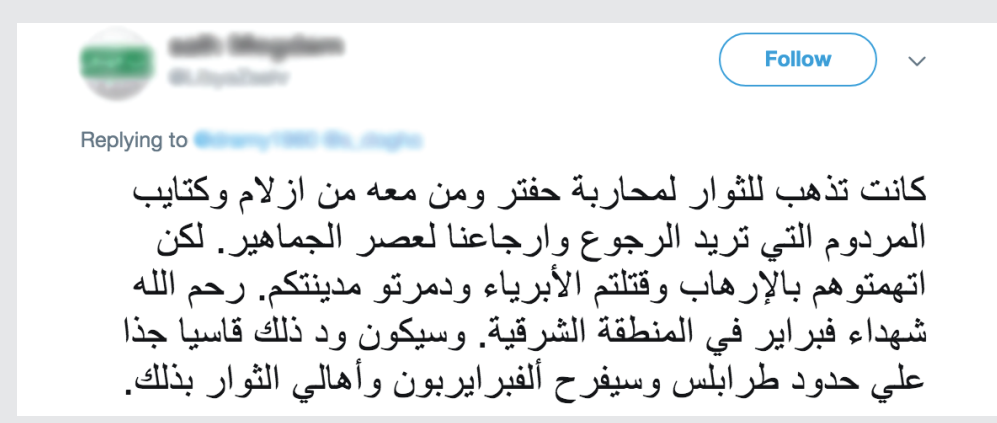


## 16. ازلام / Azlam


**Other spellings and related references:** الطابور الخامس / *taboor khamis* (English translation: *fifth column, i.e., Gaddafi supporters in the form of sleeper cells*); طحالب / *tuhalib*

### Sample Posts:



كانت تذهب للثوار لمحاربة حفتر ومن معه من ازلام وكتايب المردوم التي تريد الرجوع وارجاعنا لعصر الجماهير. لكن اتهمتهم بالإرهاب وقتلتم الأبرياء ودمرتو مدينتكم. رحم الله شهداء فبراير في المنطقة الشرقية. وسيكون ود ذلك قاسيا جدا علي حدود طرابلس وسيفرح ألفبرايرون وأهالي الثوار بذلك.

English translation: “went to the revolutionaries to fight Haftar and his people from the azlam that wanted to go back to the era of the masses. But accused them of terrorism and killed innocent people and destroyed your city. May God rest the martyrs of February in the eastern region. The response to this will be very harsh on the borders of Tripoli and February’s people and the rebel people will be released.”



تحسابهم مش فاهمين؟ عرفين كويس ان حفتر ومن معه من ازلام جايبين لاحتلال طرابلس.

English translation: “Do you imagine that we are not understanding? We knew that Haftar and those with him from azlam are coming to occupy Tripoli.”

**Definition:** The term “azlam” means followers of Gaddafi. This term is linked in its meaning with “tuhalib,” or “algae,” though, according to focus group participants in Benghazi, it is considered less offensive as it applies mainly to close associates of Gaddafi and those who directly benefited from his regime rather than anyone who broadly supported him. It originated during the 2011 uprising against Gaddafi.

**Why it’s offensive and inflammatory:** Similar to “tuhalib,” this term is used less in the present day than it was during the 2011 uprising, though the use of this term also increases around the