

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**Remarks on the reports of the death of Col. Muammar al-Qadhafi
and the end of fighting in Sirte and other cities.**

New York, 20 October 2011

Your Excellency Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Your Excellency President [Tarja] Halonen of Finland,
Your Excellency President [Jacob] Zuma of South Africa,
Excellencies,

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

Before we begin, let me say a few words about this morning's news headlines.

You have all seen reports of the death of Col. Muammar al-Qadhafi and the end of fighting in Sirte and other cities.

Clearly, this day marks an historic transition for Libya.

In the coming days, we will witness scenes of celebration, as well as grief for those who lost so much.

Yet let us recognize, immediately, that this is only the end of the beginning. The road ahead for Libya and its people will be difficult and full of challenges.

Now is the time for all Libyans to come together. Libyans can only realize the promise of the future through national unity and reconciliation.

Combatants on all sides must lay down their arms in peace.

This is the time for healing and rebuilding, for generosity of spirit, not for revenge.

As Libya's transitional authorities prepare the way for elections and take the many other steps toward building their new nation, inclusion and pluralism must be the watchwords.

All Libyans must be able to recognize themselves in the nation's government and leadership. The high hopes sustained through the long days of revolution and conflict must translate into opportunities and justice for all.

I have just spoken to my Special Representative for Libya, Mr. Ian Martin in Tripoli. The new United Nations Mission to Libya is on the ground and ready to assist Libya and its people along the path ahead.