

For Europe, Alberta oil is too dirty. Isn't Libyan oil too bloody?

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Where did Moammar Gadhafi, the brutal dictator of Libya, get the money to pay the foreign mercenaries who are butchering his people? How did he pay for those French-made fighter jets strafing protesters?

Europe, mainly. Europe buys 80% of Libya's oil. Other than terrorism, that's pretty much the only thing Libya exports.

That would be the same Europe against which Gadhafi's regime committed most of its terrorism. In 1984, the Libyan embassy in London opened fire on peaceful protesters outside, mowing down 11 of them and killing a 25-year-old police officer named Yvonne Fletcher.

Gadhafi was just getting warmed up. In 1986, he bombed a Berlin nightclub killing three people and injuring 230. In 1988, he bombed a 747 jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing all 259 people aboard and 11 on the ground. In 1989, he bombed a plane flying from Chad to Paris, killing 170.

But to European politicians, oil is thicker than blood.

So two years ago, the U.K. released the Lockerbie terrorist mastermind. Abdelbaset al-Megrahi was just eight years into a life sentence when the Scottish government let him out on "compassionate grounds." He was welcomed back to Libya as a hero, with Gadhafi's son greeting him at the airport.

British Petroleum admits it lobbied for a prisoner transfer agreement with Libya — it denied any role in al-Megrahi's release — to help clinch a business deal. No point letting the Italians get all the Libyan action. A few years ago, they built a \$7-billion pipeline under the Mediterranean to bring natural gas over from Libya. Germany, France and Spain are happy customers, too. Together, Europe buys \$100 million worth of oil from Gadhafi. Every day.

None of this is news. It's olds. It's been going on for years. What's new is last week, the very week when Gadhafi and his son told the world they'd fight democracy protesters to the last bullet, was the week the European Union chose to criticize Canada's oilsands because — get this — they say we have 20 more grams of carbon dioxide per megajoule of oil than Libya does.

It's true, it takes more energy to produce oil from Canada's oilsands than from Libya's desert because we have to steam it out of the sand.

European oil imports from Iraq and Nigeria have the same carbon footprint as our oilsands. Those countries burn off the natural gas that comes up when they

pump oil — an illegal environmental practice in Canada. And oil from Hugo Chavez's Venezuela has even higher carbon emissions.

Our European friends are silent on all of this.

It's showboating, since Canada only exports oil to the United States. If Europe wants to make a big deal out of not liking the oil we're not selling to them anyway, that's fine. But fair's fair. If they don't like Canadian oil because of 20 grams of CO₂, let's insist they swear off oil with blood in it.

Reports put Gadhafi's spree at 1,000 people dead. The human body has about 185 ounces of blood. So that's 185,000 ounces of blood, not counting the blood of Libyans who were only injured. Divide that into Libya's 1.3 million barrels per day, and you've got 4 ml of blood per barrel of crude.

So about as much blood as would fit in a tube of lipstick.

Who should Europe buy its oil from instead? Sudan, the butchers of Darfur? Iran, to finance nuclear weapons? Saudi Arabia, funder of the world's terrorists?

But judge not lest ye be judged! They love their Audis and BMWs in Europe, so much.

So if Gadhafi destroys his oil wells as he says he might, and if Egypt blocks the Suez Canal, and if other OPEC tyrants fall, let's set aside a few barrels of the ethical stuff to sell to Europe.

At \$150 or \$200 a barrel, we won't even need to say "told you so."