

APRIL 30: NATO aircraft conducted 165 sorties on April 30, of which 43 were designated strikes sorties. In the vicinity of Tripoli, one command and control building and seven ammunition storage sites were destroyed. Around Zintan, two ammunition storage sites were destroyed. In Misrata, one tank was destroyed and around Sirte, one tank was destroyed. At sea, 14 vessels were hailed, two were boarded, and none were diverted. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 30: Tunisian troops have been patrolling the Tunisian border town of Dehiba, about three miles from Libya, in a bid to find pro-Qaddafi forces that crossed into Tunisia while fighting rebels. On Thursday, pro-Qaddafi fighters and rebels engaged in a bloody battle for control of the border post between Dehiba and the Libyan town of Wazin, leaving dozens dead and at least 20 wounded. Qaddafi forces captured Wazin after it had been held by rebels for a week. The Tunisian Foreign Ministry summoned Libyan representatives in Tunis gave a “very strong protest” against the Libyan incursions. Tunisian forces had reportedly captured pro-Qaddafi forces and returned them to Libya. ([LA Times](#), [Washington Post](#))

APRIL 29: NATO aircraft conducted 156 sorties on April 29, of which 55 were designated strikes sorties. In the vicinity of Tripoli, one command and control building and one self-propelled artillery piece were destroyed. Around Zintan, thirteen ammunition storage sites and one APC were destroyed. Near Brega, one armored fighting vehicle was destroyed and around Sirte, four ammunition storage sites were destroyed. At sea, 20 vessels were hailed, one was boarded, and none were diverted. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 29: According to NATO officials, pro-Qaddafi forces in small vessels were laying mines in the Misrata harbor in order to block humanitarian aid access to the city. NATO warships intercepted the vessels, detained the crews and disposed of the mines. ([Reuters](#), [BBC](#))

APRIL 29: The Tunisian Foreign Ministry expressed its “extreme indignation” to the Libyan government after fighting between pro-Qaddafi forces and rebels spilled into its territory near the border towns of Wezen in Libya and Dehiba in Tunisia. Pro-Qaddafi forces and rebels have been fighting for control of Wezen for days, hoping to capture the border post that is the lifeline of the rebellion in the Western Mountains. Tunisian troops are reported to have clashed with and captured pro-Qaddafi soldiers on Tunisian soil. ([Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#), [BBC](#))

APRIL 29: In a closed-door Security Council meeting on Libya, U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice said that loyalist troops were increasingly engaging in sexual violence against Libyan civilians and stated that some troops had been issued Viagra to engage in rape. Several diplomats said Ambassador Rice provided no evidence for the Viagra allegation, which was first reported by the British press, but she raised the issue while trying to make the case that Qaddafi was committing war crimes against civilians. No diplomats responded to Rice’s accusation in the meeting. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 28: Italian warplanes conducted their first airstrikes against Libyan targets on April 28, just two days after the Italian government indicated it would participate in NATO bombing runs against pro-Qaddafi forces. The Italian Defense Ministry said the airstrikes were conducted by several Italian Tornado aircraft that took off from Trapani air base in Sicily. ([Defense News](#))

APRIL 28: French warplanes are dropping inert bombs packed with concrete instead of explosives to destroy pro-Qaddafi tanks in an effort to avoid killing civilians by limiting the amount of shrapnel thrown out. The French military denied rumors that the use of the 300-kilogram (660-pound) training devices was due to a shortage of laser-guided bombs and said the first such strike crushed an armored vehicle on April 26. French warplanes have conducted 216

sorties over Libya in the past week and destroyed targets including fifteen armored vehicles and an ammunition depot. ([AFP](#))

APRIL 28: NATO Officials could not confirm whether an airstrike accidentally killed a dozen rebels in Misrata, but the alliance expressed its regret for any loss of life in its mission to protect civilians. A rebel leader in Misrata avoided blaming NATO for the strike, saying the rebel fighters had moved past limits of advance NATO had given them, and put themselves at risk. NATO and the rebels have been taking precautions to avoid friendly fire incidents, such as marking rebel vehicles and reporting their precise fighting positions to NATO. ([New York Times](#), [LA Times](#))

APRIL 28: NATO aircraft conducted 142 sorties on April 28, of which 67 were designated strike sorties. Around Tripoli, a command and control building, a helicopter maintenance area, seven ammunition storage bunkers, and five infantry fighting vehicles were destroyed. In the vicinity of Zintan, one ammunition storage facility was destroyed while around Brega, a command and control building was destroyed. At sea, 24 vessels were hailed, one was boarded, and none were diverted. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 28: A NATO warplane struck a rebel position on the front lines of Misrata, killing 12 rebel fighters and wounding five that had set up defensive positions in an abandoned salt factory near the port. Rebels called an accident that could have been avoided because they had previously informed NATO of their fighting position. NATO has intensified its airstrikes on pro-Qaddafi forces in recent days, and rebel leaders were reluctant to admit the accident so as not to discourage NATO airstrikes. This is the third friendly fire incident between NATO and the rebels since coalition operations began in mid-March. NATO officials said they were aware of the reports but could not confirm or deny the strike yet. ([New York Times](#), [BBC](#), [Washington Post](#))

APRIL 27: British Defense Secretary Liam Fox, when asked in Parliament if ground troops would be needed in Libya for humanitarian purposes or to protect safe havens or its borders, said it was “something we may have to look at.” Fox quickly reiterated that there was “no intention to deploy any British troops on the border with Libya.” Fox stated that the Libya mission was becoming more demanding on the over-stretched British military than ministers had initially hoped, but insisted the mission was consistent as the British government slashes defense spending, stating the British operation was being paid for by the Treasury reserve, not the defense budget. ([Daily Telegraph](#))

APRIL 27: U.S. ambassador to Libya Gene Cretz said that the rebel government is a “political body which is worthy of our support.” Yet the United States is not ready to extend official recognition to the rebels as France, Italy and Qatar have done. ([LA Times](#))

APRIL 27: U.S. ambassador to Libya Gene A. Cretz said that U.S. officials had seen estimates of the dead in Libya ranging from 10,000 to 30,000 people. Cretz did not offer any explanation or evidence for the estimate. ([New York Times](#))

APRIL 27: NATO aircraft conducted 119 sorties on April 27, of which 41 were designated strike sorties. Around Tripoli, a communications facility; two vehicle storage buildings; and one surface-to-air missile storage facility were destroyed. In Misrata, two rocket launchers, two artillery vehicles, and one armored personnel carrier were destroyed. In the vicinity of Mizdah, seven ammunition storage bunkers were destroyed while around Sirte, twelve ammunition storage bunkers were destroyed. At sea, 20 vessels were hailed, two were boarded, and none were diverted. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 27: An Emirati F-16 fighter crashed as it landed on a runway at the Sigonella Naval Air Station in Sicily, Italy. The F-16, which had departed from Decimomannu Airbase in Sardinia, Italy, was part of the UAE’s contribution to Operation Unified Protector. The pilot safely ejected, but the F-16 suffered substantial damage and the runway was temporarily shut down. ([Reuters](#), [AVIO](#), [NATO](#))

APRIL 27: NATO airstrikes forced loyalist forces to withdraw from a position in the city of Misrata overnight but they resumed bombardment of the port area. A loyalist offensive of 200 to 300 fighters in pickup trucks backed by a heavy artillery barrage attacked Misrata's port, but NATO airstrikes and rebel reinforcements staved off the offensive. ([Wall Street Journal](#), [Reuters](#))

APRIL 27: After abstaining from conducting airstrikes since allied operations in Libya began over a month ago, Italian Defense Minister Ignazio La Russa said Italy would immediately contribute eight warplanes to conduct airstrikes against pro-Qaddafi forces. The Italian strike group includes four Tornado fighter aircraft and four AV8 Harrier attack aircraft. Additionally, four Italian F-16 fighters will continue to patrol the no-fly zone. This comes after pressure from President Nicholas Sarkozy and President Barack Obama on Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi to increase his country's role in the NATO mission, Berlusconi then decided to increase Italy's "operational flexibility" in Libya. ([RIA](#), [Associated Press](#))

APRIL 27: The U.S. Treasury Department has approved allowing U.S. companies to receive oil exports from the rebel government. Any oil purchases from Libya, however, must supply a report to the U.S. government detailing the arrangements to ensure the deal does not violate U.N. and U.S. sanctions imposed on Libya. ([UPI](#), [Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 26: NATO is expanding its air campaign by launching strikes against command and control facilities and other regime buildings used by Qaddafi and his top aides in Tripoli. NATO officials said the escalation is meant to sever Qaddafi's communication and supply links with loyalist units fighting the rebels in the East. However, some NATO officials indicated the goal was to hit directly at the pillars of the regime including Qaddafi himself. Lt. Gen. Charles Bouchard said the airstrikes were "not about individuals" and "not about regime change." Bouchard stated that airstrikes would focus on "command-and-control nodes that are utilized to order military personnel to engage the civilian population." ([LA Times](#), [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#))

APRIL 26: Qaddafi's regime imported gasoline from Italian refiner Saras earlier in the month by taking advantage of a loophole in U.N. sanctions that permits purchases by companies not on a list of banned entities. The cargo was delivered to Libya via ship-to-ship transfer in Tunisia. The shipment was allowed under U.N. sanctions because Libya's General National Maritime Transport Company (GNMTC) which owns the Libyan ship is not on a U.N. blacklist. GNMTC is owned by Hannibal Qaddafi, one of Muammar Qaddafi's sons. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 26: NATO officials have indicated they are intercepting cell phone conversations, radio communications and other communications to find facilities used by Qaddafi's inner circle. NATO has also received intelligence that some Libyan soldiers had abandoned their positions and fled. ([LA Times](#), [New York Times](#))

