

Letter to GNC

To the Leaders of the General National Congress,

It is with great humility that I present my intention to run for Prime Minister of Libya. Every single one of us has a strong opinion on what needs to happen to enable Libya to develop into the strong and independent nation that the people of Libya deserve. No matter our differences, we all know and we can all agree on at least one thing, the future Prime Minister of this great country will have enormous responsibilities and significant challenges to overcome.

We also all know that the road to rebuild our country will remain blocked until there is a serious change in the way Libya is governed. Nothing will progress unless someone is prepared to risk everything to ensure that the people of Libya are free to live in a democratic country where each individual is respected and valued.

I understand the enormity of my asking that you put your trust in me. We are at a crossroads and it is up to all of us to decide which direction we choose to go in. If you choose me and I am the first democratically elected Prime Minister of Libya I will know exactly which road I want us to take.

My approach to this role

I want to show the world that Libya will soon be open again for business thanks to better governance, better financial management and a realistic approach to partnership with the international business community. I am running independently. Not as a representative of the rebels, not as a representative of the politicians, not as a representative of any political party, not as a representative of local governments – but as a representative of all the people of Libya. I want to, encourage transparency, improve relations among the local communities and help develop global confidence in our nation. Together we can build a new and independent Libya.

I believe that if all the parties work openly and honestly together, we can reach a compromise and make progress. We have an opportunity to build a great nation – we have great resources, a young and growing population, and we owe it to ourselves to build the nation we fought so hard to change. I believe in Libya. I believe in its people. I believe in our ability to keep true to our culture and create a new nation built on democracy and justice.

During my time as a Special Envoy to the National Transitional Council, I have been deeply committed to bringing change and positive progress to Libya. That experience has taught me that the key to rebuilding our country will be collaboration and communication. Through my experience abroad, I have learned the importance of good business, compromise when needed and integrity at all times. I supported the efforts of the February 2011 revolution from the outset. As founder of the Independent

Libya Foundation (ILF) and in support of the Libyan people, I worked tirelessly to bring a shared vision for a peaceful, unified and democratic Libya into fruition. I was active in developing better relations with NATO and made many valuable contacts in the diplomatic world.

In addition to my work with the ILF, in September 2011, I was appointed Special Envoy to the Libyan National Transitional Council. I used my business resources to support the revolution, lobbied international governments to recognize the NTC, and drew on my international network and business expertise to try to rebuild the country. Born in Benghazi in 1970, I come from a line of leaders committed to upholding our beloved Libya. My Grandfather, Musa Igtet, fought for Libya's independence against the Italian occupation in 1911. My father, Hassan Igtet, took a very public stance against the Gaddafi regime – a position that cost him his life. After being exiled from Libya, I started my career in civil aviation and have become a successful entrepreneur and venture capitalist. My competence in business development and my connections with leading independent global consulting firms will bring much-needed expertise into government while my well-established relations with key political figures across the globe will serve Libya well in the international arena.

As the founder and president of Swiss International Management – a Company that focuses on real estate, oil and gas exploration, infrastructure and Healthcare, I have vast experience in building teams and working across cultures. In 2005, I brought together and combined 12 German engineering companies into a single large holding group. The new entity provided civil engineering and architectural facilities to the State of Qatar. In 2006, I established the Swiss Mideast Finance Group, and in 2007, I took control of Metrica – a maritime, aviation and residential interior design company based in Germany. I have worked hard to build connections in all corners of the globe; my international network gives me access to the objective guidance and expertise that would benefit the growth of Libya.

The tasks this role involves

My immediate concern will be security, as it has been since the revolution. I knew from the outset that security would be a major challenge for Libya. I therefore hired the highly respected firm Command Global Consulting to work for the ILF and to create an action plan for the NTC to run the country in the first 100 days after the revolution. CGS includes among its partners Phil Lago, former Executive Secretary to the US National Security Council and Ronald S Coburn former Director of the White House Homeland Security Council. Their team visited Libya many times during and after the revolution to formulate a detailed study for the use of the NTC.

Today, we urgently need a ceasefire. I know at first-hand how difficult this will be. In 2011 I organized an ILF delegation to Benghazi with the support of Joe Hagin, a former White House Deputy Chief of Staff, to conciliate with the militia groups and present a strategy for their re-integration.

I have played a part in the recent discussions to persuade the militias to stop fighting, and I am ready to do so again. I have consulted with General John Allen, United States Marine Corps (Ret.) former Commander of NATO and US Forces in Afghanistan, and developed a robust program for the rehabilitation of the army along with sound defense strategies and a sustainable military presence. I will personally oversee the implementation of this policy.

