

Dr. Mohamed Yusuf Al Magariaf



1940 Born in Benghazi, Libya

Education

1971 Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Fellow of Institute of Taxation, United Kingdom

1962 B.A. Degree with Distinction, The faculty of Economics and Commerce, Gar
Younis University, Benghazi, Libya. Appointed Lecturer in the same Faculty

1958 Graduated from Secondary School in Benghazi. Was top of the class in the
Kingdom of Libya

Professional Career

1971 Assistant Professor, Faculty of Economics and Commerce, Gar Younis University,
Benghazi, Libya

1972-1977 President of the Government Accounting Office (rank of Minister)

1977 Ambassador, Ministry of Exterior Affairs (equivalent to Department of State)

1978-1980 Ambassador of Libya to India

Nationalist Activism

1980 Resigned from post as Ambassador and joined the national opposition
movement to the Libyan regime of Muammar Al Gaddafi calling for the fall of the
regime and replacing it with a constitutional democracy

October 1981 Co-founded the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL) and early on,
organized military opposition from bases neighboring Libya but later limited to
political opposition movement against the regime outside Libya.

- 1981-2001 Elected General Secretary of the NFSL 1982, 1985, 1992, 1995. Was No 1 on Gaddafi hit list and target for many assassination attempts by Gaddafi's agents and hit squads
- 2001- Resigned from official position with the NFSL but continued in activism against the Gaddafi regime. Published over 17 books and over 100 articles about the regime and modern history of Libya

Quote from Recent Article on Aljazeera.net Titled: "Libya's Postponed Democracy," 19 April 2011

The diaspora and the search for a body politic

The Libyan diaspora has not been idle. One of the first civic bodies formed to oppose Gaddafi's dictatorship was the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL) created in October 1981.

Eleven years into Gaddafi's reign, co-founder Mohamed al-Magariaf, a well-known academic and diplomat now based in the US, realised that the colonel's revolution was a lost cause.

This was the man personally targeted by Gaddafi's bombing of the UTA flight in 1989. Gaddafi's henchmen thought he was on board that flight.

Luckily for Libya, al-Magariaf lived on, working with others through political means to develop a democratic vision and help construct a civic institution fit for post-Gaddafi Libya.

The NFSL calls for a democratic government with constitutional guarantees, free and fair elections, free press, separation of powers, non-discriminatory rule of law, gender equality, multi-partyism, sustainable development, and a realistic democratic road-map that benefits from Libyan, Arab and Islamic traditions as well as democratic learning from Nelson Mandela's democratisation experience, amongst others.

The NFSL's early strategies were a mix of politics and martial resistance. It took part in the 1984 attack on Gaddafi's headquarters at Bab al-Aziziyyah, executed by some of its commandos, including Ahmad Hwas.

However, in the diaspora, the NFSL focused on political struggle, using media campaigns and the construction of a broad-based anti-Gaddafi coalition.

It is in the process of crystallising a democratic road map as its own contribution of how to defeat Gaddafi using international sanctions and the International Criminal Court.

<http://english.aljazeera.net/indepth/opinion/2011/04/2011415163618467700.html>