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Q1. Libya.

I am going to discuss my views on Muammar-el-Quaddafi; and why the Western World want him out of power. I will also mention how the article is very controversial to what I have heard and read during my research.

Libya is a Northern Africa country with a population of 6.5 million. Recently in the BBC News, over the past few months, the civil war between the rebels, and the pro-Gaddafi forces has been a top feature. The News contained updates and interviews from the Libyans and Gaddafi himself.

From my research, I found out that this war started when a young man publically <sup>set</sup> burnt himself on fire because he was so tired of his life and the economy under Gaddafi's 40 year rule. He sparked a revolution. From his act of 'bravery' many Libyans revolted, also feeling fed up with their life and circumstances. They rebelled, and set about planning to overthrow Gaddafi.

Countries bordering Libya were also having problems. Yemen and Egypt also began rebelling. The Egyptian youngsters reported planned their revolution on Facebook. The Egyptian Government banned Facebook duly. Unfortunately, the word had got out; the Revolution had started. After a few days, the Egyptian ruler and his family fled. Seeing as they could do nothing. These revolutions started on the basis that the people

were tired of the dictatorship, and sought democracy.

Gaddafi had been ruling Libya for a good 40 years, and had no elections or plans to step down or better still; retire. He was planning for one of his sons to be in power after him. One of his sons was a football player. The other was always at his father side.

Although the country of Libya is looking worse for wear nowadays, Gaddafi had done some exceptional things through-out his reign. He was involved in putting up an satellite for Africa use. Prior to this, Africa would pay millions to the USA to use theirs. However, this meant a phone call would cost more from each of Africa than anywhere else. Gaddafi, Nigeria and some African banks funded the satellite to bring cheaper calls, and internet to Africa. This helped Africa develop.

Gaddafi also backed Nelson Mandela in his campaign in South Africa to stop the apartheid. Although Gaddafi has done all of this the Libyans are fed up of their circumstances. The source given only mentions the good things that Gaddafi has done and is slightly biased.

From my research, I have learned both and bad points against Gaddafi and my opinion will be formulated according to both sides.

Throughout this period of the civil war in Libya. There have been special programmes dedicated to the topic. Panorama was one of them. It featured a documentary that showed the true gore and content of the Libyan peoples lives. Panorama went into one of the torture prison cells that Gaddafi had control of, and found out the horrible things that take place, of these being fingernails being removed with pliers.

Panorama also interviewed a woman whose husband was imprisoned. She told them that she knew what was going on and was doing the best she could to find a way to get him out. The people put in the torture cells were mainly rebel protesters that were caught publicly displaying their views, which is one of the Human Rights. The right to freedom of speech. Activities in the cells were also breaking basic vital human rights.

When the world discovered this, Gaddafi was put on trial for War Crimes against his own people. In my opinion, no matter what may have happened in the past, breaking basic human rights is unacceptable.

The rebel forces could see that they did not have the resources to fight this battle. They asked the UN and Western World countries for help. Cameron and Obama often appeared on the news calling for a ceasefire.

and for peace talks to draw up some kind of agreement. Gaddafi was interested in keeping power by any means necessary. The Libyan people were insistent and demanded they wanted him out completely. The UN had a tough decision to make. The rebel forces had been sent weapons and supplies to help them. The UN and other Europeans countries even sent helicopters and jets.

However, the UN had to decide whether to storm in like they did in Afghanistan, which may potentially blow the whole situation out of proportion. There was huge debate on the BBC show Question Time on this issue. Important, and intelligent people discussed whether they thought the UN's participation was a good idea or whether there were other methods of dealing with Gaddafi.

In my opinion, the UN should not get involved in the Libyan Civil War. I fear the fate that befell Afghanistan could re-occur here. Everyday people are dying in crossfires, simply because of where they live. Many people had fled the capital city Tripoli, and the rebel base Benghazi, for fear for their lives. They fled to neighbouring countries with borders on Libya, hoping to find a safe place to hide and seeking refuge. The western world are currently funding charities dedicated to helping the refugees.

But are we doing enough? Have we really done all we can? Thoughts may not go far, but prayers will. Whenever you have a free moments spare a minute for the Libyans. Action needs to be taken.

The British Prime Minister, David Cameron, Pres. Nicolas Sarkozy the French Prime Minister, and Barack Obama have all called for a ceasefire and peace talks to end this war. I honestly hope that Gaddafi steps down, despite all the wonderful things he has done for Africa in the past. I think 40 years is enough.

All my research concludes this; Gaddafi has helped Africa as a continent in the past, but he has significantly deprived his people recently while he lived in luxury with his government and family for the past 40 years. The article source given is very different to my research. It only consists of the good points, whereas in my opinion, they are highly overshadowed by the bad points. Libya needs democracy. The Libyans deserve the right to pick their next leader without any intimidation or too much propaganda.