The economy

Our oil production can be brought back to pre-revolution levels of 1.5 million barrels a day within a few months, provided the blockages cease. Current production is only between 0.3 to 1 million barrels a day because of regular blockages of ports and pipelines. In the longer term, Libya can raise its production over 1.5 million barrels a day, which will give our country political and economic influence in the region, and in the wider world. It is perfectly possible for us to export 2.5 million barrels a day. That would promote Libya to 5th rank in OPEC, after Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela and Kuwait. We can do much of this ourselves. We need to trade oil and oil products with the rest of the world and we need to work together to gain the confidence of the international community.

Making government work

After the fall of Gaddafi, the government machine was shattered. In too many ways it still is. There is lack of clarity in the responsibilities and not enough accountability. Corruption has created many vested interests. Civil servants lack motivation. I want to develop a new blueprint for the way our central government ministries work and the way that central government coordinates with local and regional authorities. Clear targets will be set and performance measured against those targets – just as in any well-run business. Only after consultation with local and regional authorities will our objectives be decided. The government ministry buildings will still be in Tripoli, but the policies they are implementing will have been decided all across the country, not just in the capital.

We must also be transparent about where the oil revenues are going. An active system of local government and a clear system of book-keeping will give everyone the chance to track where the money has been spent. To ensure that local government is able to function as effectively and as quickly as possible, we have developed a program for local and central government reform with international consultants McKinsey which be implemented within six months.

Libya doesn't need big government. We need ministers working together to build the country, with a transparent system to eliminate corruption and a police force that protects everyone. I personally saw how great the requirement is for all of this to change when I was tasked to investigate corruption after February 17th. It was a profoundly unpleasant experience but I am grateful for it, as it powerfully reinforced in me the urgent need for us to remedy the status quo.

Our economy requires stimulation. We need to create jobs, promote local business, improve infrastructure and enhance the quality of life for everyone in Libya.

The international community

Finally, we need a better relationship with the international community. There are opportunities for increased foreign trade and improved local business. Here, I can bring to the service of Libya and her people the extensive international and diplomatic contacts which I have built up over the last decade.

In 2011, it was through my contacts with the European Commission, the European External Action Service and NATO that we were able to arrange the visit to Brussels of General Abdul Fatah Younis, former Interior Minister of Libya (under the Gaddafi government), turned leader of the rebel armed forces. I facilitated this dialogue at a critical time for the rebel movement. The talks were part of a process which ultimately saw NATO led military intervention in Libya to defend the Libyan people from Gaddafi forces. At the same time, I hired international media consultants Consilia Ltd to ensure that the General's comments were reported by media right across Europe. As a result of Consilia's work, we were no longer referred to as "rebels" but as "fighters", this changed international political opinion towards us in a very positive fashion.

Then, during my time as a Special Envoy to the National Transitional Council, I became particularly active in South America. I built a good working relationship with the President of Panama, Ricardo Martinelli, when I was seeking official recognition of the NTC. It was at my urging that Mr Martinelli officially recognized the NTC as, "the legitimate representative of the Libyan people." In doing so, Panama became the first South American nation to recognize the NTC in this manner and the 7th country in the world, on the same day as Canada. Later, I held consultations with the president of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos and successfully persuaded Colombia to become the 54th nation worldwide to recognize the NTC.

Most recently, I have retained the council of the former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, to help Libya take its rightful place as leader in the region and to develop important strategic alliances with our neighbors and the global community. And finally, I have engaged the well-known international consulting firm McKinsey to help create my detailed recovery plan for Libya. Its aim is to elaborate and solidify the democratic achievements, to help the government achieve sustainable political progression and to afford the Libyan people the greatest opportunity for economic prosperity.

We are a country with great resources, and however we choose to look at it, we need good relations with the international community. We need to rebuild trust, give them a real opportunity to earn our trust. This can only be achieved with greater transparency. We need a clear system for our central bank. We need to prove to the world that we understand how a government makes decisions, how investments are carefully considered and how local and international contracts are properly distributed.

I believe that my passion for my homeland, coupled with my experience both in international arenas and within Libya, make me a strong candidate for the role of Libyan Prime Minister. I would be honored to lead the people of Libya into this next phase of complex, but potentially prosperous growth and development. Given the opportunity, I will devote myself entirely to fulfilling this role in the name of the Libyan people and this great nation we call our own

Sincerely,

Basit Igtet