APRIL 26: According to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a delegation of Libyan officials is in Venezuela to discuss possible peaceful solutions to the conflict. Chavez has been a vocal opponent of NATO's intervention in Libya and is a close ally of Qaddafi. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 26: The White House has approved an authorization to send \$25 million in nonlethal assistance to the rebels. ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 26: NATO aircraft conducted 123 sorties on April 26, of which 52 were designated strikes sorties. In Misrata, six military vehicles, seven technical vehicles and one surface-to-air missile launcher were destroyed. Around Al-Khums, four tanks and two Heavy Equipment Transporter trucks were destroyed. In Brega, one rocket launchers and three military vehicles were destroyed. In Mizdah, eight ammunition bunkers were destroyed. At sea, 22 vessels were hailed, one was boarded, and none were diverted. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 26: Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi announced that Italy will begin taking part in airstrikes on Libya. Italian aircraft had previously not been participating in air-to-ground strikes, but enforcing the no-fly zone and providing other support such as bases and reconnaissance aircraft. Berlusconi's decision was seen as yielding to coalition pressure from France, Britain and the United States. He made the decision after meeting in Rome with President Nicholas Sarkozy and speaking to President Obama. Berlusconi's decision immediately created tension within Italy's coalition government. ([Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#), [BBC](#), [AKI](#))

APRIL 26: The United States and Britain are to begin examining new ways to undermine Qaddafi's forces inside Libya, particularly whether actions can be taken to cut fuel supplies to its forces on the ground. Fuel supplies have become a major focus inside the British government in recent days. According to one official, Qaddafi's forces could become very vulnerable if their supply of diesel fuel dries up and the country does not have much refining capacity. ([Financial Times](#))

APRIL 26: Foreign Secretary William Hague briefed the British cabinet about the situation in Libya, indicating that progress was being made in putting greater pressure on Qaddafi and there were "grounds for optimism". However, a spokesman for Prime Minister David Cameron said, "We must prepare for the long haul." ([BBC](#))

APRIL 26: British Defence Secretary Liam Fox is set to meet U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in Washington for discussions on the conflict. They will be accompanied by talks between British Chief of Defence Staff General Sir David Richards and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen. ([Financial Times](#))

APRIL 26: The African Union accused Western nations of undermining its peacemaking efforts and said the civil war was in danger of becoming a stalemate. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 25: U.S. officials indicated that the first shipment of food aid from U.S. farms, part of a \$5 million donation of food for Libya, arrived in Alexandria, Egypt. U.S. officials said the U.N. World Food Program would store the food stuffs for use if the situation in Libya deteriorates. U.S. officials fear that the fragile food supply chain in Libya will begin to break down if the fighting continues because Libya is a net food importer. Yet conditions in Libya had improved in recent days, Misrata, where rebels took the last government position in the city, no longer required emergency food aid. The United States is providing a total of \$47 million in humanitarian aid in Libya, much of which is going towards evacuating foreign workers trying to flee the country. ([Washington Post](#), [Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 25: The Libyan government accused NATO of trying to assassinate Qaddafi after allied warplanes fired two missiles at buildings in Qaddafi's compound in Tripoli. NATO stated the bombing was a precision strike against a communications headquarters used to coordinate attacks on civilians. The Obama administration denied that the strike was intended to kill Qaddafi, White House spokesman Jay Carney said it was, "certainly not the policy of the coalition, of this administration, to decapitate, if you will, or to effect regime change in Libya by force." ([Washington Post](#), [LA Times](#))

APRIL 25: NATO aircraft conducted 133 sorties on April 25, of which 56 were designated strikes sorties. In Tripoli, one intelligence complex was destroyed while in the vicinity of Tripoli one tank, three surface-to-air missile launchers, three infantry fighting vehicles, one rocket launcher and one vehicle depot were struck. In Misrata, one surface-to-air missile training facility was destroyed. In Sirte, three ammunition depots were destroyed. In Al-Khums, two tanks and two infantry fighting vehicles were destroyed. At sea, 30 vessels were hailed, three were boarded and none diverted. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 25: NATO warplanes dropped two bombs on Qaddafi's sprawling Bab al-Aziziya compound in Tripoli, causing severe damage to at least two buildings but apparently causing no major injuries. One building reportedly contained

offices and a library used by Qaddafi, who was unharmed in the raid, the other was where Qaddafi had held meetings with African Union leaders earlier in the month. NATO planes also struck the state television station, causing it to go offline for about half an hour. Before the compound was hit, NATO forces appeared to be ratcheting up strikes against targets in Tripoli, destroying an underground bunker just outside the compound two days ago. ([Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#), [BBC](#), [CNN](#))

APRIL 25: The African Union reported that Libya's foreign minister Abdelati Obeidi and two rebel representatives were meeting separately with the AU Peace and Security Council in Addis Ababa to discuss a possible solution to the conflict. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 25: Rebel leader Mustafa Abdel Jalil indicated that Kuwait had agreed to give 50 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$177 million) to the rebel government to help pay workers. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 25: British Foreign Secretary William Hague expressed doubt that Qaddafi's forces would withdrawal from Misrata, and the pause in fighting may be an attempt by Qaddafi's men to switch to move asymmetric tactics. ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 25: Rebel leaders indicated that oil shipments, made in conjunction with Qatar, would have to be halted for at least four weeks following Qaddafi strikes on two oil fields over the weekend. ([UPI](#))

APRIL 24: The effort to freeze the Qaddafi regime's foreign assets is running into problems and resistance across the globe which is allowing Qaddafi to access a vast hoard of cash that is keeping his regime afloat during the rebellion. Although the United States and the Europeans have frozen more than \$60 billion in Libyan assets, many nations have done little or nothing against Qaddafi's sprawling commercial empire, which fueled by oil revenues, has spread Libyan business interests across Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Since the end of sanctions in 2003, Qaddafi has hoarded a reserve of \$104.5 billion in cash and gold in Libya. Officials acknowledged Qaddafi has transferred billions of dollars back to Tripoli since the rebellion began and his access to cash has hampered efforts to persuade his inner circle and military commands to defect. Countries such as China, Russia, India, Turkey, Kenya and Zimbabwe have either hesitated to enforce U.N. sanctions or not done so at all. In several instances, governments in developing nations lack the technical capability to trace assets with hidden connections to Qaddafi. ([LA Times](#))

APRIL 24: NATO aircraft conducted 143 sorties on April 22, of which 62 were designated strikes sorties. In Tripoli, one communications headquarters was destroyed while in the vicinity of Tripoli one ammunition storage site and an ammunition bunker were destroyed. In Misrata, one tank and one ammunition storage site were destroyed. In Sirte, four ammunition Shelters and four ammunition bunkers were destroyed. In Mizdah, one tank and four rocket launchers were destroyed. Around Zintan, two infantry fighting vehicles were destroyed. At sea, 421 vessels were hailed, none were boarded or diverted. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 24: Senators Joe Lieberman, John McCain and Lindsey Graham, members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, have urged the United States to increase its support to the rebels and military pressure on the Qaddafi regime with U.S. warplanes returning to NATO's air campaign. McCain and Lieberman have urged support for a well-trained, equipped, well-supported rebel forces to beat Qaddafi on the ground, while Graham urged NATO to strike at Qaddafi and his inner-circle in Tripoli. ([Washington Times](#), [The Hill](#))

APRIL 23: The first airstrike by a U.S. Predator drone occurred around Misrata on Saturday, destroying a rocket-launching vehicle. A second Predator strike occurred later Saturday according to NATO officials. The deployment of armed drones last week was widely taken as the Obama administration moving to quell criticism it was not doing enough in Libya while not substantially escalating U.S. involvement. ([New York Times](#), [LA Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 23: NATO aircraft conducted 144 sorties on April 23, of which 56 were designated strikes sorties. Near Tripoli, one surface to air site was destroyed. In Misrata, one tank, one command and control bunker, one semi truck, three heavy equipment transporters, four multiple rocket launchers, two vehicle storage buildings, one antenna, and three artillery rocket launchers were destroyed. In Sirte, one bunker, one tank, one armored vehicle, and three other vehicles were destroyed. At sea, 18 vessels were hailed, none were boarded or diverted. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 22: Senator John McCain, visiting rebels in Benghazi, urged the United States and its allies to intensify its airstrikes and facilitate weapons deliveries help the rebels in a call for escalating the U.S. role in the intervention. McCain also urged the United States to officially recognize the rebel government. McCain urged NATO to bomb Qaddafi's television station. McCain also reiterated his opposition to deploying U.S. ground forces to assist the rebels; however, he did urge the United States and others to deliver arms to the rebels citing the precedent of the U.S. funneling weapons through Pakistan to the Afghan mujahedeen in the 1980s to fight the Soviets. McCain stated he was not concerned about Islamic extremism taking hold among the rebels, warning that allowing the current standoff to continue could create more extremism. ([LA Times](#))

