

**UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN CHIEF HIGHLIGHTS HUMANITARIAN
CONSEQUENCES OF CONTINUED FIGHTING IN LIBYA**

(New York, 17 March 2011): I am gravely concerned at reports of the increasing use of explosive weapons in populated areas in Libya.

The sustained shelling and bombardment of areas populated by civilians is causing widespread suffering. Moreover, the damage to buildings and infrastructure will lead to long term and far reaching problems for people as they try to rebuild their lives after fighting has ceased.

In this regard, I am particularly concerned at the potential humanitarian consequences of an assault on the city of Benghazi. I would call on the parties to take all possible measures to spare civilians from the effects of hostilities. That includes refraining from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

New York, 17 March 2011

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