

SUSTAINABLE RECONSTRUCTION IN WAR-TORN SOCIETIES

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**SUBMITTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION FOR REBUILDING
BENGAZI**

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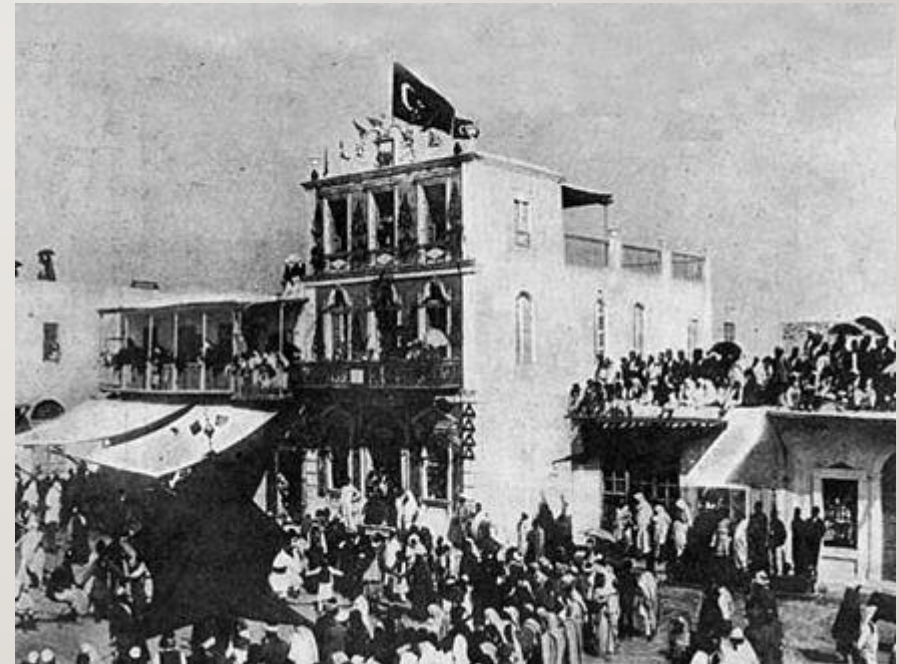
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History of a City:

- Benghazi, an ancient Greek colony, founded around 525 BC [before Christ] known as Cyrenaica and ruled by a council of elders; the city became known as Berenice after the name of the daughter of a Greek governor at the time [3rd century BC]. Cyrenaica then became a Roman province together with Crete [78 BC]. The city suffered tremendous damage during an invasion by Germanic people from Europe. In about the year 642 AD Amr ibn Alas annexed Cyrenaica to become a province of Egypt.

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- Ottoman rule, Benghazi became an Ottoman province until 1911. Under their rule the city became the most impoverished of the Ottoman provinces, the Greeks and Italians took advantage of the situation to exploit the shores of sponge abundance.



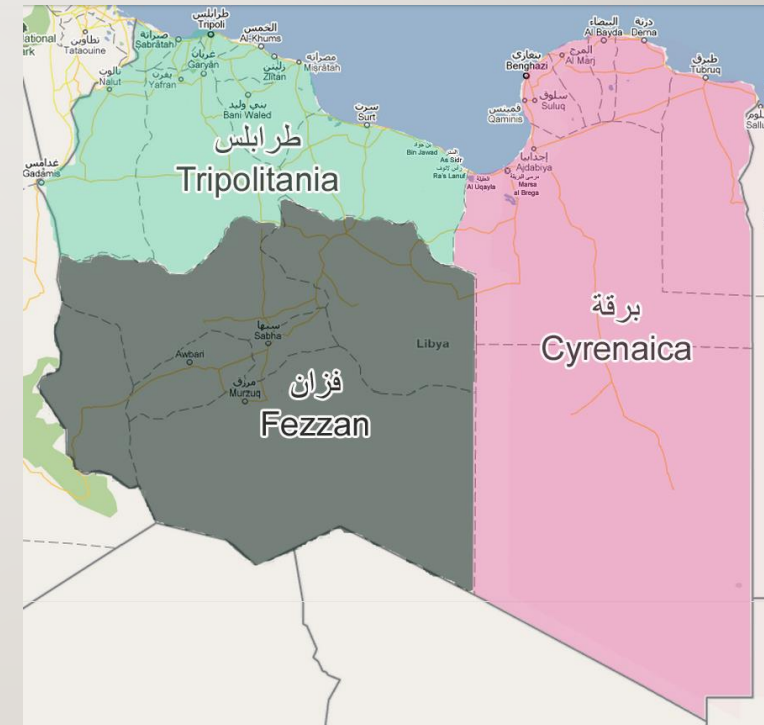
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- Italian invasion, 1911 Italy invaded Benghazi and became a colony by 1912, under the fanciest Mussolini, Cyrenaica suffered ruthless oppression even though the resistance under the leadership of Omar El Mukhtar lasted 20 years, not until their defeat in world war II that the Italian occupation ceased.



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- Post-world war II, Libya was then partitioned to 3 provinces, Tripolitania [under Italian rule], Cyrenaica [under British/Egyptian rule] and the Fezzan [under French rule].