APRIL 22: NATO aircraft conducted 138 sorties on April 22, of which 59 were designated strikes sorties. Near Tripoli, two command and control bunkers were destroyed. In Misrata, three tanks, one bunker, one early warning radar, and one surface to air radar were destroyed. Around Zintan, two tanks and two bunkers were destroyed, around Mizdah, three ammunition storage bunkers were destroyed. Around Ras Lanuf, one tank and an armored vehicle were destroyed. At sea, 47 vessels were hailed and one was boarded. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 22: Two U.S. Predator drones, armed with Hellfire missiles, flew their first mission in Libya before bad weather forced the sortie to be cut short. The drones are able to stay aloft for long periods of time, fly low enough to positively identify targets, and carry smaller payloads than those found on NATO's ground attack aircraft. These capabilities are in demand in Libya; fast-moving NATO aircraft have had trouble recognizing enemy vehicles, and combat is increasingly focused in crowded urban areas where heavier bombs can inflict civilian casualties. ([Washington Post](#), [National Journal](#))

APRIL 22: Senator John McCain, a strong advocate for supporting the rebel forces, met with the National Transitional Council during an unannounced visit to Benghazi. In addition to meeting with rebel leaders, McCain visited a hospital and the Benghazi courthouse where the opposition movement first coalesced. During his trip, he Senator McCain is the most prominent member of the U.S. government to travel to Libya. ([BBC](#), [Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#))

APRIL 22: Secretary of Defense Robert Gates stated that, despite the deployment of Predator drones, the U.S. has no plans to deploy combat troops to Libya. Gates defended the level of U.S involvement, pointing out that the U.S. was "the most stretched militarily" of all the NATO countries and that Libya did not represent a "vital interest" of the U.S. Drawing upon the American experience in Iraq and the Balkans, Gates said that "Regime change imposed from the outside...is incredibly difficult." ([National Journal](#), [Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#))

APRIL 22: Admiral Mike Mullen, U.S Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, described the conflict in Libya as "certainly moving towards a stalemate." He went on to say that Qaddafi must leave power, but it was not clear how long it would take before that would happen. Additionally, in the first statements about al Qaeda since Admiral James Stavridis testified before Congress, Mullen said "I've seen no al Qaeda representation there [Libya] at all." ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 22: British Prime Minister David Cameron stated that the recent deployment of British military advisors to Libya does not represent mission creep, and reinforced that UN Resolution 1973 prohibits putting an invading army in Libya. Cameron also pushed for additional international sanctions that would restrict the flow of revenue from oil sales to Qaddafi's regime. ([Washington Times](#))

APRIL 21: NATO aircraft conducted 152 sorties yesterday, of which 62 were designated strikes sorties. Near Tripoli, eight ammunition storage bunkers were destroyed while in Misrata one tank and one anti-aircraft gun were bombed. In eastern Libya, four tanks, five military vehicles were destroyed near Ajdabiya and two tanks and one rocket launcher were destroyed in Brega. NATO aircraft bombed four military trucks near Qaddafi's hometown of Sirte, and five ammunition storage bunkers near Mizdah. At sea, 40 vessels were hailed and two were boarded. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 21: President Sarkozy held his first meeting with the leader of the rebel provisional government, Mustafa Abdel Jalil. Sarkozy promised the rebels stronger military action and reportedly won approval from NATO to intensify airstrikes against Qaddafi. He has ordered six additional French fighter aircraft moved from Corsica to airbases in Crete where they could more easily strike Libya. France has stepped up the number of sorties its warplanes fly over Libya in the past week to 41 from an average of about 30. French airstrikes destroyed several Qaddafi military vehicles and tanks near Misrata, two ground-to-air missile emplacements and a communications center in the Sirte region in the past week. French warplanes have flown a total of 225 sorties since the allied intervention last month. ([Reuters](#), [Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#))

APRIL 20: The Obama administration reportedly refused a French request last week to return to the campaign with the full force of its air and naval power. The Obama administration currently has no plans to send U.S. military advisors to assist the rebels alongside Britain, France and Italy. This has added to European complaints over the limited U.S. involvement, and European officials are complaining Obama's decision to withhold U.S. warplanes from conducting airstrikes has hampered NATO's campaign. NATO command, however, is not involved in the British, French and Italian efforts to send military advisers and other assistance to the rebel forces. ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 20: NATO aircraft conducted 132 sorties over Libya on Wednesday, of which 50 were designated strike sorties. NATO airstrikes destroyed two heavy equipment transporters, three armored vehicles, and an ammunition storage site in Tripoli and two tanks, a communications tower and a radar station in Misrata. In Zintan, NATO airstrikes destroyed a tank and two rocket launchers. At sea, 22 vessels were hailed by NATO warships to determine their destination and cargo, one boarding was conducted and two vessels were diverted. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 20: The rebel National Transitional Council has formally requested arms from Italy, which reportedly agreed. The NTC spokesman indicated the rebels had asked Italy for attack helicopters and heavy military equipment. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 20: U.S. and European intelligence agencies have assessed that Qaddafi has solidified his position in Tripoli and most of western Libya, allowing him to possibly maintain an indefinite standoff with rebels and NATO. Several U.S. and European officials have said Qaddafi's forces will soon have regrouped enough to consider launching a new assault against Benghazi. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 20: Vice President Joe Biden insisted that U.S. strike aircraft, requested by France, were not necessary to achieve NATO's objectives in Libya. Biden said, "If the Lord Almighty extricated the U.S. out of NATO and dropped it on the planet of Mars so we were no longer participating, it is bizarre to suggest that NATO and the rest of the world lacks the capacity to deal with Libya -- it does not...Occasionally other countries lack the will, but this is not about capacity." ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 20: President Obama spoke with Prime Minister David Cameron on Wednesday and discussed the need to increase political and economic pressure on Qaddafi and his regime. Obama has backed the British, French and Italian move to send military advisers to help rebels fighting Qaddafi, but has no plans to send U.S. advisors. ([Reuters](#), [BBC](#), [White House](#))

APRIL 20: Evidence has surfaced that Qaddafi's regime is already evading U.N. economic sanctions and importing gasoline into western Libya from Tunisia using intermediaries who transfer the fuel between ships in Tunisia. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 20: The Libyan Government claimed a NATO airstrike in the Bir al-Ghanam area southwest of the capital Tripoli killed four people and destroyed civilian property and farmland. The commander of NATO's Libya campaign, Lieutenant-General Charles Bouchard, advised Libyan civilians to stay away from Qaddafi's forces to assist NATO in carrying out effective airstrikes. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 20: The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, indicated that the Libyan government's use of cluster munitions and heavy weapons in Misrata may amount to a war crime under international law. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 20: France and Italy announced they would join Britain in sending a small number of military advisors to support the rebels. French officials stated the number of French advisors would be in the single digits and help organize the protection of the civilian population. Italian Defense Minister Ignazio La Russa, after a meeting with British Defense Secretary Liam Fox, stated that Italy would send 10 military instructors to assist the rebels. President Nicolas Sarkozy, in a meeting with rebel leader Mustafa Abdel-Jalil in Paris, pledged to intensify French airstrikes against Qaddafi's forces. The French government spokesman reaffirmed that France did not envision deploying ground forces into Libya, however, the French Defense Minister Gerard Longuet said it was "a real issue" that deserved to be considered by the U.N. Security Council. The deployment of military advisors from Britain, Italy and France is stirring controversy within each country's government and parliament over their escalating involvement in Libya. ([New York Times](#), [BBC](#), [Washington Post](#))

APRIL 20: The Obama administration has informed Congress that it is providing \$25 million in non-lethal aid to the rebels. The U.S. assistance would provide the rebels with vehicles, fuel trucks and fuel bladders, ambulances, medical equipment, protective vests, binoculars, and non-secure radios. According to the State Department, the administration has been working with the rebel government to assess its security capabilities and shortfalls, and recognizes, "the key role that the rebels have played in the protection of civilians." ([Washington Times](#))

APRIL 20: Officials from the Pentagon and the National Security Council have indicated they do not have enough details of the British plan to deploy military advisors to help the rebels to assess how effective it might be. The officials stressed there are no plans to send U.S. military advisers to Libya. The Obama administration, however, has not ruled out providing the rebels with "stepped-up non-lethal assistance" and that sending arms to the rebels has not been taken off the table. ([Wall Street Journal](#), [Washington Post](#))

APRIL 20: NATO commanders conceded that they are unable to stop pro-Qaddafi forces from shelling Misrata. NATO has been unable to strike Qaddafi's artillery from the air for fear of accidentally hitting civilians. NATO Brig. Gen. Mark van Uhm said, "There is a limit to what can be achieved by airpower to stop fighting in a city." Uhm indicated that NATO had destroyed more than forty tanks and armored personnel vehicles in Misrata. Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola, chairman of NATO's military committee, said that while NATO airstrikes have done quite significant damage to Qaddafi's heavy weaponry, the weapons the regime has were still considerable and any additional allied contributions would be welcome. NATO officials said they did not yet see a need for ground troops in Libya. ([Associated Press](#), [Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 20: The British military advisory team being deployed to assist the rebels will be composed of about a dozen officers including several colonels and majors and is set to be inserted within 48 hours. The advisors reportedly will not be involved in rebel military operations or planning and will remain in rebel military bases in Benghazi. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 20: France reportedly sent covert special operations forces into Libya three weeks ago to assess the impact of allied airstrikes. ([New York Times](#))

APRIL 19: The cost of the U.S. role in the intervention in Libya has reached approximately \$608 million as of April 4, according to Pentagon officials. ([The Hill](#))

APRIL 19: Rebels in Misrata have pleaded with NATO to send ground troops to lift the siege, State Department officials reiterated that the United States would not be deploying U.S. ground troops under any circumstances, however, the officials said European allies were free to do what they wanted. ([LA Times](#))

APRIL 19: The head of the Foreign Affairs Commission in France's National Assembly has drawn up a proposal to send 200-300 special non-combat forces to assist the rebels and designate targets for NATO planes. However, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe stated he was strongly opposed to the deployment of French ground troops. ([Associated Press](#))

