

Excerpts from Chicago Breaking News article:

Farrakhan defends Libya's Gadhafi as 'brother'

By Manya Brachear

Tribune reporter

8:28 p.m. CDT, March 31, 2011

- “It is a terrible thing for me to hear my brother called all these ugly and filthy names when I can't recognize him as that,” Farrakhan said to the crowd assembled at the mosque on Chicago's South Side. “Even though the current tide is moving against him ...how can I refuse to raise my voice in his defense? Why would I back down from those who have given so much?”
- Though they haven't spoken since 2005, Farrakhan and Gadhafi have been allies for decades. In 1996, around the time Gadhafi shifted from pan-Arab to pan-African ambitions, Farrakhan was criticized for traveling to meet the leader in Tripoli.
- The following year, Gadhafi addressed Nation of Islam members via satellite, lauding Farrakhan for being a “courageous freedom fighter” who galvanized African-Americans at the Million Man March in Washington, D.C. and Muslims in nations around the world. During that speech, Gadhafi panned America for taxing poor people, who the Libyan leader said do not benefit from space exploration or support of “a Hebrew state.”
- “The stupid mistake we make is assuming the president is the supreme power,” Farrakhan said. “The mad dogs are growling and grinding in Washington, D.C.,” referring to one of Gadhafi's nicknames, “Mad Dog of the Middle East.”
- To his credit, Gadhafi has helped build infrastructure and put food on the table in extremely poor African nations, she said. But in doing so he has backed “pretty nasty regimes,” Bronson said.
- At one point in his talk on Thursday, Farrakhan projected photographs featuring Gadhafi in the cheerful company of European leaders including former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. Farrakhan blamed those leaders for “lulling 1/8 Gadhafi 3/8 to sleep” before they went after him.
- Kamm Howard of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America lauded Farrakhan for speaking the truth on Thursday. Howard said he believes the rebels are murdering Libyans of African descent and said nations who go against Gadhafi are guilty of ethnic cleansing.

<http://www.chicagobreakingnews.com/news/loc>