

# Mail Online

## Colonel Gaddafi's son buys £10m Hampstead mansion

By [Christopher Leake](#) and [Daniel Boffey, Mail on Sunday Reporter](#)  
Last updated at 12:17 AM on 23rd August 2009

The favourite son of Colonel Gaddafi, who played a key role in Abdelbaset Al Megrahi's release, has bought a £10million home in one of London's wealthiest and most prestigious suburbs.

The neo-Georgian eight-bedroom property bought by Saif al-Islam Gaddafi in a secluded road in Hampstead, North London, boasts a swimming pool, sauna room, Jacuzzi and suede-lined cinema room where he will be able to monitor world events.

The house even has an electrically operated rubbish store, which raises and lowers eight bins into the ground before a steel plate folds over to hide them discreetly.



**Saif Gaddafi welcomes Al Megrahi as he arrives back in Libya**

Last Thursday, Saif stepped off one of his father's private planes at a military base in the Libyan capital Tripoli alongside Al Megrahi, who was welcomed by cheering crowds.

Al Megrahi's release from a Scottish jail came just a fortnight after Business Secretary Lord Mandelson discussed the case with Saif during a holiday at the home of the Rothschild banking family on the Greek island of Corfu.

Yesterday, Lord Mandelson admitted he held another meeting with Saif in May.

The official meeting for trade talks took place less than three weeks after an agreement was ratified between Libya and the UK allowing prison transfers.

The Labour peer has insisted the decision to free 57-year-old Al Megrahi was made by the Scottish Government alone.

Saif, Colonel Gaddafi's likely heir, has, like his father, become close to the Duke of York.

He has held several meetings with the Duke, and has visited both Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.

In May, Prince Andrew opened a new British Embassy in Algiers at the same time as Saif was in the Algerian capital.

A spokesman for Prince Andrew said last night that he was not aware of any discussions with Colonel Gaddafi's son about the release of Al Megrahi.

He added: 'The Duke's visits to Libya have been focused on trade and investment.

'It is his job to develop long-term relations with key figures in the countries he visits, including Libya.'



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**Luxury: The £10m home in Hampstead boasts a swimming pool and sauna**

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**The mansion also includes a home cinema room and is protected by CCTV and its own private security company**

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Saif's new, air-conditioned mansion is protected by state-of-the-art CCTV cameras and his own private security team.

Neighbours in the quiet street, not far from the exclusive millionaire's row of Bishops Avenue, revealed last night how Saif, 36, had moved into the newly-built house three weeks ago.

One neighbour said: 'I saw a big entourage in blacked-out cars arrive at the house.'

'There were a few men, three women who were covered and a couple of bodyguards, big blokes. They made quite a show of turning up.

'They stayed for three days and the bodyguards were on the drive the whole time. They were quite an officious lot.

'One of the builders working on the development of the property opposite was told to move his van from the front of the house just in case they needed to make a quick getaway.

'I haven't seen them since and the windows have got their slats up. I suppose Saif must have been quite busy in recent weeks.'

Another neighbour, an Iraqi, said: 'I think it's great. With the Gaddafis around there won't be many break-ins.

'Everyone is saying Gaddafi's cousin is going to buy the house opposite, too.

'They can all come and live here as far as I am concerned.'

The most likely of Colonel Gaddafi's cousins to want a home in London is Khalifa Hnaish, the dictator's right-hand man, who has reportedly been given the task of persuading exiled Libyans back to their homeland.

Many Libyans who fled Gaddafi's regime now live in London.

Hnaish is head of external security under the regime and is also understood to have a close relationship with Colonel Gaddafi's sons.

Saif's new home was bought mortgage-free by Capitana Seas Ltd, a holding company registered in the British Virgin Islands.

The property opposite was bought by Five Star Properties for £4.5million last year and is being developed by Regency Homes.

Saif's four-level, double-fronted property has underfloor heating throughout and comes complete with two dishwashers, microwaves, as well as fridges and freezers.

A source close to the sale said last night: 'For someone of this kind of standing, the property is ideally positioned. It is close to two golf courses and is not far from RAF Northolt, Elstree and Luton airports.

'Mr Gaddafi will probably spend a few days at a time at his new house, but it is very well appointed and has the facilities one would expect for the price.'

Saif caused further outrage last week by claiming that Al Megrahi's release was linked to oil and gas negotiations discussed by Tony Blair when he visited Libya as Prime Minister.

Colonel Gaddafi has added to the controversy by thanking the Queen and Gordon Brown for 'encouraging' the decision to free the convicted bomber.

The Libyan leader said the move to release Al Megrahi would boost relations between Libya and Britain and he thanked the Scottish authorities for their 'humanitarian and brave' decision and those who invited it.

Foreign Secretary David Miliband said suggestions that the release was linked to improving relations was 'a slur on both myself and the Government'.

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He's not emigrating to the UK, he's bought a house like many non residents do..... "Nothing to do with being the gaffers son. I suppose they would say "but you lot have got Prince Charles". What can one say? - trevn, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 23/8/2009 10:16" Well they'd be right wouldn't they. The UK has a medieval hereditary Royal family kept in a manner most can only dream about by the taxpayer.

- Lilo Lil, Liverpool UK, 23/8/2009 14:00

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Just shows you what a corrupt and devious Government we have here.

- jacqui weems, Southampton, 23/8/2009 12:48

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Now we know why Ronnie Biggs was let out. They couldn't allow the Lockerbie Bomber out while keeping Ronnie Biggs ( also supposedly dying) in prison. He was let out to pave the way for the Libyan.

- William, Sussex UK, 23/8/2009 11:39

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- GB, London, 23/8/2009 11:21

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- chris, Woodbridge, 23/8/2009 11:07

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Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

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