APRIL 19: The United Kingdom announced it was sending a team of up to twenty senior military officers to Benghazi to act as military advisors to the rebels in order to help them organize their forces. British Foreign Minister William Hague said the military advisers would work with the National Transitional Council to, "improve their organizational structures, communications and logistics, including how best to distribute humanitarian aid and deliver medical assistance." He said the advisors will not be involved in supplying the rebels with weapons or assisting in their attacks against Qaddafi's forces. The officers will likely not be wearing military uniforms, but rather civilian clothes, although they will probably carry side arms. Britain has already deployed SAS teams on the ground and is supplying the rebels with non-lethal aid including body armor. The move has already been met with opposition in Parliament from members of Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative Party and the opposition Labour Party, who demanded the Parliament be included in any decision to take sides in the Civil War. ([Washington Post](#), [Associated Press](#), [BBC](#))

APRIL 19: The European Union has outlined a provisional plan that could see troops dispatched to Misrata to protect humanitarian aid deliveries if requested by the United Nations. The 27 EU nations agreed earlier this month that it would be willing to launch such a mission at the U.N.'s request, but it has not made such. The EU military operation would not have a combat role, but could potentially involve hundreds of military personnel to secure supply lines into Libya. It would also be tasked with humanitarian efforts at refugee camps along the Tunisian and Egyptian borders. It could involve German troops which are part of the two standing EU battle groups. The other European nations involved in the force, including several non-NATO members, are the Netherlands, Finland, Austria, Lithuania, Sweden, Norway, Estonia and Ireland. According to EU officials, less than 1,000 troops would be involved in the operation. Approval for the EU mission from the United Nations, however, seems unlikely given Russia and China's opposition to the way NATO has conducted UNSCR 1973. ([Reuters](#), [CNN](#), [Washington Post](#))

APRIL 19: While the U.K. has dispatched military advisors to Libya, France has reiterated it is opposed to the idea of sending its troops into Libya to break the military stalemate, even special operations forces to help conduct precision airstrikes. ([Reuters](#), [BBC](#))

APRIL 19: Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini, speaking with Transitional National Council President Mustafa Abdul Jalil, said that a meeting of the Libyan Contact Group in early May in Rome would seek ways to enabling the rebels to sell their oil on world markets. The Contact Group would look at ways of unfreezing Qaddafi's assets and providing them to the rebels. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 19: NATO warplanes struck a column of pro-Qaddafi reinforcements on their way from the city of Beni Walid to the besieged city of Misrata overnight according to rebel sources. Rebel fighters said that if the reinforcements had made

their way to Misrata, it would have been the sixth consignment of fighters sent by Qaddafi. NATO also bombed a radar installation near the Misrata port. NATO airstrikes have been heavily targeting the command and control infrastructure of the elite 32nd Brigade, headed by Khamis Qaddafi, destroying its headquarters in Misrata and Tripoli. ([Wall Street Journal](#), [Reuters](#))

APRIL 19: Russian officials said that Western attempts to topple Qaddafi were in violation of UNSCR 1973 because it only authorized the use of military force to protect Libyan civilians. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the U.N. Security Council never intended to topple Qaddafi and that it was crucial to establish a ceasefire. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 18: NATO warplanes destroyed the main telecommunications tower in Sirte along with two other stations in the region, affecting communications in the region in an effort to cut off pro-Qaddafi forces' lines of communications and allow the rebels to advance. The three stations provide communication services for the Libyan government and civilians. ([Reuters](#), [Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 18: U.S. officials have conceded in private that several of their assumptions before the intervention in Libya were faulty. Among the mistakes was the belief that airpower alone would sufficiently degrade Qaddafi's military and force him to halt attacks on civilians, and that the United States could leave the airstrikes primarily to Britain, France and other European countries. ([LA Times](#))

APRIL 18: U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appealed to pro-Qaddafi forces to cease fire around Misrata due to the growing humanitarian crisis in the besieged city. Ki-moon indicated the U.N. would establish a humanitarian presence in Tripoli and Misrata. The UN signed an agreement with the Qaddafi government on Sunday that would pave the way for food, aid and medicine to be allowed into Misrata and allow civilians to leave. ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 18: According to a senior U.S. military official, NATO airstrikes have destroyed nearly forty percent of Libya's military equipment and headquarters facilities. There are signs that Qaddafi's forces, including the elite 32nd Brigade, are facing logistical problems and struggling to provide ammunition, transportation and food to troops deployed in the field. ([LA Times](#))

APRIL 18: The U.S. Air Force is flying two unarmed Predator drones over Libya to help NATO conduct surveillance. ([LA Times](#))

APRIL 18: NATO aircraft conducted 143 sorties over Libya on Monday, of which 53 were designated strike sorties. NATO airstrikes destroyed nine ammunition bunkers and the headquarters of the 32nd Brigade in Tripoli and six surface-to-air missiles, four tanks, three air defense missile sites and one mobile rocket launcher in Misrata. In Zintan, NATO airstrikes destroyed three tanks, one anti-aircraft weapons system and one armored vehicle. NATO warplanes also destroyed a building in Brega. At sea, 38 vessels were hailed by NATO warships to determine their destination and cargo but none were boarded or diverted. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 18: At a UN meeting to discuss the dire humanitarian situation in Libya, British International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell said Britain would pay £1.5m to charter ships to help evacuate 5,000 civilians and migrant workers trapped in the besieged city of Misrata and provide civilians medical supplies. ([BBC](#))

APRIL 18: Qatar, which confirmed it is marketing the rebels' crude oil, has also arranged four shipments of refined fuel to Benghazi to support the rebels and indicated it was ready to send more. Meanwhile, attacks by pro-Qaddafi forces have shutdown rebel crude production at most of their fields after they sustained damage, and it would be several weeks at least until they were repaired and back online. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 17: NATO aircraft conducted 145 sorties over Libya on Sunday, of which 60 were designated strike sorties.

NATO warplanes struck seven ammunition bunkers in Tripoli and four air defense radar stations in Misrata. In Sirte, NATO aircraft hit two aircraft hangars and one ammunition depot. In Zintan, NATO airstrikes hit four launchers, one air defense radar station, and an ammunition storage facility. At sea, a total of 22 vessels were hailed by NATO warships to determine their destination and cargo and one boarding was conducted, but it was not diverted. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 16: Qatari Emir Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani confirmed that his country would provide the rebels with weapons and that anti-tank weapons may have already reached them. Qatar is likely providing the rebels with the French MILAN anti-tank wire-guided missile. Rebel leader Gen. Abdel Fattah Younes indicated that the rebels have begun receiving weapons from abroad. Further, Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini indicated his country strongly supported sending arms to the rebels, but did not confirm if it had sent arms. ([New York Times](#), [Guardian](#))

APRIL 16: The United States and its allies have begun looking for a country that would be willing to provide Qaddafi exile if he were forced from Libya. The country would most likely be in Africa, and the African Union has quietly begun looking for a host for Qaddafi as well. Further, U.S. intelligence reports indicate that no rebel leader has yet emerged as a replacement for Qaddafi and there are fears that if he is removed, tribal warfare could break out across the country. ([New York Times](#))

APRIL 16: NATO aircraft conducted 144 sorties over Libya on Saturday, of which 42 were designated strike sorties. NATO warplanes destroyed two ammunition bunkers and one surface-to-air missile site in Tripoli and one APC in Misrata. In Sirte, NATO aircraft hit two tanks, two equipment transports, one artillery piece, one tank transporter, four ammunition storage sites and one ammunition bunker. In Zintan, a NATO airstrike destroyed an ammunition bunker. At sea, a total of 20 vessels were hailed by NATO warships to determine their destination and cargo, no vessels were boarded, but one vessel was diverted. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 15: Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Canada would not make any decision on boosting its role in the NATO-led air campaign until after its elections on May 2. Canada already has sent seven warplanes to participate in the operation and is one of the few countries that has authorized its warplanes to conduct airstrikes. Canada's announcement came amid pressure from Britain and France for its NATO allies to increase their participation. ([BBC](#), [Reuters](#))

APRIL 15: Several NATO members are reportedly running low on their stockpiles of precision-guided bombs, particularly Britain and France who are conducting the bulk of the airstrikes, less than a month into the Libyan air campaign. Europeans have been slow to modify their aircraft and other weapons systems to accommodate U.S. weapons. Several U.S. military officials indicated they were anticipating being recalled to conduct airstrikes, while other U.S. officials have indicated that Italy and Arab states may send warplanes to conduct ground attacks. ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 15: U.S. and NATO intelligence officials believe the allied no-fly zone and air strikes will be able to stop Qaddafi's forces from moving against Benghazi. The intelligence officials, however, indicated that the rebel forces appeared to be too disorganized and poorly trained to defeat Qaddafi militarily, and that it could take years to organize, arm and train them to do so. The realistic outlook, according to U.S. and European officials, was an indefinite stalemate between the rebels backed by NATO airpower and Qaddafi's forces. Meanwhile, U.S. officials have indicated that Saudi Arabia and Qatar are willing to provide weapons and other support to the rebels. There are also signs that Qatar is supplying some light weapons, including shoulder-fired anti-tank rockets, to the rebels. Pentagon officials have indicated the U.S. is considering following the British in providing non-lethal support to the rebels such as personnel protection vehicles and medical supplies. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 15: In their open letter published earlier on Friday, President Barack Obama, Prime Minister David Cameron and President Nicolas Sarkozy published an open letter on Friday that said NATO must continue its military operations

in Libya to protect civilians as long as Qaddafi remains in power. Further, they wrote that to allow Qaddafi to remain would be an “unconscionable betrayal” to the Libyan people and that, “Britain, France and the United States will not rest until the United Nations Security Council resolutions have been implemented and the Libyan people can choose their own future.” ([New York Times](#), [BBC](#))

