

Monday, 2 March, 2009, 22:36 (20:36 GMT)

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Gaza Aid Convoy Arrives in Tripoli, Convoy Swells to 300 Aid Trucks Heading to Gaza

01/03/2009 16:51:00



Photo: Libyans receiving Gaza Aid Convoy in downtown Tripoli during a big celebration upon their arrival in the city, 1 March 2009.

At 11:30 Sunday morning Tripoli time, the first vehicles of the British Gaza convoy began to arrive at the spot in the downtown of Tripoli where a huge celebration was waiting for them.

Hundreds of Libyans waved at every vehicle and saluted the people who drove all long from Britain with only one objective on their minds, that is to deliver moral and material support to the Gaza's heroes who stood up to Israel's 22-day long aggression and crime against humanity.

The local leadership of Tripoli city with the help of the Libyan Union of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Gaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation (GICDF) as well as civil society organizations all gathered to receive the Gaza Aid Convoy.

The colourful reception was held at the Green Square in front of the Grand Hotel in the heart of the Tripoli city. The ceremony attended by the Tripoli members of the organizing committee, leaders of the Tripoli leadership, Secretary of the Gaddafi Development and Charity Foundation, the vice president of the Gaza Aid Convoy and the general public including school children and their teachers.

While arriving at the scene with a motorcade escort, the delegation of the Gaza Aid Convoy headed by its vice president Mr. Sabah Mukhtar was warmly received by Mr. Mohammad Araibi, the head of the Tripoli social leadership together with other officials.

On the same occasion members of the Gaza Aid Convoy were awarded with various gifts including gifts bags containing capes, T-Shirts and flowers. The gifts were given to them as a sign of the Libyan admiration for the efforts made to help the Gaza people.

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Relief workers in Gaza said they found four starving children sitting next to their dead mothers' and 12 other corpses lying on mattresses in a house in a part of Gaza City bombed by Israeli forces, the Red Cross said on Thursday. "This is a shocking incident," said Pierre Wettach, ICRC chief.



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Applying Nazis tactic to hide crimes against humanity, Israel's Ministry of Defense prevented Monday journalists from entering Gaza to report on starving 1.5 million. Israel has killed 534 people including 107 children and wounded over 2500 many of them seriously.

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Yemeni and Arab protesters, angered by Egyptian President Houssni Mubarak's support of Israeli war crimes in Gaza and his participation in the blockade imposed on the crowded strip for over a year and a half. Mubarak's



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legitimacy is evaporating after
thirty years in power.

"The organizing committee would like to welcome you to the Great Jamahiriya which is also your country," said Mr. Araibi while address the convoy and added, "this long journey will remain in the history books and everybody who participated in this journey will be honored and will be recorded in the history as well as those supporting the mission of the convoy."

On the other hand, Mr. Sabah Mukhtar on behalf of the Gaza Aid Convoy seized the opportunity to express his heartfelt gratitude and that of the members of the convoy for the hospitality of the Libyan people.

"We thank you all for such a great reception you have granted us and we really feel happy because we are here in our country with our brothers and sisters," he told the Libyan people in Tripoli.

Mr. Sabah went ahead to say that, it would have been possible for the convoy to travel from Britain to Egypt by air but they opted for the long and difficult way so as to make a long term impact on people.

"We wanted our journey to make an impact on the Arab soil," he told the gathering and continued to say, "the Palestinian problem is the key to all Arab problems and its solution is the source of reconciliation of all the Arabs.

Joining the stage was Secretary of the GICDF who revealed the foundation's active support of the Gaza Aid Convoy's mission since it was in its infancy stage.

"Today the Libyan convoy will be joining the British convoy in this very long journey and hopefully there will be about three hundred trucks trailing on their way to Gaza," he revealed.

The Gaza Aid Convoy has of late enjoyed a massive support from everyone around the globe with a humanitarian touch regarding the Israeli's oppressive ways towards the Palestinians and the Gaza people.

It is therefore, hoped that, the successful delivery of the Gaza Aid Convoy will ease part of the pain that has been inflicted on the Gaza people including the demolition of over sixty thousand houses hence rendering sixty thousand families homeless.

However, during today's Tripoli rally, it was also announced that, Egypt has accepted to let the Gaza Aid Convoy through to Gaza, an announcement that brought so much relief to the members of the convoy.

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