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Al-Qathafi Makes Historical Visit to Italy

The Leader of the Revolution Muammar Al-Qathafi praised Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi describing him as the "iron man" for his courage to undertake a historical, dangerous decision apologize in behalf of the Italian state for the colonization of Libya and the acceptance of the compensation principle.

Forty years ago, Al-Qathafi vowed not to visit Italy until it recognized its past and apologized to the Libyan people whose half of them were perished as a result of Italian occupation that lasted from 1911 until 1943. But that Italy has apologized, he made a historical visit that will help strengthen bilateral relations for decades to come.

Gaddafi said the Libyan

people have highly appreciated these Italian actions "even though such compensation can never make up for the extermination, torture, displacement of the Libya people and the destruction of its homeland."

He said "the decision by my friend Berlusconi's government and Italy is only a symbol that they apologize for the past and condemn colonialism and fascism what they committed against the Libyan people."

The compensation is a symbol for turing the page of the past as currently both Italy and Libya condemn colonialism and fascism, he added. Now both In international relations, what is vital is the moral rather than the material aspect (cents and

dollars) of actions that matters. "The issue is the principal and mutual understanding, recognizing and condemnation of anything that is wrong as well as the assurance that we will not commit such wrongs again," Gaddafi stressed.

It was this understanding that led the signing of the Libyan-Italian Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in Benghazi in 30 August 2008.

Al-Qathafi said as a sign of a new era in the relations between Rome and Tripoli is the reception by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and the Italian people of the son of Omar Al-Mukhtar to Rome with him along with another delegation of the sons and grandsons of Libyan resistance

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The Leader of the Revolution Muammar Al-Qathafi (R) is greeted by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi upon his arrival for his first visit to Italy, at Ciampino airport. Italy rolled out the red carpet Wednesday for Al-Qathafi, who said he has "turned the page on the past".

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