APRIL 15: NATO is considering creating a secure sea corridor to Libya backed by allied warships to allow merchant vessels to boost trade with Libyan rebels in the east and open a humanitarian corridor to Misrata. Earlier this week, Qatar had assisted the rebels in selling a \$100 million of oil, which was shipped out of ports in eastern Libya, but most merchant vessels and oil tankers will not go near Libyan ports because of the risk of attack and high insurance costs. Shipping experts warn that a NATO naval escort would still not be able to protect the ships from ground attacks or sabotage once they are in port, where they are most vulnerable anyway. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 15: France and Britain want to expand NATO airstrikes to the logistics and command centers of Qaddafi’s army are have been spared, rather than start arming Libyan rebels. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 14: President Obama met with Qatar’s Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani at the White House on Thursday, and praised Qatar for its role in Libya. President Obama also expressed his appreciation of the leadership and cooperation that the emir had shown on democracy in the Middle East. ([AFP](#), [Reuters](#))

APRIL 14: At a two-day NATO summit in Berlin on Libya, U.S. and other officials played down the emerging differences in the alliance amid calls to escalate its air campaign against Qaddafi. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe asked Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for the United States to contribute more warplanes to the effort, but was reportedly rebuffed. One European official suggested NATO needed around eight more planes capable of precision bombing, such as the U.S. F-15 or F-16 or similarly equipped aircraft. However, U.S. officials claim that NATO has not officially asked for additional assets and that they were already providing a significant portion of support aircraft. ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 14: Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, in a speech in Berlin, laid out the actions she deemed essential for the Libya mission. This included improving coordination between NATO and the rebels and ratcheting up economic and diplomatic pressure on Qaddafi. Clinton also said planning for a post-Qaddafi Libya must begin. ([Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#))

APRIL 14: Turkey is positioning itself to act as an intermediary between NATO and Qaddafi. Turkey is the only NATO member with an open embassy in Tripoli and a consulate in rebel-held Benghazi, and is hoping the alliance formulates a diplomatic solution at the Berlin summit. This would include establishing direct communication with Qaddafi, arranging his exit, and helping the rebels establish a new representative government. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has maintained contact via telephone with Qaddafi and his sons and has been urging Qadadfi to leave Libya peacefully. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton met with Turkish officials in Berlin to discuss an exit path for Qaddafi. ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 14: Arab League head Amr Moussa called for a cease-fire to put an end to fighting and ensure the territorial integrity of Libya. ([LA Times](#))

APRIL 14: NATO warplanes struck a military installation in Tripoli, destroying the anti-aircraft system. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 14: Plans for the U.N. Security Council to expand the list of Libyan officials and firms subject to U.N. sanctions, including Qaddafi’s wife and more subsidiaries of the Libyan National Oil Corporation, have been held up by Russian, Chinese and Indian demands for more time to consider them. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 14: French President Nicolas Sarkozy met with rebel leader Suliman Fortea in Paris, and suggested if NATO and the United States were hesitant to intensify their involvement in Libya then France and Britain should consider acting alone. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 14: While Britain and France have been pressing for more aircraft and airstrikes by NATO allies including the United States, U.S. officials have said additional strike aircraft would not necessarily lead to a more effective air campaign, suggesting airstrikes were not being limited by capability but by viable targets. ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 14: NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said that military power alone could not solve the Libyan crisis and that a political solution must also be pursued. Since NATO took command of operations in Libya, only 14 of the alliance's 28 members are actively participating. Further, only six nations are allowing their aircraft to conduct airstrikes. ([New York Times](#))

APRIL 13: U.S. warplanes have conducted three airstrikes against Libyan surface-to-air missiles since the Obama administration announced it was shifting the United States to a support role in the NATO air campaign. The strikes were carried out by F-16 fighters and EA-18Gs. U.S. officials had previously stated that U.S. airstrikes had ended on April 4th. Since NATO took command, 97 of the 134 missions to monitor Libyan air defense sites have been flown by U.S. aircraft. Since April 1, U.S. warplanes have conducted 35% of the sorties, 77% of the aerial refueling missions and 27% of the surveillance flights for NATO. ([LA Times](#), [Washington Times](#))

APRIL 13: The Libyan Contact Group meeting in Doha agreed to provide the rebels with material support, although it is unclear if this included supplying the rebels with arms. Britain said it would supply the rebels with 1,000 sets of body armor on top of the 100 satellite phones it has already sent, and it was going to send the rebels more non-lethal equipment. The French reportedly do not plan to arm the rebels, while the Italians and Qataris have argued strongly to supply the rebels with weapons. Belgium and Germany strongly opposed sending the rebels arms. Despite the disagreements in NATO, rebel officials indicated they were in talks with friendly countries to secure arms. ([Reuters](#), [Washington Post](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [BBC](#))

APRIL 13: On Wednesday, NATO conducted 153 sorties, of which 58 were "strike sorties". NATO airstrikes destroyed thirteen pro-Qaddafi bunkers, one tank and one APC around Tripoli. Allied airstrikes also destroyed three Multiple Rocket Launchers in the vicinity of Brega. ([NATO](#))

APRIL 13: NATO is reportedly struggling to conduct the air campaign effectively without the United States in the lead and providing the majority of the forces. While the British and French have called on NATO to step up the air campaign, the Obama administration has expressed its confidence in NATO's ability to carry out the mission in Libya without a heavy U.S. involvement. In addition to arguing that the U.S. military already being heavily committed in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, American officials have suggested that Libya's history and proximity to Europe make it a "European problem," and a French problem in particular because they had argued for aggressive intervention. ([Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 13: While seventeen nations have contributed about 175 aircraft to the NATO mission, only France and the United Kingdom have allowed their warplanes to fly without caveats. Norway, Denmark and Canada have also allowed their aircraft to conduct airstrikes on a more limited basis, possibly not against vehicles. Meanwhile, the Netherlands, Sweden, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and others have taken more passive roles and prevented their forces from flying airstrike sorties at all. The United States is also only providing about 40 support aircraft to perform refueling, reconnaissance and other specialized roles that few if any other countries possess. ([Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#), [Christian Science Monitor](#))

APRIL 13: The United States reportedly has about 40 aircraft in reserve, including A-10s and AC-130 gunships. Several NATO officials have suggested the United States make the A-10s available again, as other NATO members lack similar low-flying warplanes capable of discriminating between pro-Qaddafi forces and the rebels. U.S. officials have stated that the A-10s are available if NATO requests them, but the alliance has not. British and French warplanes are having problems differentiating between targets from high above the battlefield other than Qaddafi's tanks and other heavy equipment. Some allies have also expressed concern they are running low on their supplies of precision-guided bombs as the air campaign continues. ([Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#))

APRIL 13: NATO, Arab and African ministers met in Doha, Qatar for the first meeting of the "Contact Group on Libya" which was established two weeks ago after a similar meeting in London. The three main goals of the Doha Summit have been described as maintaining pressure on Qaddafi and ensuring he leaves power, discussing a stabilization plan for peace-building, and endorsing a political process for a democratic Libya. ([BBC](#))

APRIL 13: Italian Foreign Minister Maurizio Massari said NATO countries should send arms to the rebels, saying that was the best way to guarantee the rebels' defense. Italy's suggestion implied that the NATO air strikes were insufficient in protecting the insurgents and Benghazi from persistent assaults by pro-Qaddafi forces. However, Belgium and Germany have countered that providing arms to the rebels would go beyond the scope of the U.N. Security Council resolution. Further, Germany has said proposals to fund the rebels from assets seized from Qaddafi could pose legal problems. ([Washington Post](#), [BBC](#))

APRIL 13: Dutch Brigadier General van Uhm, commander of NATO operations, indicated that due to allied airstrikes, pro-Qaddafi forces could not, "fight how they want to, where they want to or with what weapons they want to." NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, in Doha, dismissed criticism that NATO was moving too slowly in Libya. ([New York Times](#), [Reuters](#))

APRIL 13: UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told delegates in Doha that the humanitarian situation in Libya was dire and that nearly half a million people had fled the Libya since the war began. Ban stated that on an average day, approximately 2,700 Libyans are crossing into Tunisia and Egypt and that roughly 330,000 Libyans had been internally displaced. Of Libya's six million people, Ban said as many as 3.6 million could require humanitarian assistance. ([BBC](#))

APRIL 13: The Ministry of Defense stated that the RAF Typhoon had been used for the first time to attack on pro-Qaddafi forces. A Typhoon was on patrol over Libya with an RAF Tornado GR4, when it destroyed two Libyan T-72 main battle tanks with laser-guided Paveway II bombs near Misrata. ([BBC](#), [The Daily Telegraph](#))

APRIL 13: At the Contact Group conference in Doha, British Foreign Secretary William Hague called for the establishment of a temporary financial mechanism to assist the rebel government in paying for public sector costs. Hague recognized a military stalemate may ensure, but that economic and political pressure could be used to oust Qaddafi. The rebels have indicated they needed \$1.5 billion in aid for civilians. ([Reuters](#), [BBC](#))

