Opinion  
**LETTER: Libya action was warranted​**

Monday, April 11th, 2011

The key difference between the protests in Libya and other Near East countries is the governmental response, which was heading toward a genocide before the U.S. and its allies took the bold step of intervention. There was clearly a dire threat to civilians in Libya, and this is what prompted such an urgent response.  
  
Many countries have accepted responsibility to protect civilians when a sovereign government is unwilling or unable to do so, and it is not enough to make promises. When there is a clear call to action, something must be done.  
  
When President Bill Clinton was interviewed after he left office, he stated that his greatest regret was not intervening in Rwanda during the genocide there in 1994; 800,000 Rwandans were murdered by their own countrymen and the conflict lasted just 100 days.  
  
With all the decisions President Barack Obama has to make each day, I believe he will look back on March 2011 as a time when he took decisive action as others were willing to stand idly by and create yet another generation of bystanders to human suffering.  
  
Jim Messina, New Haven CT

**URL: http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2011/04/11/opinion/doc4d9f85dc9ee2b966996901.prt**

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***The letter was written in response to this letter:***

# Why do problems at home take back seat to the world’s?

Monday, April 4, 2011  
  
I am a supporter of President Barack Obama. I am one of his biggest fans. Therefore, I listened carefully to his speech on Libya.  
  
At a time when Americans are witnessing an economic crisis comparable to the Great Depression, with unemployment numbers, food costs and gas prices through the roof, why is it in our best interests to protect the protesters in Libya? Why aren’t we protecting the protesters in Yemen and in Syria?  
  
In short, why should the issues surrounding the citizens of America take a backseat to any other nation?  
  
So, I take issue with his priority in this regard.

Christopher J. McNeil, Hamden, CT