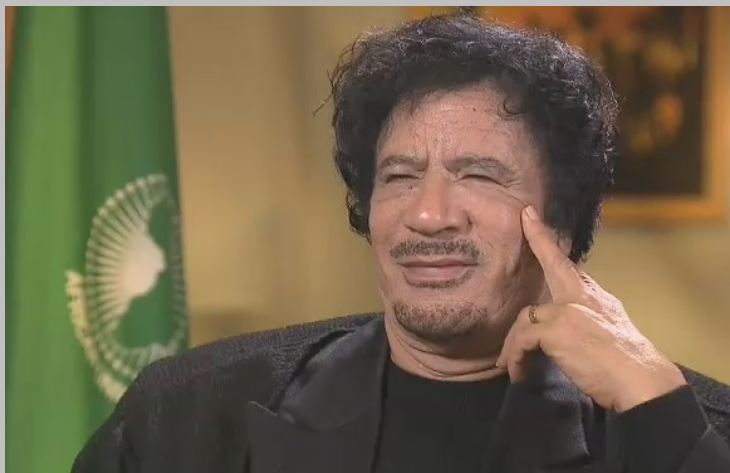


# BRIEFING BOOK: GADHAFI

With open arms Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi welcomed home a convicted terrorist. Fareed asks him why and whether he regrets that move now. In a rare and exclusive interview, Gadhafi speaks out about his controversial UN speech, his meeting this week with families of Lockerbie victims, and why he calls President Obama "my son." [WATCH HERE](#)

## FAST FACTS ON GADHAFI

Gadhafi is the Arab world's longest-serving leader. He marked his 40th year in power on Sept. 1 - a milestone that makes him the third longest serving head of state in the world after King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II. In February, he was elected Chairperson of the African Union. Dubbed the "mad dog of the Middle East" by Ronald Reagan, he is often seen swathed in animal skins and protected by strikingly tall female bodyguards.



Gaddafi has sponsored revolutionary efforts in Chad, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Morocco, the Philippines and Iran, including providing financial support to the IRA and the Palestinian Black September movement responsible for the 1972 Munich Olympic killings.

## HERE ARE A FEW OF HIS FAMOUS QUOTES:

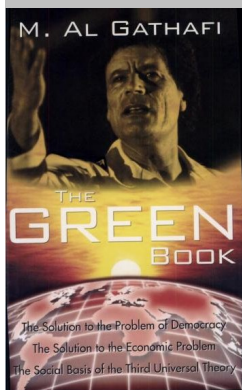
"There is no state with a democracy except Libya on the whole planet."

- Defending Libya's Jamahiriya system (state of the masses) in a conference at Columbia University in New York City on March 23, 2008.

Israel is "behind all of Africa's conflicts"

- Gaddafi told about 30 African leaders gathered under a huge tent at Tripoli airport, August 2009.

For a short biography of Muammar Gadhafi from *TIME* click [HERE](#)



Click [HERE](#) for more on Gadhafi's book, [The Green Book](#).

Gadhafi tells Fareed that the theory he "stipulated or mentioned in [The Green Book](#) it is not meant for, it is not transition just for a limited piece of time, period of time. It is actually a radical solution, a final solution."

## UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPEECH



["Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi delivers 95-minute rambling speech at the UN: Eccentric Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi lives up to his reputation during his first visit to America"](#) *Guardian UK*



["Qaddafi's First U.N. Speech Is a Rambling Diatribe"](#)  
*New York Times*



["Gaddafi's Oddest Idea: Abolish Switzerland"](#)  
*TIME*

["Gaddafi's UN speech 'radical, detailed'"](#)  
*Hindustan times*

["Gaddafi interpreter 'collapsed during UN speech'"](#)  
*Times of London*

# FAREED'S ANALYSIS OF THE INTERVIEW



For many Americans, Gadhafi's explanation or discussion of the events surrounding Lockerbie and of the return of Mr. Al-Megrahi will seem unsatisfying. While Gadhafi clearly understands the passion and the pain that many Americans feel, he's simply not willing to accept that bringing Megrahi back with this hero's welcome was the wrong thing to do. But here's what Fareed thinks happened: it was a miscalculation. The Libyans have been trying to mount a rapprochement with the West, with the world, for a while now and this derailed things. You can see that it was a miscalculation in the fact that Gadhafi now says this was not an official reception in any way. One of his sons [Saif Gadhafi has written an op-ed in the New York Times](#) that this was not intended in any way to be an official reception, and in general there seems to be an effort to minimize this as much as possible. Fareed thinks the Libyans want --in some way—to get back on track to a warming diplomatic relationship between the West and their country. It remains to be seen whether that will be possible because in terms of the symbolism this certainly has derailed matters considerably. We'll have to see whether substance triumphs over image in the future.

## LOCKERBIE BOMBING



Fareed mentions that the Libya government did accept some responsibility for the Lockerbie bombing. It has paid almost \$3 billion in restitution. He asks Gadhafi "why then embrace the man that was convicted of that bombing?" Gadhafi responded that "Libya did not accept the criminal responsibility, Libya accepted the civil responsibility towards what made for the actions of one of its own citizens. And even this man, Mr. Megrahi, who said that he is a security officer, he has nothing to do with the secret service... he is a professor at the university."