APRIL 12: NATO warplanes destroyed 16 pro-Qaddafi tanks, an anti-aircraft gun and a pickup truck in airstrikes in Libya on Tuesday. NATO indicated that 12 of the tanks were destroyed around Misrata while four tanks, a pickup truck and the anti-aircraft gun were destroyed southeast of Sirte. NATO flew 159 sorties on Tuesday, which included 60 strike missions. Since March 31, NATO aircraft have flown 2,038 sorties, of which 832 were strike sorties. ([Reuters](#), [NATO](#))

APRIL 12: Qatar has confirmed it was behind last week's sale of more than \$100 million of crude oil from rebel-held Libyan oil fields. Qatar also stated it has been sending gasoline and other vital fuel supplies to the rebel capital of

Benghazi. The rebels lack the capacity to produce their own gasoline. ([Associated Press](#))

APRIL 12: The European Union extended its economic sanctions against Libya, freezing the assets of 26 companies and two people in order to ratchet up pressure on Qaddafi. The additional EU sanctions include 11 Libyan energy companies that had avoided earlier EU sanctions, bringing the total number of Libyan firms under EU sanctions to 46. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 12: The rebel government in Benghazi rejected the African Union's proposal to end the conflict. Rebel leaders insisted that there would be no cease fire or peace deal unless Qaddafi and his family agreed to leave power immediately. ([Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#))

APRIL 12: France and Britain urged NATO to intensify its air campaign against Qaddafi's forces and urged the alliance to do more to protect noncombatants from the regime's attacks. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and British Foreign Minister William Hague, whose nations compose the main military effort in the NATO campaign after the drawdown by the United States, suggested the alliance's current efforts were insufficient and they were running out of patience. They claimed NATO needed to target Qaddafi's heavy weaponry, but they were limited in their ground attack capabilities. Dutch Brig. Gen. Mark Van Uhm countered that the alliance was successfully enforcing an arms embargo and a no-fly zone while protecting civilians. ([New York Times](#), [Associated Press](#), [Washington Post](#), [BBC](#))

APRIL 12: Mussa Kussa, Qaddafi's former intelligence chief and foreign minister who defected to the United Kingdom two weeks ago, was allowed to leave Britain for Qatar to attend a conference in Doha where he would "share his insights" on the Qaddafi regime. Koussa was recently questioned for his roles in the 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing and Libya's arming of the IRA. ([New York Times](#), [Associated Press](#), [BBC](#))

APRIL 12: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton reiterated the Obama administration's call for Qaddafi to leave power and the country. Clinton said the United States would welcome a cease-fire, but she insisted that the regime pull its forces back from areas where they have forcibly entered. Further, reports indicate that economic sanctions may not be crippling Qaddafi's regime, which has recently taken steps to mitigate NATO and international efforts to isolate Libya. ([New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#))

APRIL 11: NATO stated that its warplanes had hit 11 tanks and five other vehicles belonging to Qaddafi's forces in airstrikes near Misrata and Ajdabiya. Qaddafi's forces have intensified their assault on Misrata, for the first time firing truck-mounted, Russian-made Grad rockets into the city, while rebels have advanced half-way between Ajdabiya and Brega, at a small outpost called al-Arbaeen. ([Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#))

APRIL 11: Qaddafi reportedly accepted a ceasefire plan proposed by a delegation from the African Union (AU), which had arrived in Libya over the weekend to broker such an agreement. The AU delegation included South African President Jacob Zuma and the presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Mauritania and Uganda. Several of these leaders are considered to have close ties with Qaddafi and have been publically critical of NATO's intervention. Details of the AU plan were vague, but it does not appear to include any plan for Qaddafi and his family to step down from power and leave Libya, while it calls for an immediate ceasefire and a suspension of NATO airstrikes. AU leaders have also urged NATO to halt its air campaign while they traveled to Benghazi to meet with rebel leaders. The rebels, however, have said any deal that keeps Qaddafi and his family in power is unacceptable. Meanwhile, NATO officials have stated that the regime's forces have continued shelling Misrata, indicating Qaddafi had not halted his military campaign and that NATO operations would continue to protect Libyan civilians. ([Washington Post](#), [BBC](#), [New York Times](#), [Guardian](#))

APRIL 11: Pentagon officials have released figures that estimate U.S. operations in Libya cost \$608 million from March 19 to April 4. The new figures show that the United States spent approximately \$55 million a day in the first ten days of the campaign, which dropped to about \$8.3 million a day in the seven that followed NATO taking command of the operation. The Pentagon estimates that the U.S.-role in the NATO campaign will cost about \$40 million a month. ([AFP](#), [Washington Post](#))

APRIL 10: The rebels staved off an offensive by pro-Qaddafi forces against the Ajdabiya with the help of NATO airstrikes. According to Lt. Gen. Charles Bouchard, NATO warplanes had destroyed 11 tanks out of Ajdabiya. In addition to destroying the regime's tanks and heavy military equipment, NATO has aimed to cut off Qaddafi's forces from their supply lines. One airstrike cratered the road leading to Ajdabiya from Brega in an effort to stop large trucks from resupplying Qaddafi's forces with fuel and ammunition. Further west, NATO warplanes hit two more bunkers stocked with ammunition. NATO also destroyed 14 tanks near Misrata on Saturday, bringing the total number of the regime's tanks destroyed by airstrikes in the city in three days to 29. ([New York Times](#), [Washington Times](#), [AFP](#))

APRIL 9: The Obama administration and Libyan rebels are trying to decide what to do with the \$34 billion the Treasury Department seized from Qaddafi. Rebel leaders have pressured the Obama administration in recent weeks to release some of the money to address shortages of food and medicine caused by the civil war. U.S. officials are hesitant, and say that the funds could wind up with Islamist elements hostile to the United States, including al-Qaeda if the money is not properly accounted for. Rebel leaders then said the United States would not need to distribute cash, but could instead directly pay suppliers for food, medicine and other humanitarian goods. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 9: Two NATO warplanes upheld the no-fly zone against the rebels, forcing a rebel pilot who had taken off in a captured MiG-23 to return to Benina Air Base outside of Benghazi. ([New York Times](#))

APRIL 9: British RAF Tornados destroyed two pro-Qaddafi tanks around Ajdabiya and five in Misrata on Friday. ([BBC](#))

APRIL 9: Rebel leaders, who had been highly critical of NATO airstrikes that have accidentally hit rebel forces, said that they must accept accidental deaths caused by NATO airstrikes will occur and the benefits of NATO air power far outweighed the damage caused. Rebel leaders appeared concerned that leveling too much criticism against NATO for the mishaps would cause the alliance to slow the pace of airstrikes against pro-Qaddafi forces. ([LA Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 9: Scottish police interviewed Mussa Kussa, the former Libyan foreign minister who recently defected to Britain, for his role in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 8: Rear Adm. Russell Harding, the British deputy commander of the NATO operation announced the alliance had conducted 318 sorties and hit 23 targets over the past 48 hours. In the eight days since NATO assumed command from the United States, it has flown more than 1,500 sorties. Harding said NATO warplanes have been destroying Qaddafi's anti-aircraft missile defenses, T-72 tanks and ammunition dumps, and also hitting pro-Qaddafi forces in Misrata. Harding notes that Qaddafi's forces still pose a threat to NATO warplanes, retaining some latent air defenses, including shoulder-launched missiles that could hit warplanes at up to 15,000 feet. He noted that Qaddafi's forces had begun switching tactics over the last week, leaving their heavy armor behind and using trucks armed with heavy machine guns and anti-aircraft cannons on the front. ([Associated Press](#))

APRIL 8: Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan proposed a peace plan that would require Qaddafi to withdraw his forces from Misrata and other besieged cities, establish humanitarian corridors for aid and endorse a "comprehensive democratic-change process." The proposal came amid heavy criticism by rebels over Turkey's cautious Libya policy

Libya policy, which the rebels attributed to NATO's slowing air support. On Tuesday, a rebel ship carrying supplies of weapons from Benghazi to Misrata was intercepted by a Turkish naval vessel participating in NATO's arms embargo and forced the rebels to turn around. Turkey later tried to send an aide ship to Benghazi with food and medicine, but the rebels turned it away. ([Washington Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 8: Germany announced it was prepared to allow its troops to take part in humanitarian aid to Libyan civilians if the United Nations asked the European Union. Germany has previously not participated in the NATO campaign and withdrew its war ships from NATO command in the Mediterranean. ([New York Times](#))

APRIL 7: Rebels said they had informed NATO of their plan to move tanks and other forces into positions outside Ajdabiya. The tanks and bus were parked and were marked with the green, black and red rebel flag. In Naples, Rear Adm. Russell Harding, the British deputy commander of the NATO operation, insisted NATO had not been informed that the rebels were using tanks at the time of the attack. He refused to apologize for the airstrike, he said the situation was extremely fluid and until yesterday NATO did not have information the rebels were using tanks. The rebels have reportedly painted the roofs of their vehicles bright pink to avoid more friendly fire incidents. ([New York Times](#), [Reuters](#), [LA Times](#), [Washington Post](#))

APRIL 7: In congressional testimony, Gen. Ham said the United States was providing some strike aircraft to the NATO campaign that do not need to go through the special approval process recently established, which included AC-130 gunship. Other warplanes, including fighters and the A-10 Thunderbolt, must be requested through U.S. European Command and by U.S. officials, including Defense Secretary Robert Gates. Ham said that process is speedy, but other defense officials have said it can take about a day to approve a NATO request and have the aircraft in position from bases in Europe. Ham said recent bad weather and threats from Qaddafi's mobile surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) hampered efforts to use low-flying aircraft like the AC-130 and the A-10, which were contributing to the stalemate. Ham also stated it was unlikely the rebel forces could launch an assault on Tripoli and oust Qaddafi, and that the conflict had reached a stalemate. Ham said the U.S. may consider sending troops into Libya with a possible international ground force that could aid the rebels. ([Washington Post](#), [Associated Press](#), [McClatchy](#))