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- Libya Independence, Libya came to be independent on December 24, 1951 and in 1964 Libya was united under King Idris. Libya lost its independence under a one-man rule from 1969 until 2011 when the regime was overthrown and the rest is history.
- <https://youtu.be/TBEfVYBohzc>



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Introduction:

- *Benghazi is well and alive dynamic and resilient*

History has taught us that following a violent conflict, war-torn societies face tremendous challenges such as:

- Disarmament of armed militias (BBC report October 19, 2012),
- Demobilization of Armed Militias,
- Resettlement and reintegration and return of refugees;

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The UN defines **reintegration** as: “the process by which ex-combatants acquire civilian status and gain sustainable employment and income” [Libyans have to hold the UN responsible for a chaotic outcome of international interference] applying the following:

- Peacebuilding based on reconciliation (south Africa/Ireland)
- Campaign to combat the effect of physical damage and psychological damage to communities specially children
- Combat slavery and human right abuse
- Finally, sustainable physical reconstruction/infrastructure rebuilding

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To Implement such tasks, emphasis is made to the following:

- Engage local stakeholders, NGOs,
- Implement a “Marshal Plan” type solution supported by International Peace building NGOs, donors and the World Bank, it is regarded as inhumane to leave societies vulnerable to further violence, kidnapping and killings,
- Implementation of clear strategy where assistance is funneled to local and international institutions that are and willing to make a difference in transforming violence into a peaceful process and positive/dynamic reconstruction thinking,

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- Implementation of the United Nations' strategy for resolutions of [armed] conflicts consist of 4 components which is recommended in this paper to have a nonlinear approach meaning all to be implemented in parallel:
 1. Preventive diplomacy
 2. Peacekeeping based on Chapter VI of the UN Charter
 3. Peacekeeping based on deployment of peacekeeping “forces”
 4. Post-conflict peacebuilding by appropriately building the State and other institutions to insure a sustainable solution to the problem of War and Peace.

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- **Physical Reconstruction:**

Benghazi became an icon [in Libya] for a city destroyed by civil war, but it's not the only city. 50% of countries and cities that start a program of transition to peace end up back in war while the other 50% end up relying on external aid, we should not fall in that trap and make sure that reconstruction is built on solid economic and away from traditional redevelopment. The War-torn Benghazi has a dual image, one as a damaged city and another as ambitious to rebuild not only the physical aspect but the human element. The brutal damage caused by the war will make the reconstruction a heavy task [but can be done, others did].



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All projects should aim at creating conditions of economic, social and physical development [none of this can be achieved prior to disarming militia, I say this with emphasis and with conviction].

- **Recommendations for Reconstruction:**

1. Develop a comprehensive Master Plan, without such a plan we will be moving in a vacuum.
2. Establish a consortium of technical cadre including psychologist, educators, economists and of course architects and engineers and healthcare professionals

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3. Lessons learned from other cities/countries that went through similar situations [Germany, Japan, the Baltics states, etc...]
4. Create a “Cyrenaica Office of Emergency Services [COES]” to assess the damage and compensate owners of damaged properties.
5. Optimal restoration of buildings that can be salvaged [municipality square, soug elhout, el sabri and maidan el shagara, etc...]
6. Establish a citizen oversight committee to eliminate corruption and misuse of funds

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- **Outline of a Master Plan:**

A typical Master Plan contains the following:

- I. Transportation and Traffic studies and planning
- II. Infrastructure needs
- III. Facilities, public schools, hospitals, libraries, community center
- IV. Open spaces

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- V. Neighborhood/housing
- VI. Economic development/business centers, airport, harbor
- VII. Land use based on environmental and physical condition and impact
- VIII. Zoning laws

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- **Conclusion:**

The most basic aspect to note in postwar reconstruction of Benghazi or in Libya in general is to be selective in the planning process from building of human being to rebuilding a society that is sustainable for the long hall. In order to fulfil the objective of this conference the international community with local municipalities to cooperate in identifying the objectives of its actions. It goes without saying that although the challenges [and spoilers] are countless,

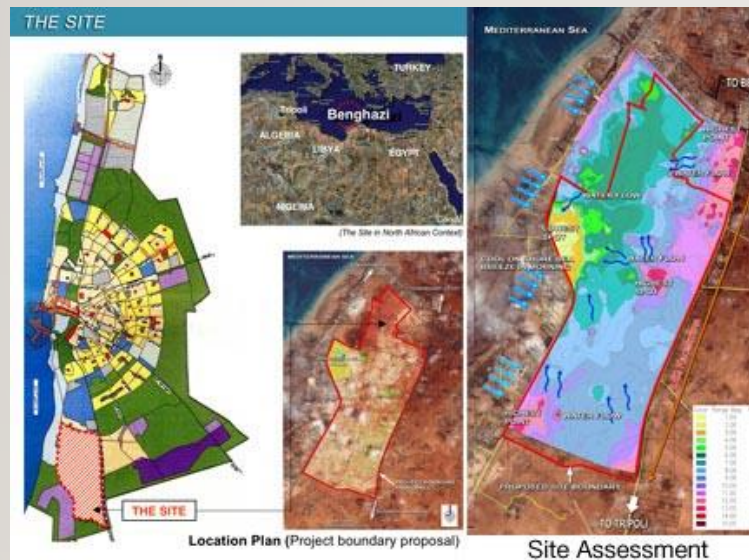
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I hereby argue that without the help of the international community it will take generations to rebuild this city specially if we allow violence reoccurrence, peace becomes fragile and rebuilding may be impossible. On a positive note effective peace building requires establishing a local government that is from the people and will serve the people.

