

ميدل ايست اونلاين

MIDDLE EAST ONLINE

Home

Arab Gates ▾

Opinion

Business

Culture

Features

Letters

Links

Contact us

الصفحة العربية

First Published 2006-03-03, Last Updated 2006-03-06 16:06:37



War of words erupts

Alessandra Mussolini hits back at Libya

Dictator Mussolini's granddaughter says Libyans would still be on 'camels' if it hadn't been for her grandfather.

ROME - Italian MEP Alessandra Mussolini stoked an increasingly bitter row with Libya on Friday, saying its people would still be riding camels if the country had not been occupied by fascist forces under her grandfather, dictator Benito Mussolini.

Mussolini was speaking after Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi threatened further attacks on Italians if Tripoli's compensation claim for decades of colonisation remained unheeded.

"If it hadn't been for my grandfather they would still be riding camels with turbans on their heads," said Mussolini, whose far-right political group has signed a pre-election pact with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi ahead of April 9 polls.

"They are the ones who should be paying us compensation, because it was a positive colonisation. Fascism exported democracy, as well as roads, houses and schools," she said.

Relations between the two countries have dipped sharply after

News

► **Mideast neig Iraq turmoil**

► **Mideast pea town**

► **Turkey says against Kurd r**

► **Abbas meet first since Gaz**

► **Wanted in L lips and Haifa'**

► **Bahrain say bomb**

► **Spain confir visit to Ceuta,**

► **France, Syri meet since 200**

► **Polish soldi**

► **Rice: no Let 'compromises**

Libyan rioters razed the Italian consulate in Benghazi on February 17, ostensibly over an Italian minister wearing a T-shirt satirising the Prophet Mohammed.

Kadhafi said in a televised speech on Thursday that while the violence was regrettable, it was a result of the "accumulated wrongs since 1911, of repression and injustice suffered by the Libyan people under Italian occupation."

He called on Italy to "compensate the Libyan people for the deaths and refugees (of the colonial period), to avoid a (social) explosion against its interests, its companies and its nationals."

Italy had already occupied Libya for more than a decade before Mussolini came to power in 1922.

Print

Printer Friendly Version

Send to friends

▲ Top