. In respect of these conditions without NATO activities, dictatorship overthrow of above country wasn't possible.

### Corresponding Author:

Hemmat Imani, Graduate of international Relations,  
Department of economical political studies,  
Shahid Beheshti University  
E-mail: [hemmat.imani@gmail.com](mailto:hemmat.imani@gmail.com)

### References

1. Black, H. C., & Blacks M.A. (1990). Law Dictionary. New York City: West publishing CO, 740.
2. Ebrahimi, N. (2007). The concept of philanthropist interference in international relations. The journal of progressive studies. (38) 808.
3. Ellery S. (1921). Interference in International Law (Washington, D.C), 53.
4. Farazi, A. A. (2011). The chess of Russia and NATO in Libya. Iranian Diplomacy.
5. Imani, H., & Jalili, T. (2011). Philanthropist interference and its challenges. Journal of Political economical information. (281-282) pp. 50-58.
6. Imani, H. (2010). The progress of NATO to the East and its impact on security policies of Russia. Tehran, Journal of Political economical information. (171-172) pp. 112-133.
7. Kofi A. (2010). "We the Peoples: The Role of the United Nations in the Twenty-First Century", available at <http://un.org/millennium/sg/report/full.htm> April 5,.
8. Moosavi, R. (2005). The approach of NATO in southern Caucasus. The journal of defense letter. (2). P.10.
9. Saghfa Ameri, N. (2007). The new NATO in international dealings. The center for strategic studies.
10. Weiss, T. G. (2007). Philanthropist Interference, Ideas in Action, Cambridge, and Polity press, 92.
11. <http://strategicreview.org>
12. <http://www.hamshahrionline>
13. <http://sharghnewspaper.ir>
14. [www.irdiplomacy.ir](http://www.irdiplomacy.ir)
15. [www.un.org/apps/news](http://www.un.org/apps/news)
16. [www.english.dohainstitute.org](http://www.english.dohainstitute.org)
17. [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)
18. <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org>
19. [www.trt-world.com](http://www.trt-world.com)