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**From:** "Oath Keepers" <mailing@oathkeepers.org>  
**To:** <jacksranch@skynetbb.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2011 12:19 PM  
**Subject:** Lessons from Events in Libya: The Power of the People and the Critical Question of What Will the Military Do?

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Lessons from Events in Libya: The Power of the People and the Critical Question of What Will the Military Do?

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Title From Wikipedia: "Brotherly Leader and Guide of the First of September Great Revolution of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya"

With the military siding with the people,

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that name has as much clout as the local goat herder. We just call him Gaddafi Duck.

**Power** always seeks to preserve itself. Governmental power is, along with financial power, a prime example. In Libya, the dictator Gaddafi has vowed to fight to the last bullet (fired by others), to the last drop of blood (*other* people's blood, of course), to keep his power. Yet people around the world, since the advent of the Internet, have been learning much about the numbers game. By that we mean that the average citizen of any nation on earth today knows that there are only a relatively few people in charge of national governments, and there are many people comprising the body of the "governed." That does not bode well for leaders who fail to satisfy basic expectations within the public at large (such as respect for their natural rights to life, liberty, and property). That's one thing. The government, however bloated, is always vastly outnumbered by the people. That is a universal truth.

What has changed is now the people have now been made fully aware of the power they hold in their own hands, of that power they have always held in their hands. Now, because of the internet, which makes an end run around official state controlled media, they can get information both in and out of a country ruled by an oppressive regime, and organize from the bottom up to resist. They can know their own numbers and communicate easily, where before there had been a lock and monopoly on mass communications that was most favorable to the powers that be, who could hoodwink the people into thinking "there aren't many who think like I do, we can't win." Now the people of the world know better. They CAN win.

Gandhi and Martin Luther King were two giants of liberty who gave a new paradigm to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and the Internet has made their message common around the world. People decide to hold peaceful demonstrations to voice concerns or redress grievances. Recall the million plus Tea Party people who hit Washington D.C. in September 2009. That crowd, the largest ever assembled in Washington D.C., was well-behaved, friendly within their collective presence, but were serious in demanding that the Federal

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government listen to their voice. What would have happened to that crowd had the government sent riot police or troops down upon those demonstrators in Washington D.C.?

While that demonstration brought no clash between the authorities and the people, this newest wave of public protests in Libya has drawn the wrath of the dictator, and something akin to civil war, or the beginnings of one, now dominates the headlines around the world.

Oath Keepers is of course closely watching the Libyan military's response to this situation with much interest. As we have always maintained, what the military does is a central question in whether a revolution is relatively peaceful and non-violent or a bloody and desperate fight to the death between a people and it's government. When the military as a whole sides with the people, peaceful revolution is indeed possible, as it was in East Germany in 1989, where the communist regime was ended by means of simple mass marches, as our recent [interview with an East German Colonel](#) shows. And even when the secret police and hired henchmen of a dictatorship obey orders to fire on the people, you can still have a relatively bloodless defeat of a dictator as happened in Romania or in Tunisia, where the secret police were overwhelmed when the military withdrew its consent and support and the dictatorship fell in a matter of days. Without the support of the military, a dictatorship is a paper tiger indeed, and however brutal the dictator may be, he will be swept aside in short order when the people have had enough.



However, when the whole of the military does not side with the people, and troops fight against their own people, it leads to a brutal crack down as we saw during the Prague Spring, at Tiananmen Square, or in Iran in 2009. Or it can lead to a desperate and protracted revolution, pitting the people against the standing military (as was the case in our own Revolution). When some military units side with the people, and others with the government, it leads to civil war.

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