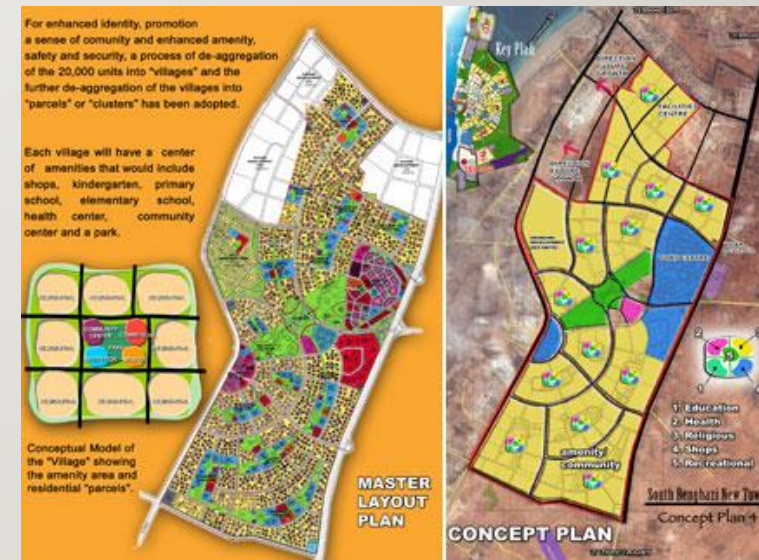
We at the National Council on US-Libya Relations are committed to actively be engaged in the rebuilding efforts proposed by the Conference and will be looking forward to be part and parcel of your noble plans.

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A MASTER PLAN (TYPICAL)



CONCEPTIONAL PLAN



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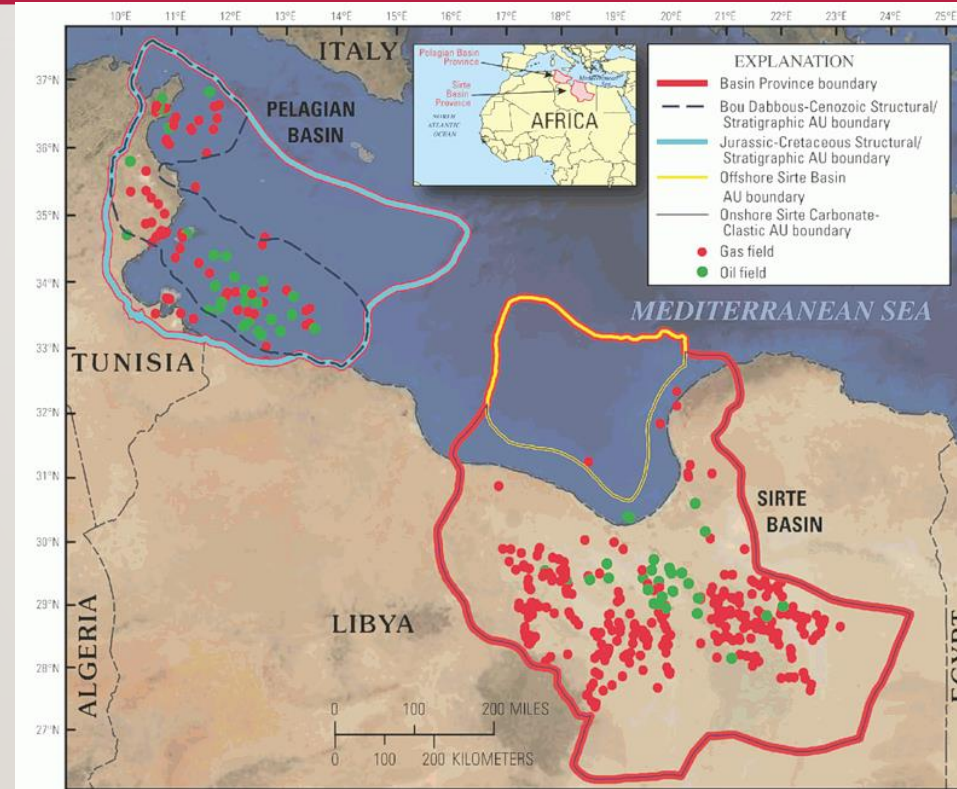
CONCEPTIONAL MASTER PLANNING [EXAMPLE, AJC CONSULTING 20 THOUSAND HOUSING PROJECT WEST OF BENGHAZI]



MASTER PLAN FOR THE REHB AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE EL KIESH LAKE, RAMLA BEN AISSA, AIA



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Thank You Benghazi