APRIL 7: China is set to buy the first oil cargo from Libyan rebels, in a deal which is likely to clear the way for Europeans to resume badly-needed purchases of Libyan oil. The Liberia-registered tanker Equator, which can carry up to one million barrels of oil, loaded up on Wednesday at Libya's eastern ports of Marsa el Hariga and Tobruk and has begun taking the Libyan crude to China but it was still unclear who buyer is. The vessel is operated by the Greek firm Dynacom Tankers Management Officials while Qatar, who had offered to market Libyan oil for the rebels, denied it was involved in the transfer. Reports that fighting in Libya was damaging the country's oil fields have been causing global oil prices to surge. ([Reuters](#), [Associated Press](#))

APRIL 7: NATO ambassadors held an unscheduled meeting in Brussels following complaints French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe that the Libya campaign was in risk of getting bogged down unless air support for rebel forces increased. ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 7: Rebel fighters claimed a NATO airstrike accidentally struck their forces between Ajdabiya and Brega, increasing tensions between the alliance and the rebels over coordination of the military campaign. At least thirteen rebels were reported killed in the airstrike and dozens injured. The rebels had been moving more than 30 tanks, armored vehicles, rocket launchers and passenger buses of fighters near the front line between Ajdabiya and Brega when the airstrike occurred. NATO apparently mistook the heavily-armed rebel column as loyalist forces. The attack is the second accidental NATO strike on rebel forces in less than a week. NATO is investigating the incident. ([Associated Press](#), [BBC](#), [Reuters](#))

APRIL 7: U.S. diplomat Chris Stevens, envoy to the Libyan opposition, met with members of the National Transitional Council that were aimed at giving the Americans a sense of how the U.S. can help the rebels. Rebel leaders said they hoped to receive diplomatic recognition from the United States for their provisional government, which has been formally recognized by France, Qatar, and Italy. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 7: Former U.S. congressman Curt Weldon, a Pennsylvania Republican, was scheduled to meet with Qaddafi in Tripoli. Weldon, who has visited Libya regularly since 2004, said he came to Libya on the invitation of Qaddafi's chief of staff and planned to tell the Libyan leader to step aside. State Department spokesman Mark Toner said Weldon was "in no way acting on behalf of the United States government." ([Wall Street Journal](#), [New York Times](#))

APRIL 7: Omar Fathi Bin Shatwan, Libya's Energy Minister until 2006, has defected to Europe. Shatwan said several members of Qaddafi's inner circle wanted to defect, but were too scared to do so. Shatwan, who also served as Qaddafi's industry minister, had fled from the besieged city of Misrata to Malta by fishing boat. ([BBC](#))

APRIL 6: U.S. and European officials said that pro-Qaddafi forces were hindering the NATO air campaign by hiding tanks and artillery in densely populated areas where the alliance's warplanes cannot hit them without significant risk of civilian casualties. The recent U.S. pullback has meant the withdrawal of A-10 Warthogs and the AC-130 Spectre gunships, which are effective in providing close air support, and air capabilities NATO allies' lack. Meanwhile, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said NATO air strikes in Libya risked getting "bogged down." ([Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#), [RFERL](#))

APRIL 6: Qaddafi wrote a personal letter to President Obama urging him to halt NATO airstrikes. Qaddafi apparently addressed the U.S. president as "our son" and endorsed his reelection campaign in a note riddled with spelling and grammatical errors. The White House has rebuffed Qaddafi's overture. ([Washington Post](#), [BBC](#))

APRIL 6: Libyan officials claimed British warplanes struck the Sarir oil field, the largest in the country, damaging an oil pipeline, killing three guards and leaving several others wounded. NATO officials denied the airstrike and declared Qaddafi had sabotaged the field in an attempt to block crude oil from getting to Tobruk, where a tanker had recently left carrying \$100 million in oil, the rebels' first oil sale. A rebel spokesman stated that pro-Qaddafi forces were conducting artillery bombardments of rebel-held oilfields around Misra and the Waha, halting production. ([Washington Post](#), [RFERL](#), [Associated Press](#), [AFP](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Reuters](#))

APRIL 6: The British government announced that Royal Air Force Typhoon warplanes participating in the Libyan no-fly zone would be switched to ground-attack missions by early next week. ([Department of Defense](#))

APRIL 6: Former U.S. Congressman Curt Weldon, a Republican from Pennsylvania, has arrived in Tripoli for talks with Qaddafi to end the crisis. Weldon arrived in Tripoli on Wednesday after receiving an invitation from Qaddafi. Weldon is one of the few Westerners to meet with Qaddafi since the rebellion began in February. It was not immediately clear why Qaddafi sought to meet with Weldon, though the Congressman was part of congressional delegation that visited Libya in 2004. ([Associated Press](#))

APRIL 6: NATO said the alliance has planned to conduct nearly 200 sorties over Libya on Wednesday, more than Monday's 137 and Tuesday's 186. This came after rebels criticized the alliance for not providing enough air support as they have been slowly pushed back over the last week. ([Wall Street Journal](#), [Associated Press](#))

APRIL 6: NATO has been demanding additional aircraft from allies after the United States, which had been conducting at least half of the Coalition airstrikes, ended its combat role on Monday. Prime Minister David Cameron announced in a visit to British forces in Italy that he was ordering an additional four Typhoons attack aircraft to be deployed, and moving four others from an air-policing role to a ground-attack one. In all, the British now have 20 aircraft deployed

in southern Italy for NATO-led operations in Libya. ([BBC](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Daily Telegraph](#), [Guardian](#))

APRIL 6: European diplomats said negotiations over a political solution were running along a number of tracks but were being poorly coordinated. Discussions about a truce had gone nowhere because of the regime's insistence that Qaddafi or one of his sons be given a seat at the table. Many diplomats saw power sharing arrangements involving Qaddafi or his family as a non-starter. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 6: According to an assessment by NATO operation's commander, Canadian Lt. Gen. Charles Bouchard, allied airstrikes have destroyed about 30 percent of Qaddafi's military capacity. NATO chief of allied operations Gen. Van Uhm, refuted rebel claims that the pace of airstrikes had slowed after the alliance took command on March 31. He stated NATO warplanes had conducted 851 sorties since March 31, including 334 missions aimed at spotting or hitting targets. He said Misrata was the alliance's top priority because of the deteriorating situation on the ground, where rebel forces remain besieged in the city by Qaddafi forces. ([New York Times](#), [Wall Street Journal](#), [Department of Defense](#))

APRIL 5: British Special Forces in Libya have begun equipping rebels with mobile phones, which is seen as the first step towards arming them. British Foreign Secretary William Hague, when asked whether the rebels had been given missile guidance systems, said, "I don't want to go into details of the exact specifications. If I did that it would be easier for the regime to interfere with those telephones in the future." ([The Mirror](#))

APRIL 5: A NATO airstrike struck a convoy of eight pro-Qaddafi vehicles advancing toward rebel positions just outside of Brega. The airstrike hit two vehicles, prompting the others to turn back into the city. The strikes followed continued battles between the two sides inside and around the city. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 5: Army Gen. Carter Ham informed members of the House Armed Services Committee that U.S. aircraft have moved into a support role, but there were still scenarios that might require the United States to take the operational lead such as search and rescue of a downed NATO pilot. Ham declined to say how fast the U.S. could approve a NATO airstrike request, other than as "quick." Ham stated the U.S. military continues to fly aerial refueling tankers, attack aircraft, and manned and unmanned intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft in Libya. ([Military Times](#))

APRIL 5: British warplanes destroyed six armored fighting vehicles and six tanks around Misrata and Sirte. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 5: Algerian Deputy Foreign Minister Abdelkader Messahel expressed concern at the "increasingly noticeable presence" of al-Qaeda in the Magreb in Libya and the circulation of weapons that could be exploited by regional terrorist groups. Among the areas of concern are the rebel-seized arms depots in the east, including the 60-bunker Hight Razma facility on the eastern outskirts of Benghazi and a 35-bunker facility on the eastern outskirts of Ajdabiyah, which are stacked with weapons and ammunition, and very poorly guarded. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 5: Luis Moreno-Ocampo, a prosecutor for the International Criminal Court, said evidence existed that Qaddafi officials had decided to kill unarmed protestors opposed to the regime rule in January, before unrest had even spread to Libya from Tunisia and Egypt. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 5: The U.S. Air Force has 39 support aircraft participating in the NATO campaign. The Air Force is spending approximately \$4 million each day for its role in Libya, and has expended \$75 million since March 19 when operations began, according to Pentagon officials. ([The Hill](#))

APRIL 5: U.S. envoy Chris Stevens arrived in Benghazi to begin talks on possible financial assistance to the rebels. Stevens is a former U.S. Embassy official in Tripoli and the highest-ranking U.S. official to travel to Libya since the uprising. According to the State Department, he will explore ways to open the funding for the opposition which is

urgently short of cash and supplies. Stevens is expected to remain in Benghazi for several days, but has brought no promises of military support or diplomatic recognition from Washington. ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 5: Gen. Marc Van Uhm, chief of allied operations, stated that NATO forces, joined by aircraft from Sweden, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, flew 150 sorties missions on Monday, striking pro-Qaddafi forces on 14 of them. The airstrikes struck an active rocket launcher in al-Brega, an air defense installation, and military vehicles near Misrata and ammunition storage facilities belonging to pro-Qaddafi forces. According to Pentagon officials, U.S. warplanes ended their combat role in Libya at 6 p.m. Monday. One of the final U.S. attacks came 15 minutes before the deadline, with Marine Harrier jets striking pro-Qaddafi targets south of Misrata. ([CNN](#), [LA Times](#))

