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Cover story:
Rich philanthropists 'acting in poor taste'



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Air strike opposed

(China Daily)

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Brussels - Ahmod Essreati, aged 50, is a lawyer in Libya's port city Misurata. "I am totally against any military intervention in my country, my homeland," Essreati said.

"We can solve our own problems and no intervention, please," he continued.

Before the coalition forces led by France, US and UK bombed his city, Essreati was leading his fellow lawyers to help Chinese and other nationalities evacuate from his country. "There are some foreigners still left behind, and we are trying to protect their safety," Essreati said. "I hope they stop the war immediately."

A no-fly zone over Libyan airspace may restrict bombing runs by government jetfighters against the rebels, but it could also force the government to resort to land offensives and therefore increase its ground forces, said Manpavan Joth Kaur, a research analyst at the Center for Non-Traditional Security Studies, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

"Where would this enhancement of troops come from? Arguably, it could come from the ranks of his 'mercenaries', many of whom are from Sub-Saharan Africa," Kaur said.

He said the threat of the use of "mercenaries" has begun to seriously harm migrant Sub-Saharan Africans in Libya, although the exact use of "mercenaries" in Libya remains unsubstantiated.

China Daily

(China Daily 03/23/2011 page12)

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