

Ambassador Abdurrahman Mohamed Shalgham
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW
Suite 711
Washington DC, 20037, USA

Dear Ambassador Shalgham,

The recent events in Libya has concerned many people around the world. It really pains me to see peaceful Libyan demonstrators my age being whipped, punched and fired upon by Libyan security forces. There have been numerous videos and reported incidents where the Libyan police shot at, tortured and executed demonstrators who were peacefully protesting at Benghazi. The extensive use of mercenaries in oppressing the people cannot be tolerated. You cannot use machine guns, grenades and tanks against innocent civilians. These videos of oppression and mercenary killings calls into question Libya's pledge to turn over a new leaf and its renunciation of its role as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Libya is home to one of the world's greatest civilizations and the Libyan people have made numerous contributions to the advancement of humanity. As present beneficiaries of their ancient discoveries, I feel indebted to the Libyan people. They are currently risking their lives to bring about a new era in their beloved nation's history. I cannot stand by idly as your soldiers mutilate my innocent compatriots and harass local and foreign journalists. Many journalists have risked their lives to bring the truth to the world. It is only right for me to urge you to stop your campaign of terror against your own people and allow them to freely express their views in a peaceful manner.

In light of numerous firsthand accounts of human rights abuses, torture, unlawful detention and intimidation, we strongly urge you to implement the following measures before it is too late.

- Immediately and unconditionally release any remaining prisoners of conscience who have been locked up for exercising their right to freedom of expression.
- Disclose immediately the whereabouts of those detained, allow them immediate access to their family members, lawyers of their choice and ensure they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment.
- Ensure that protesters' rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly are fully respected and upheld, and that they are able to demonstrate free from fear of harassment or intimidation.
- Exercise maximum restraint when dealing with the protestors
- Protect the demonstrators and protestors
- Arrest thugs who are harming and killing of innocent protestors
- Respect the rights and will of the people

Please treat your own people with respect and dignity and they will return your goodwill in kind. You just need to take the first step and see a different paradigm. A few years ago, your government took the monumental step of accepting responsibility for the Lockerbie bombings in 1988. In view of the recent goodwill gestures, we urge you to continue on this path of peace and reconciliation domestically and internationally.

Yours Sincerely,