

**GADDAFI DEAD:
SECRET BURIAL FOR
OUSTED LEADER**

Sky News

21 Oct 2011

http://web.orange.co.uk/article/news/gaddafi_dead_secret_burial_for_ousted_leader

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The ousted Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi is expected to be buried swiftly and in secret today, as Nato leaders meet to wind down the aerial campaign over the country.

Col Gaddafi was killed after being captured by the Libyan fighters he once scorned as "rats" on Thursday, cornered and shot in the head after they overran his last bastion of resistance in his hometown of Sirte.

His bloodied, half-naked body was delivered to Misratah, the city west of Sirte whose siege and months of suffering at the hands of Gaddafi's artillery and snipers made it a symbol of the rebel cause.



"It's time to start a new Libya, a united Libya," Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril declared. "One people, one future."

A formal announcement of Libya's liberation, which will set the clock ticking on a timeline to elections, will be made on Saturday, officials said.

There is confusion over exactly how Gaddafi died.

One description suggests Gaddafi tried to break out of his final redoubt at dawn in a convoy of vehicles after weeks of resistance. However, he was stopped by a French air strike and captured after gun battles with NTC fighters who found him hiding in a drainage ditch.

Prime Minister Jibril, reading what he said was a post-mortem report, said Gaddafi was hauled unresisting from a "sewage pipe". He was then shot in the arm and put in a truck which was "caught in crossfire" as it ferried the 69-year-old to hospital. "He was hit by a bullet in the head," Jibril said, adding it was unclear which side had fired the fatal shot.



However, jerky video showed a man with Gaddafi's distinctive long, curly hair, bloodied and staggering under blows from armed men, apparently National Transitional Council fighters.

The brief footage showed him being hauled by his hair from the bonnet of a car. To the shouts of someone saying "Keep him alive", he disappears from view and gunshots ring out.

As news of Gaddafi's demise spread, people poured into the streets in jubilation. Joyous fighters fired their weapons in the air, shouting Allahu Akbar.

In Benghazi, where in February Gaddafi said he would hunt down the "rats" who rose up against him, thousands took to the streets, loosing off weapons and dancing under the old tricolour flag revived by Gaddafi's opponents.

Nato, keen to portray the victory as that of the Libyans themselves, said it would wind down its military mission.

Officials said Gaddafi's son Mutassim had also died.

Another son, heir-apparent Saif al-Islam, was variously reported to be surrounded, captured or killed in conflicting accounts.

Sky reporter Kitty Logan in the Libyan capital said: "The mood here in Tripoli is of absolute euphoria.

"This is the moment they have been waiting for, this is what their revolution was about and if the rumours are true this is closure for the Libyan people."

Prime minister David Cameron welcomed the news in a short statement outside Downing Street.

"I think today is a day to remember all of Colonel Gaddafi's victims," he said.

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon said Gaddafi's death marked an "historic transition for Libya".

But the father of one of the victims Lockerbie bombing, Dr Jim Swire, said the former dictator's death means an "opportunity has been lost" to find out the truth about the attack.

President Obama said it was a "momentous day" for Libya but warned there would be difficult days ahead.

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GADDAFI'S DEATH - WHO PULLED THE TRIGGER?

By

Tim Gaynor and Taha Zargoun

Reuters

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<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/libyas-gaddafi-caught-hiding-rat-164921037.html>

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SIRTE, Libya (Reuters) - Disturbing images of a blood-stained and shaken Muammar Gaddafi being dragged around by angry fighters quickly circulated around the world after the Libyan dictator's dramatic death near his home town of Sirte.



The exact circumstances of his demise are still unclear with conflicting accounts of his death emerging. But the footage, possibly of the last chaotic moments of Gaddafi's life, offered some clues into what happened.

Gaddafi was still alive when he was captured near Sirte. In the video, filmed by a bystander in the crowd and later aired on television, Gaddafi is shown being dragged off a vehicle's bonnet and pulled to the ground by his hair.

"Keep him alive, keep him alive!" someone shouts. Gunshots then ring out. The camera veers off.

"They captured him alive and while he was being taken away, they beat him and then they killed him," one senior source in the NTC told Reuters. "He might have been resisting."

In what appeared to contradict the events depicted in the video, Libya's ruling National Transitional Council said Gaddafi was killed when a gunfight broke out after his capture between his supporters and government fighters. He died from a bullet wound to the head, the prime minister said.

The NTC said no order had been given to kill him.

Gaddafi called the rebels who rose up against his 42 years of one-man rule "rats," but in the end it appeared that it was he who was captured cowering in a drainage pipe full of rubbish and filth.

"He called us rats, but look where we found him," said Ahmed Al Sahati, a 27-year-old government fighter, standing next to two stinking drainage pipes under a six-lane highway near Sirte.

On the ground, government fighters described scenes of sheer carnage as they told stories of Gaddafi's final hours.

Shortly before dawn prayers, Gaddafi, surrounded by a few dozen loyal bodyguards and accompanied by the head of his now non-existent army Abu Bakr Younis Jabr, broke out of the two-month siege of Sirte and made a break for the west.

They did not get far.

