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Commission internationale de juristes - Comisión Internacional de Juristas

" dedicated since 1952 to the primacy, coherence and implementation of international law and principles that advance human rights "

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE – COMUNICADO DE PRENSA

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Libya: unarmed civilians must be protected

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) today called on the Libyan authorities to immediately end the ongoing gross human rights violations committed by security forces and pro-government militia against the civilian population in Libya. The ICJ also urged the international community to take robust measures to end the deadly attacks against Libyan demonstrators and to ensure the immediate protection of civilians.

Sweeping protests against the 41-year rule of Colonel Moammer Gaddafi have spread across Libya in recent days. At least 300 people were reportedly killed and thousands injured during these protests. Warplanes and helicopters were reportedly attacking civilians and bombing indiscriminately across Tripoli on Monday.

"The ongoing attacks against civilians amount to serious crimes under international law," said Wilder Tayler, ICJ Secretary General. *"Libyan authorities must immediately and unconditionally stop these attacks and ensure that those ordering and carrying out the government crackdown on the protesters, including those firing live rounds into crowds, are held criminally accountable,"* Tayler added.

Libyan protesters have expressed publicly their aspirations for the end of the Gaddafi regime and the emergence of a democratic government that guarantees the rule of law and protects human rights.

"Libyan authorities bear responsibility for upholding their legal obligations under international law," said Wilder Tayler. *"To this end, they must allow the media and human rights organisations to have access to Libya and end all restrictions on internet and phone communications that prevent Libyans from communicating with each other and with the outside world,"* Tayler added.

The ICJ urges the international community to consider the options at its disposal to ensure the immediate protection of the civilian population in Libya. *"The UN Security Council, when considering the situation in Libya, must address serious human rights violations committed during the protests,"* said Wilder Tayler. *"An international fact-finding mechanism must be established to investigate these violations,"* Tayler concluded.

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The ICJ is an international non-governmental organisation comprising sixty of the world's most eminent jurists and has a worldwide network of national sections and affiliated organisations

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