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Free Libya Forces Spurn US Offers of Arms

By Jason Ditz

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Public calls amongst top US officials to funnel weapons to the “Free Libya” movement that is on the verge of ousting long-time dictator Moammar Gadhafi have once again been spurned by leaders of the protest movement, who insist that they are fully capable of liberating what little of the nation means under regime control on their own.

“[We are against any foreign intervention or military intervention in our internal affairs](#),” insisted Abdel-Hafidh Ghoga, a human rights lawyer and the spokesman for one of the protesters’ major organizations.

Other protesters hung a massive sign from the top of a building reading “[NO Foreign Intervention – Libyan People Can Manage It Alone](#)” and there is increasing concern that should NATO in general or the US in particular intervene, it would attempt to hand-pick portions of the protest movement it favors to take power.

The [opposition to NATO meddling has come as something of a surprise to officials, who seemed to assume that such a move would be welcomed by the protest movement, and is forcing an embarrassing amount of backpeddling](#) from top officials who were insisting the intervention was virtually a done deal.

And indeed, despite major concerns about the Gadhafi regime continuing the massacres that were typical of the early days of the protest, it does seem like the protesters mostly have things in hand, and [even the military leaders who joined the protest movement expressed surprise yesterday at how easily attacks by the regime’s mercenaries have been repelled](#).