APRIL 5: The Federal Bureau of Investigation has begun questioning Libyan nationals in the United States in an effort to identify pro-Qaddafi spies or terrorists, and collect any information that might assist NATO military operations. There have been concerns among U.S. officials that Qaddafi may try to stage terrorist attacks against American targets in revenge for the bombing campaign, a tactic Qaddafi used in the 1980s and 1990s. U.S. counterterrorism officials said the threat of a Libyan-sponsored terrorist attack was slightly higher for Europe than for the United States, and that European officials were also watching for terror plots directed by the Qaddafi regime. FBI began conducting interviews this week, focusing on Libyans staying in the United States on visas. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 5: U.S. and NATO officials claim that recent cloudy weather has hampered their ability to conduct airstrike missions by limiting pilots' ability to visually confirm their targets before firing, a requirement under the restrictive rules of engagement imposed in operations in order to minimize civilian casualties. U.S. military officials have also said they are having difficulty distinguishing between pro-Qaddafi and rebel forces after Qaddafi forces started using civilian vehicles. Further frustrating the air campaign, pro-Qaddafi forces have started hiding military equipment in populated areas and using civilians as human shields. ([Associated Press](#), [CNN](#))

APRIL 4: The United States has begun to withdrawal its warplanes from airstrike missions in Libya. U.S. warplanes currently account for 90 of the 206 aircraft deployed by NATO in Operation Unified Protector. U.S. aircraft are being put on standby and future U.S. airstrikes must be requested by NATO and approved by the Pentagon. The United States, however, will continue to provide military support to the operation in terms of AWACS, electronic warfare aircraft and aerial refueling tankers. ([Wall Street Journal](#), [New York Times](#))

APRIL 4: U.S. warplanes struck pro-Qaddafi targets near the cities of Sirte and Brega on the last day of U.S. combat missions in Libya. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt planes attacked near Brega while AV-8B Harrier jets struck near Sirte. Brig. Gen. Van Uhm, chief of operations at NATO, stated allied warplanes flew 58 sorties on Monday and launched 14 strikes on pro-Qaddafi targets. ([Associated Press](#), [CNN](#))

APRIL 4: The U.S. Treasury Department removed Qaddafi's former foreign minister and intelligence chief, Musa Kusa, from a blacklist of Qaddafi regime officials who had been banned from traveling to the United States and had their assets frozen. U.S. officials said it was a move to reward Kusa for his decision to defect to the United Kingdom last week and encourage other defections from Qaddafi's inner circle. Qaddafi has reportedly placed members of his regime and their families under heavy guard on his military compound in Tripoli to ensure no further defections occur. ([Associated Press](#), [New York Times](#), [Washington Times](#))

APRIL 4: Turkey is heading an effort to broker a cease-fire in Libya and was expected to hold discussions with representatives from the Qaddafi regime and the rebels on the issue. Meanwhile, Greek officials stated they would also present a Libyan peace initiative in the coming days. ([Washington Times](#))

APRIL 4: Ali al-Essawi, the foreign policy director of the National Transitional Council, has criticized NATO for bureaucratic delays that were allowing pro-Qaddafi forces to advance against rebels in Brega. ([New York Times](#))

APRIL 4: Abdelilah al-Khatib, the former foreign minister of Jordan and U.N. special envoy to Libya, spoke to the Security Council about his recent visits to Libya, recently met with officials from the National Transitional Council and the Qaddafi regime. He said the NTC had raised concerns about the lack of funds and the ability of the rebel government to market and sell oil and gas under U.N. sanctions. The NTC is set to sell its first tanker of crude this week since the Libyan uprising began. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 4: Kuwait plans to extend official diplomatic recognition to the National Transitional Council within days. Kuwait will become the fourth nation after Italy to establish official relations the rebel government, and the second Arab state after Qatar. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 4: Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi traveled to Tunisia to try to persuade the Tunisian authorities to crackdown on the flow of illegal immigrants whose numbers arriving on the southern Italian island of Lampedusa have greatly increased in recent months due to turmoil. ([New York Times](#))

APRIL 4: Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said Italy would open an office in Benghazi after formally recognizing the National Transitional Council as the government of Libya. ([LA Times](#))

APRIL 4: Britain, France and Italy have scoffed at recent proposals made by Qaddafi and his sons to end the conflict in Libya. Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini, in a meeting with the rebel envoy, dismissed Qaddafi and his sons' recent diplomatic overtures, said to involve having the elder Qaddafi cede power to one of his sons, suggesting a solution to the conflict must entail the departure of Qaddafi and his family. British and French officials also were not keen at the prospects of Qaddafi's sons having a continued role in Libya. ([Associated Press](#))

APRIL 4: Italy became the third country to extend diplomatic recognition to the Libyan National Transitional Council, the rebel government based in Benghazi. Frattini did not rule out Italy delivering weapons to the rebels, but said that would be a measure of last-resort. Approximately 50 foreign embassies reportedly remain open in Tripoli, including those of Turkey, Russia, Bulgaria, Ukraine and China as well as sub-Saharan African countries. ([Associated Press](#), [New York Times](#), [LA Times](#), [BBC](#))

APRIL 4: A Jordanian military plane landed in Benghazi carrying medical supplies. Col. Aqab Abu Abu Windi said the plane contained seven and one half tons of medical supplies to help the Libyan people and promised more. Jordan is not participating in coalition military operations in Libya in conjunction with NATO, Qatar, and the UAE. ([Associated Press](#))

APRIL 3: The United States agreed to a NATO request for a 48-hour extension allowing American warplanes to conduct airstrikes against targets in Libya. Air Force AC-130 gunships, A-10 Thunderbolts and Marine Corps AV-8B Harriers have continued strikes against pro-Qaddafi forces fighting the rebels for control of Brega. NATO's on-scene commander, Lt. General Charles Bouchard, can request American strikes, which must be approved by Washington. A senior U.S. military official claimed that heavy cloud cover over Libya late last week curtailed allied airstrikes, which Qaddafi took advantage of during last week's counteroffensive. The Obama administration has not yet made a decision on whether to arm the rebels with the firepower they need to take and hold ground. ([Associated Press](#))

APRIL 3: Sief Qaddafi and his brother Saadi Qaddafi have proposed a deal to NATO members to take over Libya from their father and prepare Libya for a transition to a constitutional democracy. And it is not clear whether Qaddafi has signed on, although one person close to the sons indicated Qaddafi appeared willing to leave power. ([New York Times](#))

APRIL 3: Qaddafi launched a diplomatic overture to several NATO members, with acting Libyan Foreign Minister Abdulati al-Obeidi meeting with Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou and planned to travel to Turkey and Malta next. Greek Foreign Minister Dimitris Droustas said Qaddafi was, “searching for a solution.” ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 3: A Turkish medical ferry arrived in Benghazi after taking aboard hundreds of wounded rebel fighters and civilians at the besieged city of Misrata. The ship traveled to Misrata under the protection of 10 Turkish F-16s and two naval frigates, and was expected to return to Turkey with the wounded. ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 2: U.S. combat aircraft are expected to stop flying airstrike missions over Libya on April 3. Additionally, Navy destroyers and submarines that have been launching Tomahawk cruise missiles from the positions in the Mediterranean Sea will also be leaving the area and be put on standby incase requested by NATO. Combat sorties will continue to be flown by the United Kingdom, France and others. The U.S. Navy began operations on March 19 with 12 ships in the Mediterranean. As of April 1, nine remained: the submarines Florida and Scranton; destroyers Stout and Barry; amphibious warships Kearsarge and Ponce; the command ship Mount Whitney; and two supply ships: Robert E. Peary and Kanawha. Marine Harrier attack planes launch from aboard the Kearsarge. Adm. Mike Mullen estimated on Thursday that as few as 1,000 rebels are former members of Qaddafi’s military. ([Associated Press](#))

APRIL 2: NATO warplanes mistakenly bombed bombing rebel columns near Brega. The airstrike killed 13 rebels and wounded seven. Several vehicles and an ambulance were also destroyed, and rebel leaders said their men may have been responsible because they were firing their guns into the air in celebration. ([Washington Post](#), [New York Times](#))

APRIL 2: U.S. and allied officials are expecting more top-level defections from officials in Qaddafi’s inner-circle. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

APRIL 1: American officials are becoming increasingly reconciled with the possibility of a stalemate between pro-Qaddafi forces and rebels. There are also worries that a stalemate could prolong the financial and military commitments by the United States and allies. ([Washington Post](#))

APRIL 1: British officials told Mohammed Ismail, an aide to Qaddafi’s son Saif al-Islam who is in London for talks with NATO members, that Qaddafi had to leave power as part of any settlement. Ismail reportedly proposed a deal under which Qaddafi’s sons would take power, or at least have a role in a new government, and their father would honorably step aside. ([Reuters](#))

APRIL 1: Seven civilians were killed and twenty five injured in a NATO airstrike on a pro-Qaddafi ammunition convoy in the village of Zawia el Argobe, 9 miles from Brega. The resulting explosion destroyed two nearby homes. NATO is investigating the claim. ([BBC](#))