France said its aircraft struck military vehicles belonging to Gaddafi forces near Sirte at about 8:30 a.m. (7:30 a.m. British time), but said it was unsure whether the strikes had killed Gaddafi. A NATO official said the convoy was hit either by a French plane or a U.S. Predator drone.

Two miles (3 km) west of Sirte, 15 pick-up trucks mounted with machine guns lay burnt out, smashed and smouldering next to an electricity substation 20 metres from the main road.

They had clearly been hit by a force far beyond anything the motley army the former rebels has assembled during eight months of revolt to overthrow the once feared leader.

But there was no bomb crater, indicating the strike may have been carried out by a fighter jet.

Inside the trucks still in their seats sat the charred skeletal remains of drivers and passengers killed instantly by the strike. Other bodies lay mutilated and contorted strewn across the grass. Some 50 bodies in all.

"MY MASTER IS HERE"

Fighters on the ground said Gaddafi and a handful of his men appeared to have run through a stand of trees and taken refuge in the two drainage pipes.

"At first we fired at them with anti-aircraft guns, but it was no use," said Salem Bakeer, while being feted by his comrades near the road. "Then we went in on foot.

"One of Gaddafi's men came out waving his rifle in the air and shouting surrender, but as soon as he saw my face he started shooting at me," he told Reuters.

"Then I think Gaddafi must have told them to stop. 'My master is here, my master is here', he said, 'Muammar Gaddafi is here and he is wounded'," said Bakeer.

"We went in and brought Gaddafi out. He was saying 'what's wrong? What's wrong? What's going on?'. Then we took him and put him in the car," Bakeer said.

At the time of his capture, Gaddafi was already wounded with gunshots to his leg and to his back, Bakeer said.

Other government fighters who said they took part in Gaddafi's capture, separately confirmed Bakeer's version of events, though one said the man who ruled Libya for 42 years was shot and wounded at the last minute by one of his own men.

"One of Muammar Gaddafi's guards shot him in the chest," said Omran Jouma Shawan.

There were also other versions of events. NTC official Abdel Majid Mlegta told Reuters Gaddafi had been finally cornered in a compound in Sirte after hours of fighting, and wounded in a gun battle with NTC forces.

He said Gaddafi kept repeating "What is the matter? What's going on? What do you want?" and resisted as NTC fighters seized him. He added that Gaddafi died of his wounds as he was being transported in an ambulance.

"He was bleeding from his stomach. It took a long time to transport him. He bled to death (in the ambulance)," he said.

Another NTC official, speaking to Reuters anonymously, gave a violent account of Gaddafi's death: "They (NTC fighters) beat him very harshly and then they killed him. This is a war."

Video footage showed Gaddafi, dazed and wounded, but still clearly alive and as he was dragged from the front of a pick-up truck by a crowd of angry jostling government soldiers who hit him and pulled his hair to drag him to the ground.

He then appeared to fall to the ground and was enveloped by the crowd. NTC officials later announced Gaddafi had died of his wounds after capture.

Someone in the crowd shouted "keep him alive, keep him alive," but another fighter cried out in a high pitched crazed scream. Gaddafi then goes out of view and gunshots are heard.

Further footage showed what appeared to be Gaddafi's lifeless body being loaded into an ambulance in Sirte.

One of the fighters who said he took part in the capture brandished a heavily engraved golden pistol he said he had taken from Gaddafi.

Fallen electricity cables partially covered the entrance to the pipes and the bodies of three men, apparently Gaddafi bodyguards lay at the entrance to one end, one in shorts probably due to a bandaged wound on his leg.

Four more bodies lay at the other end of the pipes. All black men, one had his brains blown out, another man had been decapitated, his dreadlocked head lying beside his torso.

Army chief Jabr was also captured alive, Bakeer said. NTC officials later announced he was dead.

Joyous government fighters fired their weapons in the air, shouted "Allahu Akbar" and posed for pictures. Others wrote graffiti on the concrete parapets of the highway. One said simply: "Gaddafi was captured here."

(Additional reporting by Rania El Gamal in Sirte and Samia Nakhoul in Amman; Writing by Jon Hemming; Editing by Maria Golovnina)

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/libyas-gaddafi-caught-hiding-rat-164921037.html>

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**GADHAFI'S LAST WORDS:
'DO YOU KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG?'**

by

IB Times Staff Reporter

22 Oct 2011

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/235774/20111022/gadhafi-last-words-gaddafi.htm>

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Just a few moments before his death, former Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi told the rebel troops who captured him from a drainage pipe in his hometown of Sirte Thursday: 'Do you know right from wrong?'

Al Jazeeraa published a video showing Gadhafi dying at the hands of the rebels. Gadhafi was pulled into the mob. He is seen pleading, "Don't shoot me." However, he was shot in the legs and head. The video shows blood oozing from his head.

The mob is seen surrounding the dead body and celebrating his death. They scream, kick the body and spit on it. They wave guns in the air and fire on the dead body. The body is then wrapped in a cloth.



Former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi,
covered in blood, being held on the ground by NTC fighters in Sirte
Source: Reuters



Gadhafi's body, from al Jazeera
Source: Reuters



Gadhafi's body on truck to Misrata
Source: Reuters

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/235774/20111022/gadhafi-last-words-gaddafi.htm>

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