

## **Gaddafi still a threat, say opponents**

**Reuters**

**August 29, 2011**

DOHA, Aug 29 — Muammar Gaddafi, who has not been seen since rebels took over the Libyan capital of Tripoli a week ago, is still a threat to the country and the world, the chairman of the National Transitional Council (NTC) said today.

Mustafa Abdel Jalil embarks on a diplomatic mission to push for ongoing support for the rebel campaign, and discuss the shape of a post-Gaddafi Libya. — Reuters pic  
Speaking at a meeting in Doha, Qatar, of defence ministers from countries supporting the insurgency against Gaddafi's rule, NTC chairman Mustafa Abdel Jalil called on Nato to keep supporting the movement.

"I call for continued protection from Nato and its allies from this tyrant," Abdel Jalil said. "He is still a threat, not just for Libyans but for the entire world."

The NTC, which is hunting Libya's deposed leader and pushing to take over his home town of Sirte east of Tripoli, said on Saturday that it had no firm information on his whereabouts. It has offered a US\$1.3 million (RM3.9 million ) reward and amnesty from prosecution for anyone who kills or captures Gaddafi.

As the rebels consolidate their grip on the vast North African country, Abdel Jalil has been in Europe, Benghazi and Doha to push for ongoing support for the campaign and discuss the shape of a post-Gaddafi Libya.

Nato, whose bombing campaign was a key element in the rebels' success, said at the same meeting in Doha that it would continue its mission.

"We believe the Gaddafi regime is near collapse, and we're committed to seeing the operation through to its conclusion," said US Admiral Samuel Locklear, commander of Nato's Joint Operations Command.

"Pockets of pro-Gaddafi forces are being reduced day by day," Locklear said at a news conference. "The regime no longer has the capacity to mount a decisive operation."

Locklear said Nato had a mandate through September 27 to keep up the operation, which has consisted mainly of targeted bombing to support the rebels. More than 5,000 military targets had been destroyed, Nato said.

To extend the mandate, Nato members would have to hold another council meeting, Locklear said. — Reuters

The Malaysian Insider

Copyright © 2011 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/world/article/gaddafi-opponents-say-he-is-still-a-threat/>