Muammar Gaddafi recently met the relatives of some of those who died in the tragic December 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland, and offered his condolences to them in New York. "I met some of them. It was a friendly meeting. I offered my condolences to them for the relatives they lost," Gaddafi said in his interview with Fareed.

Here is more on that embrace and more on Lockerbie victims:

["Gaddafi in Lockerbie family talks"](#) *BBC News*

["Libya's Gaddafi met Lockerbie bomb victim relatives"](#) *Reuters*

["Col Gaddafi's son brands relatives of Lockerbie victims greedy"](#) *Telegraph, UK*

["No deal behind Lockerbie bomber release: Gaddafi"](#) *ABC News*



Video [HERE](#):

["Gaddafi meets Lockerbie relatives"](#)  
*Reuters*

## UN PROTESTS



["Furious Lockerbie Families to Protest Qaddafi U.N. Speech"](#) *Fox News*

["Lockerbie families protest at release of al-Megrahi outside UN"](#)  
*Times Online*

["Senate Condemns Lockerbie Bomber Release"](#) *CBS News*

During our interview, Gadhafi was asked whether he regretted any possible role that Libyan officials might have played in the airplane bombing that killed 270 people.

He responded, "No one will support an action like that." Gadhafi went on to compare it to a 1986 US military raid against Libya that killed around 40 people, including his daughter. "Whether it is Lockerbie or whether it is the '86 raid against Libya, we are all families ... terror in all its forms is a common enemy to all of us."

The US military action, ordered by then-president Ronald Reagan, came after the bombing of a Berlin nightclub that was blamed on Libya.

While US-Libyan relations have warmed somewhat in recent years, the US Senate this week condemned the "lavish" welcome home ceremony last month for the convicted Pan Am bomber, Libyan agent Abdel Basset al-Megrahi, who was released from a Scottish prison.

More from *Reuters*: ["Nation in Brief: Lockerbie Families Meet With Gaddafi"](#)

["Libya's Gaddafi met Lockerbie bomb victim relatives"](#) *News Daily*

["Libya's Gaddafi Met Lockerbie Bomb Victim Relatives"](#) *New York Times*

## ISRATINE

Gadhafi has had a strange trajectory as an Arab Nationalist. He started out in the 70s as a fiery pan-Arabist, like Nasser in Egypt, but got disillusioned with the Arab world – and for a variety of reasons- and has now embraced much more this idea that he’s an African leader and has called himself the king of kings of African tribes. That means he has a peculiar set of solutions to the Israel - Palestine problem. He wants to create a single Israeli-Palestinian state with both Jews and Palestinians living together, something that seems highly unlikely since both communities now reject it. But, that gives you a sense of how distant he is now from the Arab mainstream.

[The Isratine proposal on Gadhafi's own official website](#)

["Qaddafi's Mideast Solution: Isratine" Arutz Sheva \(Israel\)](#)

## ISLAMIC TERRORISM

Gadhafi’s views on Islamic terrorism are somewhat strange. He has battled Islamic terrorism most of his life. Gadhafi was a kind of left-wing revolutionary and always very secular as a result. Most of his opposition has often tended to be religious, religious fundamentalists, Islamists, and he was against the Al-Qaeda attack, he denounced it, he offered condolences to the United States, but he does believe that we have exaggerated this threat, that we have turned Bin Laden into something much larger than he is and of course there’s a lot of the usual and ritual denunciation of America and American imperialism. But what is striking to Fareed is that Gadhafi no longer seems particularly worried or concerned about Islamic radicalism and Islamic terrorism in North Africa. Even though there are many security analysts who feel that there are still active cells in North Africa, it could be a threat to his regime, that’s not the sense you get from Gadhafi.

## GADHAFI ON OBAMA

You’ll see that Gadhafi continues his praise of Obama, doesn’t seem fazed by the fact that it might actually damage Obama, doesn’t seem worried by that fact that many of United States’ policies that President Obama endorses and prosecutes are not exactly ones he would support. Fareed thinks again this gets back to the basic decision Libya has made that it wants to try to get closer to the West. This is probably a decision being made by the next generation of Libyans. Gadhafi has two sons, both are former Western educated, fluent English speakers, clearly quite modern and perhaps want to see Libya integrated more, get more foreign investment, and as a result are trying to chart a path back for a country that kind of got into a self-imposed exile and cut itself off from the modern world for four decades. The great challenge will be to see whether or not Libya is successful in finding a path back into the world.

[“Moammar Gaddafi Praises Obama in U.N. Speech” Current](#)

## MORE



Pitching a fit: Gaddafi's tent (top of picture) can be seen in the grounds of Donald Trump's Seven Springs estate in Bedford, New York

[“Homeless Gaddafi forced to rough it in embassy quarters”](#)  
*Independent*

[“NY town orders stop to Gaddafi tent on Trump land”](#)  
*Reuters*

[“US Dismantles Muammar Gaddafi Tent”](#) *Guardian UK*



[“Qaddafi Warned by US on Behavior During United Nations Visit”](#)  
*Bloomberg*

["Libyan Leader protected by all Female Bodyguards at the UN"](#) *MINA*