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AFRICA/LIBYA - More civilian victims and thousands of Libyans taking flight, reports the Apostolic Vicar of Tripoli, who still sees "glimmers of peace"

Tripoli (Agenzia Fides) - "Yesterday, April 1, in Sirte, eight civilians, mostly women and children were killed by bombs released by the international forces," Nishop Giovanni Innocenzo Martinelli, Apostolic Vicar of Tripoli tells Fides.
The previous complaint by Bishop Martinelli about civilian casualties of the bombing (see Fides 31/03/2011) elicited a response from NATO headquarters in Brussels who said that they will verify the news. The Apostolic Vicar of Tripoli says "the Libyan people are fed up with this situation. According to the latest information I have received, fears due to the bombing and fighting have driven some 400,000 Libyans to find refuge in Tunisia and Egypt."
"I still see glimmers of peace," adds Bishop Martinelli. "The talks in London with an envoy of one of Gheddafi's sons are a sign that something is happening." As revealed by the British press in recent days, Mohammed Ismail came to London. He works closely with Saif al-Islam, one of the sons of the Libyan leader, who met with representatives of the British Government.
"Yesterday, our small community celebrated two Masses: one at 9.00 am in Filipino, and the second at 10.30 am for Africans and other Filipinos. We read the Gospel passage about the blind man who regains his sight - a symbol of this humanity, blinded by the war, but not losing hope that the light of reason is regained," concludes Bishop Martinelli. (L.M.) (Agenzia Fides 2/4/2011)

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