

For Immediate Release

**STATEMENT OF BENJAMIN R. BARBER RESIGNING HIS MEMBERSHIP ON THE  
GOVERNING BOARD OF THE QADAFI INTERNATIONAL CHARITY AND  
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION**

**February 22, 2011**

New York— Today, Dr. Benjamin R. Barber, the internationally renowned political theorist and Distinguished Fellow at the policy center Demos, released the following statement announcing his resignation from the governing board of the Qaddafi Foundation:

*“As a member of the international governing board of the (Saif) Qaddafi International Charity and Development Foundation, I deplore the savage violence being unleashed on protestors in Libya. At our December Board meeting, we passed motions that made Saif Qaddafi, our former chair, an honorary chair, and that separated the charitable and human rights works of the foundation from any and all politics. From a technical point of view then, the work of the foundation remains honorable and important, and the role of its able and independent director, Dr. Youssef Sawani completely above politics--equally distant from the regime and its brutal policies.*

“But the position of the Foundation has now been made untenable by the country-wide repression of protesters by the most barbaric means, and the public declaration of the Foundation's honorary chairman, Saif Qaddafi, endorsing the repression and rationalizing the massacre of protesters. This current situation is completely contradictory to the stated intentions of the Foundation, and to the work the International Board has done on human rights and democratic reform in Libya--work that the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace described just last month (1/17/11) this way:

*the Qadhaffi Foundation was the country's only address for complaints about torture, arbitrary detention, and disappearances. The Foundation issued its first human rights report in 2009, cataloging abuses and calling for reforms, and a second report released in December 2010 regretted “a dangerous regression” in civil society and called for the authorities to lift their “stranglehold” on the media. In the interim, Saif assisted Human Rights Watch in conducting a groundbreaking press conference which launched a report in Tripoli in December 2009.*

“Given finally that the Foundation's honorable director Dr. Youssef Sawani has himself just resigned, expressing his 'dismay' at the violence, ***I herewith resign as a board member*** of the Foundation.”

Signed: Benjamin R. Barber

For more information or to schedule an interview with Dr. Barber, please contact:

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