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Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court

*Statement of the Prosecutor on the opening of the investigation  
into the situation in Libya*

3 March 2011

The Hague

*Check against delivery*

I am the Prosecutor of the ICC. Today, 3 March 2011, I decided to open an investigation into alleged crimes against humanity committed in Libya since 15 February, as peaceful demonstrators were attacked by security forces.

During the coming weeks, the Office will investigate who are those most responsible for the most serious crimes committed in Libya. The Office will then present its evidence to the Judges and they will decide on whether or not to issue arrest warrants. This is a court of justice.

We have been working on this situation since Sunday. My Office has identified the worst incidents as taking place:

- In Benghazi, on 15 February 2011;
- In Misratah, Al-Bayda, Derna, Zenten, Ajdabiya, on 16 February 2011;
- In Misratah, on 18 February 2011; and
- In Tripoli and Az-Zawiyah, on 20 February 2011.

We identified some individuals with formal or *de facto* authority, who commanded and had control over the forces that allegedly committed the crimes.

They are:

- MUAMMAR AL GADDAFI, the chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, and his inner circle;
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- The Head of Regime Security and Military Intelligence;
- The Head of Gaddafi's Personal Security;
- The Head of the Libyan External Security Organization.

We hereby put them on notice: if forces under their command commit crimes, they could be held responsible.

We have information that some opposition groups also have weapons. If they commit crimes, their leaders will also be investigated. We will act with impartiality.

Any person can contact our Office to clarify his or her responsibility.

We have a mandate to do justice. We will do it. There will be no impunity in Libya.

The priority now is to stop any new crimes. It is important to avoid an armed conflict in Libya.