

Libya's First Step to Sharia Law

NOTE: These two concessions to Sharia law are only the first step. You can be sure there will be more. Sharia law is not compatible with democracy as we understand the term.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/8844819/Libyas-liberation-interim-ruler-unveils-more-radical-than-expected-plans-for-Islamic-law.html>

Libya's liberation: interim ruler unveils more radical than expected plans for Islamic law



Mustafa Abdul Jalil, the chairman of the National Transitional Council Photo: AP



By [Richard Spencer](#)

Libya's interim leader outlined more radical plans to introduce Islamic law than expected as he declared the official liberation of the country.

8:15PM BST 23 Oct 2011

Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, the chairman of the National Transitional Council and de fact president, had already declared that [Libyan](#) laws in future would have Sharia, the Islamic code, as its "basic source".

But that formulation can be interpreted in many ways - it was also the basis of Egypt's largely secular constitution under President Hosni Mubarak, and remains so after his fall.

Mr Abdul-Jalil went further, **specifically lifting immediately, by decree, one law** from Col. Gaddafi's era that he said was in conflict with Sharia - that banning **polygamy**.

In a blow to those who hoped to see Libya's economy integrate further into the western world, he announced that in future **bank regulations would ban the charging of interest, in line with Sharia**. "Interest creates disease and hatred among people," he said.

Gulf states like the United Arab Emirates, and other Muslim countries, have pioneered the development of Sharia-compliant banks which charge fees rather than interest for loans but they normally run alongside western-style banks.

Libya is already the most conservative state in north Africa, **banning the sale of alcohol**. Mr Abdul-Jalil's decision - made in advance of the introduction of any democratic process - will please the **Islamists who have played a strong role in opposition to Col Gaddafi's rule** and in the uprising but worry the many young liberal Libyans who, while usually observant Muslims, take their political cues from the West.

http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/gaddafi-sharia-islamic-law/2011/10/23/id/415429?s=al&promo_code=D502-1

Libyan Leader Declares Nation Islamic, Sharia Law to be Implemented

Sunday, 23 Oct 2011 02:34 PM
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Libya's transitional leader declared his country's liberation Sunday after an 8-month civil war and set out plans for the future with an Islamist tone. The announcement was clouded, however, by international pressure to explain how ousted dictator Moammar Gadhafi had been captured alive days earlier, then ended up dead from a gunshot to his head shortly afterward.

Gadhafi's death in circumstances that are still unclear, and the gruesome spectacle of his body laid out as a trophy in a commercial freezer and on public view, are testing the new Libyan leaders' commitment to the rule of law. Even at the ceremony to declare liberation, a couple speakers in positions of authority essentially said Gadhafi got what he deserved.

But transitional government leader Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, who made the keynote speech, did not mention the events surrounding Gadhafi's end and called on his people to eschew hatred. "You should only embrace honesty, patience, and mercy," Abdul-Jalil told the crowd at the declaration ceremony in the eastern city of Benghazi, the birthplace of the uprising against Gadhafi. He urged Libyans to reconcile their differences.

And he laid out a vision for the post-Gadhafi future with an Islamist tint, saying Islamic Sharia law would be the "basic source" of legislation and **existing laws that contradict the teachings of Islam would be nullified**. In a gesture that showed his own piety, he urged Libyans not to express their joy by firing guns in the air, but rather to chant "Allahu Akbar," or God is Great. He then stepped aside from the podium and knelt to offer a brief prayer of thanks.

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The long-awaited declaration of liberation starts the clock on Libya's transition to democracy. The transitional leadership has said it would declare a new interim government within a month of liberation and elections for a constitutional assembly within eight months, to be followed by votes for a parliament and president within a year.

At the ceremony in Benghazi, Abdul-Jalil outlined **several changes to align with Islamic law**. "This revolution was looked after by God to achieve victory," he said.

Abdul-Jalil said **new banks would be set up to follow the Islamic banking system, which bans charging interest as a practice deemed usury**. For the time being, he said interest would be canceled from any personal loans already taken out and less than 10,000 Libyan dinars (about \$7,500).

He also announced the **annulment of an existing family law that limits the number of wives** Libyan can take, **contradicting the provision in the Muslim holy book, the Quran, that allows men up to four wives**.

Associated Press writers Jamal Halaby in Southern Shuneh, Jordan and Raphael G. Satter in London contributed to this report.

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