

**National Council on US-Libya Relations Participate in the International Conference for Rebuilding Benghazi City, May 5-7, 2018**

Council Board member Hassan Sassi participated as an invited speaker at the 'International Conference and Exhibition for Rebuilding Benghazi' over the period 5-10 May. Dr. Sassi, the only American citizen to attend this international event (which drew participants from Europe and across the world), presented his report, 'Sustainable Reconstruction in War-Torn Societies.' Among other things, the report called for a Master Plan to guide planning and execution of the city's reconstruction, Dr. Sassi examined the destruction in the town and met with officials and representatives of civil society. The Council will continue to engage with organizations in Benghazi as well as those in major towns across Libya, including Tripoli and Misrata.

Date	Event
May 3, am	Toured Benghazi downtown to observe the damage caused by the civil war and assess the damage, rapid assessment
May 3, pm	Visited Benghazi Al-Amal Foundation (BAF) and met with 2 of the Board of directors and founders, discussed the potential of cooperation between BAF and NC.
May 4, am	Arrived at the conference venue (Tibesti Hotel) was greeted by the organizing committee, Photo # 1
May 5, noon-8 pm	1) Conference opening ceremony, paper presentations, 1 to 8 pm 2) Visited LHRA booth at the conference, Photo #2
May 6, pm	Continuation of paper presentations including NCUSLR research paper titled "Sustainable Reconstruction in War-Torn Societies, Photo #3
May 6, pm	The Organizing Committee conducted a meeting with non-Libyan companies from China, Greece, India, Italy, UK and US (represented by Hassan Sassi) for feedback and recommendations of the next step and short term plan of action, the recommendation will be part of the conference proceedings.
May 7, all day	Dr. Sassi interview by Al-Mustaqbal HoR TV network, well received Conclusion and closing ceremony, Photo #4
May 8, pm	1) Visited BAF to observe the food bank distribution to 1400 families, ongoing and continuous operation conducted every 2 months sponsored by a local business, Photo #5 2) Met with BAF board to coordinate/partner with NC, a verbal agreement was reached between the 2 entities, it was agreed to that Mr. Mohamed Jaauoda will serve as NC representative including using BAF address as well.
May 9, am	1) Visited Benghazi University which is severely damaged, a preliminary damage assessment (PDA) indicates at least \$1 (one) billion dollars is needed to clean up, repair and rebuild the needed infrastructure and buildings that

	<p>require replacement, Photo #7</p> <p>2) Visited a local art show, Photo #6</p>
May 10, am	A visit to damaged commercial/residential area in Garuonis, near by Benghazi University, Photo #7
May 11, am	Toured EI_Sabry district, on the outskirts of the city to assess the damage. The civil war caused 47,000 families to flee their homes and live in tents and schools, it was reported to me by the EI-Sabry committee overseeing the refugees that family of 5 are housed in one classroom, the situation is dire and need immediate attention. Photo #8
May 11, pm	Visit with the mayor of Benghazi to brainstorm and assess the city needs, the mayor is working on a protocol to form a group to help with international outreach, will share the protocol with NC, Photo #10
May 12, am	<p>1) Visited Libyan Humanitarian Relief Agency (LHRA), had a meeting with Hussain EI-Fallah and his staff to coordinate future cooperation with the NC. The agency is well funded by the UNHCR, toured the facility and storage hangers, <a href="http://www.libaid.net.ly">www.libaid.net.ly</a>, Photo #11</p> <p>2) Had a casual meeting with the head of the displaced City of Taurga refugees, "Sheikh" Omran EI-Taury. The number of refugees are in the 10s of thousands and they have been displaced since 2011, Photo #12</p>
May 12, pm	Photo # shows a damaged hospital owned and operated by a local medical doctor, the equipment damage is in the order of \$12 million. The building damage is beyond repair and need to be replaced, Photo #9